Dear OSU Student,

The Career Services Team applauds your interest in a very important aspect of your university experience--career development. This Career Guide is an excellent reference to help guide you through several significant topics such as resume building and cover letter writing, job search skills and successful interview techniques to name a few. As you review this guide you will see we can assist you with all aspects of your personal career development and exploration process.

Career Services is committed to providing you the best support through feedback and guidance. Drop-in sessions are offered Mondays-Thursdays from 1 to 4 PM where you can have your resume reviewed. To practice interviewing skills you can schedule a mock interview with one of our counselors. Additionally, we offer a robust On-Campus Recruiting program, which brings hundreds of employers to campus to recruit OSU students for internships and full-time positions with their company.

Our caring staff is ready and able to assist you with any career related concerns and questions. Check us out on our website at http://oregonstate.edu/career to view our 24/7 resources, the Beaver JobNet site and much more.

We wish you much success in your pursuit of a career and look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Doug Cochran
Director
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Alloy Education/Career Recruitment Media
As a gateway to the future, we support the mission and goals of Oregon State University through centralized services that provide skills and knowledge to develop career life-planning processes. We stimulate a life-long attitude of inquiry, openness, and social responsibility through partnerships with students, alumni, the academic community, and employers.

CAREER SERVICES

Location
Career Services is located on the lower level of the Kerr Administration Building. We are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. In addition, our web page provides information at any time on available services, jobs, and employers. You can access our page at: http://oregonstate.edu/career.

OUR MISSION

Career Seminars
Workshops are offered frequently on topics helpful to students and alumni in the job search process. Workshops include:
- Cover Letter and Resume Writing: Tips on resume and cover letter preparation.
- Interview Preparation: How to prepare for interviews.
- Job Search Strategies: How to organize an efficient employment search, including Internet use.
- Opportunities in Cooperative Education and Internships: The types and benefits of co-ops and internships while you are in college.
- Networking and Dining Etiquette: Learn effective networking skills, proper table manners and how to make a great impression on potential employers.
- Other related topics of interest to students and alumni are also addressed in workshops.

Career Counseling
Appointments are available with career counselors for individual help in your career search. Counselors are also available during drop-in time for brief consultations. Practice or mock interviews are available with Career Services counselors and may be videotaped. The “mock” interviews are reflective of actual interviews and are designed to provide feedback which can improve interviewing skills. Career assessments such as Myers-Briggs Type Indicator or Strong Interest Inventory are also available for a small fee to help students learn about themselves in their career development process.

Reference Library
Career Services maintains a library of books and other materials related to career opportunities and the job search. Other reference materials include sample resumes and writing aids; career fields and organization descriptions; and job listings in various fields. Salary information, based on national surveys, is also available. Employers consistently remark that researching the company is paramount in making a good first impression in the interview.

Career Fairs
Career Services invites representatives from government, private, public and non-profit organizations to come to campus and provide information about their business, possible employment needs and qualifications to students. University-wide and Engineering Career Fairs offer great opportunities for students and alumni to network with employers and explore job, internship, and career possibilities.

Peace Corps
Career Services can connect you with a Peace Corps representative to discuss international Peace Corps opportunities in education, business, environment, agriculture, health and nutrition, forestry, and community development.

On-Campus Recruiting and Interviewing
Career Services acts as a recruiting and interviewing center for industrial firms, government agencies, school districts, and other employers. During each academic year, hundreds of organizations recruit prospective employees through our office. Interviews are for full-time employment, cooperative education and internships, and summer employment. Peace Corps candidates are also interviewed in Career Services.

The recruiting year begins in October of each year and continues through the following May. Undergraduate and graduate students in an OSU degree-granting program and OSU alumni may participate in campus interviews. A recruiting schedule of company visits for the current term is available via Career Services’ home page. It is updated frequently. Our on-line recruiting system (Beaver JobNet) allows students registered with Career Services to schedule interviews over the web. Suggestion: Visit our web page regularly to get up-to-date information, additions, and changes of organizations participating in recruitment—it changes frequently!
Student Employment
Career Services coordinates the posting of student jobs, including on-campus jobs, off-campus jobs, Federal Work Study jobs, summer jobs and internships, as well as full-time and career opportunities. Beaver JobNet is the web-based medium for these postings, as well as other events related to employment, making this information available to students and alumni from any location at any time. Employers post directly to the web; students access the jobs there and apply directly to the employer. Career Services also provides the Student Employment Manual as the sole reference for the conduct of student employment at Oregon State University. Visit: http://oregonstate.edu/career. See page 27 for more information about Beaver JobNet.

Resume Match
When students and alumni register with Career Services and publish their electronic resumes, their resumes become part of a searchable database. Career Services allows employers access to search the database for potential candidates. The employer may then contact those students directly.

Discover
The career guidance and information system, Discover, is available for student use. This system allows students to complete an interest, values, and skills inventory and to research occupational and educational offerings.

International Student Employment
Information on regulations and procedures for practical training is available from International Programs, 444 Snell Hall. International Programs holds weekly sessions on practical training to advise students on the procedures, their opportunities and their responsibilities. Registration for a session is made through their receptionist at 737-3006.

Other Services in the Center:
• Computers with Internet access and Discover.
• Computer lab.
• Road Trip Nation information.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT—A CHECKLIST

1 Self-Exploration
- Meet with a Career Counselor
- Take career assessments such as the Strong Interest Inventory or Myers-Briggs Type Indicator
- Use the Discover computer program
- Take ALS 114 (Career Decision Making course)
- Spend time reflecting on preferences and experiences
- Use assessment exercises in career books and on web sites
- Participate in National Student Exchange and/or study overseas

2 Career Information and Exploration
- Research using Discover computer program
- Review literature in Career Services Resource Library
- Conduct informational interviews
- Join clubs and activities, seeking leadership roles
- Attend lectures of campus speakers
- Talk with your professors
- Read/subscribe to books/periodicals in your fields of interest
- Talk to friends, family and alumni
- Participate in an internship
- Do volunteer work
- Get part-time/seasonal/full-time work
- Go on company visits and job shadow

3 Job and Internship Search
- Attend Resume, Interview and Job Search workshops
- Take ALS 210 (How to be Successful in Your Internship Search)
- Write your resume and practice your interview skills
- Register with Career Services for On-Campus Recruitment (Beaver JobNet)
- Research possible employers using the web, Yellow Pages, Chambers of Commerce, etc.
- Attend Career Fairs
- Visit employers
- Network with friends, family members, professors, alumni, current or past employers, etc.
Career Counseling

Career Counselors are a valuable asset along the pathway to your career. They will meet with you individually to help you explore your strengths, learn about different careers, prepare for the world of work, and develop your job search skills. Topics that might be covered in a career counseling session include:

- career exploration and development
- resume and application material critique
- mock interviews
- graduate school exploration and preparation
- job search strategies

If you are not sure of your career goals, assessment tools are available to help you gain insight into your interests, values, and personality as they relate to your career development. Assessments that career counselors may use include: the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the Strong Interest Inventory, and Discover (a self-paced computer program).

Career Services Website

The Career Services website offers a multitude of information on the career development process, including our 24-7 Resources page, which includes several websites on self-assessment and career exploration. Examples include websites on “What to do with a Major In…..”, O*Net interest profile and skills search, and a Career Development e-manual. Visit: http://oregonstate.edu/career/students/24_7resources.php.

Written Resources

Many books, magazines and other materials have been written with a focus on career information. The Career Services Office has over 150 career-related books, including What Color is Your Parachute?, Do What You Are, and a Careers For... series, including such titles as Careers for Fashion Plates and Careers for Nature Lovers.

National Student Exchange Program (NSE)

Oregon State University offers a wide range of nationally and internationally recognized programs of which the National Student Exchange (NSE) is one. Through the NSE program, academically qualified students are given the opportunity to spend a portion of their undergraduate years at another school, while paying in-state tuition rates and maintaining academic progress toward degree requirements. Credits earned during the exchange become a part of the student’s OSU transcript.

Over 170 colleges and universities in 48 states, 3 territories and Canada currently participate in the National Student Exchange program. While on exchange you will have the opportunity to experience a different learning environment, broaden your social and cultural awareness, and live in a different area. OSU students who have gone on exchange often describe the opportunity as the highlight of their college years and a very meaningful educational experience. For further information on National Student Exchange, contact the office of New Student Programs and Family Outreach in 008 Kerr Administration Building (541) 737-7627.

International Study

Challenging yourself to go beyond Corvallis and beyond the borders of the U.S. can be a great way to learn beyond your expectations. OSU offers an array of international programs that allow you to make progress toward your degree while gaining independence, foreign language skills, cross-cultural skills, invaluable work experience and a global perspective. Each year over 400 OSU students earn academic credit while studying or working in another country. The Office of International Programs at OSU offers several options for international education, including study abroad, internships abroad, and the International Degree program. For further information on these opportunities, contact the Office of International Programs in 444 Snell Hall at (541) 737-3006.
TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

If you’re wondering what skills you have that would interest a potential employer, you are not alone. Many college seniors feel that four (or more) years of college haven’t sufficiently prepared them to begin work after graduation. And like these students, you may have carefully reviewed your work history (along with your campus and civic involvement) and you may still have a difficult time seeing how the skills you learned in college will transfer to the workplace.

But keep in mind that you’ve been acquiring skills since childhood. Whether learning the value of teamwork by playing sports, developing editing skills working on your high school newspaper or developing countless skills while completing your coursework, each of your experiences has laid the groundwork for building additional skills.

What Are Transferable Skills?
A transferable skill is a “portable skill” that you deliberately (or inadvertently, if you haven’t identified them yet) take with you to other life experiences. Your transferable skills are often:

- Acquired through a class (e.g., an English major who is taught technical writing)
- Acquired through experience (e.g., the student government representative who develops strong motivation and consensus building skills)

Transferable skills supplement your degree. They provide an employer concrete evidence of your readiness and qualifications for a position. Identifying your transferable skills and communicating them to potential employers will greatly increase your success during the job search.

Remember that it is impossible to complete college without acquiring transferable skills. Campus and community activities, class projects and assignments, athletic activities, internships and summer/part-time jobs have provided you with countless experiences where you’ve acquired a range of skills—many that you may take for granted.

Identifying Transferable Skills
While very closely related (and with some overlap), transferable skills can be divided into three subsets:

- working with people
- working with things
- working with information and data

For example, some transferable skills can be used in every workplace setting (e.g., organizing or public speaking) while some are more applicable to specific settings (e.g., drafting or accounting).

The following are examples of skills often acquired through the classroom, jobs, athletics and other activities. Use these examples to help you develop your own list of the transferable skills you’ve acquired.

Working With People
- Selling • Training • Teaching • Supervising
- Organizing • Soliciting • Motivating • Mediating
- Advising • Delegating • Entertaining
- Representing • Negotiating • Translating

Working With Things
- Repairing • Assembling parts • Designing
- Operating machinery • Driving
- Maintaining equipment • Constructing • Building
- Sketching • Working with CAD • Keyboarding
- Drafting • Surveying • Troubleshooting

Working With Data/Information
- Calculating • Developing databases
- Working with spreadsheets • Accounting • Writing
- Researching • Computing • Testing • Filing • Sorting
- Editing • Gathering data • Analyzing • Budgeting

Easy Steps to Identify Your Transferable Skills
Now that you know what transferable skills are, let’s put together a list of your transferable skills. You may want to work with someone in your career services office to help you identify as many transferable skills as possible.

Step 1. Make a list of every job title you’ve ever held (part-time, full-time and internships), along with volunteer, sports and other affiliations since starting college. (Be sure to record officer positions and other leadership roles.)

Step 2. Using your transcript, list the classes in your major field of study along with foundation courses. Include electives that may be related to your employment interests.

Step 3. For each job title, campus activity and class you’ve just recorded, write a sentence and then underline the action taken. (Avoid stating that you learned or gained experience in any skill. Instead, present your skill more directly as a verifiable qualification.)

“While working for Jones Engineering, I performed 3D modeling and drafting.”

NOT “While working for Jones Engineering, I gained experience in 3D modeling and drafting.”

“As a member of the Caribbean Students Association, I developed and coordinated the marketing of club events.”

NOT “As a member of the Caribbean Students Association, I learned how to market events.”

Step 4. Make a list of the skills/experiences you’ve identified for future reference during your job search.

