

Career Connections Series

What do you do after getting a job?

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The economy is booming. The job market is tight. Employers are competing to hire the best and the brightest across college campuses. The “new” economy has changed the way employers recruit on campus. They are attending job fairs and making recruiting visits to campus as early as fall of senior year. Companies are getting a head start on their new hire, trying to tap into the pool of new graduates. What does this all mean for you? College seniors and graduate students are getting job offers five to eight months before graduation. Does this mean that you can put your life on cruise control and coast to the finish line? Not exactly!

There are several things you can do to get ready for your new career. Start to get noticed at your new job. Keep in touch with your employer. This can be done via e-mail, phone, or letter. Inform your employer of what you have been up to and special projects you have been working on. This simple act of communication will prevent you from being a new face in the crowd. Regular correspondence will convey your enthusiasm. It will lay the groundwork for a solid professional reputation.

Start studying! After four years of college this is not something you may want to hear. However, your first few months at your new job are all about learning. You can get a head start on this by taking the initiative and learning the job on your own. Get a feel for the company. For example, find out what software packages the company uses for its word processing and spreadsheet needs. If you are unfamiliar with the technology, start learning on your own. Reading trade journals and industry publications is another way of finding out more about your company.

The transition to a new career can be made smoother by organizing your life. The last year in college can be hectic. Plan and prioritize everything. Map out a strategy for moving, balancing your finances, and settling down in a new place. By cutting down on the distractions, you will be able to focus on your new job and make a worthy first impression. Remember, in the workplace, you never know who is paying attention to you. Therefore, the projection of a sharp and professional image will greatly enhance your future prospects.

Lastly, have fun! A new career usually means that you will not get any meaningful time off for a long time. Therefore, take a vacation. Get your mind and body recharged for the new beginning!