

Top 10 Things You Can Do as a Student to Secure a Job **BEFORE** You Graduate

On average it can take a college graduate 6 MONTHS to get a job after graduation, and that job might not even be in their desired field.

Here are a few things to help you to increase your chances of getting a job BEFORE you graduate and pretty much any time you're targeting a new job.

Internship

Although these can be quite competitive to get, they are worth the effort. And don't overlook some of the smaller companies where there might be less competition.

Volunteer

Look for volunteer opportunities with companies where you can use your professional skills and gain some experience. This will allow you to gain experience and exposure. Even if you can't find a opportunity where you can use your skills, volunteering will allow you to interact with people who can help you network and it just feels good.

Create Strong Professional Brand

Use Social Media to showcase your professional skills and what you have to offer. The best site to start is [LinkedIn](#). You can also use other sites that are more industry specific or Q&A sites. Make sure that you link all of the sites together so that if someone finds you on one, they can see everything you're doing. Don't forget to lock down any sites that might reflect in unprofessional ways.

Network

Use those Social Media platforms to build your professional network. Include people from your school, your same major across many schools, people in the industry, people who work with companies that you admire and anyone else that has a strong professional presence.

Be Active Professionally

Join organizations in your industry. There are some that have membership fees but almost all are free (or deeply discounted for students). See if there are local chapters that meet in person, check for upcoming conferences and review their resource libraries for industry specific advice.

Increase Your Visibility

Help make yourself visible by posting professional papers (whitepapers) to your Social Media and Industry sites, submit papers for conference review, volunteer for panels at conferences or even just to help out at events. Take advantage of any place that you can increase your chances of being seen.

Follow Company Leaders on Social Media

Even professional Social Media utilizes algorithms. The more that you let the platform know who you are and what you want, the more it will direct the right traffic your way. This works the other direction as well. The more that you are visible and active, the more that your profile and information will be directed to the people that you want to see you.

Get a Mentor (or Several)

Every industry has their unique characteristics and obstacles. If you are fortunate enough to connect with someone who has already succeeded, someone who has achieved your “dream career”, they can provide information and advice that can make a tremendous difference in your career advancement.

Choose Class Projects with Real World Applications

Even students who have no work experience can showcase their skills with the projects that they select for classes. If you can choose topics that have real-world applications, things that will address problems and solutions that you’ll be working on in your first job, this can stand in place of work experience during those first interviews.

Create Your Own Job

If you are not able to secure that coveted job before you graduate, look for opportunities where you can use your skills on a project basis. Sites like [Upwork](#) allow individuals to match their skills with someone who needs project work done. While this may not keep you busy full time, you will be able to work on your experience and still continue to interview.

BONUS

Get a Career Coach and a structured program to follow. A Job Search can be a complex and exhausting process. By joining a community of other Job Seekers along with a Structured Program that you can follow, you can make sure that you are bringing your best with each new opportunity. Check out or classes and community at [CandidateWhisperer](#) and you just might find what you need.