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**What Happens Post-PSU? Planning for Life After Penn State**

We know that leaving Penn State can be both an exciting and scary time in your life. Many students feel unprepared in making the transition to life after graduation, particularly in terms of finances, debt, employment, and employer expectations. We’ve heard your questions and hope that this document will help address some of the concerns you have about these topics.

**FINANCIAL LITERACY**

One great place to start to look at resources regarding financial literacy for college students is here at Penn State! The University Libraries’ website on financial literacy is particularly useful and user-friendly. Not only do they offer links to resources, but they also offer workshops and lectures each semester on financial literacy for college students/grads. Previous workshops included topics on student loans, credit card usage, and budgeting. The website is: <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/researchguides/business/financialliteracy.html>.

Other resources for student loan/credit card debt and money management are listed below.

**Student Loan/Credit Card Debt**

<http://studentaid.psu.edu/understand-financial-debt>: The Office of Student Aid provides some basic information on student loan and credit card debt, along with links to other websites.

[www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov): The Federal Government’s website on loan repayment

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sc/repay-loans>: The Office of the U.S. Department Education provides information on how to manage your Federal student loan.

**Budgeting/Money Management**

[www.studentfinancedomain.com/money\_managment.aspx](http://www.studentfinancedomain.com/money_managment.aspx): Provides many links to resources to help students manage their money.

[money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/articles/2011/05/04/7-biggest-money-mistakes-college-grads-make](http://money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/articles/2011/05/04/7-biggest-money-mistakes-college-grads-make): Reviews common mistakes regarding money management that college graduates make.

Palmer, Kimberly (2010). Generation Earn: The Young Professional’s Guide to Spending, Investing, and Giving Back. Ten Speed Press.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCO9NZXf7_I>: 9 Ways to Save Money on a Tight Budget – YouTube video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIoSMZPt2F4>: Personal Response to Life After College – YouTube video with Suze Orman

**TRANSITION FROM STUDENT TO PROFESSIONAL**

After landing that first job, a whole new world of learning begins – what to wear every day, the office environment, learning new skills, employer expectations, and daily work and routines. Expect it to take some time for this adjustment and remember that everyone else there was in your shoes at one point - starting their first professional job. Expect mistakes, but address those errors and/or ask for help. If you are not assigned a mentor at your first job, seek out a reliable person to be your go-to with questions if your immediate supervisor is not available. Here are some additional resources and tips that may help you with your new life chapter.

<http://www.career-intelligence.com/college-student-to-professional> : What to expect in your first professional position.

[www.quintcareers.com/college-to-career.html](http://www.quintcareers.com/college-to-career.html): Advice and suggestions for moving into your first position

<http://blog.brazencareerist.com/2012/10/18/6-tips-for-a-smooth-transition-from-college-life-to-the-professional-world/>: More tips for moving from college to professional life

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcHaEVeSitY> : TEDx video on becoming a professional after college.

<http://www.calu.edu/current-students/career-services/career-resources/quick-tips/transitioning-from-college-to-work/index.htm>: 10 tips for the transition from college to employment – from California University of Pennsylvania

<http://www.fdu.edu/newspubs/magazine/05ws/generations.htm> - Part of the transition process from student to professional will be to understand and create positive relationships with co-workers. There are currently four different generations in the American workforce, which is the first time ever this has happened! This article talks about characteristics, values, and work ethic for each generational group. Considering these things as you immerse yourself into a new environment will make you aware of these differences and likenesses.

**EMPLOYMENT**

CRIM/SOC graduating seniors were asked to share advice with students who still have some time prior to graduation.  Almost all of them said to START EARLY in terms of preparing to look for a job!  The good news is that there are several opportunities on campus which you can explore that will give you an edge when it comes to actively searching for a job.  For example, you can work on developing a strong resume, participating in a mock interview, getting a professional alumni mentor, learning how to network, and understanding the qualities and skills you have offer to employers.  Below you will find several helpful articles with regard to looking for a job, mentoring, and networking.  Both [Penn State’s Career Services](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/students/resumes.shtml) as well as the [Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network](http://laus2.la.psu.edu/network) have services that help students with resume building.   Additionally, the Career Enrichment Network offers a [LEAD program](http://laus2.la.psu.edu/network/network/lead) for juniors.  LEAD is a skills assessment program that helps students understand and articulate how their coursework and experience can be marketed to employers.  It’s never too late to start preparing and looking; by taking advantage of these programs EARLY, you will be primed and ready for a successful job search!

**Searching for Employment**

<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/>: Penn State Career Services Homepage

<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/pdf/Penn_State_Career_Connection_Student.pdf>: Penn State Career Connection is a LinkedIn Group which connects students with employers to discuss an array of job searching matters from resumes to workplace trends.

<https://psu-csm.symplicity.com/employers/>: Nittany Lion Career Network – Posts full time jobs for students seeking employment post- graduation.

<http://sociology.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/career-and-professional-development>: The Criminology and Sociology website has a section dedicated to careers and professional development. There are tips for getting started on the job search and helpful websites for job searching.

<http://laus.la.psu.edu/network>: Liberal Arts has a Career Enrichment Network which offers help for job seeking in terms of resume review, cover letter, and skills assessment (LEAD program).

**Internships/Mentor Program**

<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/alumni/LionLink.shtml>: Career Services offers a program called “LionLink” where students can connect with alumni who serve as Career Coaches.

<http://laus.la.psu.edu/network>: The Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network provides students with information about internships, enrichment funding for internships, and the LEAD program.

[www.la.psu.edu/current-students/cen/mentoring](http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/cen/mentoring): The College of the Liberal Arts sponsors its own alumni mentoring program. Mentors can help guide students making the transition from a student to a professional. It could also serve as a valuable networking experience.

<https://www.experience.com/alumnus/article?article_id=article_1225291932545&channel_id=nonprofit&source_page=additional_articles>: “Finding A Guide: The Value of Having a Professional Mentor” explains the potential benefits of participating in a professional mentorship experience.

**Networking**

<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/pdf/CG/CG_Value_of_Networking.pdf>: Describes networking, explains benefits, how provides tips on effective networking strategies. This focuses on networking students can pursue in college (be it senior year or prior).

<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/pdf/Networking.pdf>: This document explains networking for a job search specifically. There are resources to help students network for a job using social media websites (such as Facebook, Linkedin, Twitter, etc.).

<http://www.helpguide.org/life/job_networking_how_to_find_job.htm>: This article talks about how to build relationships with people as a way of networking to find job leads. It offers suggestions for reaching out, communication strategies, and even managing stress while in a networking situation.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/02/08/133474431/a-successful-job-search-its-all-about-networking>: National Public Radio has a recorded story about the value of networking from the perspective of employers and those who hold full-time jobs at career centers. There is also a helpful blurb entitled ‘Working 9 To 5: Job Search Tips.’

<http://www.careerkey.org/career-development/networking.html>: This is a helpful article which provides a framework for creating a network in 5 steps.

**MOVING BACK HOME AFTER GRADUATION**

Moving home after graduation can be stressful, even if you are excited about moving back in with your family. Below are some articles with suggestions and advice about the transition from being an independent college student to living at home.

<http://collegelife.about.com/od/graduationbeyond/a/10-Tips-for-Moving-Back-In-with-Your-Parents-After-College.htm>: 10 tips for moving back home after college graduation – from About.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZeCgznihI>: College graduates and the march back home – YouTube video



**This publication is available in alternative media on request.**

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