

Classics Career Chat



Office of Career Development

Vassar College

Phone: 845-437-5285

Fax: 845-437-7257

Email: cdo@vassar.edu

<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

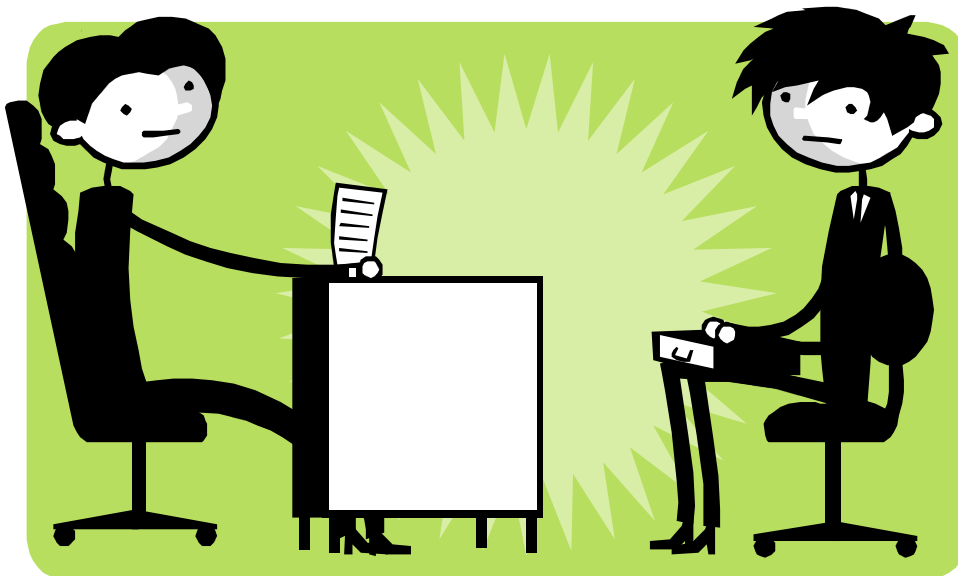
Next Step: Job Search

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/>

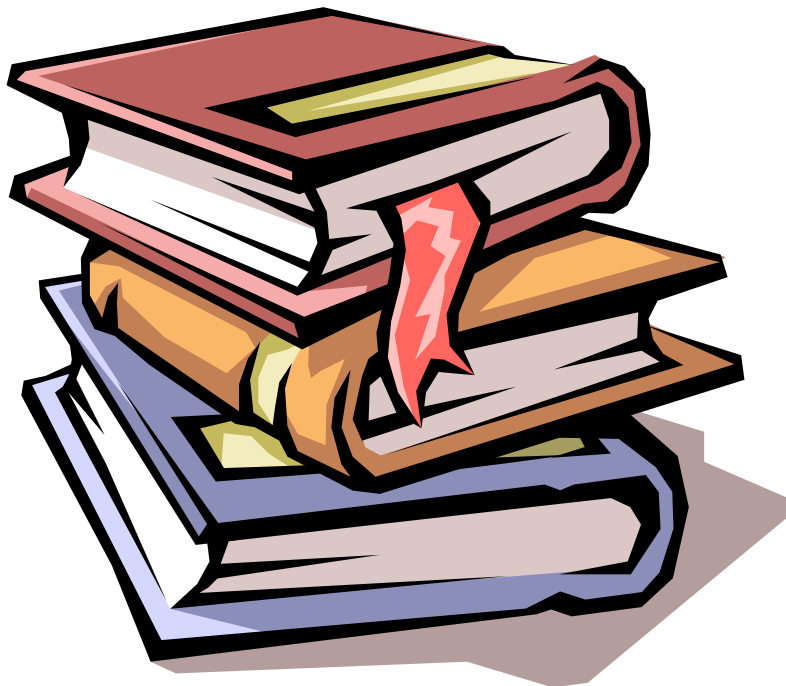
The reasons for continuing one's education in graduate school can be as varied and unique as the individual. Many continue their studies at an advanced level because they simply find it difficult to end the educational process. They love what they are learning; they want to learn more and continue their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



Classics Alumni Career Choices

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

Community Service, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers, Class of 1982

Community Service, Social Worker at Lenox A & U Neighborhood Association, Class of 1958

Education – College/University, Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of California at Los Angeles, Class of 1964

Education – Elementary, Learning Disability Specialist at Cambridge Public Schools, Class of 1957

Health Care Facility/Program, Assistant Attending Physician at the Hospital for Special Surgery, Class of 1988

Insurance, Advanced Underwriting Consultant at MetLife Insurance Co., Class of 1980

Legal Practice, Attorney at Trolman, Glaser & Lichtman, Class of 1987

CDO Library Resources for Classics Majors

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

Alternative Teacher Certification, by Emily Fistritzer, 2005.

Careers for Culture Lovers and Other Artsy People, by Marjorie Eberts, 1999.

Careers for Scholars & Others Deep Thinkers, by Blyth Camenson, 2000.

Careers for Writers & Others Who Have a Way with Words by Robert W. Bly, 2003.

Chicago Guide to Your Academic Career, The by John Goldsmith, John Komlos, Penny Schine Gold, 2001.

College Teaching Abroad, by Pamela Gale George, 1994.

Current Jobs in Writing, Editing, & Communications by Foster Opportunities, Inc. monthly.

Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors by Blythe Camenson, 1997.

I Could Do Anything If Only I Knew What It Was, by Barbara Sher, 1995.

Liberal Arts Advantage: How to Turn Your Degree into a Great Job, by Gregory Giangrande, 1998.

Off-the-Beaten-Path Job Book: You Can Make a Living and Have a Life, The by Sandra Gurvis, 1995.

Top Careers for Liberal Arts Graduates, Top Career series, 2003.

Work Your Way Around the World, 12th edition, by Susan Griffith, 2005.

Classics Related Websites

Vassar College Department of Classics: <http://classics.vassar.edu/>

General

American Academy in Rome: <http://www.aarome.org/>

American Classical League: <http://www.aclclassics.org/>

American Philological Association: <http://www.apaclassics.org/>

American School of Classical Studies at Athens: <http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/>

Career Opportunities for Classics Majors:

<http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/classics/careers.html>

Classical Association of the Middle West and South: <http://www.camws.org/>

Electronic Resources for Classicists: <http://www.tlg.uci.edu/index/resources.html>

Eta Sigma Phi: <http://department.monm.edu/classics/esp/>

National Committee for Latin and Greek: <http://www.promotelatin.org/>

What Can I do with a Major in Classics?:

<http://www.cas.muohio.edu/%7Eadvising/Majors/classics.html>

Women's Classical Caucus: <http://www.wccaucus.org/>

Your Degree In Classics... What Next?:

http://www.ucc.ie/acad/classics/agcas_classics.html

Education

American Counseling Association: <http://www.counseling.org/>

LACN Spotlight on Careers Teaching :

http://www.spotlightoncareers.org/Teaching_Public_School/cc07203.htm

http://www.spotlightoncareers.org/Teaching_Private_School/default.html

National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education:

<http://www.specialedcareers.org/>

National Education Association: <http://philanthropy.com/premium/search.htm>

National Teacher Recruitment Clearinghouse:

<http://www.rnt.org/channels/clearinghouse/>

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

Graduate School Information

CDO Graduate School Career Briefs: <http://careers.vassar.edu/downloadable-handouts/>

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>

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.