

Anthropology Career Chat



Office of Career Development

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Office Hours: Weekdays, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm and Wednesdays 7 – 9 pm

Steps In Choosing A Career

First Step: Self Assessment: “Know Thyself”

1. Understand and relate your personality traits to career choices
2. Define your personal values
3. Determine your economic needs
4. Explore longer-term goals
5. Understand your skill base
6. Identify your preferred skill base
7. Express a willingness to improve

Strategies for self-assessment may include meeting with a Career Counselor, taking interest inventories such as the Strong Interest Inventory or the Myers Briggs Type Indicator, or working through the exercises in any one of a number of books in the CDO library, including *What Color Is Your Parachute*.

Second Step: Research Career Options

Once you have established a base of self-knowledge, the next step is to create a knowledge base of opportunities available and begin the your interests to a career.

Strategies for researching career options include:

- Informational interviewing and networking with professionals in areas that may be of interest to you
- Talking with Vassar alumnae/i and utilizing V-NET
- Utilizing job listings through eRecruiting and in the CDO
- Surfing the Internet for career options and information—including Spotlight on Careers, CareerSearch, and Vault.com
- Participating in internships or job-shadowing experiences
- Scanning job listings for positions that sound interesting
- Joining and attending professional organizations or association meetings, conferences, and networking opportunities
- Reading trade journals

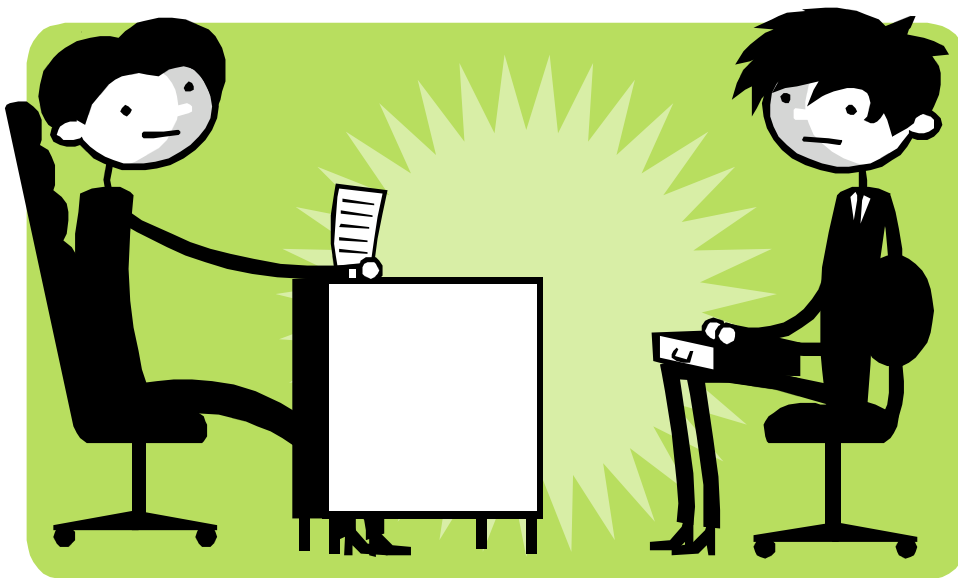
Next Step: Job Search

A job search involves:

- Creating a strong resume and cover letter
- Developing lists of contacts and target organizations
- Applying for positions
- Interviewing
- Doing follow-up

Career Counselors here at the CDO are ready and available to assist you through the entire process. The Career Development Office library and website also contain various handouts, books, articles, journals, etc. that could aid you in this process.

Job-hunting takes time and energy! This varies, of course, depending on the field, preparation, and dedication of the job seeker. Geographic flexibility also significantly impacts one's job search. Many occupations today require a college-educated individual who can write and speak well, solve problems, learn new information quickly and work well with others on a team. This means that college graduates use their education in a wide variety of fields, and your future career may relate more to your personal career interests, work values, and transferable skills than any specific academic major.



What About Graduate School?

