

# You've Got This!

A Collection of  
Resources and Advice  
from DePaul's Industry  
Engagement Team



*Congratulations!* you've earned this moment.

What you're holding is a collection of the advice, resources, and hard-won wisdom we find ourselves sharing with students again and again. It's not exhaustive — it's curated. The stuff that actually matters as you take your first steps after graduation. Flip to whatever section is most useful to you right now and come back to the rest when you need it. We're so proud of you and we know that you've got this!

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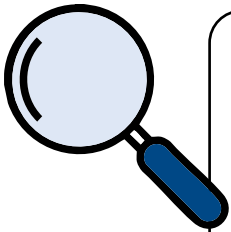
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## A Few Career Essentials

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### Job Search

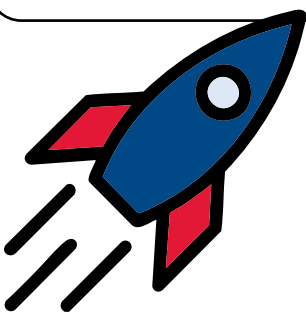
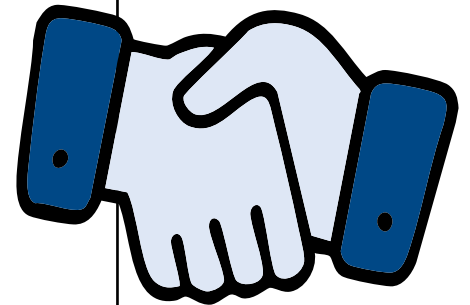
- [Tailor your resume](#) for each role instead of sending the same version everywhere.
- Track your applications so you can stay organized and notice patterns.
- Don't overlook smaller companies. Startups and mid-size organizations often offer more responsibility, growth and mentorship early in your career.
- Apply even if you don't meet every requirement — if you meet 60–70% of the qualifications, you're a viable candidate.
- Struggling with the job search emotionally? [Managing Job Search Stress](#) and [Imposter Syndrome in the Job Search](#) are both worth a read.

### Professional Brand:

- Keep your LinkedIn updated with a clear headline, strong summary, and recent experiences.
- [Audit your social media](#) — make sure what employers find reflects the image you want to project.
- [Know your brand](#) and be able to articulate what makes you distinctive.

### Networking:

- [Create your elevator pitch](#) — a concise intro about who you are, what you bring, and what you're seeking.
- Follow up professionally after networking conversations, interviews, and referrals.
- Tap into your village by letting them know you're job searching — you never know who knows who.
- A warm introduction from a mutual connection is worth more than a dozen cold applications.



### Once You Start the Job:

- Show up curious and eager in your first 90 days — first impressions build over time.
- Build relationships across departments, not just within your immediate team.
- When in doubt, over-communicate. It's always better to ask than to assume.
- Your first job doesn't have to be your forever job. It just needs to be your next step.
- Ask for feedback early and often — it's one of the fastest ways to grow in a new role.
- Don't forget to keep learning! Continue to invest in yourself and build on the skills you started in school through free or low-cost resources.



# Resources Worth Bookmarking

*The DePaul Career Library has free downloadable guides, including handouts, activity sheets and more, on every topic below. Bookmark them for later reference:*

## Resumes & Cover Letters

- **Key guides:** [Resume Basics](#) | [Tailoring Your Resume](#) | [Cover Letter Writing](#) | [Resume Design Tips](#) | [Optimize for ATS](#) | [How to Handle a Resume Gap](#)

## Interviewing

- **Key guides:** [Interview Basics](#) | [Interview Prep Tips](#) | [Great Questions to Ask](#) | [Master the Video Interview](#) | [Dress for Success](#)

## Preparing Your References

Identify 3–4 references now — before you need them. Ask permission, share your updated resume, brief them on the roles you’re targeting, and say thank you when you land something.

## Evaluating & Negotiating an Offer

An offer is more than a salary number. Before signing, consider base pay, benefits, retirement match, PTO, growth opportunities, flexibility, and culture.

