

English Career Chat



Office of Career Development

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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 to align 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/>

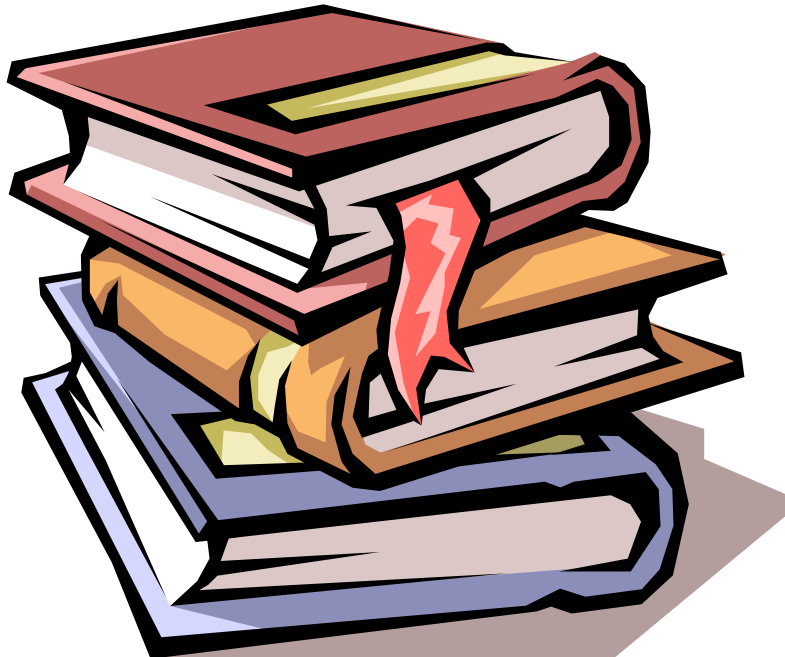
The reasons for continuing one's education in graduate school can be as varied and unique as the individual. Many continue their studies at an advanced level because they simply find it difficult to end the educational process. They love what they are learning; they want to learn more and continue their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



English Alumni Career Choices

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

Education – College/University, Teacher – Language/Linguistics at the University of Torino, Italy, Class of 1966

Education – College/University, Associate Professor in Education and Women’s Studies at the University of Oklahoma, Class of 1973

Education – Secondary, K-12 Program Development and Assistant Superintendent at Amherst Pelham Regional School, Massachusetts, Class of 1969

Publishing/Printing, Sales Representative/Agent, Self-employed (Represents an Italian printer/publisher of art, photography, and architecture books), Class of 1978

Film/Video Industry, Senior Technical Director at SONY Pictures/Imagesworks, California, Class of 1987

Hotel/Restaurant/Catering, Resident Innkeeper at Captain Lindsey House Inn, Class of 1987

Investment/Financial Service, Lead Portfolio Manager at Nelson Capital Management, Class of 1983

Journalism (Print), General Counsel at The New Yorker Magazine, Inc., Class of 1988

Judicial/Law Enforcement, Teen Victim Advocate, Counseling Services Unit at the Office of the District Attorney Kings County, Class of 2003

CDO Library Resources for English Majors

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

- 100 Best Careers for Writers and Artists* by Shelly Field, 1998.
2006 Writer's Market: Where & How to Sell What You Write by Kathryn S. Brogan, 2005.
AWP Official Guide to Writing Programs, Eighth Edition by D.W. Fenza & Gwyn McVay, 1997.
Book Publishing Career Directory by Bradley Morgan, 1993.
Careers for Writers & Others Who Have a Way with Words by Robert W. Bly, 2003.
Career Opportunities in the Publishing Industry by Fred Yager & Jan Yager, 2005.
Career Opportunities for Writers by Rosemary Guiley & Janet Frick, 2000.
Current Jobs in Writing, Editing, & Communications by Foster Opportunities, Inc., monthly.
Great Jobs for English Majors by Julie DeGalan & Stephen Lambert, 1994.
Guide to Book Publishers, Editors & Literary Agents by Jeff Herman, 2006.
Jobs for English Majors and Other Smart People by John Munschauer, 1991.
Journalism Internship Guide for College Students, The by RA Publishing, 1997.
Making it in Book Publishing by Leonard Mogel, 1996.
Vault Career Guide to Journalism & Information Media by Stephen Warley & the Vault Staff, 2005.

