

Navigating the Helping Hand Website

This guide was created to assist students in navigating the Helping Hand website, so that they are able to properly utilize our college & career exploration resources. Explore this guide in order to learn about the comprehensive resources and tools that the Helping Hand website provides.

What does AOC's Helping Hand Offer?

AOC's Helping Hand is the College & Career Readiness division at the Academy of the Canyons. It provides resources for AOC students to discover and to engage with their academic passions. AOC's Helping Hand also collaborates with industry professionals and alumni students in order to deliver up-to-date advice and resources involving career path discovery and college admissions advice.

The Helping Hand website is a central hub for everything offered at the Academy, including resources for discovering your career path and networking with AOC alumni, as well as insightful tips on engaging with your academic pathway and getting ready for college.

Other helpful features on the Helping Hand website include: an AOC Newsroom to stay up-to-date with news around campus, a breakdown of each grade level, a database for COC courses organized by each pathway, and contact information for Senior Mentors on our campus.

Visit the website at www.aochelpinghand.org. To understand how to utilize the features discussed above, make sure to explore this guide.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any one of us at our emails below with your questions!

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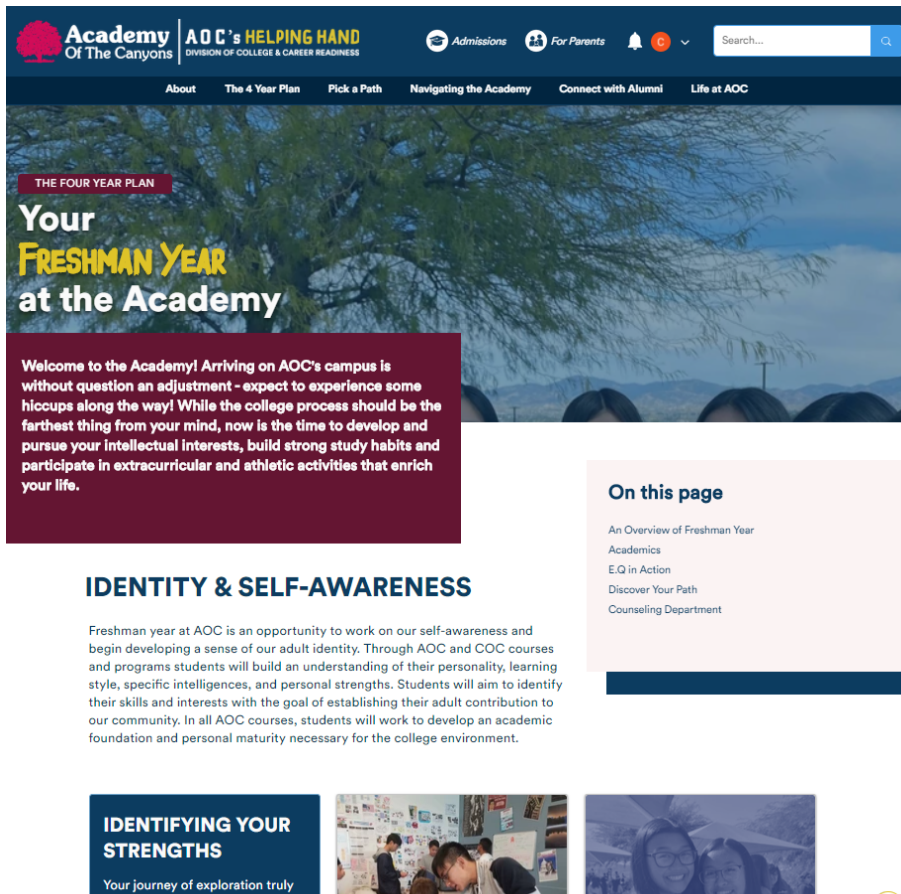
Exploring the 4 Year AOC Experience

Description: Students are able to view a breakdown for each grade level, including notable projects and central themes for the school year, student testimonies, SEL resources, and quick links for our career exploration tools, as well as the Counseling Department.

To Access from the Helping Hand homepage, follow these steps:



Step 1: Visit the AOC Helping Hand website. Then, hover over “**The 4 Year Plan.**” Click on the grade level that you would like to explore. In this example, we will be exploring the “**Freshman Year**” Page.



Step 2: This is the first part of the home of the Freshman year page. Here, you will see an overview of what you can find on the page. Click on the categories under the title **“On this page”** to explore all of the page’s content.

