

Education 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

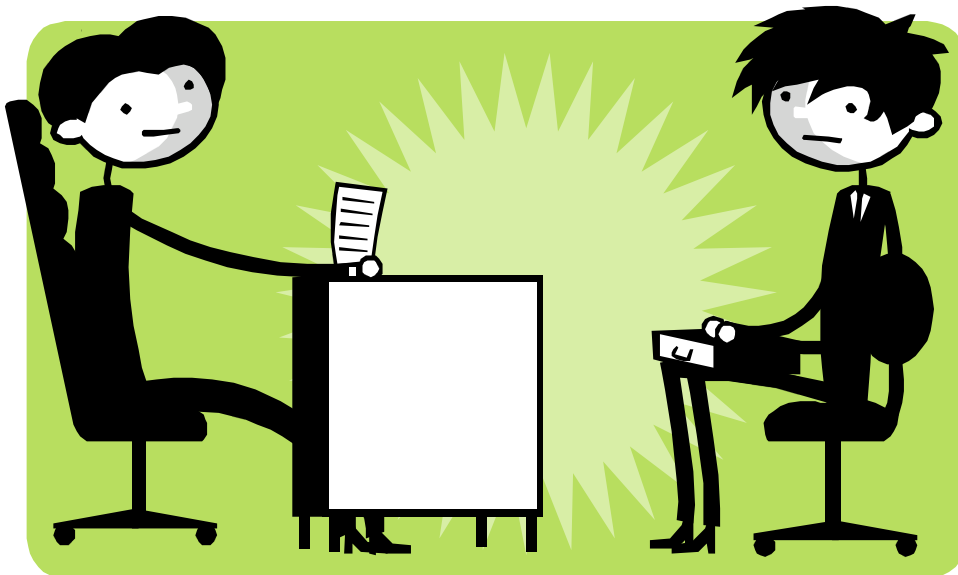
Next Step: Job Search

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/>

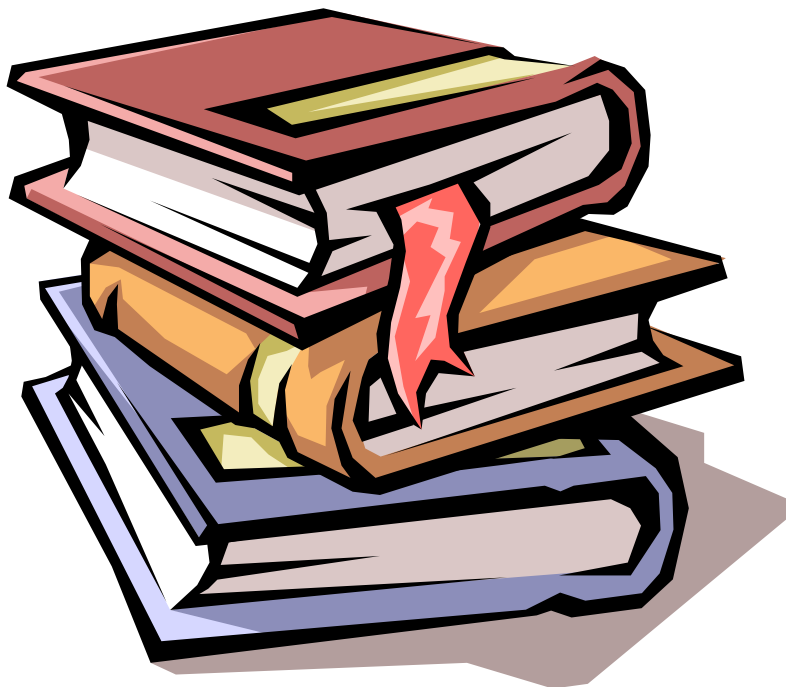
The reasons for continuing one's education in graduate school can be as varied and unique as the individual. Many continue their studies at an advanced level because they simply find it difficult to end the educational process. They love what they are learning; they want to learn more and continue their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



