

# Tips for preparing for the workforce

The road to graduation can be long and winding. Graduation often is an exciting time in a person's life. However, it also may spark some anxiety as newly minted grads prepare to look for jobs and begin their careers.

An unpredictable economic climate coupled with the rising cost of education can make soon-to-be graduates curious about what awaits them after graduation. According to the market data reporting firm Gitnux, 86 percent of college graduates can expect to find jobs within six months of graduation.

While the economy can affect how quickly new grads begin their careers, it's not the only variable that affects where grads go after tossing their caps in the air. Students on the cusp of graduation can employ various strategies to increase their chances of finding a job.

- Start while in school. It's never too early to think about the hiring process and what can be done to improve your profile as a candidate. Maintain a grade point average that will impress employers, suggests Indeed. Also, part-time jobs and internships in your



field will help you gain valuable experience and determine if working in a particular field is a good fit.

- Select an off-peak time to search for a job. Many people start searching and applying for jobs at the same time, typically after graduation ceremonies in December and May. That floods the market with applicants. Increase the chances your résumé is read by staggering when you apply for jobs and sending out inquiries before you graduate.

- Streamline your résumé. Many companies receive thousands of applications per position, so it is essential to cater your résumé to the specific job to which you are applying. Include key words that match those in the job listing and will attract the attention

of hiring managers. If you do not yet have experience, replace that section on the résumé with your accomplishments or special projects you have worked on.

- Network as much as possible. Many job openings are learned about through personal relationships. Employers may not advertise widely and hope that word

of mouth will bring applicants to their doors, or through recommendations from other employees. Reach out to academic advisors, former professors and colleagues in your academic department. Be sure to maintain these networking relationships.

- Consider growth-stage companies. The University of Missouri Career Center says growth-stage companies tend to hire entry level professionals who do not necessarily have a lot of experience.

These are fast-growing companies looking to expand their operations and build company culture.

- Utilize networking social media apps. Indeed and LinkedIn enable people to network and make it easy to apply for jobs directly through their sites or apps. There's even the option to passively apply for jobs by having a résumé uploaded where companies can search and find you if your skills are a match. Finding a job after graduation is a priority for graduates anxious to begin their careers.

**Wishing You Success**

*Chancelor, Chester & Donald Baskerville & the Baskerville Family*

May your graduation be the first of many achievements to follow.  
Keep up the great work, and we know you will continue to reach new heights of success.

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