Using Transferable Skills in the Job Search
Your success in finding the position right for you will depend on your ability to showcase your innate talents and skills. You will also need to demonstrate how you can apply these skills at an employer’s place of business. Consult the staff at your career services office to help you further identify relevant transferable skills and incorporate them on your resume and during your interviews. During each interview, be sure to emphasize only those skills that would be of particular interest to a specific employer.

Transferable skills are the foundation upon which you will build additional, more complex skills as your career unfolds. Start making your list of skills and you’ll discover that you have more to offer than you realized!

Additional Tips to Help Identify Your Transferable Skills
1. Review your list of transferable skills with someone in your field(s) of interest to help you identify any additional skills that you may want to include.
2. Using a major job posting Web site, print out descriptions of jobs that interest you to help you identify skills being sought. (Also use these postings as guides for terminology on your resume.)
3. Attend career fairs and company information sessions to learn about the skills valued by specific companies and industries.

Written by Rosita Smith.
QUALITIES DESIRED IN NEW COLLEGE GRADUATES
By Businesses, Industries and Government Agencies

Energy, Drive, Enthusiasm and Initiative
- Hard-working, disciplined and dependable
- Eager, professional and positive attitude
- Strong self-motivation and high self-esteem
- Confident and assertive, yet diplomatic and flexible
- Sincere and preserves integrity
- Ambitious and takes risks
- Uses common sense

Adapts Textbook Learning to the Working World
- Quick learner
- Asks questions
- Analytical; independent thinker
- Willing to continue education and growth
- Committed to excellence
- Open-minded, willing to try new things

Knowledge of Computers
- Established word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software skills
- Excellent computer literacy

Communications Skills
- Good writing skills
- Excellent oral communication skills
- Listens well; compassionate and empathetic
- Excellent problem-solving and analytical skills
- Creative and innovative

Leadership Skills
- Organizational skills and attention to detail
- Accepts and handles responsibilities
- Action-oriented and results-driven
- Loyal to employers
- Customer-focused
- Team-spirited; understands group dynamics
- Always willing to help others
- Mature, poised and personable
- Diversity aware; treats others with respect and dignity

Oriented to Growth
- Acceptance of an entry-level position; doesn’t view required tasks as “menial”
- Academic excellence in field of study
- Views the organization’s total picture, not just one area of specialization
- Willing to accomplish more than required

World-Class Construction Services...Choice Careers that Make a Difference

Working at Skanska gives us opportunities to make a difference. Skanska is committed to helping us grow our careers and we give our best in return. Take an exciting step in your career and join the fast-paced, growing construction industry. We want to hear from you.

Skanska is a global leader in construction services with operations throughout the U.S. We are seeking the best graduates to join our U.S. team.

We have rewarding opportunities in these and other areas:
- Project Management
- Information Technology
- Field Supervision
- Field Engineering
- Safety & Environmental
- Human Resources
- Scheduling
- Finance/Accounting
- Sales/Marketing
- Communications

Skanska is an EEO/AA employer.

Skanska USA Building Inc.
www.skanska.com/en/careers

An Internship and Job Search Checklist
The job search can feel overwhelming, so it’s helpful to break it into manageable steps. The good news is you don’t have to do every step in order. For example, you can start working on your resume before you identify what you want to do. Speak to an OSU Career Counselor (CC) if you would like assistance with any of the steps.

Use this checklist as a guide as you go through the various stages of career development and as you begin your internship or job search. Check off as much as you can and bring it with you to your appointments with your career counselor.

Step 1: Know yourself

- I have identified my personal strengths, skills, interests, and values (CC, assessments)
- I have made a list of possible job titles/fields of interest (CC, web resources)
- I can name two or three careers/jobs I plan to pursue

Step 2: Know where you want to work

- I have researched organizations or companies that might hire someone with my skills, interests, and background (web resources, informational interviewing, CC, volunteering, interning)
- I have analyzed desired qualifications in my field and know what employers are looking for (job listings, informational interviews)
- I have researched potential career fields: typical entry-level jobs, typical salaries, best geographic location for jobs, etc. (CC labor market information websites, books, newspapers, info. interviews)
- I have identified the top three geographic areas where I’d like to live and work
- I have identified 10 potential employers for the type of work I’m seeking

Step 3: Get ready for the search

- I have registered with Beaver JobNet—http://oregonstate.edu/career
- I have had my resume and cover letter(s) reviewed by a professional in the field or a staff member in Career Services (make an appointment or drop in for 15 minute appointments from 1-4 p.m. every day except Friday)
- I have prepared a portfolio or work samples to highlight my experience, skills, and talent
- I have developed my “30-second speech” for short encounters with employers (CC)
- I have identified three individuals who will serve as references
- I have developed my interview skills (CC, books, web resources)
- I have prepared for interviews by practicing my responses to typical questions and/or doing a mock interview (CC)
- I have an interview suit that is appropriate for the field in which I plan to work
- I have a professional-sounding answering machine/voice mail message in case an employer calls
- I have a neutral/professional e-mail address to give to employers

Step 4: Start searching

- I have uploaded my resume(s) to the recruiting site on the Beaver JobNet website
- I regularly check Career Services website for career opportunities and I read links sent to me by my department. I read the appropriate job-search resources for my field(s) of interest
- I have a system for keeping track of my contacts, interviews, and other job-search activities (CC)
- I follow up on every interesting job lead immediately
- I have developed a list of potential networking contacts and keep in touch with them (CC and everyone you know)
- I keep a copy of my resume next to my phone in case I receive a call from an employer
- I follow-up each cover letter with a phone call or e-mail to the employer requesting a job interview
- I send thank-you letters or e-mails to every person who interviews me

Summer and Part-Time Jobs
Summer and part-time jobs are a great way to explore your career interests and develop transferrable skills. For part-time jobs on or off campus, OSU students may use the online Beaver JobNet system to begin looking for these jobs at anytime. For summer jobs, you’ll want to start looking for these during winter term, since many organizations such as Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Crater Lake National Parks, and Oregon Caves start interviewing before spring break. The same holds true for highly sought-after companies’ summer jobs/internships, such as Intel, Microsoft, and Fred Meyer. Internships are listed on Beaver JobNet as well. To see the current listing of part-time and summer jobs on Beaver JobNet, visit: http://oregonstate.edu/career.

Cooperative Education and Internships
Cooperative Education (Co-op) and internships offer students a supervised opportunity to gain professional work experience which relates to their academic program.

Characteristics of Co-op and Internships
- Pre-planned academically related work experiences
- Contribute to career clarification
- Provide for integration of classroom instruction and on-site work experience
- Involve on-site supervision by qualified employers and site sponsors
- Provides a global perspective to work experience
- May include evaluations by students, site supervisors and faculty members
- May be a source of financial support

Benefits for Students
- Allows exploration of career options
- Serves as a testing ground for classroom theory
• Provides job experience in the student’s occupational field without a long-term commitment
• Develops an understanding of professional demands and requirements within a particular field
• Improves basic work skills and increases professional competence
• Exposes students to facilities, equipment and situations not available in the classroom
• Paid positions provide financial help to defray educational costs
• Provides the opportunity for higher starting salaries than less experienced graduates
• Develops potential contacts for employment or networking after graduation
• Provides experiences with other countries, languages and cultures
• Eases the transition from the university to the world of work

Credit for Co-op and Internships
While credit is not available in all programs, students often receive credit for their work experience. Co-op and internships use the 410 number for undergraduate programs and the 510 for graduate level. Credit options vary from no credit to a specified number of credits decided by the student’s department. Students need to check with their departmental advisors in order to take advantage of these options.

Full-Time/Part-Time
Co-op and internship opportunities may be available any time during the year. Students may work full-time or part-time for three to six months or more at the placement site. Options may be available in some programs for students to work three to six months, return to campus, then work again for three to six months. If the placement site is located in Corvallis or the vicinity, some students may be able to work part-time and take classes as well. Most students do not take other classes during their co-op/internship experience, however. Co-op and internship positions are available nationwide and should not be viewed as a “summer only” or a “summer job” program. Students should begin planning early to secure a co-op or internship.

Pay or Non-pay
Program and company/agency policies vary, but many students in co-op/internships receive pay for their services in the form of salary, stipends, or scholarships. Some programs offer students excellent opportunities with agencies that do not pay but offer other benefits.

Steps for Getting Involved in Co-op and Internships
1. Analyze your skills, interests, academic and career goals.
   • What kind of experience do you want?
   • What are your educational, career and professional goals?
   • What type of organization do you want to work for?
   • Remember, any company or organization could be a potential site!
2. Define your schedule and plans.
   • Establish a timetable for your experience. Decide when to begin and end.
   • Do you have a geographical preference?
   • Will you accept paid or nonpaid positions?
3. Obtain information about opportunities. Look on the Career Services website for information about internships. Talk to your department faculty and advisors.
4. Research potential internship sponsors.
5. Prepare personal resume, cover letter and practice interviewing techniques.
6. Follow application procedures for each organization and contact others that you wish to target as possibilities. Follow up with interviewers.
7. Final selection is made by the site sponsor. Follow up to be sure that you understand their expectations.
Basic Resume Guidelines
Choose a format that best highlights your education, skills and experience.

- Chronological format lists your most recent information first and moves backward in describing your education, skills and experience. This type of format is easier to write and is often used by college students and recent graduates.

- Achievement format highlights the successes you have experienced in college and employment. Achievements rather than job titles are described.

- Functional resume is organized by skills and is often used by people with graduate degrees or those who have accumulated many different job experiences.

Do not use templates; they make it difficult to reorganize information as needed. Use standard typefaces such as Courier and Helvetica. It is important that the letters do not touch each other so they can be read if scanned into a database. Use a font size of 10 to 14 points. In a scannable resume, avoid italics, underlines, vertical and horizontal lines or any special effects that might alter the scannability of your resume. A laser printer original maintains the high-quality resume product. Also, references should be listed on a separate piece of paper with your name at the top.

The following headings are appropriate to use in your resume:

IDENTIFICATION: Begin the resume with your name, mailing address, and phone number. List both a college and permanent address, if appropriate, as well as a home phone, work phone, or message phone.

CAREER/JOB OBJECTIVE (optional): This statement, usually one or two sentences, should indicate the kind of job that you are seeking, the type of organization you prefer, and the career field in which you are interested. Strike a balance between being too specific (limiting your opportunities) and too general (vague and generic doesn’t give any information).

EDUCATION: Concentrate on your college education, listing the name and location of school, degree received, year of (expected) graduation, academic major and minor. If you attended a school but did not receive a degree, list the school, major area of study, and inclusive dates of attendance. List your GPA if above 3.0—GPA in major, upper division GPA, overall GPA—whatever works best for you. Research projects, thesis title, internships or co-op education, etc., can also be listed, along with phrases such as, “Earned 90 percent of college expenses.”

EXPERIENCE: For a chronological resume, list company name and location, job title, a short job description using “action verbs,” and dates of employment. For a functional resume, list only the job descriptions and skills utilized (e.g., “management skills,” “communications skills,” “supervisory skills,” etc.) and identify company names and locations later in the resume.

SPECIAL SKILLS (optional): Computer familiarity, bilingual ability, certificates, licenses, etc., especially if related to your career.

ACTIVITIES/HONORS/AWARDS/VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE (optional): The category can be very broad or broken down into individual categories. It can include clubs or activities from college, civic or community groups, professional memberships or organizations, scholarships and University awards, etc.

INTERESTS (optional): More than just hobbies, this is a list of active involvement, especially in areas related to your career. It shows diversity and variety in your personal and professional lifestyle.

REFERENCES: These should be people who can attest to your skills and abilities as they relate to the job, including professors and former employers. Don’t list them here: state “Available upon request,” or include a separate sheet with name, title, company, mailing address and phone. Always ask permission before listing someone as a reference.