<http://careers.vassar.edu/advice-graduate-school/>

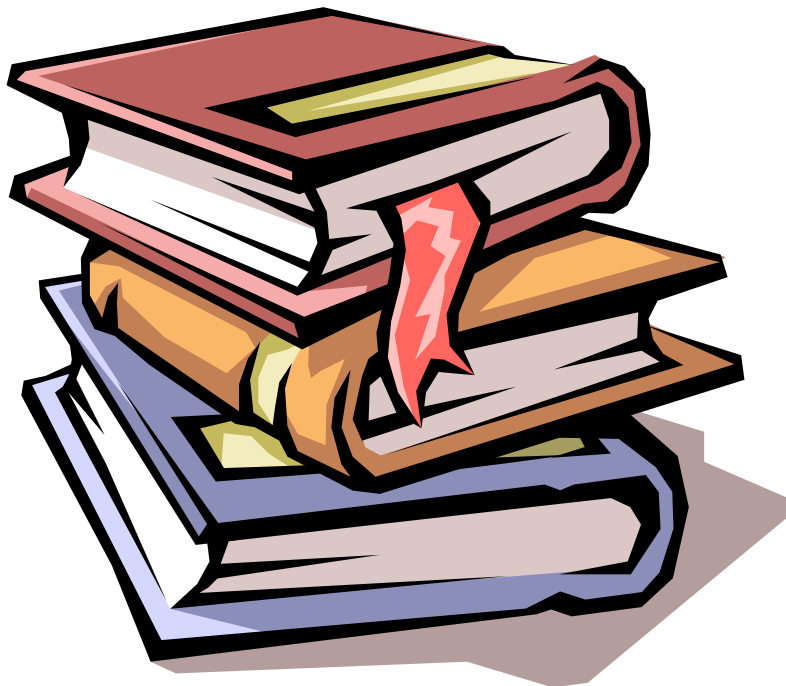
The reasons for continuing one's education in graduate school can be as varied and unique as the individual. Many continue their studies at an advanced level because they simply find it difficult to end the educational process. They love what they are learning; they want to learn more and continue their academic preparation. Others go on to graduate school for purely a practical reason: their area of interest requires an advanced degree.

It is important to carefully consider your reasons for going to graduate school. Graduate school involves additional time away from the employment market, a high degree of critical evaluation, significant autonomy as you pursue your studies, and a considerable financial expenditure. For some students in doctoral programs, there may be additional life choice issues, such as relationships, marriage, and parenthood that may present real challenges while in a program of study.

Think about the following questions when making this decision:

- Are you postponing tough decisions by going to school?
- Have you done some "hands-on" reality testing?
- Do you need an advanced degree to work in your field?
- Have you compared your expectations of what graduate school will do for you with what it has done for alumni of the program you are considering?
- Have you talked with people in your field to explore what you might be doing after graduate school?
- Are you excited by the idea of studying in the field you have in mind?

Graduate school is NOT a career choice—it is a tool to reach or advance your career goals. Be sure to ask yourself why you are going to graduate school and what you want to do with the degree.



Anthropology Alumni Career Choices

Here is a sampling of the many career paths Vassar alumnae/i have pursued with their undergraduate degree in Anthropology (may have pursued further education). Some of these career choices are closely related to their major, while others are not. If you would like to talk to alumnae/i and ask them questions about their careers, feel free to use the V-NET database through the AAVC website at <http://www.aavc.vassar.edu>.

- Architecture**, Vice President at Edmeaders & Stromdahl, Ltd., Class of 1978
Landscape Design/Horticulture, Landscape Architect, self-employed, Class of 1993
Studio Arts/Crafts, Owner of Traditional Japanese Textiles, Class of 1954
Judicial/Law Enforcement, Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, Class of 1985
Clergy, Clergy and singer in the Princeton Theological Seminary traveling choir, Class of 2003
Education – College/University, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Class of 1981
Education – College/University, Research Analyst at John Hopkins University, Class of 2002
Education – College/University, Senior Research Scientist and Adjunct Associate Professor, Class of 1967
Education – College/University, Student, PhD Candidate in Linguistic Anthropology, Class of 1999
Publishing/Printing Industry, School and Library Marketing Manager for HarperCollins, Class of 1992
Health Care Practice, Nurse Practitioner, Class of 1982
Public Relations Industry, Assistant Account Executive for Nike Communications, Class of 2004
Utilities/Energy Industry, Technical Writer, Class of 1987

CDO Library Resources for Anthropology Majors

The following books and many more can be found in the CDO Library:

- College Teaching Abroad* by Pamela Gale George, 1994.
Education Career Directory by Bradley J. Morgan, Joseph M. Palmisano, 1994.
Great Jobs for Anthropology Majors, by Blythe Camenson, 2000.
Guide to Museum Studies and Training in the United States by the American Association of Museums, 1999.
Museum Careers and Training – A Professional Guide by Victor Danilov, 1994.
Museum Jobs from A-Z by G.W. Bates, 1994
Museum Studies Programs by the American Association of Museums, 1987.
Opportunities in Forensic Science Careers by Blythe Camenson, 2001.
Social Work: An Empowering Profession by Brenda DuBois & Karla Miley, 2005.

