

German 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 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

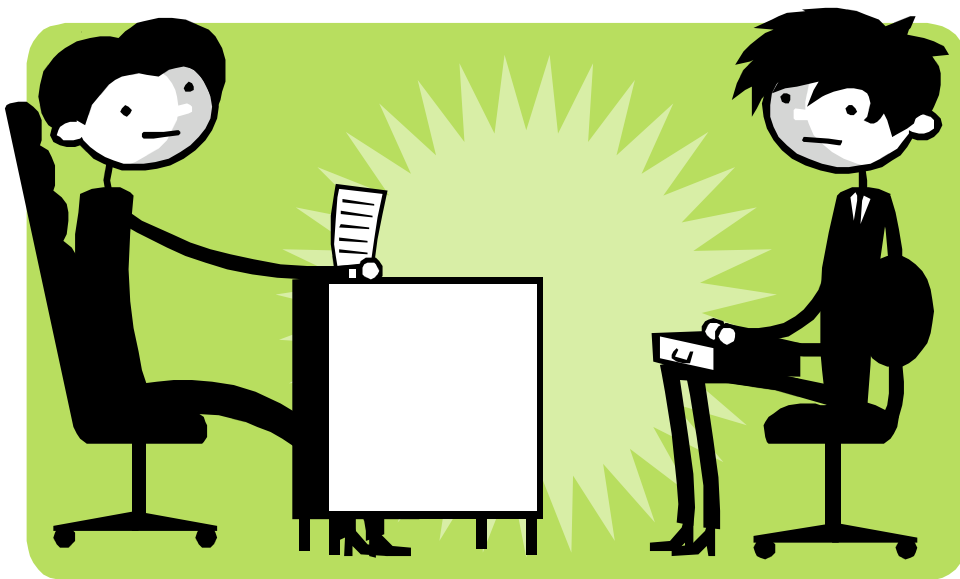
Next Step: Job Search

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/>

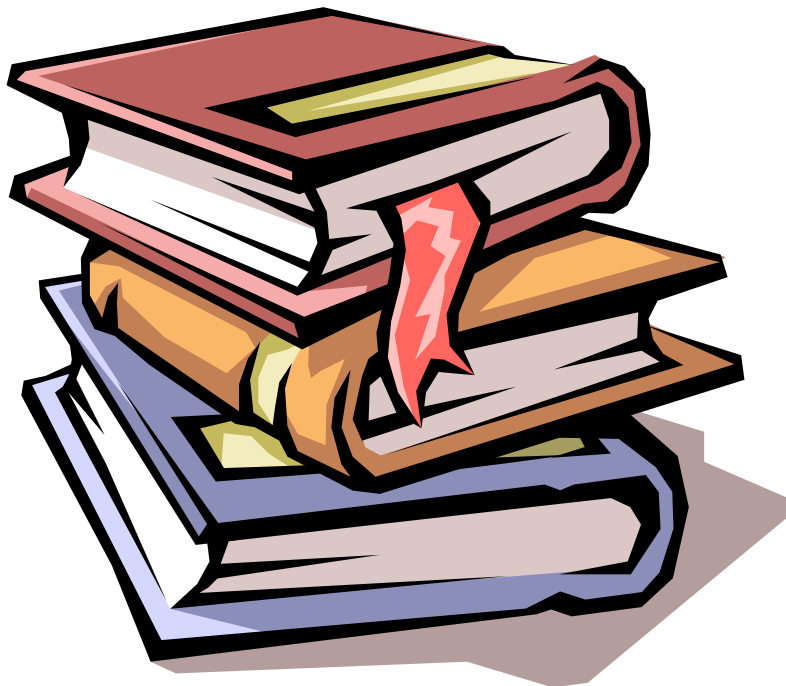
The reasons for continuing one's education in graduate school can be as varied and unique as the individual. Many continue their studies at an advanced level because they simply find it difficult to end the educational process. They love what they are learning; they want to learn more and continue their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



German Alumni Career Choices

Here is a sampling of the many career paths Vassar alumnae/i have pursued with their undergraduate degree in German (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, Dean of International Programs and Graduate Studies at Trinity College, Class of 1970

Education – College/University, ESL Instructor at Santa Barbara Community College Adult Education, Class of 1963

Health Care Facility/Program, Manager of Public Relations and Marketing at Atlantic Health System, Class of 1992

Investment/Financial Service, Accountant at Prudential Financial, Class of 2004

Journalism (print), Writer/Editor at The Washington Post, Class of 1972

Legal Practice, Senior Counsel at Ice Miller, LLP, Class of 1970

Management Consulting, Senior Vice President at Beecher Carlson, Class of 1987

Marketing, Senior Account Manager at Pierce Promotions, Class of 1995

Publishing/Printing, Senior Associate Editor at Zagat Survey, Class of 1999

CDO Library Resources for German Majors

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

Careers for Foreign Language Aficionados and Other Multi-lingual Types by Ned Seelye & Laurence Day, 2001.

Careers in International Affairs by Maria Pinto Carland & Lisa A. Gihring, 2003.

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

Directory of International Organizations by Hans-Albrecht Schraepler, 1996.

Educators' Passport to International Jobs by Rebecca Anthony & Gerald Roe, 1984.

Great Jobs for Foreign Language Majors by Julie DeGalan & Stephen Lamberts, 2001.

Harvard Guide to International Experience, The by William Kingelhofer, 1989.

How to Find an Overseas Job with the U.S. Government by Will Cantrell & Francine Moddero, 1993.

Inside a U.S. Embassy by the American Foreign Service Association, 2005.

International Job Finder by Daniel Lauber, 2002.

International Jobs Directory by Ron Krannich

International Jobs – Where They Are, How to Get Them by Eric Kocher & Nina Segal, 2003.

International Voluntary Work by Victoria Pybus, 2005.

Internships in International Affairs by Career Education Institutes, 2004.

Jobs & Careers Abroad by Deborah Penrith, 2005.

CDO Library Resources for German Majors (cont.)

Living and Working in Germany by Nick Daws, 2000.

Realities of Foreign Service Life by Patricia Linderman & Melissa Brayer Hess, 2002.

Working or Change – Making a Career in International Public Service by Derick W. Brinkerhoff & Jennifer M. Brinkerhoff, 2005.

German Related Websites

Vassar College Department of German Studies: <http://german.vassar.edu/>

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages:

<http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>

American Institute for Foreign Study: <http://www.aifs.org/>

American Translators Association: <http://www.atanet.org/>

Bilingual Jobs: <http://www.bilingual-jobs.com/>

Careers in Foreign Languages:

<http://www.oswego.edu/student/career/careersin/foreign.html>

Careers Using Foreign Language Skills:

<http://www.cudenver.edu/Student+Life/Career+Center/Online+Career+Library/default.htm>

CDS International: <http://www.cdsintl.org/>

Foreign Policy Association Student Corner:

http://www.fpa.org/info-url_nocat2405/info-url_nocat.htm

*The International Educator (TIE): <http://www.TieOnline.com>

Modern Language Association: <http://www.mla.org/>

National Association for Bilingual Education: www.nabe.org

One Small Planet: www.onesmallplanet.com

Overseas Employment Opportunities: <http://www.escapeartist.com/jobs/overseas1.htm>

Overseas Jobs: www.overseasjobs.com

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages: www.tesol.org

The Riley Guide – International Resources: <http://www.rileyguide.com/internat.html>

U.S. State Department: www.state.gov/employment/

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://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>

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