“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

- Brene Brown
Agenda

- Job vs Career
- Pros & Cons
- Graduate School
- Job Preparation
Learning Objectives

• Differentiate between jobs and careers
• Identify pros and cons of earning a master’s degree before working full-time
• Describe pros and cons of working full-time before earning a master’s degree
• List resources in researching graduate school programs or full-time work.
How many of you...

a) Want to go to graduate school full-time?
b) Want to begin work 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?
Job vs. Career

• What is the difference between a job and a career?

Audience Poll

For Example: Are you looking for a job or a career in student affairs?

• job
• career
• unsure
What is your Plan?

- Employment
- Graduate School
- Graduate School and Employment
Why Graduate School?
The following is a list of reasons why graduate school might be ideal or potentially beneficial:

• Career Goal
• Compensation
• Staying Marketable
Career Goal

• Help you reach your career goal
• Professions that require a graduate degree
• You don’t want to be classified as overeducated and under experienced.
Compensation

• A college master's degree can be worth $1.3 million more in lifetime earnings than a high school diploma
• Increase in compensation depends on the position and or industry
Staying Marketable

• For some professions without an advanced degree continued advancement is limited
• Having an employer pay for your advanced degree
• It is important to know what are your own reasons for attending graduate school
### When should you consider graduate school?

#### Immediately

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Pros</strong></th>
<th><strong>Cons</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Accustomed to being a student</td>
<td>• Could choose the wrong program</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Study Skills are sharp</td>
<td>• Not a competitive candidate to admissions committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Less obligations</td>
<td>• Unlikely to fund entire tuition and expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Occupations that require advanced degrees</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
When should you consider graduate school?

**Pros**
- Confirmed your career goals through hands-on 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

**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.

After Work Experience
When should you consider graduate school?

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 your job, school, and personal life
• Organizing schedule to accommodate school, work and possible unpaid internships
• Adjustment to work/school load; may take longer to complete program
Graduate School Resources **How to get help...**

**Career Development Services**
- Advise on information
- Application process
- Graduate & Professional School Fairs
- External resources and referrals
- Mock-interview preparation

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

Don’t forget the Admission Advisors at your Graduate School of interest!
Graduate School Resources

- Graduate Studies Center
  - Counseling
  - Graduate Writing Studio
  - Test Preparation Books
- Graduate School Handbook
- Career Counseling
Researching Employment & Career Outlook

• From the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook:
  • Can help you find career information on responsibilities, education, training, pay, and outlook for hundreds of occupations
Research Career Options

• U.S. Bureau of Labor & Statistics
  – www.bls.gov

• Educational and Career Planning
  – www.myplan.com

• Career exploring
  – http://mynextmove.org
  – http://www.onetonline.org/
Basic Job Search: Advertised Listing

• Create a Dolphin CareerLink Profile
• Review Resources (CDS website, Dolphin CareerLink)
• Create a Resume, Cover Letter & References
• 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 no experience**

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

• Apply for 5 a day for 3 weeks to get 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?”
• 75-85% of all jobs
• Don’t wait until the job is open!
1. Active Engagement

- Market Yourself
- Network
- Research
- Follow up

Job Seeker
2. Market Yourself

- Resume
- Professionalism
- Interview Preparation
3. Networking
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 ...

• Graduate Studies Center
• Career Development Services can support you in career exploration, planning and preparation
• Faculty members and staff
• Professionals currently working in your field of interest
Dang. P. California State University Channel Islands. *Plan B Graduate School or Full-Time Work* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from Career Development Services
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CSUCI – Graduate Studies Center

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