

# Drama Career Chat

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## **Office of Career Development**

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## Steps In Choosing A Career

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### 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

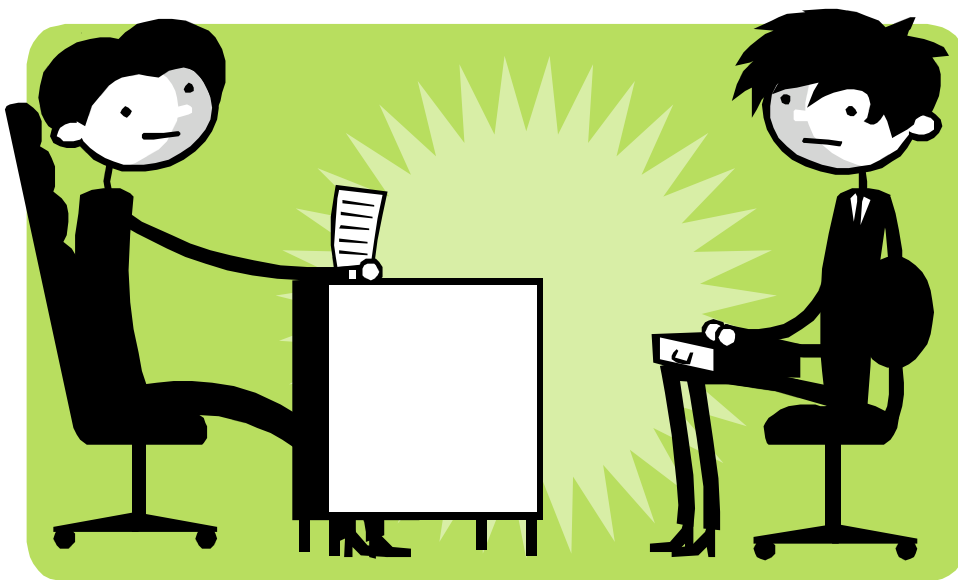
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A job search involves:

- 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/>

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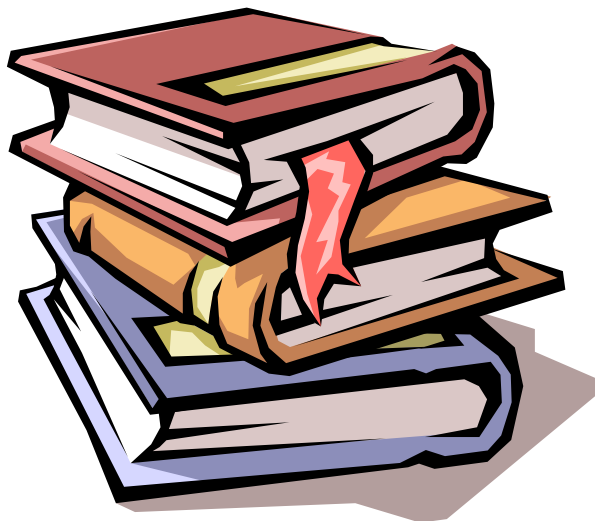
The reasons for continuing one's education in graduate school can be as varied and unique as the individual. Many continue their studies at an advanced level because they simply find it difficult to end the educational process. They love what they are learning; they want to learn more and continue their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



## Drama Alumni Career Choices

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Here is a sampling of the many career paths Vassar alumnae/i have pursued with their undergraduate degree in Drama (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 Merchandising/Gallery**, Owner of John & Kristin Marfgolia Antiques, Class of 1988
- Broadcasting**, Project/Account Manager at BBC Technology, Class of 1995
- Broadcasting**, Producer at CNN – Larry King Live, Class of 1991
- Broadcasting**, Head of Production/Television at Stage Presence Inc., Class of 1981
- Broadcasting**, Writer for TV Comedy at Warner Bros. TV, Class of 1989
- Computer science/information systems**, President of Production at Whatif Productions, LLC, Class of 1985
- Education – College/University**, Adjunct of the Theater Arts Department at Adelphi University, Class of 1981
- Education – College/University**, Assistant Professor of English & Cinema Studies at University of Pennsylvania, Class of 1993
- Education – Secondary**, Fine Arts Chairman at Brimmer & May School, Class of 1983
- Entertainment**, Freelance Lighting Designer for Theater & Television, Class of 1989
- Entertainment**, Writer/Project Development at Arc Media Inc., Class of 1985
- Fashion Design**, Dressmaker/Designer at Barbara Frank, Class of 1967
- Film/Video**, Owner/Executive Producer at Stand Alone Production Company, Class of 1973
- Film/Video**, Self-employed Cameraman, Class of 1990
- Graphic Arts/Design/Photography**, Self-employed Computer Graphic Salesman, Class of 1982
- Health Care Facility/Program**, Senior Creative Arts Therapist at St. Luke’s/Roosevelt Hospital, Class of 1978
- Merchandising/Retailing**, Lighting Designer at Focus Lighting, Inc., Class of 2002
- Music**, Costume Shop Manager at the Seattle Opera, Class of 1985
- Theater/Dance**, Educational Programs Assistant at The Shakespeare Society, Class of 2003
- Theater/Dance**, Dresser/Wardrobe at Goodman Theater, Class of 1999
- Theater/Dance**, Self-employed Theater Set Designer, Class of 1993
- Theater/Dance**, Professional Singer/Actor/Teacher at Seraphina Productions, Class of 1983