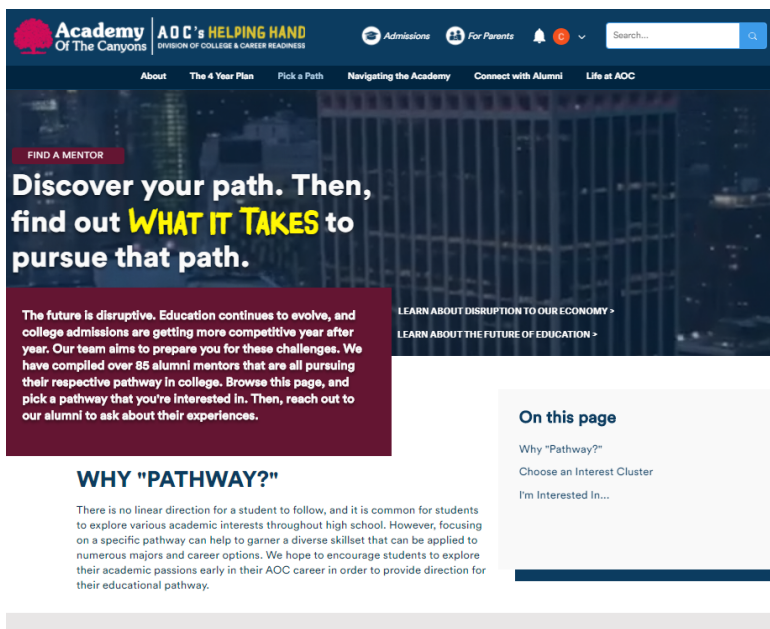
Discovering Your Academic Pathway

Description: Students are able to explore 9 different pathway pages, all of which contain specific interest clusters. Each one contains quick links for students to explore potential undergraduate degree programs that allow a student to pursue the interest cluster at a college or university. **Each pathway page also features 4-year ed-plans for COC and AOC Coursework, including potential Associate Degrees and Certifications.**

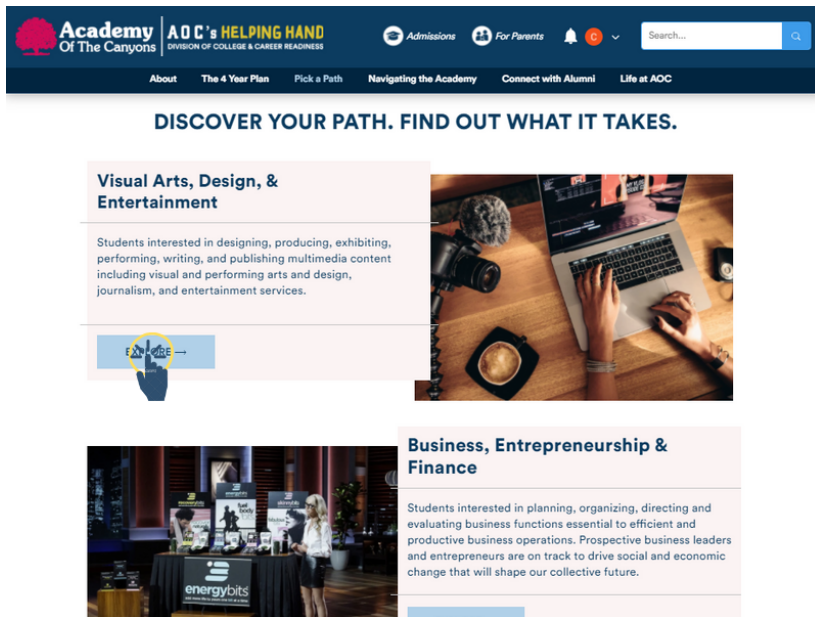
Follow the steps below to see all of the components offered on each pathway page. In this example, we will be examining the “Visual Arts, Design, & Entertainment” pathway page.



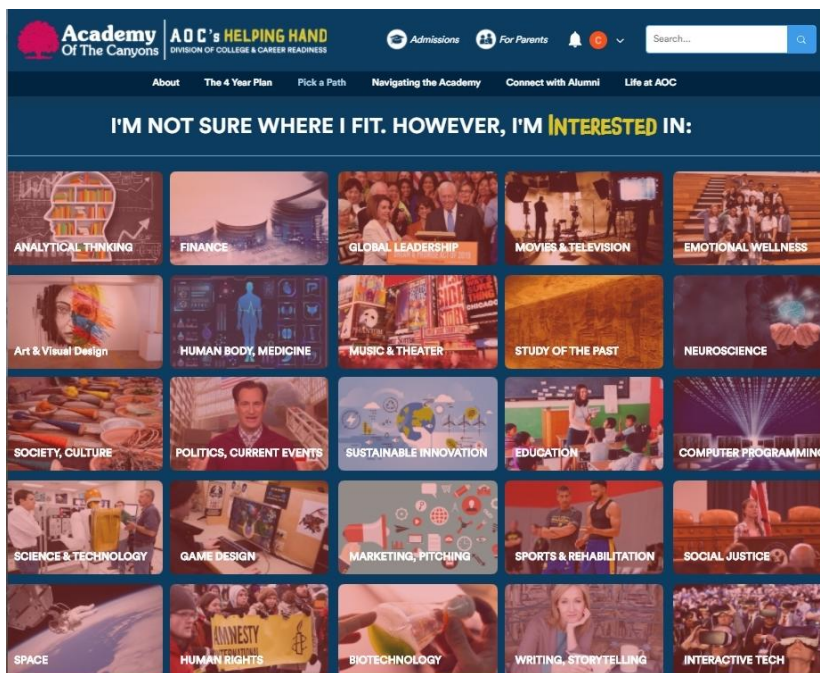
Step 1: Visit the AOC Helping Hand website. Then, hover over **“Pick a Path.”** Click on the pathway page that you would like to explore. **You can also click on “Pick a Path.”** In these directions, we will do so.