- **Key guides:** [Negotiating Salaries & Job Offers](#) | [Navigating Multiple Offers](#) | [Salary Negotiation for Underrepresented Students](#) | [DePaul Salary Negotiation Page](#)
- **Research your range first:** [Robert Half Salary Guide](#) | [Glassdoor](#) | [LinkedIn Salary](#)

*TIP: It's appropriate to ask for 24–48 hours to review any offer. Always negotiate — the worst they can say is no.*

## Once You Start

Landing the job is just the beginning. Here are a few resources to help you hit the ground running:

- **[Understanding Your Pay Stub: How to Read Your Pay Stub?](#)**
- **[Health and Wellness Benefits: Comprehensive Guide To Employee Wellness: Innovative Workplace Wellness Strategies](#)** | [Wellable](#)
- **[Understanding a Performance Review: Employee Performance Reviews: The Complete Guide](#)**
- **[What are ERGs, and how to get involved: What Are Employee Resource Groups \(ERGs\)? Definition, Benefits, and How to Start One.](#)** | [Built In](#)

## Building Skills & Staying Current

- **Key guides:** [Identify Your Skills](#) | [Highlight Your Soft Skills](#) | [Upskilling: Keep Skills Current](#) | [Harness AI for Career Success](#)
- **Free learning platforms:** [Google Career Certificates](#) | [Coursera](#)

## Life After Graduation

- **Key guides:** [Budget for Life After Graduation](#) | [Navigating the Gig Economy](#) | [How to Make a Career Pivot](#) | [Finding a Career Mentor](#)



## Not Sure What's Next?

*During this time when the question on everyone's lips is "What are you doing post-grad?", it can be intimidating to not have a specific type of answer. Feeling like you don't have a plan is a very common feeling amongst graduating students, so first know that you are not alone!*

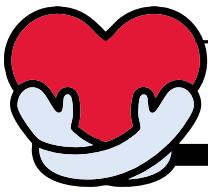
A period of self-discovery, saving, healing etc. may be a necessary step for you and it is one that can provide you with opportunities to continue growing and exploring before finding the best fit for you in the professional world! Some concrete ways to stay active during this time:

- Pursue informational interviews to explore new directions without the pressure of applying.
- Volunteer, freelance, or take on project-based work to build experience while you explore.
- Use free platforms like Coursera, LinkedIn Learning, or Google Certificates to build new skills.
- Connect with a DePaul Career Coach — we're here whether you have a plan or not.

Applying to jobs outside of the comfort zone of your major can be intimidating but don't let it stop you from putting yourself up for positions you are interested in or qualified for. Many entry level employers are looking for well-rounded candidates, regardless of majors who are willing to bring their all to the role! The more unique the resume, the better! It is all about how you tell your story!



**Not sure where to start?** [DePaul's Exploration Career Community](#) has resources for mapping your path.



## Taking Care of Yourself

*The post-grad transition can be exciting and exhausting — often at the same time. Your wellbeing matters just as much as your resume. Give yourself permission to protect your energy throughout the process.*

- Set a search schedule and stick to it. Dedicated hours, then log off — you don't have to be "on" all the time.
- Step back from the scroll. LinkedIn browsing can fuel comparison and anxiety. When it stops feeling productive, close the tab.
- Lean on your people. Stay connected to friends, family, and mentors. Isolation makes the hard days harder.
- Reframe rejection. A "no" isn't a verdict on your worth — it's a natural, expected part of every search.



### Resources

- [Managing Job Search Stress](#)
- [Imposter Syndrome in the Job Search](#)



## Cross Industry General Advice

### 1. Show proof, not just potential.

Whether it's a portfolio, projects, writing samples, or performance work—demonstrate what you can do with real examples. Focus on a few strong pieces, not everything you've ever done.

### 2. Prioritize clarity and focus in how you present yourself.

Use a clean, well-structured resume and clearly define your role, contributions, and skills. Align your materials (resume, portfolio, reel) to a specific type of role rather than trying to appeal to everything.

### 3. Quantify your impact whenever possible.

Numbers stand out across every industry. Show results like growth, efficiency, engagement, or outcomes—even from school projects, part-time jobs, or volunteer work.

### 4. Explain your thinking, not just your output.

Employers want to understand how you solve problems. Be ready to walk through your process, decisions, and trade-offs—not just show the final result.

### 5. Build relevant experience early (even if it's unpaid or informal).

Freelance work, volunteering, student organizations, personal projects, and entry-level roles all count. Don't wait for the "perfect" job to start building experience.

### 6. Tailor everything to the opportunity.

Customize your resume, portfolio, and application for each role. Research the organization, understand what they do, and reflect their language and priorities back in your materials.

### 7. Master core, transferable skills.

Strong communication, writing, organization, collaboration, and basic data literacy (like spreadsheets) are valuable in nearly every field.

