What the Career Services Center can do for Graduate Students

UC San Diego
November 8th

Using the Career Services Center

- In Person:
  - Located on Library Walk, across from Price Center and next to Student Health
  - Hours: M-F 8am-4:30pm
- Online:
  - career.ucsd.edu
  - Port Triton account required
- By Phone:
  - (858) 534-3750
- By Email
  - jdtolson@ucsd.edu
  - gkhoffmann@ucsd.edu

Who We Are

Services @ The Center

Career Education & Advising
- Advising
  - Walk-in: M-F 10am-3pm
  - By appt. (Port Triton)
- Career & Self-Assessments
- Application Document Critiques
- Workshops & Panels
- Online Resources

Industry Engagement
- Information Sessions
- Industry networking Nights
- On-Campus Interviewing
- Graduate Student Employment
- Career Fairs
- Employer Office Hours
Online Resources
- Port Triton – porttriton.ucsd.edu
- Versatile PhD – qa.ucsd.edu/vphd
- Internship Info – internships.ucsd.edu
- Traitify – ucsd.traitify.com
- Big Interview – ucsd.biginterview.com
- Alumni Advisor Network – career.ucsd.edu/aan.html
- Go to careertools.ucsd.edu for more information

Career Planning in Grad School: Keep Your Options Open
- Obtain a broad range of experience
- Find mentors, both academic & non-academic
- Build your network and potential references
- Continually self-assess:
  - What do you enjoy doing?
  - What do you dislike doing?
  - What are your strongest skills?

Career Planning in Grad School
- Research a variety of potential career paths
- Get ideas from mentors, friends, family, colleagues
- Online resources: The Versatile PhD, Chronicle Vitae, Humanists@Work, Science Careers, and many more
Career Planning in Grad School

- Attend career exploration events on campus:
  - GSA Career Nights (twice a quarter)
  - Master's and PhD Career Development Week
  - Division and department events
- Get involved! Join organizations & conference committees, volunteer, maintain hobbies

Career Exploration

What is the difference between a job and a career?

**Job**
- Employer owned
- Pre-defined
- Specific Skills
- Short-term
- They market it
- Limited growth
- A point along the way

**Career**
- Owned by you
- Self-defined
- Any skills you want
- Long-term
- You rent it out
- Unlimited growth
- A map showing the way

Career Exploration

Considering alternate path(s)

- Spend time thinking about your interests and preferences
- What drew you to grad school?
- What would you miss about it if you left tomorrow?
- What do you dislike about your current role?
- How do you procrastinate?
- Take self-assessments
  - Ex: Traitify, StrengthsFinder
Three Career Paths

- If I stay in academia...
- If I go into private research...
- If I go into a different field...
  - Donor development, regulatory affairs, sales, etc.

...What is the end goal?
...Who can help me?
...What skills will get me there?
...What do accomplishments do I need?
...In one... five... ten years?

Defining Success

- If you were to ask faculty in your department or field the definition of success, what would they say?
- If your parents commented on a family friend’s/acquaintance’s success, what would they be referring to?
- When you think of a peer from high school who’s considered successful, what factors make them seem that way?

True Values

- Not an ideal (being as rich as Augustus Caesar)
- Not a “should” (should be as honest as a saint)
- Not a preference
- True value
  - What will make you feel fulfilled if you’re following it, unfulfilled if you’re not.
Career Exploration

How do values play out?
- An instinct
- An influence
- A source of trouble
- A guiding principle

Career Exploration

Create your own feedback loop
- Assessments give you language
- Feed that into a search engine
- Assess those results
- Develop a mentor network
- Not just for research
- Talk to people in the profession (Informational Interviews)
- There’s no one right answer

Networking

Networking: It’s Not As Bad As You Think
- Change how your perspective:
  - Anxiety: I have to be sociable and pretend I know what I’m doing!
  - Reality: meet people, have conversations (often not about research)
  - Anxiety: I need to be interesting!
  - Reality: Be interested!
  - Ask questions & be engaged in their answers
Informational Interviews: The Simplest Scary Phrase Ever

- **What is it?**
  - 15-30 minutes, you ask questions to find out what you need to know.
- **Who to talk to?**
  - People in organizations you are interested in
  - Early-stage career people in positions you are interested in
  - Late-stage career people who seem fascinating
- **What to talk about?**
  - Anything you can’t find elsewhere.

Professional Conferences

- Start attending conferences ASAP
- Show up
- And not just to the panels/posters
- Be nice to everyone
- Do your research beforehand
  - Conference program: panels you should attend/people you should meet?
  - Skim recent papers/books of those you want to talk to
  - Hint: people usually want to talk about their current research, not the thing that made them famous in 1996
  - The attendees of today are the hiring committees of tomorrow!

Practical Tips for Networking At Conferences

- Set (reasonable) goals beforehand
  - E.g., talk to 3 new people; talk to a speaker, etc.
  - If you know someone there, start by approaching them
  - Then move on to someone you don’t know
  - Look for people not already engaged in intense conversation
  - Open with small talk questions
  - Wait for them to ask you about yourself
- Stay positive
Networking: The Aftermath

- Cultivate key relationships
- Take notes if you have to!
- Link up via social networking (LinkedIn, Academia.edu, ResearchGate, etc.)
- Follow up as appropriate
- Thank you notes, congratulations, etc.
- Set calendar notifications, Google search notifications, etc., if you have to.

Potential Academic Benefits:
- Chapter readers, outside advisors, collaborators, event co-organizers, postdoc offers, mentors, etc.

Potential Post-Ac Benefits:
- Information interviews, internship opportunities, notifications of job openings, mentors, references, etc.

Questions?

Contact Information

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