

Do You Know What You're Doing This Summer?

With eight months until the next summer, you're probably still reminiscing about your last one. But, as you've become more and more aware over the last thirteen years of school, summers are few and far between. So, in order to not waste one of them doubling your freshman fifteen on your parents' couch (even though the laundry and home-made food are quite enticing), it's best to start thinking and planning well in advance. Many summer enrichment programs even have deadlines during the fall semester!

To receive credit for this skill module, follow the steps below, and thoroughly investigate potential learning experiences to pursue this summer and during future summers as well.

1. Identify potential sources of ideas for summer programs. Here are a few to get you started:
 - UT Study Abroad Office
 - UT Office of Honors, Research, and International Study (a great source for doing research abroad as well as some other unique experiences)
 - CNS Career Design Center/UT Health Professions Office
 - Your academic advisor or inspiring professors
 - Older students who have engaged in things you think are awesome over the summer (some of the UGTAs in this class could be a great source!)
2. Make appointments to meet with at least two different sources that can shed some light on things you would like to do this summer. Talk to them about different programs or activities you could pursue and how to find out more information about them. If you're meeting with an on-campus office, peruse their website to familiarize yourself with a few options before your appointment.
3. Identify at least four specific programs or activities to which you want to apply. Look at their websites or contact them via phone or email or get more in-depth information and an application, if necessary.
4. For each program or activity, write two paragraphs: in the first paragraph, talk about what you learned about the program that made you want to pursue it and what you could potentially learn from the program, and in the second program, describe how you will arrange it and apply, with specific dates and contact information.
5. Email your report to your TA. Feel free to contact this email address with questions or concerns or even ideas for summer activities.

Note: While the language in this skill module leans towards enrichment programs, feel free to choose something else—volunteerism, work, being worthless – just be able to justify how it works in your grand scheme of things.