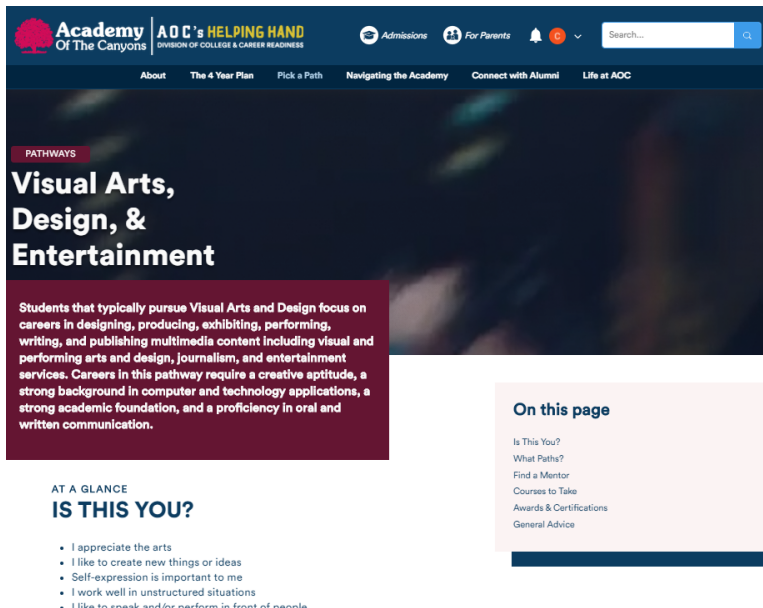
Step 2: On the **“Pick a Path”** page, you will see a thorough explanation on the importance of having a pathway in mind as you gear up for college.



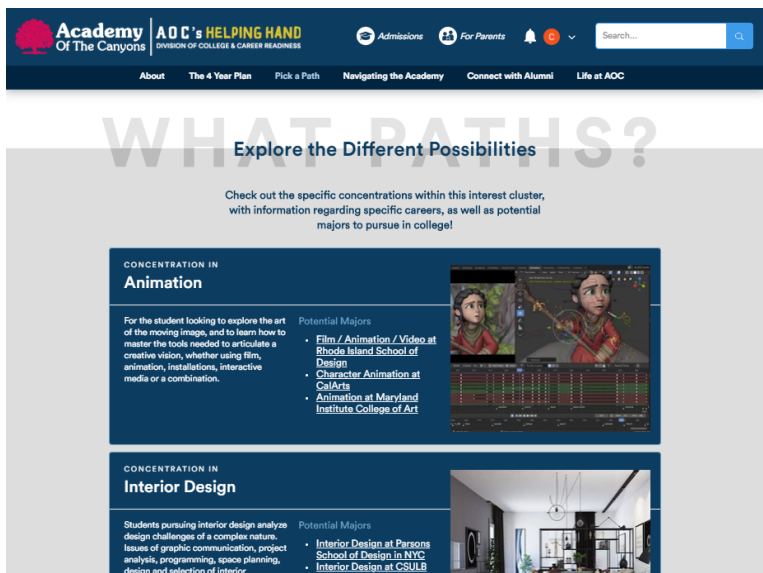
Step 3: Keep scrolling down. Here, you will see links to all 9 pathway pages, as well as a description for the type of careers and interests featured on each page.



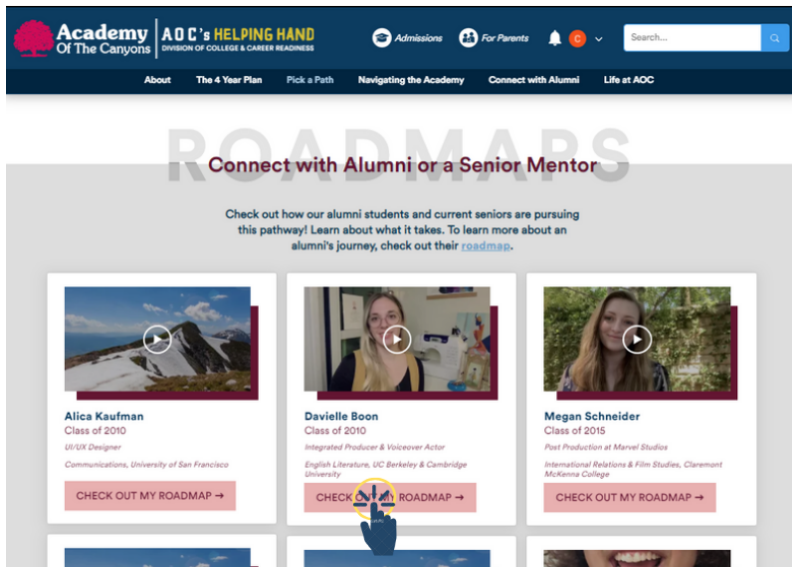
Step 4: If you're still not sure as to which pathway page to explore, continue scrolling down. You will find a grid of various interests that each lead to the appropriate pathway page.