Don’t include: marital status, health, birthdate, height/weight, religion, a picture, or other items which could be used in a discriminatory way. A computer or word processor is recommended for typing both cover letter and resume, but make sure they’re printed on a laser printer and not on an Imagewriter® or dot matrix printer. Once on a computer disk, it’s easy to change or update parts of your cover letter or resume.
SAMPLE CHRONOLOGICAL RESUME

CHARLES BAY

(503) 380-2464 • BAY@EMAIL.COM
4918 SW TECHNOLOGY LOOP # 65 • CORVALLIS, OREGON  97333

EDUCATION
Oregon State University
Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering
Minor in Construction Engineering
Expected Graduation: December 2009

COURSES
Professional-Level Courses: Civil Engineering Materials, Structural Theory I & II, Fluid Mechanics, and Hydraulic Engineering

EXPERIENCE
Transportation Planning Summer Intern
- Collected field data for existing conditions traffic analysis
- Applied traffic analysis tools to evaluate data and produce useful results
- Communicated results through written reports and through active participation in meetings with project team and clients
- Contributed to project management tasks, including preparing project proposals and client updates

8/06-9/07  Summit University Plant Services Newberg, Oregon
Building Repair & Maintenance Work-Study
- Personally responsible for addressing, planning, and properly modifying structures
- Met with project manager to help evaluate project effectiveness
- Instructed and trained others to perform a variety of repair techniques

Summers 05-06  Treeline Masonry, Inc. Redmond, Oregon
Mason Apprentice
- Responsible for assembling, preparing, and organizing job site materials for efficient job-site management
- Managed time effectively in administering to multiple tasks
- Learned from experienced masons the tools, techniques, and stratagem necessary to skillfully construct with masonry

COMPUTER SKILLS

ACTIVITIES
- Engineering ITE Student Chapter Member and Secretary (9/07-present)
- Outdoors: Camping, Wakeboarding, and Playing Soccer

SAMPLE CHRONOLOGICAL RESUME

Angela McGuire
angie@orst.edu

Campus Address: 1362 SW ’A’ Street
Corvallis, Oregon 97333
(541) 753-8784

Permanent Address: 6977 Pine Ridge Road
Sisters, Oregon 97759
(541) 549-5499

EDUCATION
Oregon State University (OSU) Corvallis, OR
Bachelor of Science in Biology
Minors: Chemistry and Spanish
Expected Graduation: June 2009
GPA 3.2

EXPERIENCE
Lab Technician, College of Forestry, OSU 6/08- present
Maintain in vitro plant tissue cultures of transgenic hybrid poplars and transgenic plants in growth room and greenhouses; extract, quantify, and verify the quality of plant genomic DNA; assist with Southern analysis and establish field trials

Researcher, OSU and Newport, Oregon 1/07- 3/07
Predicted possible niche of exotic European Green Crab, Carcinus maenas, in the Yaquina estuary, based on salinity and water temperature; wrote scientific article for Green Crab research group

Address Clerk, Kerr Administration Building, OSU 10/06 - 6/07
Updated OSU students’ billing addresses via computer network, BANNER; performed secretarial services including typing, copying, and filing

Sales Representative, OutlawNet, Sisters, Oregon 8/05 - 9/06
Telemarketed company’s role as an Internet service provider to local community; made small repairs on customer’s computers; tracked billing via email

Lab Assistant, Agricultural Life Sciences, OSU 10/04 - 5/05
Acid washed, autoclaved, and cleaned lab ware; assisted supervisor, performed titrations, analyzed and summarized data sets

ACTIVITIES
Oregon State University Symphonic Band 2006-present
- Perform concerts for students and Corvallis community
- Traveled to Taiwan for concert tour, March 2001

Flutist for church choir 2002-present

INTERESTS
Hiking, running, camping, music, photography, travel, foreign films
**LISA ANN MILLER**

1825 SW Adams  
Salem, Oregon 97304  
(503) 786-2243  
Lmiller@email.com

**CAREER OBJECTIVE**
Seeking a results-oriented account executive position leading to a career in corporate sales management.

**EDUCATION**
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, Oregon  
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, June 2008  
Emphasis: Marketing  
GPA: 3.7  
Earned 100% of College Expenses

**STRENGTHS**
High degree of self-motivation  
 Ability to function independently and as a team member  
 Capable of performing complex analytical tasks  
 Comfortable in fast-paced, competitive environments  
 Proficient with professional communication, both oral and written

**SALES / MANAGEMENT SKILLS**
- Doubled monthly sales quota consistently for two years, reevaluating and increasing goals on a quarterly basis  
- Handled more than 40 professional marketing accounts  
- Consulted with clients to promote services and ensure high quality customer care  
- Assisted with managerial duties including making budgeting decisions and conducting new employee training

**ANALYTICAL SKILLS**
- Evaluated prospective clients’ needs as well as hardware/software capabilities by phone  
- Screened advertising inquiries and qualified purchase intentions  
- Analyzed, evaluated and recommended solutions to customer problems

**COMMUNICATION SKILLS**
- Utilized skilled and persuasive speaking techniques in a variety of professional settings  
- Demonstrated interpersonal skills with clients and coworkers  
- Facilitated monthly staff meetings, forecasting sessions, and yearly end of season evaluations

**EMPLOYMENT**
- Telemarketing Representative  
  Xerox Corporation  
  April 2006 – Present
- Customer Service Representative  
  Direct Sales Intake Specialist  
  Jafra Skin Care  
  June 2004 – June 2005

**LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES & AWARDS**
- Peer Counselor: OSU Business School  
- Representative, US Bank Management Interchange Conference  
- Volunteer and Staff Assistant, Boys Club of America  
- Member, National Association for Professional Saleswomen  
- Awarded, Dave Holt Scholarship

**JOB AND INTERNSHIP SEARCH—continued**

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**MARK E. JONES**

200 NE Lombard Street  
Portland, Oregon 97202  
(503) 555-0000  
mjones@email.com

**OBJECTIVE**
Seeking an administrative role in health care and education with an emphasis on community education.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND TRAINING**
- Served as liaison to high school and college classes; guest lecturer on health and welfare issues  
- Presented college orientation programs to students and recruitment status briefings to staff members  
- Graduated from and facilitated 20 smoking-cessation classes

**SUPERVISION AND ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS**
- Coordinated in-house and inter-agency planning of extended medical care and adoptions  
- Taught budgetary intricacies of public assistance; supervised 10 technicians; authorized monthly disbursements of thousands of dollars  
- Prepared comprehensive reports and recommendations for agency and court use

**COUNSELING AND INTERVIEWING SKILLS**
- Provided crisis management and long-term counseling with individuals and families of diverse backgrounds and status  
- Counseled individuals and groups dealing with issues of stress, illness and disabilities, and life transitions  
- Conducted investigative interviewing and in-depth personal assessments

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**
- Medical Social Worker  
  Kaiser Hospitals, Portland, Oregon  
  2007-present
- Counselor/Child Abuse Investigator  
  Children’s Services Division, Portland, Oregon  
  2005-2007
- Intake Counselor/Case Manager  
  Multnomah County Social Services, Portland, Oregon  
  2004-2005

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**
Member, The National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
Co-chair of National Conference 2001, Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA)
Co-chair, Northwest Alliance for Social Issues and Community Education (NASICE)

**EDUCATION**
- Master of Social Work  
  Portland State University, Portland, Oregon  
  2006
- Bachelor of Arts in Sociology  
  Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon  
  2004
SAMPLE COMBINATION RESUME

JOSEPHINE ARMANI
325 Hillegass Boulevard
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541) 987-6543
armanij@oregonstate.edu

OBJECTIVE
To obtain a position as a Management Trainee at a clothing retailer.

EDUCATION
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon
Candidate for Bachelor of Arts Business Administration, Minors: Art and Merchandising
Anticipated graduation: Spring 2009
GPA 3.76

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS
• Over two years experience in the fashion industry, including one as sales person providing exceptional customer service at a high end boutique
• Excellent reputation with customers as a competent, knowledgeable and helpful fashion advisor
• High achiever who consistently meets or exceeds sales goals
• Creative, highly organized, and passionate about fashion

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
Stella Boutique, Salem, OR
Salesperson 6/08–present
• Developed a reputation for excellent customer service by repeat customers and created a loyal customer base. Serve as professional shopper to several customers
• Increased sales in the higher end products by advising customers on quality and customized fit
• Reduced loss by re-orienting displays and strategically locating mirrors for increased visibility

The Gap, Salem, OR
Sales Associate/Assistant Shift Manager 9/07–5/08
• Was promoted to shift assistant manager within four months due to high sales, friendly and professional demeanor, and strong organizational skills
• Prepared daily schedules for staff of up to 10 associates and trained new employees
• Received praise for artistic displays and professional merchandising of product

Prior jobs included food service and childcare

ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS
• Treasurer, Fashion Group International, OSU Student Chapter
• Scholarship recipient, National Association for Female Executives
• Various awards for amateur jewelry design and jewelry sold in high end stores in Oregon

THEORETICAL PRACTICE—continued

Lee Deere
Current Address: 742 NW 29th Street • Corvallis, OR 97330
Permanent Address: 2054 NW 172nd Avenue • Beaverton, OR 97006
(503) 872-5390 • Deered.fox@gmail.com

OBJECTIVE
To obtain a position as a Success Coach with Venture Path.

LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK EXPERIENCE
OSU Leaders of Creative Innovation
• Tackled issues on campus by promoting strong leadership skills and creative ideas
• OSU Mathematics Tutor
• Helped individuals and small groups with homework and exam preparations
• SRHS Mentor Program
• Guided troubled youths to redirect their lives by leading group counseling sessions
• Camp Counselor/Mentor
• Lead and instructed students from ages 11-14 in leadership building projects
• Intramural Football Team
• Played and coached – OSU champions Fall 2004
• Taekwondo
• First Place in State of Oregon

EXPERIENCE
Famous Rent-A-Car, Hillsboro, OR
Management Trainee 6/08–present
• Received ‘Intern of the Year Award’ for exceptional leadership, team unity, customer service, #1 sales performance, and overall management skills
• Classified as ‘Super Elite’ for top performance in the entire Northwest Region
• Planned marketing events and projects that led to 170% existing business growth
• Scheduled cars and reservations for the entire branch’s car fleet

Pathfinder, Portland, OR
Co-founder/Chair of the Board January 2007–Present
• Found and developed local non-profit organization to feed and clothe the needy
• Lead and direct teams, schedule, project management, promotions, distributions of funds, and volunteer in events and projects
• Forecast $25,000+ of donations for first fiscal year

Gatorweb, Corvallis, OR
Owner/Operator April 2006–Present
• Found and created computer business – cater services and systems to students and small businesses
• Lead a two to three member team, manage schedule, inventory, and advertising

JPL Constructions, Denver, CO
Field Engineer/Site Leader June 2005–Sept 2005
• Managed and directed small teams of three to seven for a $150,000 highway project
• Lead and scheduled concrete pours, rebar distributions, and other on-site orders, take-offs, and records

Winter Kids, Beaverton, OR
Desk Leader/Team Instructor/Life Guard July 2002–Sept 2003
• Mentored and instructed students ages 3-60 with a 97% success rate
• Lead and managed swim deck and team

EDUCATION
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
Bachelor of Science: Business Administration Management

http://oregonstate.edu/career
THE TOP TEN PITFALLS IN RESUME WRITING

1. **Too long.** Most new graduates should restrict their resumes to one page. If you have trouble condensing, get help from a technical or business writer or a career center professional.

2. **Typographical, grammatical or spelling errors.** These errors suggest carelessness, poor education and/or lack of intelligence. Have at least two people proofread your resume. Don’t rely on your computer’s spell-checkers or grammar-checkers.

3. **Hard to read.** A poorly typed or copied resume looks unprofessional. Use a plain typeface, no smaller than a 12-point font. Asterisks, bullets, underlining, boldface type and italics should be used only to make the document easier to read, not fancier. Again, ask a professional’s opinion.

4. **Too verbose.** Do not use complete sentences or paragraphs. Say as much as possible with as few words as possible. A, an and the can almost always be left out. Be careful in your use of jargon and avoid slang.

5. **Too sparse.** Give more than the bare essentials, especially when describing related work experience, skills, accomplishments, activities, interests and club memberships that will give employers important information. Including membership in the Society of Women Engineers, for example, would be helpful to employers who wish to hire more women, yet cannot ask for that information.

6. **Irrelevant information.** Customize each resume to each position you seek (when possible). Of course, include all education and work experience, but emphasize only relevant experience, skills, accomplishments, activities and hobbies. Do not include marital status, age, sex, children, height, weight, health, church membership, etc.

7. **Obviously generic.** Too many resumes scream, “I need a job—any job!” The employer needs to feel that you are interested in that particular position with his or her particular company.

