

How to use this self-directed PowerPoint:

- Since this workshop does not have a presenter to go into detail about each subject or topic, there are many hyperlinks throughout the presentation that links to additional information and resources. Please click and hold the control key to link to other sites and resources, as additional information and resources are provided to those interested in learning more information about the topics discussed in each slide.
- Please make sure you print the Plan B: Graduate School or Full-Time Work? Guide found on [the Career Development Services Website](#). It is crucial you complete this guide to supplement the self-guided process.
- This workshop is a quick overview of the job search process including necessary documents, preparation, tips and tools to help students successfully locate employment post-graduation. It is not intended to completely cover the topics thoroughly in the workshop, and additional support and assistance from Career Development Services is highly recommended.
- For more information on other workshops online and in person, please visit our [website](#)



**Graduate School or
Full-Time Work?
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Learning Objectives...

Describe an ideal purpose of attending graduate school

Identify several resources in researching employment options

Reflect personally the benefits or drawback to attending graduate school vs. full-time work



Agenda

Job vs Career

Why Graduate School?

Graduate School

Job Preparation

Audience Poll

How many of you...

- a) Want to go to graduate school full-time?
- b) Want to begin work job right after graduation?
- c) Want to work full-time and go to graduate part-time?
- d) Want to work part-time and go to graduate school full-time?
- e) Not sure?

Why Graduate School?



- Going to graduate school is a major commitment of time and money; this decision should not be taken lightly.
- It is generally not advised to attend graduate school because you “thought you were supposed to” or don’t know what else to do.
- You will face several years of intense work, research and a more demanding course load than in your undergraduate program.
- It is extremely important to be sure and committed before deciding if graduate school is your next step

Why Graduate School?



The following is a list of reasons why graduate school might be ideal or potentially beneficial:

- Career Goal
- Compensation
- Staying Marketable

What is your reason for attending graduate school?

It is important to complete your answer in the guide before moving to the next slides



Career Goal

- Earning a graduate degree that is part of your plan to reach a specific and carefully thought out career goal is a very legitimate reason for attending graduate school.
- There are several professions that require a graduate degree or credential program. Attorneys, K-12 teachers, doctors, psychiatrists or Marriage & Family Therapists are just a few professions that require a graduate or professional degree.



Career Goal

- If you are unsure or have doubts about your professional goals, going to graduate school is not going to help you find your career.
- Questions or concerns regarding graduate school, should be addressed with faculty in professions you are considering or working with a Career Counselor to help you figure out your career interests and goals.
- Attending graduate school without a clear specific career goal, can potentially lead to lower motivation and program drop-out.



Career Goal

- There are many careers that offer job opportunities that don't require an advanced degree.
- In some situations, having an advanced degree can actually hurt you in a job search if you have little or no job experience related to your graduate or professional degree.
- You don't want to be classified as overeducated and under experienced.
- Employers prefer education but require direct and related skills and experience for their competitive position.

Compensation



- Most studies show that people with advanced degrees earn more on average than those with only a bachelor degree.
- A college master's degree can be worth \$1.3 million more in lifetime earnings than a high school diploma Recently reported from the U.S. Census Bureau.
- However, increase in compensation depends on the position and or industry.

Compensation



- The Masters in Business Administration can really mask national salary averages. For example, a person with a MBA with 3-5 years of experience might be making 65-150,000. While a person with a Masters of Social Work with 3-5 years of experience is making 35,000-80,000.
- It is best to know in advance what kind of extra compensation you could get with an advanced degree. Researching the average income for those who have advanced degrees compared to those who do not within the same profession and
- Learn more about Salary Comparisons at [NACE](#)



Staying Marketable

- For some professions without an advanced degree continued advancement is limited.
- You may need to earn an advanced degree to keep your training and skills current to make you more marketable for career advancement. In the corporate world, you may hear people talking about "hitting a ceiling."
- Getting a graduate degree is not required for many "entry-level" jobs.



Staying Marketable

- Have an employer pay for your advanced degree. Example: An engineer at Qualcomm in San Diego could not get a management position until he had a Master's in Engineering. His executive team offered to pay for his advanced degree and guaranteed him a management position when he completed his degree.
- Is an advanced degree a tool in advancing your career?



When should you attend graduate school?

- One of the questions most often debated is when is the best time to consider a graduate degree. Is it better to attend graduate school right after you complete your bachelor's degree?
- Or is it better to wait a few years and gain some work/life experience first?
- As mentioned above, certainly do not consider going immediately to graduate school as a default move -- or to avoid getting a job.