Step 5: Here, we've clicked on the **"Visual Arts, Design, & Entertainment"** pathway page. This initial portion of the page provides brief content discussing the type of student that pursues this pathway. You can also view an overview of what the page offers under the **"On this page"** header.



Step 6: Scroll down to the **"What Paths?"** section of the page. Here, you will see specific interest clusters within this pathway. We have provided information regarding specific careers, as well as links to relevant undergraduate programs!



Step 7: Scroll down to the “Roadmaps” section of the page. Here, you will see short videos from AOC alumni that are currently pursuing this pathway. **Note: You will see a placeholder video for alumni that have not submitted a video.** You can also access their “Roadmap” from this page.

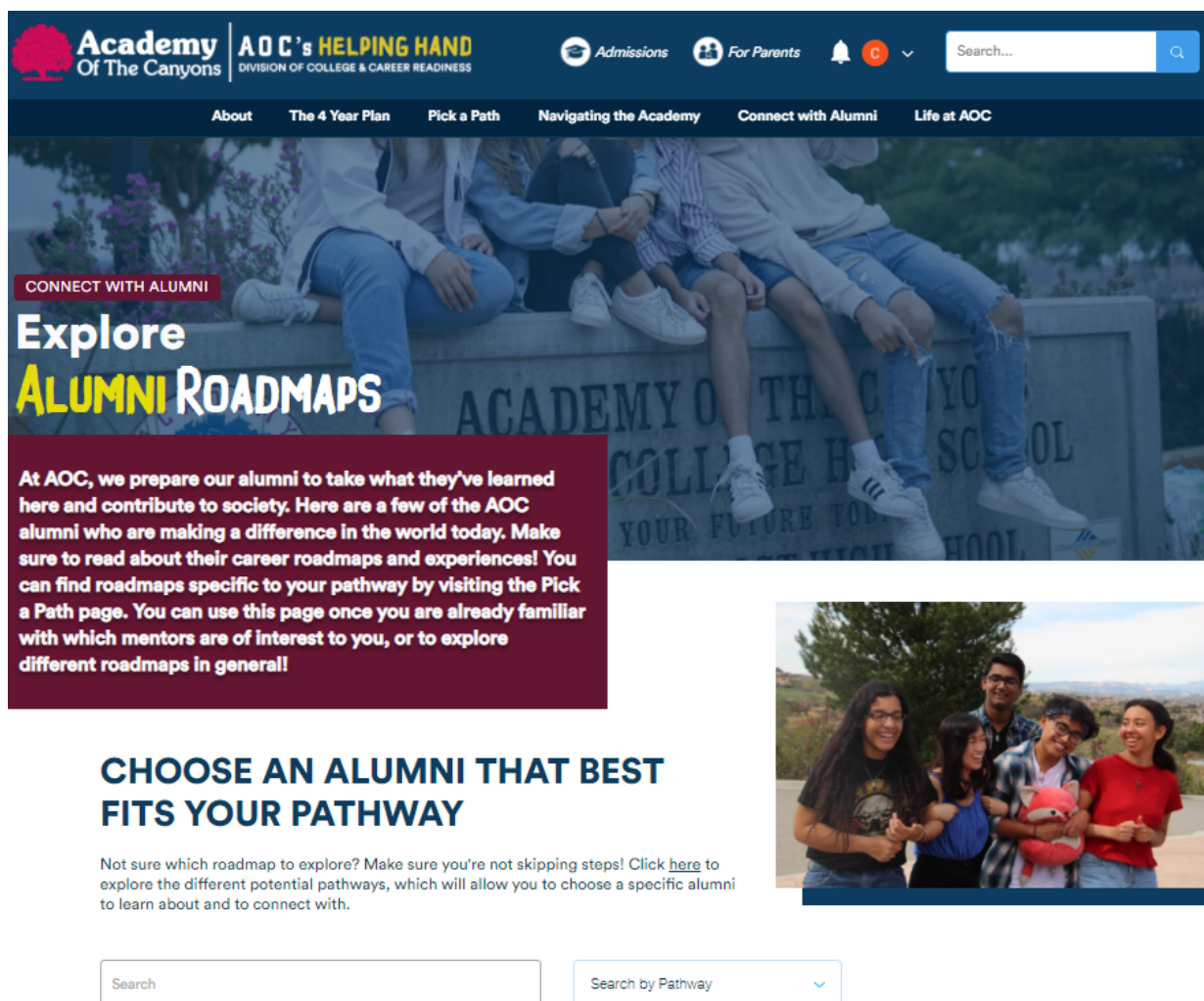


Step 8: Scroll down to the “Coursework” section of the page. Here, you will see a list of available COC course offerings that support a student’s pursuit of this pathway. You can filter by category by clicking the blue buttons shown in the picture above. **For more clarity on taking courses relevant to your pathway, see the following step.**

Show range with your work. If your strong point is graphite, do portraits or landscapes, for instance.

Description: Listed on this page is a collection of Alumni “roadmaps” for you to browse through & to learn more about potential career paths. **An alumni roadmap includes their journey towards discovering and pursuing their career path.** This includes **the milestones towards pursuing their career/discovering their career path, notable career-related accomplishments, career plans,** as well as **advice for an AOC student looking to pursue their pathway.** Doing so can help you to connect with them and to further your career exploration throughout your AOC career.