8. **Too snazzy.** Of course, use good quality bond paper, but avoid exotic types, colored paper, photographs, binders and graphics. Electronic resumes should include appropriate industry keywords and use a font size between 10 and 14 points. Avoid underlining, italics or graphics.

9. **Boring.** Make your resume as dynamic as possible. Begin every statement with an action verb. Use active verbs to describe what you have accomplished in past jobs. Take advantage of your rich vocabulary and avoid repeating words, especially the first word in a section.

10. **Too modest.** The resume showcases your qualifications in competition with the other applicants. Put your best foot forward without misrepresentation, falsification or arrogance.

**Don’t Rely on Spell-Checkers or Grammar-Checkers on the Computer.**

The three Rs of resume writing are Research, Research, Research. You must know what the prospective company does, what the position involves and whether you will be a fit, before submitting your resume. And that means doing research—about the company, about the position and about the type of employee the company typically hires.

**Research the company.** Read whatever literature the company has placed in the career library. For additional information, call the company. Ask for any literature it may have, find out how the company is structured and ask what qualities the company generally looks for in its employees. Ask if there are openings in your area, and find out the name of the department head and give him or her a call. Explain that you are considering applying to their company, and ask for their recommendation for next steps. Thank that person for the information, and ask to whom your resume should be directed.

The Internet is another key tool to utilize in your research. Most companies have websites that include information regarding company background, community involvement, special events, executive bios or even past annual reports. Be sure to take advantage of the World Wide Web during your job search.

**Research the position.** The more you know about the position, the better able you will be to sell yourself and to target your resume to that position. If possible, interview someone who does that same job. In addition to finding out the duties, ask if there is on-the-job training, whether they value education over experience (or vice versa) and what kind of turnover the department experiences. Ask what they like about the position and the company; more important, ask what they don’t like about it.

**Finally, research yourself.** Your goal is not just to get a job. Your goal is to get a job that you will enjoy. After you find out all you can about the company and the position, ask yourself honestly whether this is what you really want to do and where you really want to be. The odds are overwhelming that you will not hold this position for more than two or three years, so it’s not a lifetime commitment; however, this first job will be the base of your lifetime career. You must start successfully so that future recommendations will always be positive. Furthermore, three years is a long time to spend doing something you don’t like, working in a position that isn’t challenging or living somewhere you don’t want to live.

One last word of advice: Before you go to the interview, review the version of your resume that you submitted to this employer. The resume can only get you the interview; the interview gets you the job.
POWER VERBS FOR YOUR RESUME

ANALYZED  abstracted  appraised  assessed  briefed  clarified  classified  compared  computed  correlated  critiqued  debated  defined  detected  determined  diagnosed  discriminated  dissected  evaluated  examined  identified  inspected  integrated  interpreted  interviewed  investigated  judged  maintained  mapped  monitored  observed  perceived  ranked  read  reasoned  related  researched  reviewed  screened  scanned  studied  summarized  surveyed  symbolized  synthesized  verified  visualized

COMMUNICATED  addressed  advertised  answered  briefed  corresponded  debated  explained  expressed  facilitated  interpreted  interviewed  lectured  listened  narrated  prepared  presented  publicized  recorded  reported  responded  spoke  talked

CREATED  DEVELOPED  acted  adapted  adopted  authored  bolstered  built  charged  clarified  composed  conceived  corrected  designed  devised  discovered  drafted  eliminated  established  expanded  facilitated  fostered  guaranteed  inspired  mastered  maximized  minimized  motivated  obtained  overcame  promoted  provided  reduced  restored  stimulated  strengthened  supported  sustained  upgraded

COMMUNICATED  coordinated  demonstrated  educated  empathized  enabled  encouraged  enlightened  established  exercised  explained  facilitated  fostered  guided  helped  implemented  improved  influenced  increased  (achievement words)  achieved  acquired  advanced  allowed  assured  bolstered  eliminated  encouraged  expanded  facilitated  fostered  guaranteed  inspired  mastered  maximized  minimized  motivated  obtained  overcame  promoted  provided  reduced  restored  stimulated  strengthened  supported  sustained  upgraded

IMPROVED  INCREASED

NEGOTIATED  advised  advocated  arbitrated  bargained  expedited  facilitated  lobbied  mediated  merged  motivated  negotiated  persuaded  promoted  reconciled  solved

ORGANIZED  accumulated  arranged  assembled  balanced  budgeted  built  cataloged  clarified  classified  collated  collected  compiled  composed  coordinated  copied  correlated  detailed  facilitated  filed  gathered  graphed  identified  inspected  located  maintained  (books)  mapped  met  (deadlines)  methodized  obtained  organized  planned  prepared  prioritized  processed  programmed  ranked  recorded  reorganized  reproduced  retrieved  revamped  reviewed  revamped  routinized  scheduled  set  simplified  solved  streamlined  structured  synthesized  systemized  tabulated  updated

SERVED  assisted  attended  cared  catered  delivered  entertained  facilitated  furnished  listened  maintained  prepared  procured  provided  satisfied  served  supplied

SOLD  aided  advertised  auctioned  bartered  bolstered  bolstered  enlisted  facilitated  furnished  listened  maintained  prepared  procured  provided  satisfied  served  supplied

MANAGED  stimulated  recruited  raised  promoted  persuaded  negotiated  motivated  maintained  led  maintained  managed  met  (deadlines)  monitored  motivated  organized  oversaw  planned  prepared  prioritized  purchased  regulated  reinforced  responded  retained  reviewed  scheduled  selected  set  solved  strengthened  supervised  taught  trained

http://oregonstate.edu/career

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The purpose of the cover letter is to introduce yourself and show how your background fits the particular job and/or employer to which you are applying. It is your opportunity to expand on points from your resume that you feel are especially noteworthy or specific to the job description. For example, you can let the employer know that you are willing to relocate, that you have a mutual acquaintance or that you have done your homework on the employer and know how you can be an asset to them. Prepare an original cover letter for each job—a form letter will not do. Always send a cover letter when mailing an application or resume to an employer.

Basic Cover Letter Guidelines

1. Research the employer.
   Research the prospective employer’s organization to match your skills, abilities and values with those of the organization. In your cover letter, show why you are a good fit with the employer. Send the letter to a specific person whenever possible.

2. Analyze the job description.
   Look for responsibilities and qualifications of the job and design your cover letter to match these as closely as possible.

3. Analyze your background.
   Think about your background in relation to the job duties and qualifications. Ask yourself, “What have I done that is similar to the duties of this job?” Areas to think about are courses taken, classroom projects, past work experience, summer jobs, internships, volunteer experience, extracurricular involvement (on and off campus) and travel.

Cover Letter Do’s and Don’ts

Do...
- Use paper to match your resume
- Write an original cover letter to each employer and position
- State in the first sentence why you are writing
- Show that you know your career goals, the position and the employer’s organization
- Demonstrate originality and enthusiasm
- Proofread! Remember, spell check will not pick up all errors!

Don’t...
- Make the letter more than one page
- Use generic, all-purpose cover letters—never copy
- Be long-winded; make your points succinctly

Thank-You Letter Guidelines

Interviews should be followed with a thank-you letter within 48 hours. It shows your appreciation and offers you the opportunity to express continued interest in the organization. The letter should be short and concise; no longer than two paragraphs. You should include: date of the interview; the company name; restatement of your interest, highlighting a key point of the interview. If you must add any facts overlooked in the interview, be sure these items are new and not already covered in your resume.

The format used for the thank-you letter should be similar to the cover letter. Address the thank-you to the interviewer, using the interviewer’s correct title and address. Names and addresses of on-campus recruiters are available in the Career Services Center. Finally, be sure your name, current address and telephone number are included.
GENERAL OUTLINE FOR A COVER LETTER

- Applicant’s Address
- Applicant’s Phone Number
- Date of Letter
- Use complete title and address
- Employer’s Name and Title
- and Address
- If possible, address it to a particular person by name
- Salutation:
- Opening Paragraph: State why you are writing, name the position or type of work for which you are applying and mention how you heard of the opening or organization.
- Make the addressee want to read your resume
- Be personable and be enthusiastic
- Middle Paragraph(s): Explain why you are interested in working for this employer and specify your reasons for desiring this type of work. If you have had relevant work experience or related education, be sure to point it out, but do not reiterate your entire resume. Emphasize skills or abilities you have that relate to the job for which you are applying. Be sure to do this in a confident manner and remember that the reader will view your letter of application as an example of your writing skills.
- Be brief but specific: your resume contains details
- Final Paragraph: The closing paragraph is the most important. We suggest a persistent, businesslike closing statement which puts you in control of the response. For example: “I will call you on (date) to discuss this career opportunity with (name of organization).” Indicate your desire for a personal interview. You may suggest alternative dates/times or advise of your flexibility as to time/place, especially if you will be in the city on a certain date and would like to set up an interview. Or, if the company will be recruiting in your area, or if additional information or references are desired, say you are willing to accommodate the company’s schedule and requests.
- Top and bottom margins should be equal
- Always sign letters
- Your Name typed
- If a resume or other enclosure is used, note in letter
- enclosure

SAMPLE COVER LETTER

742 NW 29th Street
Corvallis, OR 97330
(503) 872-5390
Diurel@gmail.com

July 3, 2008

Venture Path Hiring Team
ATTN: Carrie Temple
Venture Path
1703 Market Street, 20th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Jones,

I recently learned that Venture Path is seeking a highly motivated and dynamic person who possesses experience in management and leadership. I had the great opportunity to speak with Doug Kennedy, from your Portland office, about the values of my skills and goals in your organization as a success coach.

Throughout my educational career, I have always been involved in mentoring and coaching programs for all ages. Both in professional and private settings, I have had a strong sense of commitment in assisting individuals grow. Helping others make changes in their lives is something I take pride in, while continuously learning and improving the quality of my own life. I have had the pleasure of helping friends and peers turn their lives around. Venture Path mirrors my passion for helping others succeed on their own terms.

My diverse college career and work experience have allowed me to lead individuals and teams to outstanding personal and professional goals. In college, as a student, I was able to schedule and direct teams in accomplishing challenging tasks, both in engineering and business, including the orchestration of over $100,000 worth of supplies a day, and the increase of team performance by 71%. My experience both in the analytical engineering world as well as the driven business world, has provided me with a rare combination of problem solving skills and motivational experiences that are well suited to the challenges of success coaching. My distinctive background has me well equipped with the abilities to perform and excel in this field and prove most valuable to Venture Path.

I believe my skills are best explained in person and I would like the opportunity to discuss with you further how my performance can best benefit your organization. I will call the second week in July to see if you require any additional information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lee Deere
Enclosure
SAMPLE THANK-YOU LETTER

P.O. Box 671
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331
(541) 555-1234

September 15, 2005

Mr. Martin Shalders
Director of Human Resources
Gold Star, Incorporated
606 Lafayette Avenue
Redding, NY 10455

Dear Mr. Shalders:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss your opening for an auditor. I enjoyed meeting both you and Barbara Toll and learning more about Gold Star, its current activities and upcoming projects.

I was particularly impressed with Gold Star’s strong commitment to innovation and employee satisfaction and productivity. Your new volunteer program is a creative example of your company’s belief that corporations should be vitally connected to their communities—a sentiment I wholeheartedly support. I would welcome the opportunity to be a part of this culture and work at your firm.

I believe that my academic training at Oregon State University and my experience working in the accounting department at LYP Jeans Company last summer qualify me for the position. In addition, my extensive knowledge of computer systems would be especially valuable as an auditor with your firm.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. In the meantime, please call me if I can provide more information or answer any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Miranda F. Clarke

**modified from http://content.monster.com/resume/samples/thankyou/thank01/
Before stepping into an interview, be sure to practice, practice, practice. A job seeker going to a job interview without preparing is like an actor performing on opening night without rehearsing.

To help with the interview process, keep the following ten rules in mind:

1. **Keep your answers brief and concise.**
   Unless asked to give more detail, limit your answers to two to three minutes per question. Tape yourself and see how long it takes you to fully answer a question.

2. **Include concrete, quantifiable data.**
   Interviewees tend to talk in generalities. Unfortunately, generalities often fail to convince interviewers that the applicant has assets. Include measurable information and provide details about specific accomplishments when discussing your strengths.

3. **Repeat your key strengths three times.**
   It’s essential that you comfortably and confidently articulate your strengths. Explain how the strengths relate to the company’s or department’s goals and how they might benefit the potential employer. If you repeat your strengths then they will be remembered and—if supported with quantifiable accomplishments—they will more likely be believed.

