

# Economics Career Chat

---



## Office of Career Development

Vassar College

Phone: 845-437-5285

Fax: 845-437-7257

Email: [cdo@vassar.edu](mailto: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/>

---

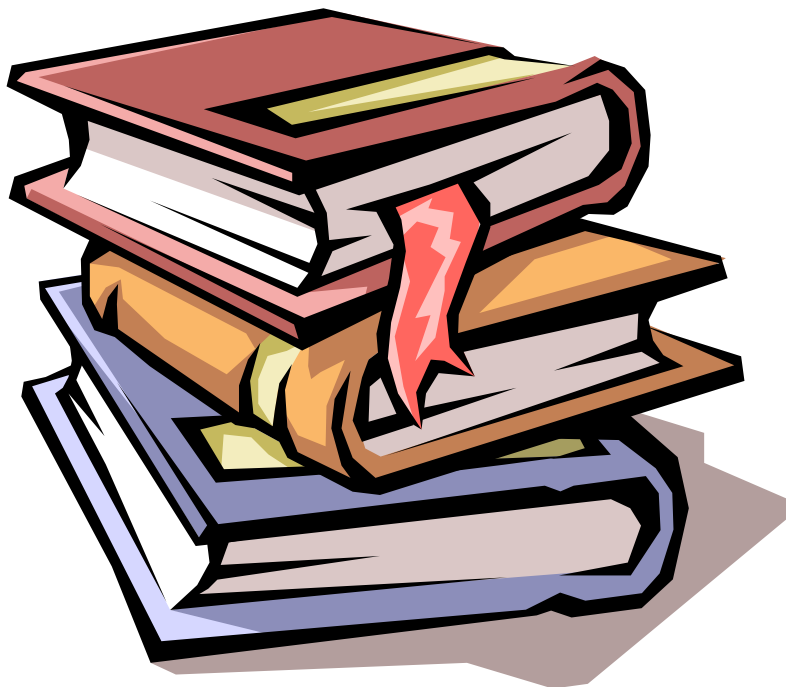
The reasons for continuing one's education in graduate school can be as varied and unique as the individual. Many continue their studies at an advanced level because they simply find it difficult to end the educational process. They love what they are learning; they want to learn more and continue their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



## Economics Alumni Career Choices

---

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

**Accounting/Auditing**, Global Director at Deloitte & Touche LLP, Class of 1980

**Advertising**, Producer at Merkley & Partners Interactive, Class of 1998

**Banking (Commercial/Retail)**, Analyst – Technology, Media & Telecommunications at Citicorp, Class of 2001

**Banking (Commercial/Retail)**, Research Assistant at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Class of 2003

**Banking (Commercial/Retail)**, Assistant Treasurer at Emigrant Savings Bank, Class of 1985

**Business Association/Foundation/Policy/Research Org**, Senior Analyst at the National Economic Research Associates, Class of 1997

**Business Association/Foundation/Policy/Research Org**, Research Associate at Economists Incorporated, Class of 2000

**Computer science/information systems**, Manager of Strategy & Planning at IBM, Class of 1975

**Education – College/University**, Financial Management Analyst at Duke University Health System, Class of 2002

**Education – College/University**, Professor of Economics at University of North Carolina, Class of 1976

**Education – Elementary**, Math Coach for NYC Board of Education, Class of 2001

**Federal Administration**, Operations Research Analyst for the Center for Army Analyst, Class of 2001

**Investment/Financial Service**, Credit Risk Analyst at the J.P. Morgan Chase & Company in London, Class of 2003

**Investment/Financial Service**, Chief Executive at Jardine Fleming Investment Management Ltd. In Hong Kong, Class of 1983

**Personnel/Recruiting Services**, Headhunter at Taft Associates, Class of 1979

**Public Relations**, Research and Project Management at the Fish Can Sing, Class of 2004

## CDO Library Resources for Economics Majors

---

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

*Career Guide to the Top Consulting Firms* by Michael Norris and Giles Goodhead, 2000.

