

Advice from Recent Grads on their Job Search Experiences

Going out on the job market can be a scary undertaking. Many college students are apprehensive about starting as it's a new and unfamiliar experience that can be frustrating, mysterious and strange all at the same time. But if you make yourself work through that fear and the sometimes awkward, uncomfortable moments when you feel you are all alone in the world, the end result promises to be great. To help you get a better understanding of the process we asked some recent graduates what advice and recommendations they have to make your experience a bit easier. Take a look at what they had to say.



*I have three pieces of advice: Research, Remember Your Failures and Plan Your Sales Pitch. Before the interview use all the resources available to learn as much as you can about the company. Gain insight on the company's mission, vision, their strengths, opportunities, and culture. I did this by researching on Google, YouTube, and Glassdoor. **Preparing beforehand will give you the opportunity to be thoroughly engaged with the interviewer, ask probing questions, and make a lasting impression.** Interviewers are looking for someone with values that will improve their company. **Sharing the times you have failed as well as the lessons you have learned** are very important to the interviewer. This demonstrates you're resilient, you value personal growth, you're positive and open to opportunities that will help you and your team improve. In order to make a memorable impression on the interviewer, **you must have a plan to sell your assets in the best way possible.** Make notes for yourself and study them. Write down your top 3 strengths and the examples from your resume. Next, write down 3 opportunities to improve yourself and how you are currently turning those opportunities into strengths. Again, use concrete examples from your resume. Lastly, write down your top 3 values in detail and how they guide you to lead or influence others in a positive direction. **Practice being a good story-teller. Be authentic, tasteful, and concise while sharing a story with your interviewer.** And remember to be in tune with your body language. Don't be nervous, be authentic.*

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*The advice that I would have for students looking for a job is: **Use all the resources available to you** (i.e. Employola, LinkedIn, family friends or networking events). It is important to have a well-prepared resume, cover letter, references and an elevator speech that is entailed to the job you wish to have at all times. **Resumes should not be longer than one page and should have an interesting/fun fact about them.** For example, on my resume, I put that I am bilingual in English and Spanish. This gave my interviewer and I a topic to discuss during my first interview that I felt comfortable speaking about. In other cases, I have heard of people putting that they are PADI scuba diving certified or that they had completed the Navy Seals training. For accounting students wishing to get into public accounting, my best advice is to apply during the school recruiting (especially to start Junior year since Big 4 firms mostly like to hire a year in advance). **During the interview process, they normally want to see candidates that are personable, easy-going and have a strong work ethic** (i.e. willing to put in a minimum of 60 hours a week). I never went through the recruiting process for a finance position but I have many colleagues that have. The consensus is that most had to do case studies throughout their interview process.*

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