4. **Prepare five or more success stories.**
   In preparing for interviews, make a list of your skills and key assets. Then reflect on past jobs and pick out one or two instances when you used those skills successfully.

5. **Put yourself on their team.**
   Ally yourself with the prospective employer by using the employer’s name and products or services. For example, “As a member of __________, I would carefully analyze the ________ and ________.” Show that you are thinking like a member of the team and will fit in with the existing environment. Be careful though not to say anything that would offend or be taken negatively. Your research will help you in this area.

6. **Image is often as important as content.**
   What you look like and how you say something are just as important as what you say. Studies have shown that 65 percent of the conveyed message is nonverbal; gestures, physical appearance, and attire are highly influential during job interviews.

7. **Ask questions.**
   The types of questions you ask and the way you ask them can make a tremendous impression on the interviewer. Good questions require advance preparation. Just as you plan how you would answer an interviewer’s questions, write out specific questions you want to ask. Then look for opportunities to ask them during the interview. Don’t ask about benefits or salary. The interview process is a two-way street whereby you and the interviewer assess each other to determine if there is an appropriate match.

8. **Maintain a conversational flow.**
   By consciously maintaining a conversational flow—a dialogue instead of a monologue—you will be perceived more positively. Use feedback questions at the end of your answers and use body language and voice intonation to create a conversational interchange between you and the interviewer.

9. **Research the company, product lines and competitors.**
   Research will provide information to help you decide whether you’re interested in the company and important data to refer to during the interview.

10. **Keep an interview journal.**
    As soon as possible, write a brief summary of what happened. Note any follow-up action you should take and put it in your calendar. Review your presentation. Keep a journal of your attitude and the way you answered the questions. Did you ask questions to get the information you needed? What might you do differently next time? Prepare and send a brief, concise thank-you letter. Restate your skills and stress what you can do for the company.

**In Summary**

Because of its importance, interviewing requires advance preparation. Only you will be able to positively affect the outcome. You must be able to compete successfully with the competition for the job you want. In order to do that, be certain you have considered the kind of job you want, why you want it, and how you qualify for it. You also must face reality: Is the job attainable?

In addition, recognize what it is employers want in their candidates. They want “can do” and “will do” employees. Recognize and use the following factors to your benefit as you develop your sales presentation. In evaluating candidates, employers consider the following factors:

- Ability
- Character
- Loyalty
- Initiative
- Personality
- Communication skills
- Acceptance
- Work record
- Recommendations
- Outside activities while in school
- Impressions made during the interview

Written by Roseanne R. Bensley, Career Services, New Mexico State University.
DRESSING FOR THE INTERVIEW

Depending upon your fashion style, whether it is the latest trends for the club scene or merely college senior casual, a job interview may be cause for some drastic wardrobe augmentation.

For your interviews, some of your individualism might have to be shelved or kept in the closet. In most business and technical job interviews, when it comes to your appearance, conservatism and conformity are in order.

While many companies have adopted the “office casual” dress code, don’t try to set new standards in the interview. When in doubt, it is better to be too conservative than to be too flashy. For men and women, a suit is the best bet.

Here are some guidelines:

MEN
• A two-piece suit will suffice in most instances.
• Solid colors and tighter-woven fabrics are safer than bold prints or patterns.
• Bright ties bring focus to the face, but a simple pattern is best for an interview. (A tip for larger men: Use a double Windsor knot to minimize a bulky appearance.)
• Wear polished shoes with socks high enough so no skin is visible when you sit down and cross your legs.

WOMEN
• A suit with a knee-length skirt and a tailored blouse is most appropriate.
• Although even the most conservative organizations allow more feminine looks these days, accessories should be kept simple. Basic pumps and modest jewelry and makeup help to present a professional look.
• Pants are more acceptable now but are not recommended for interviews.

Staying Within a Budget
For recent graduates just entering professional life, additions to wardrobes, or complete overhauls, are likely needed. Limited funds, however, can be an obstacle. Image consultant Christine Lazzarini suggests “capsule wardrobing.” For example, by mixing and matching, she says, an eight-piece capsule wardrobe can generate up to 28 ensembles.

Before shopping, Lazzarini advises establishing a budget, 50% of which should be targeted for accessories. “Even a brightly colored jacket could be considered an accessory when it makes an outfit you already have look entirely different.”

The most important piece in any wardrobe is a jacket that is versatile and can work with a number of other pieces, according to one fashion expert. This applies to men and women. “If you focus on a suit, buy one with a jacket which may be used with other skirts or trousers,” says a women’s fashion director for a major national retailer. “Then add a black turtleneck or a white shirt. These are the fashion basics that you can build on.”

A navy or black blazer for men can work well with a few different gabardine pants. Although this kind of ensemble would be just as expensive as a single suit, it offers more versatility.

One accessory recommended by company representatives is a briefcase. “When I see one,” says one recruiter, “it definitely adds to the candidate’s stature. It is a symbol to me that the individual has done some research and that he or she is prepared.”

A Final Check
And, of course, your appearance is only as good as your grooming. Create a final checklist to review before you go on an interview:
• Neatly trimmed hair
• Conservative makeup
• No runs in stockings
• Shoes polished (some suggest wearing your sneakers on the way to an interview and changing before you enter the interview site)
• No excessive jewelry; men should refrain from wearing earrings
• No missing buttons, crooked ties or lint

You want your experience and qualifications to shine. Your appearance should enhance your presentation, not overwhelm it.

Taking a Casual Approach
“Office Casual” is becoming the accepted mode of dress at more and more companies. The rules, however, for casual attire are subject to tremendous company-to-company variance. At some, “casual day” is a Friday-only observance, where the dress code is slightly relaxed—a sports coat and slacks for men and slacks and a sweater for women. At others, especially entrepreneurial computer companies, it’s shorts and sandals every day.

The safest fashion rule for new employees to follow is dress about the same as your most conservatively attired co-worker. As a new hire, don’t try to “push the boundaries” of casual attire.

Fashion Arrests: 1) Never wear blue denim jeans or shorts unless the vast majority of others do; 2) Don’t dress too provocatively—you’re at work, not at a dance club; 3) “Casual” doesn’t mean “sloppy”—your clothes should always be free of stains or holes; 4) Workout wear belongs at the gym.

Play It Safe: 1) Chinos or corduroy slacks are usually a safe bet for both sexes; 2) As for formal business attire, buy the best that your budget will allow; 3) If you will be seeing clients, dress appropriately for their workplace, not yours; 4) Go to the mall—most department and specialty stores have sections devoted to this style of office attire.
“Tell me about a time when you were on a team, and one of the members wasn’t carrying his or her weight.” If this is one of the leading questions in your job interview, you could be in for a behavioral interview. Based on the premise that the best way to predict future behavior is to determine past behavior, this style of interviewing is gaining popularity among recruiters.

Today, more than ever, each hiring decision is critical. Behavioral interviewing is designed to minimize personal impressions that might cloud the hiring decision. By focusing on the applicant’s actions and behaviors, rather than subjective impressions that can sometimes be misleading, interviewers can make more accurate hiring decisions.

A manager of staff planning and college relations for a major chemical company believes, “Although we have not conducted any formal studies to determine whether retention or success on the job has been affected, I feel our move to behavioral interviewing has been successful. It helps concentrate recruiters’ questions on areas important to our candidates’ success within our company.” The company introduced behavioral interviewing in the mid-1980s at several sites and has since implemented it companywide.

Behavioral vs. Traditional Interviews

If you have training or experience with traditional interviewing techniques, you may find the behavioral interview quite different in several ways:

- Instead of asking how you would behave in a particular situation, the interviewer will ask you to describe how you did behave.
- Expect the interviewer to question and probe (think of “peeling the layers from an onion”).
- The interviewer will ask you to provide details and will not allow you to theorize or generalize about several events.
- The interview will be a more structured process that will concentrate on areas that are important to the interviewer, rather than allowing you to concentrate on areas that you may feel are important.
- You may not get a chance to deliver any prepared stories.
- Most interviewers will be taking notes throughout the interview.

The behavioral interviewer has been trained to objectively collect and evaluate information and works from a profile of desired behaviors that are needed for success on the job. Because the behaviors a candidate has demonstrated in previous positions are likely to be repeated, you will be asked to share situations in which you may or may not have exhibited these behaviors. Your answers will be tested for accuracy and consistency.

If you are an entry-level candidate with no previous related experience, the interviewer will look for behaviors in situations similar to those of the target position:

“Describe a major problem you have faced and how you dealt with it.”

“Give an example of when you had to work with your hands to accomplish a task or project.”

“What class did you like the most? What did you like about it?”

Follow-up questions will test for consistency and determine if you exhibited the desired behavior in that situation:

“Can you give me an example?”

“What did you do?”

“What did you say?”

“What were you thinking?”

“How did you feel?”

“What was your role?”

“What was the result?”

You will notice an absence of such questions as, “Tell me about your strengths and weaknesses.”

How to Prepare for a Behavioral Interview

- Recall recent situations that show favorable behaviors or actions, especially those involving coursework, work experience, leadership, teamwork, initiative, planning and customer service.
- Prepare short descriptions of each situation; be ready to give details if asked.
- Be sure each story has a beginning, a middle and an end; i.e., be ready to describe the situation, your action and the outcome or result.
- Be sure the outcome or result reflects positively on you (even if the result itself was not favorable).
- Be honest. Don’t embellish or omit any part of the story. The interviewer will find out if your story is built on a weak foundation.
- Be specific. Don’t generalize about several events; give a detailed accounting of one event.

A possible response to the question, “Tell me about a time when you were on a team and a member wasn’t pulling his or her weight” might go as follows: “I had been assigned to a team to build a canoe out of concrete. One of our team members wasn’t showing up for our lab sessions or doing his assignments. I finally met with him in private, explained the frustration of the rest of the team, and asked if there was anything I could do to help. He told me he was preoccupied with another class that he wasn’t passing, so I found someone to help him with the other course. He not only was able to spend more time on our project, but he was also grateful to me for helping him out. We finished our project on time and got a ‘B’ on it.”

The interviewer might then probe: “How did you feel when you confronted this person?” “Exactly what was the nature of the project?” “What was his responsibility as a team member?” “What was your role?” “At what point did you take it upon yourself to confront him?” You can see it is important that you not make up or “shade” information and why you should have a clear memory of the entire incident.

Don’t Forget the Basics

Instead of feeling anxious or threatened by the prospect of a behavioral interview, remember the essential difference between the traditional interview and the behavioral interview: The traditional interviewer may allow you to project what you might or should do in a given situation, whereas the behavioral interviewer is looking for past actions only. It will always be important to put your best foot forward and make a good impression on the interviewer with appropriate attire, good grooming, a firm handshake and direct eye contact. There is no substitute for promptness, courtesy, preparation, enthusiasm and a positive attitude.

http://oregonstate.edu/career
**Questions Asked by Employers**

**Personal**
1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What are your hobbies?
3. Why did you choose to interview with our organization?
4. Describe your ideal job.
5. What can you offer us?
6. What do you consider to be your greatest strengths?
7. Can you name some weaknesses?
9. Have you ever had any failures? What did you learn from them?
10. Of which three accomplishments are you most proud?
11. Who are your role models? Why?
12. How does your college education or work experience relate to this job?
13. What motivates you most in a job?
14. Have you had difficulty getting along with a former professor/ supervisor/co-worker and how did you handle it?
15. Have you ever spoken before a group of people? How large?
16. Why should we hire you rather than another candidate?
17. What do you know about our organization (products or services)?
18. Where do you want to be in five years? Ten years?
19. Do you plan to return to school for further education?

**Education**
20. Why did you choose your major?
21. Why did you choose to attend your college or university?
22. Do you think you received a good education? In what ways?
23. In which campus activities did you participate?
24. Which classes in your major did you like best? Least? Why?
25. Which elective classes did you like best? Least? Why?
26. If you were to start over, what would you change about your education?
27. Do your grades accurately reflect your ability? Why or why not?
28. Were you financially responsible for any portion of your college education?