Follow the steps below to see all of the components offered on each alumni roadmap. In this example, we will be examining a roadmap submitted by Tyler Moroso, a 2015 AOC graduate, a 2020 MIT graduate, and a current member of Apple's Operating Software team.



The screenshot shows the Academy of the Canyons (AOC) website. The header includes the AOC logo, navigation links (About, The 4 Year Plan, Pick a Path, Navigating the Academy, Connect with Alumni, Life at AOC), and a search bar. The main content area features a large banner with the text "Explore ALUMNI ROADMAPS" and a description of the alumni roadmaps. Below the banner, there is a section titled "CHOOSE AN ALUMNI THAT BEST FITS YOUR PATHWAY" with a subtext explaining how to use the roadmaps. At the bottom, there are two search filters: "Search" and "Search by Pathway".

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Admissions For Parents

Search...

About The 4 Year Plan Pick a Path Navigating the Academy Connect with Alumni Life at AOC

CONNECT WITH ALUMNI

Explore ALUMNI ROADMAPS

At AOC, we prepare our alumni to take what they've learned here and contribute to society. Here are a few of the AOC alumni who are making a difference in the world today. Make sure to read about their career roadmaps and experiences! You can find roadmaps specific to your pathway by visiting the Pick a Path page. You can use this page once you are already familiar with which mentors are of interest to you, or to explore different roadmaps in general!

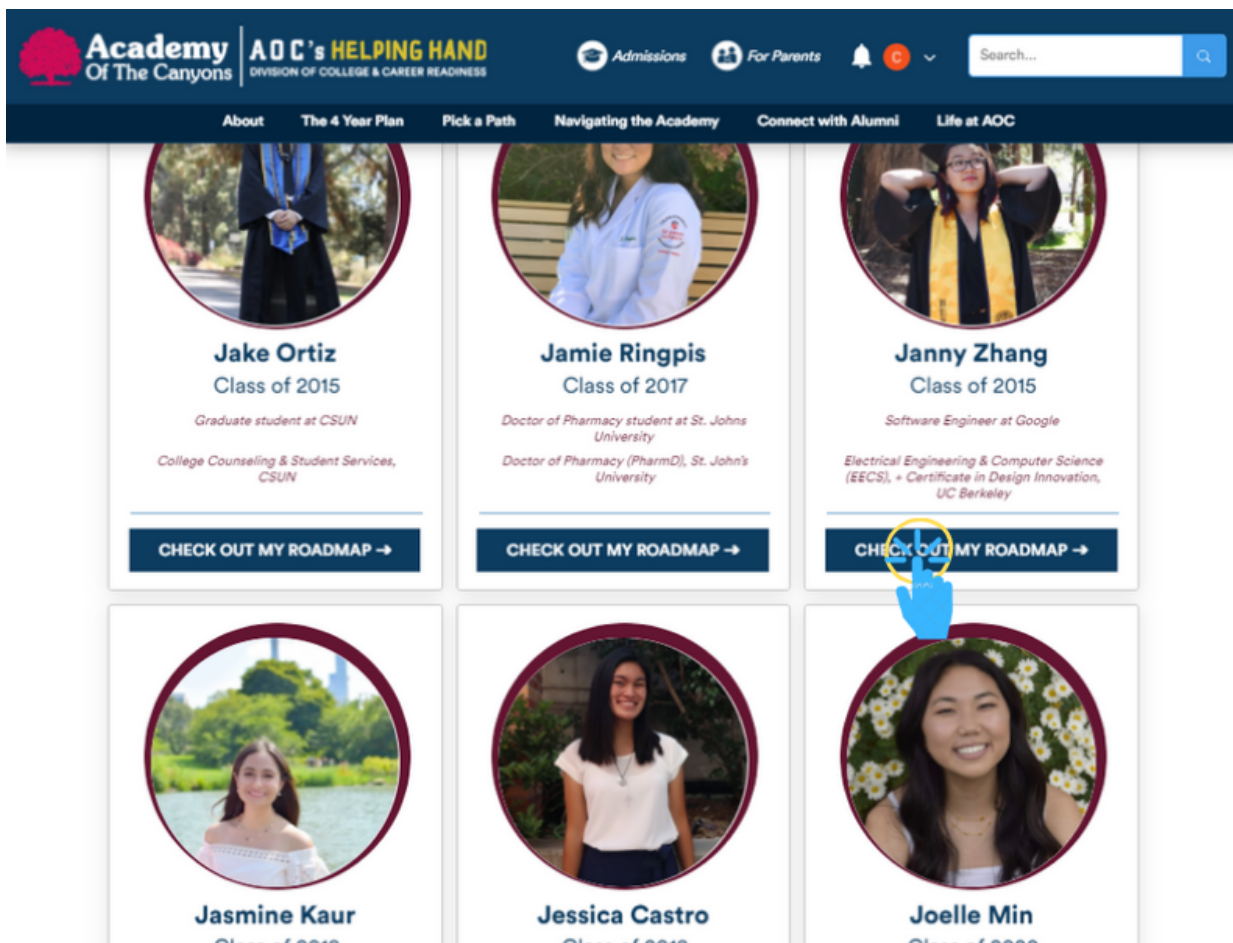
CHOOSE AN ALUMNI THAT BEST FITS YOUR PATHWAY

Not sure which roadmap to explore? Make sure you're not skipping steps! Click [here](#) to explore the different potential pathways, which will allow you to choose a specific alumni to learn about and to connect with.