*Careers in Finance* by Trudy Ring, 1995.

*Careers in International Business* by Edward J. Halloran, 2003.

*Corporate Confidential: What it Really Takes to Get to the Top* by Susan A. DePhilips, 2005.

*Discovering Your Career in Business* by James Waldroopo & Timothy Bulter, 1997.

*Financial Yellow Book* by Rohini T. Shivprashad, 2005.

*Gold Book of Venture Capital Firms, The* by Kennedy Information, 1999.

*Green at Work: Finding a Business Career That Works for the Environment* by Susan Cohn, 1992.

*Harvard College Guide to Investment Banking* by Marc Cosentino, 1990.

*Harvard Business School Guide to Careers in Finance* by Ying Liu & Helen Lee, 2000.

*Hoover's Handbook of American Business – 2004* by Nancy Regent, 2003.

*Insider's Guide to Management Consulting, The* by Gautam Prakash, 1995.

*Lessons from The Top: The Search for America's Best Business Leaders* by James Citrin & Thomas J. Neff, 1999.

*Real People Working in Business* by Blythe Camenson, 1999.

*Stock Market Wizards: Interviews with America's Top Stock Traders* by Jack D. Schwager, 2003.

*Stock Market Wizards: Interviews with America's Top Stock Traders* by Jack D. Schwager, 2003.

*Vault/SEO Guide to Investment Bank Diversity Programs, 2006 Edition* by Staff of Vault, 2005.

*VGM Professional Careers Series: Careers in Finance* by Trudy Ring, 1995.

*Wall Street Work: How to Find a Great Job in the Securities Industry* by Pamela H. Roderick, 1999.

*Young Entrepreneur's Edge* by Jennifer Kushell, 1999.

## Economics Related Websites

---

Vassar College Department of Economics: <http://irving.vassar.edu/>

General (\*\*Be sure to check under the General Career websites section for many other Economics-related websites)

Careers in Business: <http://www.careers-in-business.com/>

Dress to Impress Guide: <http://amdt.wsu.edu/research/dti/index.html>

Informational Interviewing: <http://danenet.wicip.org/jets/jet-9407-p.html>

Inside Economics:

<http://www.students.vcu.edu/ExploreCareers/CC/CCHSecon.html>

Street Jobs: <http://www.streetjobs.com/>

Wallstreet Journal: <http://online.wsj.com/public/us>

Wet Feet: <http://www.wetfeet.com/>

### Banking

Bank Jobs: <http://www.bankjobs.com>

National Banking Network: <http://www.nbn-jobs.com/home/index.cfm>

### Finance & Accounting

American Association of Finance and Accounting: <http://www.aafa.com/>

Career Bank: <http://www.careerbank.com/>

Financial Job Network: <http://www.financialjobnet.com/>

FinCareer: <http://www.fincareer.com/>

NationJob Network: <http://www.nationjob.com/financial/>

### Sales & Marketing

Direct Marketing Careers: <http://www.directmarketingcareers.com/>

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

## Graduate School Information

---

Accepted.com: <http://www.accepted.com/mba/default.aspx>

Bschool.com, Inc: <http://www.bschool.com/index.html>

CDO Website for Graduate Schools:

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

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

Foreign MBA.com: <http://foeignmba.com/>

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

## Graduate School Information (cont.)

---

Graduate Management Admission Council: <http://www.gmac.com/gmac>

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

Official MBA Guide: <http://unicorn.us.com/guide/>

Peterson Guides to Graduate and Professional Schools:

<http://www.petersons.com/>

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

The B-School Net (leading business schools in Germany): <http://www.b-school-net.de/>

The Financial Times: <http://www.maclester.edu/cdc/majoreconomics.html>

Foundation Center Grants To Individuals: <http://gionline.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](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.