**Experience**
29. What job-related skills have you developed?
30. Did you work while going to school? In what positions?
31. What did you learn from these work experiences?
32. What did you enjoy most about your last employment? Least?
33. Have you ever quit a job? Why?
34. Give an example of a situation in which you provided a solution to an employer.
35. Give an example of a time in which you worked under deadline pressure.
36. Have you ever done any volunteer work? What kind?
37. How do you think a former supervisor would describe your work?
38. Do you prefer to work under supervision or on your own?
39. What kind of boss do you prefer?
40. Would you be successful working with a team?
41. Do you prefer large or small organizations? Why?
42. What other types of positions are you considering?
43. How do you feel about working in a structured environment?
44. Are you able to work on several assignments at once?
45. How do you feel about working overtime?
46. How do you feel about travel?
47. How do you feel about the possibility of relocating?
48. Are you willing to work flextime?

Before you begin interviewing, think about these questions and possible responses and discuss them with a career advisor. Conduct mock interviews and be sure you are able to communicate clear, unrehearsed answers to interviewers.
QUESTIONS TO ASK EMPLOYERS

1. Please describe the duties of the job for me.
2. What kinds of assignments might I expect the first six months on the job?
3. Are salary adjustments geared to the cost of living or job performance?
4. Does your company encourage further education?
5. How often are performance reviews given?
6. What products (or services) are in the development stage now?
7. Do you have plans for expansion?
8. What are your growth projections for next year?
9. Have you cut your staff in the last three years?
10. How do you feel about creativity and individuality?
11. Do you offer flextime?
12. Is your company environmentally conscious? In what ways?
13. In what ways is a career with your company better than one with your competitors?
14. What is the largest single problem facing your staff (department) now?
15. May I talk with the last person who held this position?
16. Do you have plans for expansion?
17. What is the usual promotional time frame?
18. Does your company offer either single or dual career-track programs?
19. What do you like best about your job/company?
20. Once the probation period is completed, how much authority will I have over decisions?
21. Has there been much turnover in this job area?
22. Do you fill positions from the outside or promote from within first?
23. What qualities are you looking for in the candidate who fills this position?
24. What skills are especially important for someone in this position?
25. What characteristics do the achievers in this company seem to share?
26. Is there a lot of team/project work?
27. Will I have the opportunity to work on special projects?
28. Where does this position fit into the organizational structure?
29. How much travel, if any, is involved in this position?
30. What is the next course of action? When should I expect to hear from you or should I contact you?

ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS—
INTERVIEWING TIPS FROM ON-CAMPUS RECRUITERS

Research organizations in advance of interviews—Since most on-campus interviews are relatively short, it is important that you use this time to sell yourself to an employer. Don’t waste this opportunity by spending too much time on issues that could have been answered by surfing the company’s web site and/or viewing its DVD or web video. Displaying your knowledge about a potential employer will greatly enhance your chances of interview success.

Define your career goals and the opportunities you want—One of the keys to making a successful sale is product knowledge. In the case of job interviews, that product is you. You need to perform a thorough self-evaluation well in advance of your interviews. Know what your strengths, weaknesses, skills and abilities are and be prepared to discuss them in the interview.

Be enthusiastic and sincere during your interviews—It is important for you to convey a genuine sense of interest during the interview. You must appear eager and flexible, but not too rehearsed. Don’t fixate on being nervous. Even seasoned pros can have the “interview jitters.” Above all, never be late for an interview appointment.

Be honest—Don’t claim interest in an employer if you really do not intend to work for that organization. Don’t lie on your resume or during the interview. While you should never draw attention to your weaknesses, don’t attempt to hide a shortcoming by being untruthful. Learn how to deal with perceived (or real) weaknesses before your interviews by talking to a campus career services professional and/or reading books on job interviewing techniques.

Be realistic—Carefully evaluate what an employer has to offer you…and what you have to offer the employer. Don’t accept a position that isn’t suited to you “just because you need a job.” Although most entry-level salaries have been on the rise, do not set your starting salary expectations too high. If a starting salary seems inordinately low, but is for a position that you really want, you might be able to arrange for an early salary review.

Some of this material is adapted from Recruiting Trends by L. Patrick Scheetz, Ph.D., Collegiate Employment Research Institute. ©Michigan State University.
USING EMPLOYER LITERATURE FOR SUCCESSFUL INTERVIEWS

Simply being informed about an employer does not guarantee a successful interview unless you can effectively use the information. Information about the employer’s products, financial data, opportunities or how they impact society is only helpful if you know how to tactfully “weave” your new knowledge into the interview. This is no easy task and simply spouting facts or statistics—or prefacing a question with a lot of memorized information—is not the answer.

Most employers have literature and/or a website describing their organization and opportunities. Major employers provide annual reports and company literature while smaller organizations publish brochures, fact sheets and annual reports. Either way, it’s important for you to secure information on an employer before you interview.

Using Information in Asking Questions

Most of the questions you will be asked will not relate directly to the information in the literature. There are ways, however, to show how your skills and background meet the employer’s needs using the information you gain. Some examples:

1. **Question:**
   “Why do you think you might want to work for this company?”
   **Response:**
   “As I understand the job, there’s plenty of opportunity to be involved in both the planning of marketing strategies and the actual selling. Besides using my communications skills and knowledge of chemicals in direct selling, I believe I’m creative when it comes to marketing.”

2. **Question:**
   “I see you’re involved with the Spanish Club. What were some of the benefits from that experience?”
   **Response:**
   “As secretary, I was responsible for organizing a display on Spanish literature for the Cultural Fair we sponsored. Most of my correspondence with publishing houses was done in Spanish and I feel this experience added a whole new business angle to my fluency. I would feel very confident communicating with your international customers.”

3. **Question:**
   “What courses did you like best?”
   **Response:**
   “I enjoyed my Sociology of Learning class the most. During one in a series of field trips, I observed a rural daycare center. That confirmed for me that this type of setting is where I want to begin my career.”

Using Information in Answering Questions

Next, it will be your turn to ask questions of the interviewer. It is to your advantage to ask questions which require the interviewer to expand on information you have learned from the employer’s literature. Following are some excerpts from employer literature (in bold print), paired with questions that could be formulated from the information given.

“After about 12-15 months from the time you began, if you’ve demonstrated your ability, you’ll be ready for promotion to Merchandising Manager. Your increased responsibility will include a larger sales volume and a number of sales associates reporting to you.”

**Questions Formulated**
- “Could you talk about some methods by which trainees are evaluated?”
- “What kinds of communication channels are there between the trainees and the supervisors?”
- “What would you say is the major quality or accomplishment which distinguishes those who are promoted from those who are not?”

“Today’s large store manager usually has gained experience in district or regional staff work.”

**Question Formulated**
- “In viewing some of the background that your large store managers have, regional staff work is mentioned. Could you describe some of the responsibilities of staff work?”

“But that’s still not the point. From the start, ABC Company has had a goal—a vision, if you will—of being the leader in communications. That’s why we are into education and publishing and software, among other things.”

**Question Formulated**
- “When the company looks to the future, it appears from the brochure that education, publishing and software are some key areas. What are some of the product areas now that might be less important in the future—that the company may be cutting back?”

**Examples of Poor Questions**

1. “Tell me about your training program.” (Too general—shows you didn’t do your homework.)
2. “At what salary level would I be if I progress to Step 3 in my second year with the company?” (Shows your concern is money as opposed to responsibility.)
3. “Could you explain your fringe benefits package?” (Standard, boring question—need to be more specific and ask about various aspects.)

**Criteria for Examining Employers**

Asking and answering interview questions in a prepared and professional manner is the key to successful interviewing. Use the following list of EMPLOYER INFORMATION CRITERIA (Adapted from “Recruiting Literature: Is It Adequate?” ECPO) as a guideline for what you need to find out about an employer BEFORE you choose to interview.

- Details and Functional Descriptions of Positions
- Training Program Outline
- Hiring Process (timing, evaluation criteria)
- Benefits
- Requisite Qualifications for Entry-Level Positions
- Typical Career Paths
- Introduction to Employer Products/Services
- Starting Salaries/Compensation Forms
- Employee Review/Evaluation Process
- Travel/Relocation Expectations
- General Hiring Patterns
- Regional Lifestyle/Cost of Living
- Organizational Chart/Structure
The traditional face-to-face interview can be particularly stressful when you have a disability—especially a visible disability. Hiring managers and employers may have had little prior experience with persons with disabilities and may react with discomfort or even shock to the appearance of a wheelchair, cane or an unusual physical trait. When this happens, the interviewer is often so uncomfortable that he or she just wants to “get it over with” and conducts the interview in a hurried manner. But this scenario robs you of the opportunity to present your credentials and could prevent the employer from identifying a suitable, qualified candidate for employment.

It is essential that you understand that interviewing is not a passive process where the interviewer asks all the questions and you simply provide the answers. You, even more than applicants without disabilities, must be skilled in handling each interview in order to put the employer representative at ease. You must also be able to demonstrate your ability to manage your disability and be prepared to provide relevant information about your skills, experiences and educational background. In addition, you may have to inform the employer of the equipment, tools and related resources that you will need to perform the job tasks.

To Disclose or Not to Disclose

To disclose or not to disclose, and when and how to disclose, are decisions that persons with disabilities must make for themselves during the job search process. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you are not legally obligated to disclose your disability unless it is likely to directly affect your job performance. On the other hand, if your disability is visible, it will be evident at the time of the interview so it may be more prudent to acknowledge your disability during the application process to avoid catching the employer representative off guard.

Reasons for Disclosing

You take a risk when you decide to disclose your disability. Some employers may reject your application based on negative, preconceived ideas about persons with disabilities. In addition, you may feel that the issue is too personal to be publicized among strangers. On the other hand, if you provide false answers about your health or disability on an application and the truth is uncovered later, you risk losing your job. You may even be held legally responsible if you failed to inform your employer and an accident occurs that is related to your disability.

Timing the Disclosure

The employer’s first contact with you will typically be through your cover letter and resume, especially if you initially contacted the organization. There are many differing opinions on whether one should mention the disability on the resume or in the cover letter. If you are comfortable revealing your disability early in the process, then give careful consideration to where the information is placed and how it is stated. The cover letter and resume should primarily outline relevant skills, experiences and education for the position for which you are applying. The reader should have a clear understanding of your suitability for the position. Therefore, if you choose to disclose your disability, the disclosure should be brief and placed near the end of the cover letter and resume.

It should never be the first piece of information that the employer sees about you. The information should also reveal your ability to manage your disability while performing required job functions.

When You Get the Interview

As stated earlier, it may not be wise to hide the disability (especially a visible disability) until the time of the interview. The employer representative may be surprised, uncomfortable or assume that you intentionally hid critical information. As a result, more time may be spent asking irrelevant and trivial questions because of nervousness, rather than focusing on your suitability for the position. Get assistance from contacts in human resources, your career center or workers with disabilities about the different ways to prepare the interviewer for your arrival. Take the time to rehearse what you will say before making initial contact. If oral communication is difficult for you, have a career services staff person (or another professional) place the call for you and explain how you plan to handle the interview. If you require support for your interview (such as a sign language interpreter), contact human resources in advance to arrange for this assistance. Advance preparation puts everyone at ease and shows that you can manage your affairs.

Tips on Managing the Interview

Prior to the Interview
1. Identify a career services staff person to help you prepare employers for their interview with you.
2. Arrange for several taped, mock interview sessions to become more confident in discussing your work-related skills and in putting the employer representative at ease; rehearse ahead of time to prepare how you will handle inappropriate, personal or possibly illegal questions.
3. If your disability makes oral communication difficult, create a written narrative to supplement your resume that details your abilities.
4. Determine any technical support, resources and costs that might be necessary for your employment so that you can respond to questions related to this topic.
5. Be sure that your career center has information for employers on interviewing persons with disabilities.
6. Seek advice from other workers with disabilities who have been successful in finding employment.
7. Review the general advice about interviewing outlined in this career guide.

During the Interview
1. Put the interviewer at ease before starting the interview by addressing any visible disability (if you have not done so already).
2. Plan to participate fully in the discussion (not just answer questions); maintain the appropriate control of the interview by tactfully keeping the interview focused on your abilities—not the disability.
3. Inform the employer of any accommodations needed and how they can be achieved, thereby demonstrating your ability to manage your disability.
4. Conclude the interview by reiterating your qualifications and giving the interviewer the opportunity to ask any further questions.