Search

Search by Pathway

Step 1: Visit the AOC Helping Hand website. Then, hover over “**Connect with AOC Alumni.**” Browse through the alumni roadmaps you find interesting, or filter them out by your intended career interest. **In these directions, we will show you how to navigate an example roadmap.**



Step 2: Once you find someone interesting, simply hit the **Check out my Roadmap** button & you will load into a separate page for their roadmap.



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[About](#)
[The 4 Year Plan](#)
[Pick a Path](#)
[Navigating the Academy](#)
[Connect with Alumni](#)
[Life at AOC](#)



After graduating from MIT, Tyler is utilizing his background in engineering and CS as a member of Apple's OS team.

→ Check out his **ROADMAP**.



MILESTONES

My career roadmap has been somewhat defined.

I joined the FIRST robotics team in high school because I knew I liked STEM, so I figured this was a good way to get exposure. This is where I discovered I wanted to study Computer Science in college after realizing EECS was the core of the robot.

During the spring semester of my senior year at AOC, I had some extra classes I could take, so I took Circuits with Professor Martinez (who is awesome) to prepare for a college career in STEM. It kicked my butt, but I knew it was a step in the right direction.

During my first semester, I dove in to a CS class (6.01) right away because I knew I was behind a lot of my peers since I had zero coding experience. I also wanted to make sure I liked the field, which of course, I did even though I almost failed.

During sophomore Fall, I took a class called Computation Structures (6.004 in MIT speak) where I got my first exposure to Operating Systems and computer architecture. It ignited a spark of curiosity in me that I knew I needed to explore further. Plus, I was crushing this and sucking at algorithmic proofs.

During junior Fall, I took two advanced classes in system optimization (6.172) and GUI development (6.170) because those were my two favorite sub-fields of CS, and I needed to decide which one to focus on. Both classes were integral in my development as a programmer and difficult in their own ways.

During January (IAP at MIT), I picked up a research position in the Media Lab where I designed UIs for child education apps. I figured this would help me gain practical experience in Front-End Development and further help me make my decision. It really just made it harder, in a good way.



"THERE ARE MERITS TO BREADTH AND DEPTH. EXPLORE! TAKE OPPORTUNITIES!"

Step 3: Once the page loads, you will see a brief introduction to the **alumni**, where they went to school & their major, and **milestones** regarding key events in their lives that led them to the **path** that they are on.


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[About](#)
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Hear Tyler give his advice for those interested in pursuing engineering and/or computer science!



Cheaply built robotic arm with 3D-printed hand possessing full articulation driven by an Arduino Nano and Python program that can detect human hand/arm motion using an advanced sensor and replicate it.

 EXPERIENCE

Here are my extracurriculars relevant to this pathway

DURING MY AOC CAREER

- FIRST Robotics Project 691
- Circuits class w/ Professor Martinez

DURING MY COLLEGE CAREER

- Internship at JPL; Really fun and an interesting look into the government side of engineering careers.
- Internship at Boeing; Received a Security Clearance which can be very valuable in the field and expensive to get if not sponsored.
- Internship at Spell Inc.; Got my first look at a start-up. Really cool work culture and tight-knit community. Excellent opportunity for growth.
- Media Lab Research Position; Got to publish a paper for the ACM!
- HackMIT; Hackathons/make-athons are an excellent way to hone your skills, network, build something fun on the sponsors' dime, and possibly travel!

 CAREER

What I'm currently doing/hope to do

Step 4: Scrolling down will allow you to view their extracurricular activities in high school & college. There is also a 1 minute video on the right with alumni giving advice for AOC students on how to pursue their interests (listed will also be pictures of them & cool projects they've engaged in!)


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Cheaply built robotic arm with 3D-printed hand possessing full articulation driven by an Arduino Nano and Python program that can detect human hand/arm motion using an advanced sensor and replicate it.



Tyler Moroso
Class of 2016

 n/a
 tlmoroso55@gmail.com

 CAREER

What I'm currently doing/hope to do

“After graduating from MIT in 2020, I will now be starting work at Apple in Cupertino for their OS team. Unfortunately, since I have not started yet, I cannot provide a lot of insight into the position or the field. I am very excited to start working there. I know I will gain a lot of experience and learn a lot by being able to work with the people who built something the whole world uses. In the meantime, I am taking the time to pursue side projects and explore other fields of programming like learning new languages, embedded systems, and video-game development. I am sure I will continue my personal projects even once my career begins, and hopefully, somethings comes of them one day! Although I do not plan to pursue a graduate degree at this time, it is always a possibility. Graduate programs are way cooler than undergraduate, in my opinion, and if I came across a good opportunity, I would probably take it.

 ADVICE

How to maximize your AOC experience?