Education Alumni Career Choices

Here is a sampling of the many career paths Vassar alumnae/i have pursued with their undergraduate degree in Education (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, Client Service Program Director/Agency Co-Director at Valley Center of the Deaf, Class of 1983

Counseling/Therapy/Mental Health Services, Supervising Psychologist at Sullivan Diagnostic Treatment Center, Class of 1981

Education – College/University, Director of the Wimpfheimer Nursery School at Vassar College, Class of 1982

Education – Elementary, Curriculum Project Lead at Mercer Island School District, Class of 1989

Education – Elementary, Teacher Specialist at the NYC Board of Education, Class of 1984

Education – Elementary, School Library Media Specialist at Onteora Central School, Class of 1978

Education – Secondary, Teacher at the United States Military Academy Preparatory School, Class of 1994

Federal Administrative Government, Reference Librarian for the U.S. Department of State, Class of 1979

Publishing/Printing, Publisher for Brilliant Publications (Primary School Books), Class of 1980

CDO Library Resources for Education Majors

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

Academic Job Search Handbook by Mary Morris Heiberger & Julia Miller Vick, 1992.

Cracking The Academia Nut by Margaret L. Newhouse, Ph.D., 1997.

Directory of Public School Systems in the U.S. by the American Association for Employment in Education, Inc., 2004

Early Childhood Education/Preschool Elizabeth Chesla & Jelena Matic, 2002.

Education Career Directory by Bradley J. Morgan & Joseph M. Palmisano, 1994.

Higher Education Job Search, The by the American Association for Employment in Education, 1997.

How to Get a Job in Education by Joel Levin, 1995.

How to Get the Teaching Job You Want by Robert Feirsen & Seth Weitzman

Inside Secrets of Finding a Teaching Job by Clyde Bryan & Jack Warner, 2003.

Making of a Teacher, The by C. Emily Feistritz, 1999.

My First Year As A Teacher by Pearl Rock Kane, 2002.

CDO Library Resources (cont.)

National Directory for Employment in Education – 2006 by the American Association for Employment in Education, 2005.
Private Secondary Schools by Peterson's, 2005.
Teacher Career Starter by Joan Della Valle & Emmet Sawyer, 2002.
Teacher Certification Requirements by Joel E. Boydston, 2000.
Teacher's Guide to Winning Grants, The by David G. Bauer, 1999.
The Right Fit: An Educator's Career Handbook and Employment Guide by Judy A. Strother & Darrell R. Marshall, 1990.

Education Related Websites

Vassar College Department of Education: <http://education.vassar.edu/>
Academic Employment Network: <http://www.academply.com/>
American Association for Employment in Education: <http://www.aee.org/>
American Association of School Administrators: <http://www.aasa.org/>
American Council on Education: <http://www.acenet.edu/>
American Counseling Association: <http://www.counseling.org/>
American Educational Research Association: <http://www.aera.net/>
American Federation of Teachers: <http://www.aft.org/index.htm>
Careers in Education: <http://www.saludos.com/fields/educate.html>
Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching:
<http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/>
Education Jobs: <http://www.agentk-12.org/>
Education World: <http://www.educationworld.com/jobs/>
K-12Jobs.com: <http://K12jobs.com/>
National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education:
<http://www.specialedcareers.org/>
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education: <http://www.ncate.org/>
National Education Association: <http://www.nea.org/student-program/index.html>
National Teacher Recruitment Clearinghouse:
<http://www.rnt.org/channels/clearinghouse/>
Private School Employment Network: <http://www.privateschooljobs.com/>
Resources for Education Majors: <http://academic.uofs.edu/departments/ocs/maj-educ.html>
Special Education Job Bank:
<http://www.cec.sped.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home>
Teacher Certification Requirements: <http://www.academply.com/certif.cfm>
Teachers @ Work: <http://www.teachersatwork.com/>
Teaching Jobs: <http://www.nationjob.com/education/>
*The International Educator (TIE): <http://TieOnline.com>
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/advice-graduate-school/>
CDO Graduate School Career Briefs: <http://careers.vassar.edu/downloadable-handouts/>
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>

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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