Written by Rosita Smith.
## JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES: PROS AND CONS

There are many ways of looking for a job, some of which are better than others. Presented below are some of the most popular ways, as well as helpful hints and pros and cons of each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY</th>
<th>TOOLS</th>
<th>PROS</th>
<th>CONS</th>
<th>HELPFUL HINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WANT ADS</td>
<td>Newspapers, Journals, Newsletters, Trade magazines, Cover letters, Resumes</td>
<td>Involves minimal investment of time in identifying companies. Resume and cover letter are sent for actual job opening.</td>
<td>Resume and cover letter will compete with large number of others. Ads follow job market; least effective in times of economic downturn.</td>
<td>Use as a meter on the job market in a certain career field. Try to get your materials in as early as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES</td>
<td>Resumes, Business attire</td>
<td>Fee-paid jobs for graduates in technical fields or those with marketable experience.</td>
<td>May be less helpful to non-technical/inexperienced graduates. Be wary if you, instead of the employer, have to pay a fee.</td>
<td>Identify agencies that specialize in your field. Make frequent contact with your counselor to obtain better service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORLD WIDE WEB</td>
<td>Access to the web, Electronic resume</td>
<td>Actual job openings. Many employers use a wide variety of job listing services. Many listings have free to low-cost access. Worldwide geographic reach.</td>
<td>Competition is growing as use of the web increases. Many jobs listed are technical in nature, though the visibility of nontechnical fields is growing.</td>
<td>Use the web frequently as information and sites change quickly. May need to conduct your search at off-peak times (early morning or late at night).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARGETED MAILING</td>
<td>List of well-researched companies, Tailored cover letters, Resumes</td>
<td>Better approach than the mass-mailing method. Investment of time and effort should merit stronger response from employers.</td>
<td>Requires a significant investment of time in researching companies and writing cover letters as well as following up with contacts.</td>
<td>Try to find out who is in charge of the area in which you want to work; send your materials to that person. Great method when used in conjunction with networking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN-PERSON VISIT</td>
<td>Business attire, Company address list, Resumes</td>
<td>Resume and application are on file with the company. Requires a great deal of time to make a relatively small number of contacts.</td>
<td>Research the companies prior to your visit. Ask for a specific person or ask about a specific type of job.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETWORKING</td>
<td>List of contacts, Resumes, Business attire</td>
<td>May learn of unadvertised openings. May result in a courtesy interview. Often results in a closer match of your interests to a job.</td>
<td>A contact in itself is not enough to get you a job. You may exhaust all leads without landing a job. Quite time-consuming.</td>
<td>Follow through on all leads. Keep broadening your network of contacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING</td>
<td>Scheduling interviews, Employer literature, Resumes, Business attire</td>
<td>One of the primary ways in which companies recruit for technical and business positions.</td>
<td>May be less effective for nontechnical/nonbusiness candidates.</td>
<td>Use the interview schedule as a way to identify possible employers, even if you don’t get to interview on campus with those employers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESUME REFERRAL</td>
<td>Registration form supplied by service</td>
<td>Another way to monitor the job market and get your qualifications to the attention of employers.</td>
<td>May involve a fee. Often more helpful to those in technical or specialized fields. May not learn of the status of your materials.</td>
<td>Use only in conjunction with other job search strategies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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ABOUT BEAVER JOBNET

Career Services’ on-line Beaver JobNet system is a great way to get your job or internship search started as well as on- or off-campus student employment. It is OSU’s own job databank and recruitment management program. Thousands of local, national, and international employers list job and internship openings on Beaver JobNet. Students also have access to on-campus interviews with employers when they register with Beaver JobNet; enter your profile and upload your resume and be invited to interviews for which you qualify. This program serves students and alumni alike. Employers are seeking applicants for positions including full-time, co-ops and internships, summer camps, national parks employment, and volunteer organizations such as Peace Corps. For more information visit the Career Services website http://oregonstate.edu/career.

TAPPING THE HIDDEN JOB MARKET

Your off-campus job search should neither begin nor end with the help wanted ads. Studies have shown that only 15 percent of available jobs are ever advertised. It takes much more than merely perusing the classifieds. By employing a number of methods, you constantly increase your chances of landing a job. Some techniques you might use:

Networking. Probably the most effective way to meet potential employers and learn about possible jobs is to tap into your personal network of contacts. You might think it’s early to have professional contacts, but think about everyone you know—family members and their friends/co-workers, professors, past employers, neighbors and even your dentist. Don’t be afraid to inform them of your career interests and let them know that you are looking for work. They will likely be happy to help you and refer you to any professionals they think can be of assistance.

Informational interviewing. This approach allows you to learn more about your field by setting up interviews with professionals. The purpose of these interviews is to meet professionals, gather career information and investigate career options, get advice on job search techniques and get referrals to other professionals. When setting up these interviews, either by phone or letter, make it clear to the employer that you have no job expectations and are seeking information only. Interviewing also familiarizes you to employers, and you may be remembered when a company has a vacant position.

Temporary work. As more companies employ the services of temporary or contract workers, new graduates are discovering that such work is a good opportunity to gain experience in their fields. Temporary workers can explore various jobs and get an inside look at different companies without the commitment of a permanent job. Also, if a company decides to make a position permanent, these “temps” already have made good impressions and often are given first consideration.

Electronic job search. One source of jobs may be as close as a personal computer. Various online resume services let you input your resume into a database, which then can be accessed by companies searching for applicants who meet their criteria. Companies also post job listings on Web sites to which students can directly respond by sending their resumes and cover letters.

Persistence is the key to cracking the hidden job market. Attend meetings of professional associations and become an active member. After you begin the above processes, and your network base expands, your search will be made easier. Employers will appreciate your resourcefulness—and view you as a viable candidate.
Many people use the classified ads as their sole job search technique. Unfortunately, statistics show that only 10% to 20% of jobs are ever published—which means that 80% to 90% of jobs remain hidden in the job market. For this reason, networking remains the number one job search strategy.

Networking Defined
A network is an interconnected group of supporters who serve as resources for your job search and ultimately for your career. Some great network contacts might include people you meet at business and social meetings who provide you with career information and advice. Students often hesitate to network because they feel awkward asking for help, but it should be an integral part of any job search. Though you might feel nervous when approaching a potential contact, networking is a skill that develops with practice, so don’t give up. Most people love to talk about themselves and their jobs and are willing to give realistic—and free—advice.

Eight Keys to Networking

1. **Be Prepared** First, define what information you need and what you are trying to accomplish by networking. Remember, your purpose in networking is to get to know people who can provide information regarding careers and leads. Some of the many benefits of networking include increased visibility within your field, propelling your professional development, finding suitable mentors, increasing your chances of promotion and perhaps finding your next job.

   Second, know yourself—your education, experience and skills. Practice a concise, one-minute presentation of yourself so that people will know the kinds of areas in which you are interested. Your networking meeting should include the following elements: introduction, self-overview, Q&A, obtaining referrals and closing.

2. **Be Targeted** Identify your network. For some, “I don’t have a network. I don’t know anyone,” may be your first reaction. You can start by listing everyone you know who are potential prospects: family members, friends, faculty, neighbors, classmates, alumni, bosses, co-workers and community associates. Attend meetings of organizations in your field of interest and get involved. You never know where you are going to meet someone who could lead you to your next job.

3. **Be Professional** Ask your networking prospects for advice—not for a job. Your networking meetings should be a source of career information, advice and contacts. Start off the encounter with a firm handshake, eye contact and a warm smile. Focus on asking for one thing at a time. Your contacts expect you to represent yourself with your best foot forward.

4. **Be Patient** Heena Noorani, research analyst with New York-based Thomson Financial, recommends avoiding the feeling of discouragement if networking does not provide immediate results or instant answers. She advises, “Be prepared for a slow down after you get started. Stay politely persistent with your leads and build momentum. Networking is like gardening: You do not plant the seed, then quickly harvest. Networking requires cultivation that takes time and effort for the process to payoff.”

5. **Be Focused on Quality—Not Quantity** In a large group setting, circulate and meet people, but don’t try to talk to everyone. It’s better to have a few meaningful conversations than 50 hasty introductions. Don’t cling to people you already know; you’re unlikely to build new contacts that way. If you are at a reception, be sure to wear a nametag and collect or exchange business cards so you can later contact the people you meet.

6. **Be Referral-Centered** The person you are networking with may not have a job opening, but he or she may know someone who is hiring. The key is to exchange information and then expand your network by obtaining additional referrals each time you meet someone new. Be sure to mention the person who referred you.

7. **Be Proactive** Stay organized and track your networking meetings. Keep a list of your contacts and update it frequently with the names of any leads given to you. Send a thank-you note or email if appropriate. Ask if you can follow-up the conversation with a phone call, or even better, with a more in-depth meeting in the near future.

8. **Be Dedicated to Networking** Most importantly, networking should be ongoing. You will want to stay in touch with contacts over the long haul—not just when you need something. Make networking part of your long-term career plan.

Questions to Ask During Networking Meetings

- What do you like most (least) about your work?
- Can you describe a typical workday or week?
- What type of education and experience do you need to remain successful in this field?
- What are the future career opportunities in this field?
- What are the challenges in balancing work and personal life?
- Why do people enter/leave this field or company?
- Which companies have the best track record for promoting minorities?
- What advice would you give to someone trying to break into this field?
- With whom would you recommend I speak? When I call, may I use your name?

Dos & Don’ts of Networking

- Do keep one hand free from a briefcase or purse so you can shake hands when necessary.
- Do bring copies of your resume.
- Don’t tell them your life story; you are dealing with busy people, so get right to the point.
- Don’t be shy or afraid to ask for what you need.
- Don’t pass up opportunities to network.

Written by Thomas J. Denham, managing partner and career counselor for Careers In Transition LLC.
CAREER FAIRS

If you've never been to a Career Fair, just thinking about it might seem overwhelming! Believe it or not, Career Fairs can actually be FUN. Employers are truly excited to meet (and hire!) OSU students. Career Fairs are also a great opportunity for ALL students to meet employers, as well as learn about potential jobs/ internships/careers. Here is a list of things you can do to make the fair a fun and successful event. You’ll obtain helpful career information, employer contacts, and maybe even an interview, job or internship!

Before the Fair
❖ RESEARCH the companies who will be attending the fair and the majors they’re hiring for. http://oregonstate.edu/career/fair/
❖ Develop informed questions to ask of each employer you’re interested in. Questions such as “I’m interested in the management training program at Company XYZ; can you describe an ideal candidate for this program?” OR “Could you tell me more about your internship programs?” are much more effective than “So…what does your company do?”
❖ Create a “game plan”. Decide how much time you have to spend at the fair and prioritize your time accordingly.
❖ Create a competitive, “get-noticed” resume. Visit the Career Services Office to have your resume reviewed during drop-in hours. Monday through Friday 1-4 p.m., Wednesday 5-7 p.m., 8 Kerr Administration Building. Don’t forget to make copies!
❖ Register with Beaver JobNet, the Career Services on-line job database. Many employers will be looking to interview students they meet at the Fairs, and you may ONLY sign up for interviews if you’re registered with Beaver JobNet. Come by Career Services to sign up.
❖ Prepare a 30 second “infomercial”. You have 30 seconds to make yourself stand out to an employer. Prepare a 30-second script that introduces you, states your knowledge of/interest in the organization, and relates your background to the position(s) in which you are interested. Include your name, class, major, relevant experiences, skills/strengths, and opportunities you are seeking with the employer.
❖ Get a good night’s sleep to prepare for the big day!

During the Fair
❖ DRESS PROFESSIONALLY. Career Fairs require the same attention to attire as an interview; in essence they are your first interview.
❖ If unsure what to wear, it’s better to overdress than under dress; a dark suit is always appropriate. Wear comfortable shoes!
❖ Leave your backpack and coat home or hang them up once you get to the fair.
❖ Sign in at the Registration Table at the entrance to the fair.
❖ Have copies of your resume, a pen and your planner easily accessible. Employers may want to set up interviews!
❖ Have an open mind. Approach lesser-known employers to discover their potential for your professional development or “out of the box” divisions that may help you begin your career.
❖ Be independent. Approach employers on your own, even if you came to the fair with a friend.
❖ Don’t be afraid of the recruiter. Approach him or her with confidence, remembering all the prep you’ve done! Employers come because they WANT to talk to you!
❖ Greet each employer with a firm handshake and a positive attitude. Maintain eye contact while speaking.
❖ Be patient. Don’t interrupt the employer or jump into a conversation he/she is having with someone else. Wait your turn; you might even pick up some valuable information as you wait!
❖ Put your resume into a recruiter’s hands; don’t just drop it on the table. Take time to market yourself with your infomercial while handing out your resume.
❖ Be sincere. Don’t overstate your abilities, but DO let the recruiter know what you have to offer.
❖ Don’t monopolize the recruiter’s time. Market yourself, make a good impression, and let the next person do the same!
❖ Close the deal! Inquire about obtaining further information on the company, take a business card, and ask what the next step is (company visits, setting up an interview, etc.).