Step 5: Scrolling down even further, you'll find a brief overview regarding what they want to do in their career, & how they want to do so. Also listed will be their contact info, for you to reach out & ask questions about their specific story & path, or questions you have about you pursuing it!

The screenshot shows the website for the Academy of The Canyons' AOC's HELPING HAND, Division of College & Career Readiness. The header includes the Academy logo, navigation links for Admissions, For Parents, and a search bar. Below the header, a dark blue navigation bar contains links: About, The 4 Year Plan, Pick a Path, Navigating the Academy, Connect with Alumni, and Life at AOC. The main content area is white and features a light blue header with a lightbulb icon and the word "ADVICE". The title "How to maximize your AOC experience?" is prominently displayed. Below the title, there are four bullet points of advice from alumni, each starting with "Advice #1:", "Advice #2:", "Advice #3:", and "Advice #4:". The advice covers topics like learning to code, being well-rounded, exploring cross-disciplines, and making a good first impression. A small yellow arrow icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the content area.

ADVICE

How to maximize your AOC experience?

- Advice #1: If you have the time and interest, get started on learning some code. Start with a forgiving language like Python and try out some basic tutorials. HackerRank and similar sites are great. Company recruiters basically take their questions straight from there! If you really want to impress, make a GitHub account and find a couple interesting, challenging projects to put on there. Looks great on college apps and internship resumes.
- Advice #2: If advice #1 does not suit you, no sweat. I went in to college with ZERO coding experience. I think being well-rounded and showing how dedicated and passionate you are about the things you do is more important. I stood out not because of one amazing thing but by being solid in so many categories that it impressed recruiters (I am only speculating though). I was a scholar, athlete, leader, volunteer, etc., and I put a lot of time and effort into everything I did. When I could run for a leadership position in something I cared about, I fought for it. However, not everyone can be the leader. There are other ways to show you are a good candidate for college. I think they want to see a thirst for learning and the effort to back it up more than they want to see that you already know everything.
- Advice #3: There are merits to breadth and depth. Explore! Take opportunities to try cross-disciplines when you can, especially if you are not sure what you want to do. Sometimes, one cool thing can lead you to another adjacent field with some other even cooler thing that better suits you. Most disciplines bleed over a lot nowadays, especially with computer science. Almost everyone in college learns coding one way or another. People with depth may have a stronger resume in one field, but people with breadth have more potential opportunities. Oftentimes, recruiters just want to see that you have critical thinking skills, enthusiasm, and other important general skills. You can learn on the job.
- Advice #4: First impressions matter. Your first impression starts when you get out of your car, not when you're called into the interview room. You never know who sees you, who you're talking to, and who is paying attention. You want to stand out from the very first second you can, and you want to continue to stand out until you have exhausted every last way to do so, but that doesn't mean kiss up to them or beg for attention. Be polite, be professional, be enthusiastic, and try your best to be natural. Everyone will be more at ease that way, including yourself. Remind them of your name by sending a thank you email or by asking follow-up questions when appropriate.

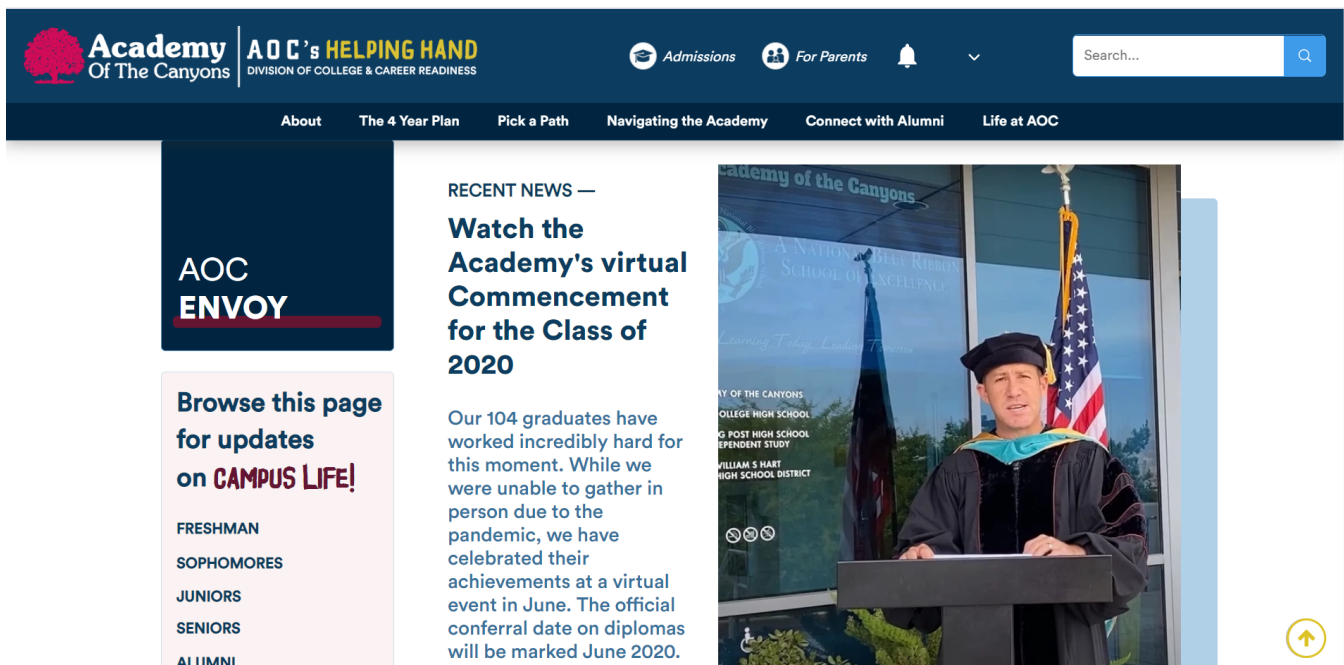
Step 6: Finally, when you reach the bottom, you will see advice given by the alumni regarding tips to help you maximize your time at AOC & in college.

