

5 WAYS YOU CAN PROFESSIONALLY PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

presented by Access Scholarships

Listen, it's no secret that graduating from college and entering the ~real world~ can be a scary time! Here are 5 quick and actionable tips on how you can smoothly navigate this potentially stressful situation.

#1 UPDATE YOUR RESUME

Now that you are nearing the end of your academic career, take the time to update your resume so it most accurately reflects your strongest experiences and skills to potential employers.

Quick resume tips:

~Use action words on your resume to describe what you did in each role

- ex: **coordinated, produced, pioneered, maximized**

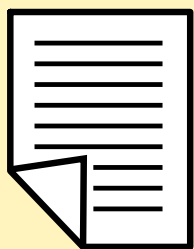
~Format in reverse chronological order

~Keep it to ONE PAGE!

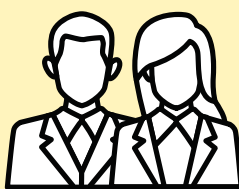
~Design for skimmability

~Quantify your experiences using figures and numbers to make them stand out

- ex: managed a team of 5 students



#2 MAKE TIME FOR PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

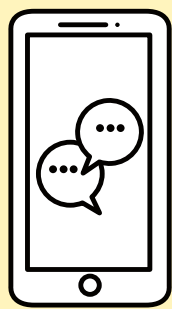


Once you have identified your goals for the near-future, find ways to fine-tune your hard & soft skills and experiences, and build your network.

- Attend virtual webinars and workshops in your areas and industries of interest
- Set up informational interviews/coffee chats with people you admire
- Join relevant groups on LinkedIn and other platforms
- Subscribe to email newsletters related to your professional interests

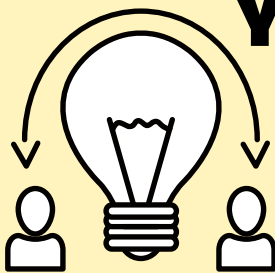
#3 CLEAN UP YOUR LINKEDIN AND OTHER ASPECTS OF YOUR DIGITAL PRESENCE

Once your resume is in tip-top shape, turn to your various social platforms and accounts.



- Delete any posts you wouldn't want an employer to see
- Make your personal accounts private
- Update your LinkedIn profile to reflect your current situation and interests

#4 STAY CONNECTED TO THE PEOPLE YOU KNOW



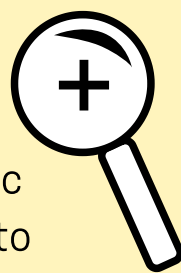
It is super important to keep in touch with past professors, co-workers, and even bosses that you have had throughout

your college years. Some jobs you apply for may ask for references; for this reason, making an effort to stay connected with a few of these people can go a long way.

Plus, referrals are the leading source of superior candidates for 88% of employers. You never know when someone you know might be able to point you in the right direction down the line!

#5 BE OPEN TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES, AND STAY POSITIVE!

You may have your mind and heart set on landing a job at one specific company or in one industry, but make sure not to close yourself off to other opportunities for work experience that come your way.



If you're having trouble finding work, remember that you are not alone with this, and if you keep working hard, it will pay off (I promise!)

SOURCES

forbes.com

Centerforcommunication.org

themuse.com

FOR MORE HELPFUL TIPS, INFO, AND RESOURCES ON ALL THINGS SCHOLARSHIPS, COLLEGE, & CAREER SUCCESS, HEAD TO:

Accessscholarships.com
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