



# NETWORKING 101

**Have you heard the old saying, “It’s not what you know, it’s who you know?” It’s as true as ever.**

Developing and continuously expanding your professional network is a crucial aspect of exploring, launching and advancing your career.



## TAP INTO DEPAUL'S ASK NETWORK

DePaul created the Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Network to help students connect with university alumni for career advice and insight. Here, you can search for and connect with alumni, set up conversations with alumni mentors, join discussion forums, and participate in group chats. It's easy to join—visit [depaulasknetwork.com](http://depaulasknetwork.com) to learn more.

## SETUP A LINKEDIN ACCOUNT

LinkedIn is the premier professional networking site, with nearly 600 million members and counting, including over 130,000 DePaul alumni! It's a perfect place to tell your brand story, connect with others and research career pathways and employers. In addition, hiring managers and recruiters are increasingly using this platform to source talent.

## SCHEDULE INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS

Informational interviews can be an incredibly productive, no-pressure way to learn about a field, explore career paths and build your network of contacts.

## JOIN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Virtually every field has one or more professional associations formed to facilitate networking, support knowledge sharing and advance industry interests.

## REV UP YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is another venue for building your brand and professional network. Join industry conversations, develop industry contacts, connect with employers and get the word out about your job search.

### *Networking for Introverts*

For some people, the idea of reaching out to a stranger for a career conversation sounds painful or impossible. If this describes you, don't worry! Successful networking does not require you to pretend to be someone other than yourself. If you're authentic and move out of your comfort zone in baby steps, you'll build confidence and comfort in networking environments.