### Explore Career Options
- Conduct online research and informational interviews to learn about career paths within and outside of academia for your discipline
- Job shadow

### Build Your Network
- Meet and network with graduate students and faculty in your department and around campus
- Network with attendees and invited speakers when you attend seminars and conferences
- Keep in touch networking contacts developed prior to graduate school
- Find mentors (at ECU or elsewhere) in addition to your faculty advisor

### Continue Job Search Process
- Join relevant professional organization and/or academic societies
- Submit papers, panels, proposals and poster sessions for conferences
- Identify relevant journals in your field where you may publish in the future
- Review job postings to learn the job market and in demand specialties in your field

### Final Year
- Review and finalize timeline for degree completion
- Review your job search goals and update your action plan as needed

### Activate Your Network
- Continue suggestions in bold from Years 1-4
- Inform networking contacts of your job search and availability

### Continue Job Search Process
- Prepare parts of your dissertation for publication in major journals
- Update application materials as needed
- Keep references/recommendation letter writers informed of your progress
- For academic positions, obtain letters of recommendation
- Search for and apply to job openings or postdoc openings
- Research each organization to which you are applying and tailor your application materials to each position and organization
- For positions outside of academia, participate in career events on and off campus
- Pursue interviews at conferences in final year (if applicable)
- Practice your interviewing skills
- Schedule a practice interview with Career Services
- For academic jobs, revise and practice job interviews/research presentation (preferably with mock audiences who give feedback) at least three times
- Learn about negotiating before any possible interviews
- If you are an international student wanting to work in the United States, apply for your OPT far enough in advance that you have your OPT card by your graduation date

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**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY - CAREER DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS**

*Adapted from document created by Lydia Soleil, PhD, & Christine Kelly, PhD, UC Irvine Career Center*