Exploring Career Pathways

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#nextgenPhD
Which statement fits you best right now?

I want to know what I can do with my degree.
Which statement fits you best right now?

I want to know what I can do with what I learned.
Which statement fits you best right now?

I don’t know what I want to do, let alone what I can do.
Agenda

Option 1:
Follow others’ lead

Option 2:
Follow your skills

Option 3:
Make your own path
Option 1 – Following Others
What you can do with your degree
First step – find others with your degree

• Loyola University Chicago
  • Department website
  • Supervisor
  • Alumni Association
  • GSA
First step – find others with your degree

- Professional Associations
  - AHA Career Diversity
  - MLA Career & Job Market

- Labor Market Info
  - Survey of Earned Doctorates
  - NACE Surveys of Employers
First step – find others with your degree

- LinkedIn Alumni Tool
  - Search by university & degree

- Hack (erase everything after alumni? and type name=university)

- What they studied (degree field) + keyword search
Brainstorm – 2 minutes

Write down all the places you can think to find people with your degree, or people you can ask for leads.
Second step – start analyzing the info

- Method of storing your research
  - Excel, Google Sheets...
  - Trello (free & has an app)

- Things to consider:
  - Accuracy
  - Trends
  - Location
  - Industries or sectors
Third step – start interpreting the info

- Read LinkedIn profiles for:
  - Skills
  - Current or past jobs (employers, titles & duties)
- O*Net
  - Look up job titles for more detail
Fourth step – go beyond the info

• Reach out to interesting people for informational interviews
  • Tutorial

• Rate potential careers
  • Fit or match
  • Interest
  • Requirements for entry
  • Likelihood of hiring
Option 2 – Following Skills
What you can do with what you learned
First step – make a skills inventory

• **SkillScan Exercise - Skills & Motivations**
  • Use word or pen & paper to complete text portions

• Make your own!
  • Write out all the different things you’ve had to do
  • Actions you took
  • Skills you used in those actions
  • Enjoyment & proficiency
Second step – Analyze your inventory

- Ask yourself –
  - What are your patterns of skills?
  - Which words appeared most often? (try using Wordle.net to help with this)
  - What are the surprises?
Brainstorm – 5 minutes
Write down your strongest skill & the thing you like doing the most. Share it with the person sitting next to you.
Third step – Rank your inventory

- Top 10 preferred skills
- Top 10 strongest skills
Fourth step – Explore your skills

- O*Net Skills Search
  - Focus on your preferred skills
- LinkedIn Alumni Tool
  - Search by Skill
- Things to note:
  - Job titles (current/past)
  - Duties or job components
  - Experience & education
  - Skills list (LinkedIn)
  - Employers
Fifth step – go beyond the info

• Reach out to interesting people for informational interviews
  • Tutorial

• Rate potential careers
  • Fit or match
  • Interest
  • Requirements for entry
  • Likelihood of hiring
Option 3 – Make your own path

Start with what you want, and learn the rest along the way. Welcome, intrepid explorers!
First step – Think about what YOU want

- What are your career values?
  - Location
  - Schedule
  - How you work
  - Who you work with
  - Visibility & appreciation
  - Employer values**
- SkillScan Career Values
Second step – Follow your values

- Holland Code (RIASEC)
  - Realistic
  - Investigative
  - Artistic
  - Social
  - Enterprising
  - Conventional
- Guide
- O*Net
Third step – Research & analyze!

• Make a list of potential careers & industries
• Things to note:
  • Patterns & trends
  • Industries & sectors
  • Job duties
  • Entry requirements
• LinkedIn Alumni Tool
  • Investigate your chosen interests
Fourth step – go beyond the info

• Reach out to interesting people for informational interviews
  • Tutorial

• Rate potential careers
  • Fit or match
  • Interest
  • Requirements for entry
  • Likelihood of hiring
Key Takeaways
Career exploration...

• Is a process. Repeating steps is expected.
• Works best with support.
• Is customizable to your needs and style. Do what works for you.
• Is the first step to successful job searching.
Have Questions?

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