## CDO Library Resources for Drama Majors

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

- 100 Best Careers in Entertainment* by Shelly Field, 1995.  
*Careers for Film Buffs and Other Hollywood Types* by Jaq Greenspon, 2003.  
*Development Girl – The Hollywood Virgin’s Guide to Making it in the Movie Business* by Hadley Davis, 1999.  
*Dramatists Sourcebook, 23<sup>rd</sup> edition* by Theatre Communications Group, Inc., 2004.  
*Hollywood 101 – The Film Industry* by Frederick Levy, 2000.  
*Hollywood Job-Hunter’s Survival Guide* by Hugh Taylor, 1993.  
*Hollywood Creative Directory – Summer 2006* by Sharon Bordas, 2006.  
*How to Get Into The Entertainment Business* by Ron Tepper, 1999  
*Real People Working in Entertainment* by Jan Goldberg, 2000.  
*Theatre Directory 2004/05* by Theatre Communications Group, Inc., 2004.  
*The WetFeet Insider Guide to Careers in Entertainment & Sports* by The WetFeet Staff, 2003.  
*U.S. Directory of Entertainment Employers* by Lawrence Haberman & Greg Carbajal, 2001.

## Drama Related Websites

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Vassar College Department of Drama: <http://drama.vassar.edu/>

Acting Workshop Online: <http://www.redbirdstudio.com/AWOL/acting1.html>

American Association of Community Theatre: <http://www.aact.org/index.htm>

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

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

\*BackStage.com/Ross Reports: <http://backstage.com>

BackStageJobs: <http://backstagejobs.com/>

Careers for you Major – Theatre and Film:

<http://www.macalester.edu/cdc/majordance.html>

Educational Theatre Association: <http://www.edta.org/>

\*Entertainment Employment Journal: <http://www.EEJOnline.com>

Inside Theatre: <http://www.students.vcu.edu/ExploreCareers/CC/CCARTtheatr.html>

International Playback Theatre Network: <http://www.playbacknet.org/iptn/index.htm>

League of American Theatres and Producers: <http://www.livebroadway.com/>

Mandy’s International Film & TV Production Directory:

<http://www.mandy.com/1/filmtvjjobs.cfm>

Playbill: <http://www.playbill.com/jobs/find/>

## Drama Related Websites (cont.)

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PropPeople: <http://proppeople.com/jobboard.htm>  
ShowbizJobs: [http://www.showbizjobs.com/dsp\\_jobsearch.cfm](http://www.showbizjobs.com/dsp_jobsearch.cfm)  
Stage Managers' Association: <http://www.stagemanagers.org/>  
Stage Agent: <http://www.stageagent.com/>

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

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

## Graduate School Information

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CDO Website for Graduate Schools: <http://careers.vassar.edu/advice-graduate-school/>  
CDO Graduate School Career Briefs: <http://careers.vassar.edu/downloadable-handouts/>  
Gradschools.com: <http://gradschools.com/>  
Graduate School Programs in Theatre, Drama and Theatre Arts:  
[http://www.gradschools.com/listings/menus/theater\\_menu.html](http://www.gradschools.com/listings/menus/theater_menu.html)  
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://gionline.fdncenter.org/>

## Internships

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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

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\*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.goingglobal.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/>

## General Career Websites (cont.)

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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](http://www.vault.com/cb/careerlib/careerlib_main.jsp?parrefer=397)

Venture: [http://www.theventureconsortium.org/public\\_interest/exploring.php](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.