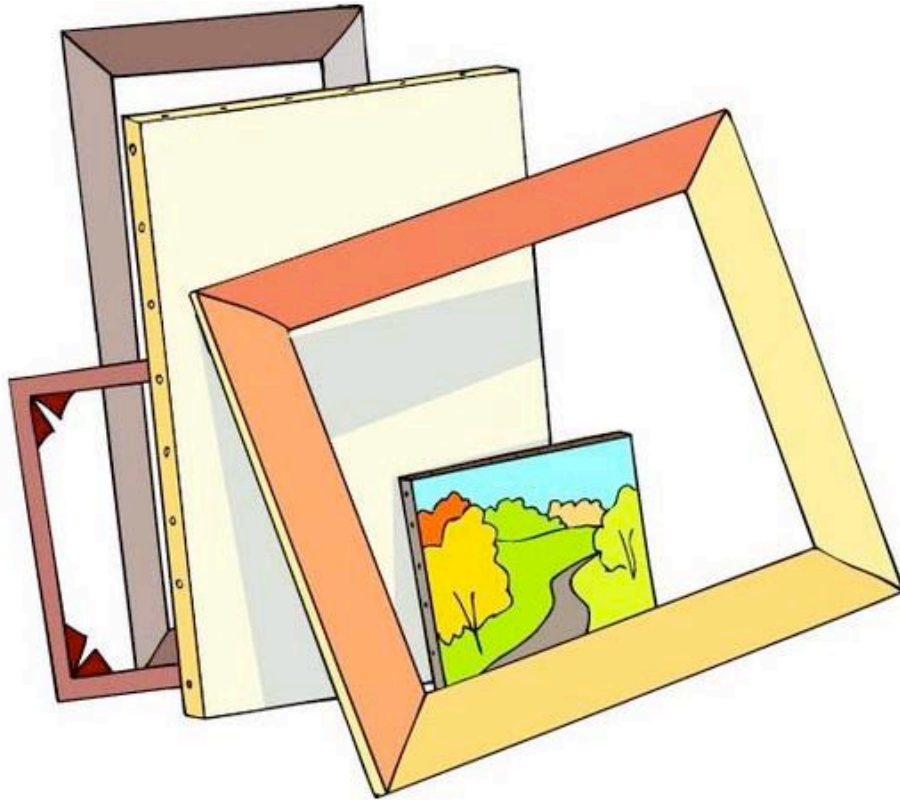


Art Career Chat



Office of Career Development

Vassar College

Phone: 845-437-5285

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<http://careers.vassar.edu>

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

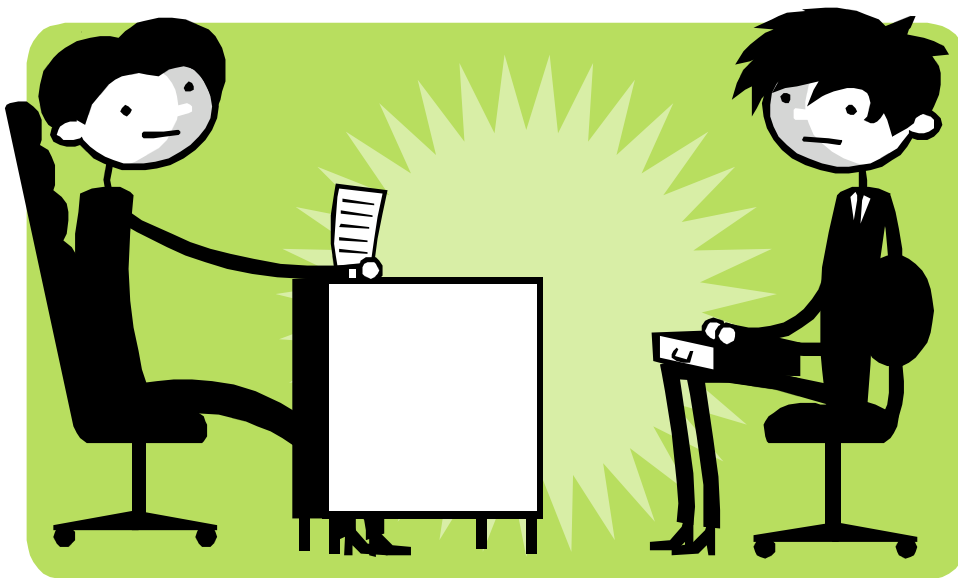
Next Step: Job Search

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/>

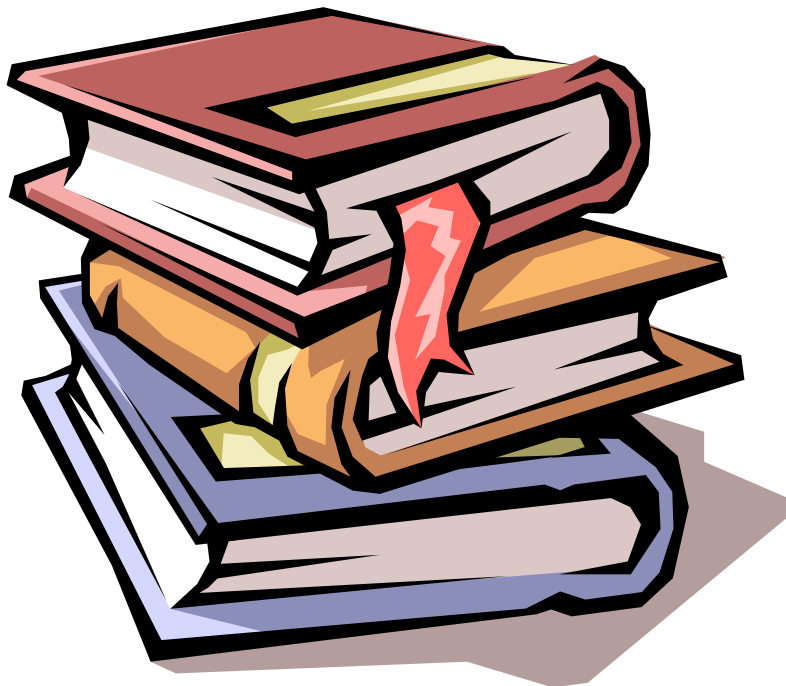
The reasons for continuing one's education in graduate school can be as varied and unique as the individual. Many continue their studies at an advanced level because they simply find it difficult to end the educational process. They love what they are learning; they want to learn more and continue their 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.



