Dear Weekly Advisor: I am planning to graduate in December. Is there anything I should be doing this semester or next summer, other than finishing my classes? Almost Done.

Dear “Almost Done”: Congratulations! The first thing you need to do is apply for degree candidacy and complete your official senior degree check. This process ensures you know exactly which courses you need in order to graduate. Procedures for degree candidacy vary among the different Colleges, so contact your academic advisor for details on how to proceed. Remember, to ensure your name is in the fall graduation program, you need to have the process started by October 31st, 2007.

If you are considering study abroad as an option for the summer, you need to start that process now. Many employers consider study abroad a plus when making hiring decisions and it’s an excellent way to expand your knowledge of the world and have a great summer. Contact the Study Abroad Office at 626-9211 for assistance.

Another obvious option for the summer is to work. Why not consider an internship instead? Many internships will generate units toward graduation. An internship also allows you to gain practical experience in your proposed field of interest and to see if the reality matches your expectations. There is also a possibility that a summer internship can turn into a job offer in December. Contact your academic advisor for assistance.

Speaking of jobs, summer is a great time to work with Career Services, located in the Student Memorial Center, Room 411, to fine tune your job search and resume writing skills. As a December graduate, you don’t want to wait until November to start your job search. Do your preparation work this spring and next summer and you will be way ahead of most of your peers when the time comes to enter the “real” world.

Finally, if you are thinking about graduate school, now is the time to start your research. Speak with your instructors about choosing a program, application hints, letters of recommendation, and tips on preparing a competition application. Advance preparation can pay huge benefits to be accepted into your number one school.