

Greetings Seniors,

Congratulations on achieving your degree; you are graduating during a very exciting time. As you identify job opportunities and your career path, the economy and job market will challenge you to be creative and industrious. Career Services is available to help with your job search. We offer career and job search counseling as well as many programs and services to help you connect with employers.

Preparation is definitely a major component of being ready for professional employment. As you assess what you have to offer, take an honest inventory of your skills and accomplishments and pat yourself on the back for a job well done. *Now*, think about why an employer should hire you. Identify five specific reasons why an employer should hire you and how you can make their company better. Practice so that you can share your top five at a moment's notice.

A frequent mistake is that many job seekers expect the employer to fit their job around them -- the candidate. It actually works the opposite. So as you recognize that you are prepared and why you are prepared, be open to the flexibility of using your degree and your skills in ways that you may not have imagined. Create a list of companies that you would like to work for. Now research the company and match the company strengths and needs to yours. Next, use the results of the matching exercise in all of your communication with your key employers to show them that you fit with their needs.

As you embark on your job search, be open to these possibilities:

- (1) Employers you might not typically consider because of your blind spots for the work that they do. Create a list of these companies and then investigate to find out the available career paths. If you see a fit with your interests or preparation - send them a resume.
- (2) Consider applying to small companies. Many small companies often give employees greater responsibility and various projects as required by their modest infrastructure. Also, because small companies are leaner, they are better positioned to make changes in products or services as necessary.
- (3) Blend your degree with your other interests. If you are a marketing major and you've always enjoyed race car driving, identify employment intersections that you can pursue.
- (4) Connect with others. Networking, joining a professional association, and volunteering are ways that you can create social and professional bridges that can help you connect with prospective employers.

I hope you are excited about your future and what you have to offer. I am excited for you and know that as you embark on your new journey that you will stay encouraged, focused and will meet the job search challenge head on.

Working on your behalf,
Regina M. Storrs, Director Career Services
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