By either clicking out at the bottom to review more roadmaps or going back to the central page, you will be able to view other roadmap clusters of your specific interests & needs! Have fun exploring!

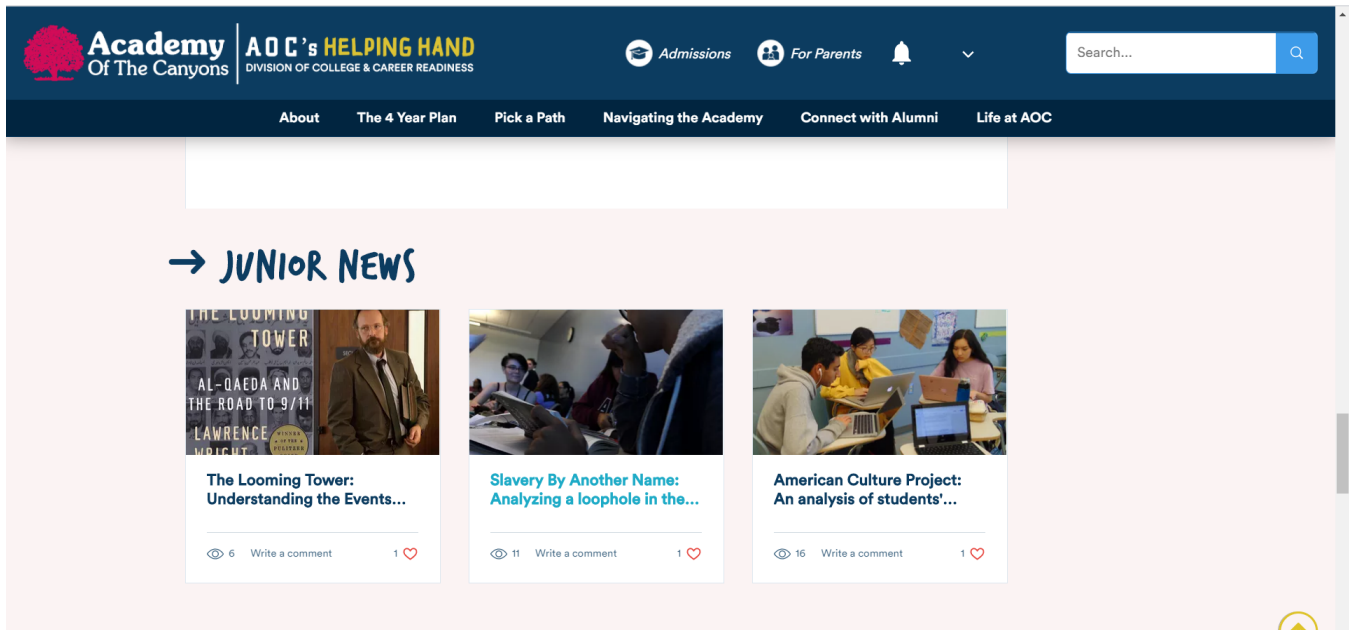
AOC Newsroom

Description: Listed on this page is a collection of AOC articles for you to browse through & read news stories about current events at AOC, spotlights on alumni & current students, and a showcase of projects & clubs.

Follow the steps below to see all of the articles that we are going to create in collaboration with Journalism Club; for this example, we will be looking at one of the junior year project articles.



Step 1: Visit the AOC Helping Hand website. Then, hover over “Life at AOC.” Then choose an article that finds you interested in learning more about. In these directions, we will show you how to navigate an example roadmap.



Step 2: Scroll down until you see the title “Junior Year News” and click on the article that says “The Looming Tower: Understanding the Events Preceding the 9/11 Attack.”



Step 3: Scrolling down the article, you can read the content within it, and once you finish, you will be able to go back to the hub of all the other articles and read the other articles.

Conclusion

This guide only includes step-by-step instructions for exploring the main components of our website. However, we encourage you to explore the several other aspects and features on our website, which include a database for browsing potential COC classes, a portal for scheduling tutoring sessions, and a section dedicated to documenting life on campus as well as student organizations. Feel free to explore the site at any time!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of our student leaders by email, or Mr. Koegle or Mr. Malkowski, our faculty advisors! Thank you for taking the time to go through this guide.

For further questions, contact our founders!

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