English Related Websites

Vassar College Department of English: <http://english.vassar.edu/>

General

Inside English:

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

CDO Website Education section:

<http://careers.vassar.edu/majors/links/english.htm>

United States Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook:

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

Careers for English Majors:

<http://www.ku.edu/~uces/majorexploration/english.shtml>

Kaleidoscope of Careers, English:

<http://www.msj.edu/academics/services/careerplan/career/careerguide/english/>

What Can I do With an English Major?

<http://careers.wcu.edu/major/english.htm>

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/WhatCanIDo/english.html>

Career Opportunities with an English Major:

<http://www.mscd.edu/~career/english.htm>

The Write Jobs: <http://www.writejobs.com/>

English Related Websites cont.

Writer's Guide to Finding Jobs: <http://www.sunoasis.com/tutorial.html>

Writer's Write: <http://www.writerswrite.com/>

Author Link: <http://www.authorlink.com/index.html>

Freelance Online: <http://www.FreelanceOnline.com/index1.html>

Journalism, Publishing, Editing

LACN Spotlight on Careers Journalism:

<http://www.spotlightoncareers.org/Journalism/index.html>

LACN Spotlight on Careers Publishing:

<http://www.spotlightoncareers.org/Publishing/index.htm>

JournalismJobs: <http://www.journalismjobs.com/>

Book Jobs: <http://www.bookjobs.com/>

Newspaper Career Bank: <http://www.naa.org/classified/index.html>

Publisher's Weekly: <http://www.publishersweekly.com/>

Future Publishing: <http://www.futurenet.com/futureonline/jobs/default.asp>

Editsuite: <http://www.editsuite.com/jobs/>

Journalism Internships (Print/Broadcasting):

<http://www.uwrf.edu/journalism/printinternships.htm>

<http://www.uwrf.edu/journalism/broadinternships.htm>

<http://www.eiu.edu/%7Ejournal/text/jobs/intern.html>

ED2010: <http://www.ed2010.com/index.html>

American Copy Editors Society: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ACESjobs/>

Copy Editor: <http://www.copyeditor.com/copy/copy.asp>

Editor and Publisher: <http://www.editorandpublisher.com/eandp/index.jsp>

Boston College Career Center on Journalism:

<http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/careers/careerfields/journalism/>

Job Link for Journalists: <http://newslink.org/joblink/>

International Center for Journalists: <http://www.icfj.org/>

Media Links: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/latino/mags/Medialinks.htm>

Underdown: <http://www.underdown.org/>

American Society of Newspaper Editors: <http://www.asne.org/index.cfm?id=2>

The Association of American Publishers: <http://www.publishers.org/index.cfm>

The Slot (for Copy Editors): <http://www.theslot.com/>

US Department of Labor (Occupation Outlook Handbook) for Writers and Editors: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos089.htm>

US Department of Labor (Occupation Outlook Handbook) for Publishing: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs013.htm>

The Journalistic Resources: <http://www.markovits.com/journalism/>

The Society of Professional Journalists: <http://spj.org/>

The International Federation of Journalists: <http://www.ifj.org/>

English Related Websites cont.

Teaching

H-Net: <http://www.h-net.org/jobs/>

New York City Teaching Fellows:

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

Readak Educational Services:

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

Educational Resources Group (ERG):

<http://ergteach.com/>

Carney, Sandoe, and Associates:

<http://www.carneysandoe.com/Default.asp?bhcp=1>

Teach for America:

http://www.teachforamerica.org/supporters_ny.html

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

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://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 this 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 this site.