Make the most of your holiday break

With the holidays and semester break quickly approaching, many students are looking forward to sleeping more, hanging out with their friends and family, playing video games, and NOT having to study. However, time off from school can be a valuable time for career development tasks.

1. Learn more about career options that are a good fit for your major. On the Career Center’s website, “What Can I Do with This Major?” provides examples of career areas, types of employers that hire for each area, and strategies for becoming a marketable candidate. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, CareerOneStop provides resources for career exploration, including videos on careers, skills, industries, and more.

2. Make a list of all your networking contacts. Start by asking family and friends if they know anyone who works in your career field. Who are your contacts at school or work? What about social media? How well do these contacts know your work ethic and skill levels?

3. Schedule job shadowing appointments and informational interviews to learn more about occupations that interest you and to develop your network.

4. Update your résumé and master list. Create or update your LinkedIn profile. Brush up on your interviewing skills with practice interviews through Interview Stream on the Career Center’s website.

5. Looking for an internship for next summer? If you haven’t already started searching, now is the time to do so. Many internship positions are filled early in the spring semester. You won’t want to miss an opportunity for a great, career advancing experience.

6. If you usually work during school breaks, consider applying for jobs that will enable you to explore a different industry, company, or career path.

7. Planning on going to graduate school? Take this time to research programs and schools and learn about application requirements, financial aid, and deadlines. Although deadlines vary, many occur in the first couple of months of the new year. If you’re wanting to continue your education at Missouri State, then visit the Graduate College website.
Remember also that work-life balance is important to maintain optimum health and well-being, so try to take time during holidays and semester breaks to relax and re-energize.