### 8. Pay attention to detail—it's a differentiator.

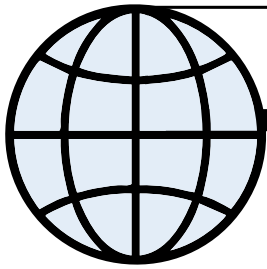
Typos, unclear formatting, broken links, or sloppy presentation can disqualify you quickly. Treat every application and interaction as part of your evaluation.

### 9. Build relationships, not just applications.

Networking, collaborating, and engaging with your industry (events, online communities, peers) often leads to opportunities faster than cold applying.

### 10. Be strategic and persistent in your search.

Apply broadly, start early (especially for slower industries), and expect unpredictability. A strong pipeline beats waiting for one perfect opportunity.



# For International Graduates

*You've been balancing a job search alongside finishing your degree — and your timeline and the stakes involved are different from those of your domestic peers. As you cross the finish line, here's what to keep in mind and where to turn.*

## Work Authorization

The Career Center is here for your job search strategy, resume, interviews, and networking. For accurate, up-to-date guidance on visa timelines and employment eligibility, ISS is your go-to:

- [ISS Employment Information](#) — employment options and eligibility by visa type
- [ISS Advising Services](#) — schedule an appointment for guidance specific to your situation

**NOTE:** Immigration policies can change. Always verify with ISS before communicating your work authorizatiown status to an employer.



## Your Job Search

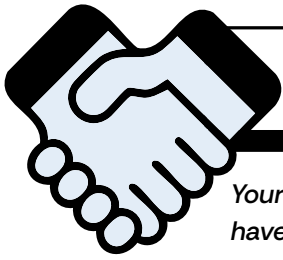
- Prioritize employers with a track record of hiring international graduates. DePaul maintains a list of organizations that have hired DePaul international students on the [International Student Services page](#).
- Your adaptability, cross-cultural fluency, and global perspective are genuine professional assets. The Career Center can help you articulate and position them effectively.



## Key Resources

- DePaul International Student Career Resources: [International Student Services Page](#) — FAQs, employer lists, and video guides including Getting Your First Job in the U.S.
- [MyVisaJobs.com](#): Search employers by sponsorship history
- [DePaulConnect](#): Connect with DePaul alumni who have navigated the international job search
- [Global DePaul Promoters](#): A way to stay connected to DePaul, build your network, and share your experience with future international students — open to all DePaul alumni outside the U.S.





# DePaul Post-Graduation Support

Your relationship with the DePaul Career Center doesn't end at graduation. As an alumnus, you have access to career coaching, job and internship postings, career fairs and networking events.

## Alumni Career Coaching

The Career Center has designed a suite of coaching sessions specifically for alumni. Sessions are tailored to where you are in your journey:

- Session types:
  - ◊ Intake — meet your coach and map next steps
  - ◊ Exploration & Discernment — for career changers
  - ◊ Job Search Strategy — audit and sharpen your search
  - ◊ Toolkit Review — resume, LinkedIn, portfolio
  - ◊ Interview Prep — practice and build confidence



Schedule your intake: [depaul.joinhandshake.com](https://depaul.joinhandshake.com) — log in with Campus Connect credentials, or call (312) 362-8437

## Tap Into the DePaul Alumni Network

One of your most powerful post-graduation assets is the DePaul alumni community — a global network of over 300,000 professionals across virtually every industry.

- Visit [DePaulConnect](#) — DePaul's online community for expanding your network, exploring career opportunities, connecting with fellow alumni, and mentoring students
- Connect with fellow Blue Demons on [LinkedIn](#) — search DePaul alumni by industry, location, or company, and reach out with a warm, specific message mentioning your shared connection
- Follow [@depaualumni](#) on social media for events, updates, and community highlights

Professionals are often more willing to help than you might expect — especially when there's a Blue Demon connection!



## Key Alumni Resources

- [Handshake](#): DePaul's hub for job and internship listings, and career fair registration. Log in with Campus Connect/Bluesky credentials. For login help call (312) 362-8765 or email [handshake@depaul.edu](mailto:handshake@depaul.edu)
- [DePaul Alumni Career Services](#): Full overview of post-grad career support
- [DePaul Career Library](#): Free guides, handouts, and interactive modules on every career topic
- [DePaul Career Fairs & Events](#): Alumni are welcome at quarterly fairs and events
- [DePaul Resumes & Interviews](#): Templates, sample resumes by industry, cover letter guides, and interview prep
- [Graduate School Guide](#): DePaul Graduate School Guide — Resources for alumni considering graduate or professional school