After the Fair
❖ FOLLOW UP WITH EMPLOYERS. Write a thank-you note, emphasizing a key point from your conversation at the Fair. Use the thank-you note to reiterate your interest in the company/position, and include your resume!
❖ PRACTICE your interviewing skills. Stop by the Career Services Office to speak with a career counselor or to schedule a mock interview and find out what you can do to prepare for a successful interview!

2008-2009 OSU CAREER FAIRS
@ CH2M Hill Alumni Center
Fall: October 21st (All Majors) & 22nd (Engineering), 2008
Winter: February 18th (All Majors) & 19th (Engineering), 2009
Spring: April 29th, 2009

http://oregonstate.edu/career 29
As liberal arts graduates enter the job market, their direction may not be as obvious as that of their technically trained counterparts. For the most part, engineering or computer science majors know exactly where to target their efforts.

Liberal arts majors are less fortunate in that regard—such a heading cannot be found in the want ads. Yet if they learn to target their aptitudes, they have as good a chance as anyone to find meaningful work.

Students are no longer necessarily hired just because they have a particular degree. Math and physics majors are getting engineering jobs and liberal arts majors are getting accounting jobs. The reason new graduates are being hired is because they have specific skills that meet the needs of the employer.

No one is more suited to this approach than the liberal arts major. What you need to do, explains one career advisor, is to find out what you really want to do—regardless of your major. “Students often ask, ‘What can I do with a major in philosophy?’ But that’s the wrong question. The real questions are, ‘What fascinates me? How can I connect my interests with a job? What do I really want to be doing in 20 years?’”

Once you have answered those questions, look at possibilities for matching your interests with a job. There are more options than you might think. Don’t get stuck on titles. For instance, if you want to be an autonomous problem-solver, someone with good communication skills who can do a good job of synthesizing sources (as in writing term papers), forget about the titles and look at the job descriptions. Management consultants, career specialists, personnel managers, teachers or trainers within organizations are just a few options.

As a liberal arts major, you have to do much more work in terms of researching different job markets and finding out where there is a demand. Conduct in-depth research on any companies that appeal to you, and try to match their needs to your wants. You must be specific, however. It is possible to be too general, too open and too flexible.

To be successful, you should combine your long-term vision with short-term specificity. Present yourself to your potential employer as someone who both understands the broad goals of the company and has the ability to grow and contribute in the long run. But most importantly, show how you can excel in that specific job. And this, most likely, will involve some specialized skills. If you’ve taken business courses, had work experiences or utilized a computer in your liberal arts work, point out those strengths.

Once you’ve taken the time to determine your real interests and have set some long-term goals, map out a plan—long- and short-term—on how to get there. Resources are plentiful—from the Occupational Outlook Handbook or Dictionary of Occupational Titles to numerous general job search books, as well as those dealing with specific topics such as What to Do with a Degree in Psychology, The Business of Show Business, etc.

Your liberal arts education has equipped you to take a broad topic and research it. Use those skills to make the connection between what you want and what companies need. Once you find job descriptions that match your long-term interests, set about shaping your resume and, if need be, getting the additional specific skills, training or certification to get that first job.

Your first job may not match your long-term goal. But it’s the first step. And that, at this point, is the all-important one.

**What Liberal Arts Graduates Are Doing**

A sampling of the wide range of positions filled by liberal arts graduates:

- Accountant
- Administrative assistant
- Advertising account executive
- Air traffic controller
- Artist
- Auditor
- Bank manager
- Business systems analyst
- Buyer
- Child support enforcement officer
- Claims examiner
- Communications specialist
- Computer specialist
- Copywriter
- Counselor
- Customer service representative
- Editor
- Employee relations specialist
- Engineering planner
- Financial consultant
- Graphic designer
- Hotel manager
- Human resource specialist
- Industrial designer
- Interpreter/translator
- Journalist
- Librarian
- Management consultant
- Marketing representative
- Medical/dental assistant
- Museum coordinator
- Office administrator
- Outpatient therapist
- Paralegal
- Photographer
- Probation officer
- Product specialist
- Psychologist
- Public relations specialist
- Quality engineer
- Recreation administrator
- Research analyst
- Restaurant manager
- Retail manager
- Sales representative
- Social worker
- Speech pathologist
- Stockbroker
- Systems analyst
- Tax consultant
- Teacher
- Technical writer
- Transportation specialist
- Underwriter
- Urban planner
- Writer
EVALUATING AN OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT

Congratulations! You’ve successfully managed your second interviews and have been offered a job! Perhaps you’ve even received offers from more than one employer. Whether it’s one offer or more, your euphoria is sometimes quickly replaced by anxiety about the decisions which lie ahead. You may be wondering, “Is this the ‘right’ job for me?” or “Am I going to be happy in this job, or should I just take it because I need a job, period?” Careful evaluation of your job offer and some serious thought as to how well the position and organization meet your needs can enable you to make the best choice for yourself. One of our career counselors can help you sort out your options.

In evaluating your job offer, there are three critical questions you should address:

1. **How closely does the offer match your career goal?**
   Think back to when you started your job search. What was important to you? What factors regarding a job, organization and work environment were on your “wish list”? Have they changed? How well does this position fit these factors? Below are some factors you may want to consider in evaluating your offer. Some of these may not be important to you, and there may be other factors not listed which are extremely important to your decision.

2. **Do you need additional information about the offer (or anything) in order to make a decision?**
   It is not unusual to discover, as you’re weighing different factors about the offer, that you have additional questions, lack some factual data, or simply need a better sense of what the job and organization are like. If this is the case, STOP! Don’t go any further in your deliberations until you address these issues. You may need to call one of your interviewers and ask additional questions, or contact an alum who works for the organization. If you need a better understanding of what it would be like during a day on the job, call the employer (if they are local) and ask to spend an afternoon observing an entry-level employee in the job you’re considering. Most employers will be willing to accommodate you. If you have other questions or concerns which impact your decision, you should discuss them with a career counselor.

3. **Are there issues you may want to negotiate, which would bring the offer closer to your goal?**
   Perhaps the issues which concern you about the offer can be changed. If the job seems ideal except for location, then you might want to raise the issue with the employer. Some start dates are non-negotiable because training classes must begin together. In some instances, however, the start date can be adjusted.

Written by Virginia Lacy. Adapted with permission from Northwestern University’s Career Services Guide; © 1998 Virginia Lacy.

Factors for Consideration

- Nature of the work
- Organizational culture
- Level of autonomy
- Travel
- Salary
- Mentoring
- Lifestyles of employees
- Stability of organization
- Quality of higher management
- Support for continuing education/advanced degree
- Level of responsibility
- Location
- Work hours
- Benefits
- Variety of work
- Stability of industry
- Advancement opportunities
- Training and development opportunities
- Opportunities to learn and grow in job/company
- Transferability of skills/experience from job
- Prestige of job or organization
A PARTIAL LIST OF ANTICIPATED RECRUITERS

3M
ABF Freight, Inc.
AFG Industries
AKS Engineering & Forestry, LLC
Abercrombie & Fitch
Advanced Micro Devices
Agrilience
Aerotek
Air Force ROTC
AmeriCorps Vista
American Family Insurance
Ameriprise Financial
Amica Mutual Insurance
Analog Devices
Andersen Consulting
Anritsu
Applied Signal
Areva
Bankers Life and Casualty
Baugh Construction Oregon, Inc.
Bear Creek
Beaverton School District
Bechtel (See Bettis Laboratory Ad on Page 22)
Bi-Mart
Bidtek
Black & Veatch
Blockbuster, Inc.
Boeing
Boeing Engineering Div.
Boise Cascade Corporation
Bonneville Power
The Buckle
CH2M Hill
Caltrans
Central Intelligence Agency
Charles Pankow Builders Ltd.
Chevron (Business)
Chevron (Engineering)
Cintas
College Pro Painters
Columbia Grain
Columbia Sportswear
Consolidated Electric Dist.
Consolidated Graphics
Country Companies Insurance Group
Cypress Semiconductor
Cytec Industries
DPR Construction
Dassault
Deloitte & Touche
Dillingham Construction
E & J Gallo
EFG Company
Eaton Cutler Hammer
Enterprise Financial Group
Enterprise Rent A Car
Etec
Ethos Group
Expedia
FM Global
Fastenal (Salem)
Ferguson
First Investors Corporation
Fletcher General Construction (Seattle)
Fluor
Ford Black & Company
Foster Farms
Four Winds Camp
Fred Meyer
Frito-Lay (Vancouver)
The Fund for Public Research
GAP Inc.
Geffen, Mesher & Company P.C.
General Electric Motors
GeoEngineers
Georgia Pacific (Corporate)
Google
Granite Construction
Grant Thornton
Grassroots Campaign
Hensel Phelps Construction
Hertz Equipment Rental Corporation
Hewlett-Packard (Corvallis)
Hidden Valley Camp
Hitachi Consulting
Hoffman Construction
Home Depot
Huffman-Wright Construction
IBM
Inroads
Intel Corporation
International Paper
JCPenney
James River Corporation
Jeld-Wen, Inc.
John Hancock Financial Services
John Hancock Mutual Life
Johnson Controls
KPMG Peat Marwick
Keller Supply Company
Kiewit Pacific NW District
Kimley-Horn
Kmart
Knight Transportation
Kohler Company
LSI Logic
Laneer Worldwide, Inc.
Lattice Semiconductor
Lease Crutcher Lewis
Longview Fiber Corporation
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Lucidyn Technology
Macy’s
Majiebox
MassMutual
Maxim Integrated Products
Meier & Frank
Mentor Graphics
Mervyn’s California
Micronlinear
Microsoft
Morrison Knudsen
Moss Adams LLP
Motorola
NEC Electronics
National Semiconductor
Naval Undersea Warfare Center
Nestles Brand Foodservice Company
New York Life (Portland)
Northwest Farm Credit Service
Northwestern Mutual Life
Office Depot, Inc.
PAR 3
Pacificorp
Peace Corps
Pella
Perkins & Company, P.C.
Polaris Communications
Pope & Talbot, Inc.
Portland Camp Fire Council
Portland Public School
Precision Castparts Corporation
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Progressive Insurance
Protocol Systems
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
Radisys
Robinson-Mays
Rogue Wave Software
Roseburg Forest Products
SEH America/Shin Etsu
SNC-Lavalin Constructors, Inc.
Saint Mary Lodge & Resort
Sandia National Lab
Schroder Foods
Sears, Roebuck & Co.
Sharp Micro Electronics
Shaw Industries
Sherman Brothers
Sherwin-Williams
Shimmick Construction
Siouxlaw Forest Service
Slayden Construction
Sonoco
Sony Disc Manufacturing
Spectra Physics
State Chemical Manufacturing
State Farm
Stockamp $ Associates
Strategic Weapons Facility
Stryker Endoscopy
Sun Valley Resort
Supra Products, Inc.
Swinerton, Inc.
Symantec
Tabot, Korvola, Warwick
Target Distribution
Target Stores
Tektronix
Teradyne, Inc.
Timberline Software
Tour Andover Controls
Toys R Us
The Trance Company
Triquint Semiconductor
US Census Bureau
US Pacific Builders
US West Communications
United Rental
Universal Forest Products
University Directories
Videx
View Point Construction
WaferTech
Wal-Mart
Walgreens
Wallis Engineering
Walsh Construction
Washington Mutual
Walt Disney World
Washington State Department of Transportation
Wells Fargo Bank
Weyerhaeuser (Intern Program)
Weyerhaeuser Company
Weyerhaeuser Co., Particle Board Plant
Wildor Construction
Willamette Industries
William Mercer
Xerox
YRC Worldwide

This is not a complete listing and is subject to change.
Consult with Career Services for the master calendar and complete job descriptions.