Immediately

Pros

- Accustomed to being a student and have momentum
- Study Skills are sharp
- Few or less obligations
- Occupations that require advanced degrees for “entry-level” positions

Cons

- Could choose the wrong program = spending money and time on wrong profession
- Not a competitive candidate to admissions committee without work experience
- Unlikely to fund entire tuition and expenses



After Work Experience

Pros

- Confirmed your career goals through hands-practical experience
- Completed the needed work experience to apply for graduate programs
- Bring actual work experience to the theory you will learn in class
- Some employers may pay for partial or all of your tuition
- Financial stability
- Improve chances for acceptance to graduate programs

Cons

- Struggle with study skills
- Work, life & school balance
- Attending class and working with students significantly younger
- Leave a paid position to complete an internship opportunity.

During Entry-Level Career

Pros

- Locate employers willing to pay for your education while you work
- Financially stable while concurrently working on improving your skills
- Minimal student loans
- Know you already have a job after graduation

Cons

- Balancing work and education simultaneously.

Graduate School Resources

How to get help...



Career Development Services

- ◉ Advise on Application process
- ◉ Graduate & Professional School Fairs
- ◉ Provide external resources and referrals
- ◉ Conduct Mock-interview & preparation information



Faculty

- ◉ Expert knowledge in career specific industry
- ◉ Share personal career-path
- ◉ Research information/opportunity*
- ◉ Student selection process*
- ◉ Review Essays*



Graduate School Resources

Career Development Services Offers:

- Graduate School Bound Program
- Graduate School Application Advising
- Graduate School Handbook
- Eureka Career Cruising Resources
- Weekly Resume Clinics and Drop-in Counseling



Graduate School Resources

Graduate School Bound Program

- Incorporates 6 detailed modules covering the topics of testing, application process, financial aid, and writing a personal statement or statement of purpose.
- The Graduate School Program is a hands on approach, that is not replaceable with a workshop or single counseling session. Please visit our [website](#) for more information.



Graduate School Resources

Graduate School Application Advising

- Visit us during [Drop-in Career Counseling](#).
- One-on-one **appointments** are available to all of our current students unable to attend Drop-In Career Counseling.
 - Please keep in mind that appointment slots are limited. Scheduling well in advance with the Career Center is highly recommended.
 - It is important that you come to the appointment with questions and a list of schools or programs you are interested in exploring.



Graduate School Resources

Graduate School Handbook

- The handbook provides a basic overview of the graduate school application process as well as graduate school resources.

Eureka & Career Cruising Resources

- An excellent online resource that can help you locate and research graduate school programs.
- Also provides admission counselor's contact information for you to get your specific questions answered.



Graduate School Resources

Weekly Resume Clinics and Drop-in Counseling

- Designed to help you create a polished resume or CV for graduate school application.
- Opportunity to ask questions, and finalize your application process



CDS Programs & Events

Employer Interviews

- An opportunity to help you prepare for graduate school or job interviews with a local employer, staff or faculty.

Graduate School Panel

- Provides advice and insight on the application process and tips to successfully navigate graduate school from admission counselors, current graduate students, & other key staff and faculty members



CDS Programs & Events

Graduate & Professional School Fair

- 50+ graduate programs/schools attend this annual event to provide students answers and insights.

Graduate & Professional School Week

- Programs and services that includes the fair, panel, workshop, and Drop-In Career Counseling/Resume Clinic to help you prepare for the Fair.

Researching Employment Opportunities for Full-Time Work

Employment Trends

● Fastest Growing Occupations

Table 1. Occupations with the fastest growth

Occupations	Percent change	Number of new jobs (in thousands)	Wages (May 2008 median)	Education/training category
Biomedical engineers	72	11.6	\$ 77,400	Bachelor's degree
Network systems and data communications analysts	53	155.8	71,100	Bachelor's degree
Home health aides	50	460.9	20,460	Short-term on-the-job training
Personal and home care aides	46	375.8	19,180	Short-term on-the-job training
Financial examiners	41	11.1	70,930	Bachelor's degree
Medical scientists, except epidemiologists	40	44.2	72,590	Doctoral degree
Physician assistants	39	29.2	81,230	Master's degree
Skin care specialists	38	14.7	28,730	Postsecondary vocational award
Biochemists and biophysicists	37	8.7	82,840	Doctoral degree
Athletic trainers	37	5.0	39,640	Bachelor's degree
Physical therapist aides	36	16.7	23,760	Short-term on-the-job training
Dental hygienists	36	62.9	66,570	Associate degree
Veterinary technologists and technicians	36	28.5	28,900	Associate degree
Dental assistants	36	105.6	32,380	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Computer software engineers, applications	34	175.1	85,430	Bachelor's degree
Medical assistants	34	163.9	28,300	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Physical therapist assistants	33	21.2	46,140	Associate degree
Veterinarians	33	19.7	79,050	First professional degree
Self-enrichment education teachers	32	81.3	35,720	Work experience in a related occupation
Compliance officers, except agriculture, construction, health and safety, and transportation	31	80.8	48,890	Long-term on-the-job training

