

Fall CAREER PLANNING News

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The Keys to Landing a Job Before Graduation

National statistics indicate that, on a good year, less than 50% of college students have a job upon graduation, but approximately 90% have a job 6-9 months out. So why is it that the percentage doubles in just 6-9 months? Do college graduates get that much smarter and more marketable? No! What happens is that, when forced to head back home without a job, the sense of urgency kicks in and the job-less graduates spend more time searching for a job. As a senior in college, you have so many competing activities - tests, papers, projects, part-time jobs, activities, community service, intramurals, and, oh yeah, four years of friends that you like to hang out with once in a while. You could go months without ever spending a second on a job

search. Also, there are so many things that need to get done in a job search that it can feel overwhelming. Because of all this, it's easy to put the job search "on the back burner" and deal with it later.

Following are key success strategies that will give you the best shot of securing a job before graduation.

Start Early

The average job search takes 7-9 months, and in a tighter job market, it will likely take longer. For seniors, that means that you need to launch your job search immediately. Why does it take longer in a tough market? First, since there are fewer jobs out there and just as many job-seekers, the math isn't in anybody's favor. You'll need to apply to a greater number of jobs in order to

get an interview and you'll have to interview more often in order to get that first offer.

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Second, a much higher percentage of jobs are found in the hidden job market - those jobs not advertised on job boards. Uncovering jobs in the hidden job market is much more involved and time consuming than simply clicking on a job description and applying directly online using various job boards.

Adopt the Baseball-Hitter Mindset

The process of a typical job search goes something like this: no no no no no no no no no no-way no no no no not really no no no no no

no forget-it no no no no YES! And that one yes is all you need. You just need to get through the no's! During the tight job market that we've been experiencing the last few years, you can add about 10 more "no's" to the list. To cope with this kind of adversity, you have to develop the right mindset! Think about softball or baseball hitters. When they get one hit out of three times at bat, it's been a good day. When they've failed two out of three times - the majority of the time - how can they go home and feel good about themselves? The answer: They've accepted the nature of the game. Getting a hit one out of three times is a .333 batting average, which is universally accepted in the baseball and

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Bank of America Career Services Center

Open Daily

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Drop-In Counselors available Monday-Friday
from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. & Tuesday
evenings until 7:00 p.m.
No appointment necessary!

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