Anthropology Related Websites

Vassar College Department of Anthropology: <http://anthropology.vassar.edu/>

About Anthropology Careers: <http://archaeology.about.com/od/archaeologists/>

American Academy of Forensic Science: <http://www.aafs.org/>

American Anthropological Association: <http://www.aaanet.org/index.htm>

Anthro.Net: <http://www.anthro.net/>

Anthropologists Respond to Student Questions: <http://anthro.fullerton.edu/napa.pdf>

Anthropology Career Database: <http://lrs.ed.uiuc.edu/students/xiaoyu/career.html>

Anthropology Careers: <http://www.nku.edu/%7Eanthro/careers.html>

Anthropology in the News: <http://anthropology.tamu.edu/news.htm>

Anthropology Resources on the Net: www.anthropologie.net

Anthropology Search Engine: www.anthro.net

AnthroTech: <http://www.anthrotech.com/career/>

Archaeological Institute of America: <http://www.archaeological.org/>

Archeology Internet Resources: <http://www.archeodroit.net/anthro/index.html>

Careers for Undergraduate Anthropology Majors:

<http://www.longwood.edu/staff/daltondm/AnthroMajorJobResources.htm>

Careers in Archaeology FAQ:

<http://www.museum.state.il.us/ismdepts/anthro/dlcfaq.html>

Careers, Opportunities, and Jobs in Archaeology:

<http://www.saa.org/Careers/index.html>

Exploring the Anthropology Major:

<http://www.gmu.edu/departments/advising/majors/anth.pdf>

Major Resource Kit: <http://www.udel.edu/CSC/ant.html>

Occupational Outlook - postsecondary Teachers:

<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos066.htm>

Occupational Outlook - Social Scientists: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos054.htm>

Social Science Research Council: <http://www.ssrc.org/>

Society for American Archaeology: <http://www.saa.org/>

Society for Applied Anthropology: <http://www.sfaa.net/>

Museums

American Association of Museums: <http://www.aam-us.org/>

*ArtJob: <http://www.artjob.org/cgi-local/displayPage.pl?page=index.html>

*ArtSearch: <http://www.tcg.org/>

Museum Employment Resource Center: <http://www.museum-employment.com/>

Occupational Outlook - Archivists, Curators, and Museum Technicians:

<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos065.htm>

CDO Resources: <http://careers.vassar.edu/resources/>

*Please refer to the updated CDO password sheet to access the site.

Graduate School Information

CDO Website for Graduate Schools: <http://careers.vassar.edu/downloadable-handouts/>

CDO Graduate School Career Briefs: <http://careers.vassar.edu/downloads.html>

Gradschools.com: <http://gradschools.com/>

GradProfiles: <http://www.gradprofiles.com/>

PhD Info.org: <http://www.phdinfofind.org/>

Peterson Guides to Graduate and Professional Schools: <http://www.petersons.com/>

Foundation Center Grants To Individuals: <http://gtonline.fdncenter.org/>

Internships

eRecruiting: <http://vassar.erecruiting.com/er/security/login.jsp>

You must attend an eRecruiting orientation with the CDO before you can access the site.

*National Internships.com: <http://internships.com/accessPremium.cfm>

*Internships USA: <http://www.internships-usa.com>

National Science Foundation: http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm

General Career Websites

*Career Search: <http://www.careersearch.net/vassar/>

eRecruiting: <http://vassar.erecruiting.com/er/security/login.jsp>

You must attend an eRecruiting orientation with the CDO before you can access the site.

*Going Global: <http://online.goinglobal.com>

*LACN (Liberal Arts Career NetWORK) Job/Internship Database:

<http://www.lacn-group.org/>

*MonsterTrak: <http://www.monstertrak.monster.com/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

Princeton Review's Guide To Your Career: <http://www.princetonreview.com/cte/>

Riley Guide: <http://www.rileyguide.com/>

*Spotlight On Careers: <http://www.spotlightoncareers.org/>

Vassar College Career Development Office: <http://careers.vassar.edu/>

*Vault.com: http://www.vault.com/cb/careerlib/careerlib_main.jsp?parrefer=397

Venture: http://www.theventureconsortium.org/public_interest/exploring.php

Wetfeet: <http://www.wetfeet.com/>

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