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Alternative Approaches to Developing New Skills, Knowledge and Experience

- Connect Classroom Assignments to your Career and Transfer Interests/Plans
- Develop an Independent Study Project with help from professionals/teachers/advisors
- Request additional tasks to learn a new skill
- Volunteer to lead or present a team project
- Assist others in class who are having difficulty learning the material
- Sign up to participate in academic or skill competitions
- Become an active member of a community activity/group
- Become an active member of an academic/professional/trade organization
- Volunteer to serve on a work committee or event planning team
- Become a tutor for learning centers on-campus or in the community
- Work or volunteer in one of the many community agencies around you
- Participate in career and networking events in school, at work or in your community
- Ask to be connected to alumni who have experience in field of interest
- Set up a career shadowing experience
- Offer friends, professionals and community members to a moment of relaxation (over a beverage) to share insights and opportunities
- Make an appointment with the Career Center at your alma mater or a career or life coach to take action on your ideas
- Become active with community based organizations that connect with your interests, values and career goals
- Become an active student member of a professional association and local chapter
- Invent something and share it with others
- Attend local industry and chamber of commerce seminars as an invited guest
- Write your own book or short stories
- Use the public or college library to advance your knowledge of a subject or skill
- Read online or hard copy journals and books that focus on areas of interest
- Join online groups that discuss and report on matters related to your career interests
- Establish a professional reputation online by using resources such as LinkedIn, Facebook, Indeed.com, and a personal Website/Blog
- Perform Informational Interviews with professionals targeted to your career goals
- Participate in internships, cooperative education or field work that connects you to the workforce and future educational plans
- Start building a business plan and get advice from business experts on your ideas
- Travel to enhance your understanding of cultures, geography and people
- Participate in a Study Abroad program
- Attend professional development seminars
- Attend regional and local conferences and trade shows that relate to your interests
- Write articles for campus, community or professional publications
- Develop a portfolio of your work using online and hard copy formats
- Research and apply for scholarships/grants
- Ask your employer for a performance review and to attend in-service trainings
- Ask your employer for new responsibilities and opportunities to contribute
- Prep for industry certifications