SOURCE: BLS Occupational Employment Statistics and Division of Occupational Outlook

www.bls.gov/oco



Research Career Options

- ◉ www.bls.gov
- ◉ www.myplan.com
- ◉ <http://mynextmove.org>
- ◉ <http://www.onetonline.org/>

Basic Job Search: Advertised Listing

1. Create a [Dolphin CareerLink Profile](#)
2. Review Resources ([CDS website](#), Dolphin CareerLink)
3. Create a [Resume, Cover Letter & References](#)
4. Have Career Development Services, Faculty, Staff Friends, and Family [review your documents](#)



Research Companies: Access the Job Market

Candidates with Experience

- What types of employers interest you?
Make a target list of employers to call or email
- Know department's needs and challenges and include that in email or phone script
- Know your skills – in your industry's terms
- Bookmark 20 employers – BE PICKY



Candidates with little or experience

- * Informational Interviews
- * Volunteer/Internships that lead to jobs
- * Supplemental Income?
- * What are jobs you can do right now? Foot in the door?



Search Plan

- Apply for __ positions a day for __ weeks to get job search off to a great start
- For each position BE SURE to change Objective, Highlights, and Cover letter for each individual opportunity
- Follow-up after 1 week of waiting to ask when they are starting to interview





Employer Advice

- **Research, research, research**
- **Be prepared for your interview**
- **Gain relevant work experience**
- **Stand out - demonstrate**
 - **Communication skills**
 - **Maturity/business etiquette**
 - **Work ethic**



Proactive Job Search

What is “The Hidden Job Market?”

- It is estimated that only 15-20% of all jobs are ever advertised, meaning 80-85% of jobs are filled by companies who never advertised the position. Instead these positions are filled by referral, the "who do you know" method of recruitment. So while keeping an eye advertised positions is important, the percentages are in your favor if you investigate the hidden job market.



Proactive Job Search

Don't wait until the job is open!

- By following creative strategies such as: using personal contacts and contacting employers directly. It is essential to develop effective tools and dynamic strategies for job searching so you stand out from other applicants.
- Develop mentoring relationships. When you establish professional working relationships with mentors, you enlist personal recruiters to help you find opportunities that may not be posted, and gain tips and insights from seasoned and experience professionals.

1. *Active Engagement*

Designing a plan to conduct a proactive job search requires that you are actively engaged in the search process entirely. This type of strategic job hunting is critical to implement in today's current career trends.

First, By utilizing the following components, you will engage in a more targeted approach to your job



2. Market Yourself

Looking for a job or internship is similar to selling a new product. Although in this case, you are the product. You will need to appeal to your potential customers or employers.

Resume

- Polished and accurately represents your skills, background, and preparedness for employment

Professionalism

- Create professional business cards
- 60 second elevator speech

Interview Preparation

- Practice mock interviews
- Dolphin CareerLink has an online mock-interview system to help you prepare for potential questions

Networking

Professional Organizations

- Connect with skilled and experienced mentors and professionals in your career
- Engage in opportunities to build networks and gain professional development at conferences
- Student membership rates typically much lower compared to professional rates after graduation.

Informational Interviews

- Brief meeting with someone who works in an industry that you may be considering for future employment
- Job shadow

Mentors

- Get involved in a mentorship program
- Talk to faculty members

Alumni

- Gain opportunities for networking

Social Media

- Job search tool
- Support groups to improve your job search and interview skills
- LinkedIn



Tips for Success

- **Be focused, yet flexible**
- **Revise, update, and tailor your resume, cover letter, and applications**
- **Perfect your interviewing skills**
- **Set short-term and long-term goals**
- **Be realistic about investment in time**
- **Be persistent and patient – follow-up**
- **Maintain a positive attitude**

Resources to help you ...

*Career Development Services can support you in
career exploration, planning and preparation!*



Career Development Services [Website](#) Facebook: go.csuci.edu/cdsFB
Twitter: go.csuci.edu/cdstweet LinkedIn: go.csuci.edu/linkedingroup

Questions?


Visit us during Drop-in Career Counseling

Schedule & Availability can be found on our [CDS Website](#)

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