Art Alumni Career Choices

Here is a sampling of the many career paths Vassar alumnae/i have pursued with their undergraduate degree in Art (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>.

- Art/Antique/Gallery**, Fine Art Consultant and Appraiser, self-employed, Class of 1974
- Art/Layout/Design**, Associate Production Manager at the Museum of Modern Art, Class of 1996
- Architecture**, Founder of Eisen Studios LLC Design, Class of 1985
- Federal Administrative Government/Law**, Senior Counsel for Ethics for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Class of 1983
- Construction**, Apprentice Timber Framer/Carpenter, Class of 2004
- Publishing/Printing**, Owner of Stonesong Press LLC, Class of 1991
- Museums**, Associate Curator at the Musee d'Art Americain Giverny, France, Class of 1994
- Museums**, Deputy Chief Officer for Development at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Class of 1989
- Journalism (print)**, Editor for *All You*, Class of 1998
- Financial Service**, Managing Director at J.P. Morgan Chase & Company, Class of 1985
- Health Care**, Diagnostic Radiologist, Class of 1970
- Computer Science**, Render Department Lead at Pixar Animation Studios, Class of 2001
- Education – Secondary**, Art Teacher, Grades 5–12, Class of 2003
- Writing**, Freelance Author, Class of 1986

CDO Library Resources for Art Majors

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

- 1999-2000 Guide to Museum Studies and Training in the U.S.* by Roxana Adams & Tom Ritzenthaler, 1999.
- Art That Pays: The Emerging Artist's Guide to Making a Living* by Adele Slaughter & Jeff Kober, 2004.
- Art Therapy Sourcebook, The* by Cathy Malchiodi, 1998.
- Becoming a Graphic Designer* by Steven D. Heller & Teresa Fernandes, 2002.
- Career Opportunities in Art* by Susan H. Haubenstein & David Joselit, 2001.
- Careers in Architecture* by Blythe Camenson, 2001.
- Careers in Computer Graphics and Animation* by Garth Gardner, 2001.
- Guide to Museum Studies and Training in the United States* by the American Association of Museums, 1999.
- How to Survive and Prosper as an Artist*, fifth edition, by Carroll Michels, 2001.
- Living the Artist's Life*, by Paul Dorrell, 2004.
- 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.
- Photography Careers Handbook*, second edition, by George Gilbert, 1992.

Art Related Websites

Vassar College Department of Art: <http://art.vassar.edu/>

General

- Art Corps: <http://www.artcorp.org/>
- Art Institute of Chicago: <http://www.artic.edu/aic/jobs/interninfo.html>
- *ArtJob: <http://www.artjob.org/cgi-local/displayPage.pl?page=index.html>
- Art Job Online: <http://www.artjob.com>
- *ArtSearch: <http://www.tcg.org/>
- Artist Resource: <http://www.artistresource.org/jobs.htm>
- ArtNet: <http://www.artnet.com/about/joblisting.asp>
- Career Alternatives for Art Historians:
<http://www.nd.edu/%7Ecrosenbe/jobs.html>
- College Art Association: <http://www.collegeart.org/>
- Fine Art Marketplace and Community:
<http://dart.fine-art.com/MessageList.asp?intboardid=19>
- MBNA Career Services Center: <http://www.udel.edu/CSC/art.html>
- New York Foundation for the Arts: <http://www.nyfa.org/>
- Occupational Outlook - Graphic Designers: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos090.htm>
- Occupational Outlook - Photographers:
<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos264.htm#earnings>

Art Related Websites cont.

Occupational Outlook - Visual Artists: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos092.htm>
Springboard for the Arts: <http://www.springboardforthearts.org/>
VCU: Inside Arts: <http://www.students.vcu.edu/ExploreCareers/CC/arts.html>
Visual Arts Career Guide: <http://www.khake.com/page42.html>
World Wide Art Resources: <http://wwar.com/employment/>

Architecture

American Institute of Architects: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos057.htm>
Careers in Architecture: <http://architecture.about.com/od/careers/>
Art Source: <http://www.ilpi.com/artsource/welcome.html>
Occupational Outlook - Architects: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos038.htm>
Occupational Outlook – Landscape Architects:
<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos039.htm>

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/>

Graduate School Information

CDO Graduate School Career Briefs: <http://careers.vassar.edu/downloads.html>
CDO Website for Graduate Schools: <http://careers.vassar.edu/advice-graduate-school/>
GradProfiles: <http://www.gradprofiles.com/>
Gradschools.com: <http://gradschools.com/>
Peterson Guides to Graduate and Professional Schools: <http://www.petersons.com/>
PhD Info.org: <http://www.phdinfofind.org/>
*Foundation Center Grants To Individuals: <http://gtionline.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>

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

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/>

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