Good News for Graduates: Job Outlook for 2015

By Mariah Cowan, Communications Assistant

Every year, spring quarter brings with it a mix of excitement and anticipation, especially for graduating seniors. The reality of preparing for life after DePaul begins to set in as students balance the demands of their final quarter, along with job, internship and graduate school application deadlines. Fortunately, there is good news on the job market front for 2015 graduates. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), U.S. college hiring for the class of 2015 is projected to increase 8.3% over 2014. The reason? With the rise and success of start-up companies and small businesses, many companies expect to grow. Organizations also want to build their talent base to account for anticipated retirements; employers recognize that new college hires will eventually become future leaders in their organizations. Starting salaries for those holding bachelor’s degrees are also expected to increase 3.6 percent.

What are Employers Looking For?

Employers are seeking experienced students with strong leadership skills. Six out of 10 NACE survey respondents said that they prefer work experience gained through an internship or co-op experience; however transferrable skills gained in relevant volunteer work, student organizations and extracurricular activities is not overlooked. In fact, the top five qualities employers look for on a candidate’s resume are leadership, the ability to work in a team, written communication skills, problem solving skills, and a strong work ethic.

Majors in Demand

“Graduates of the business, engineering, computer and information sciences, and math and sciences disciplines are most in demand at the bachelor’s degree level, with finance, accounting, and computer science the individual majors most in demand among employers,” noted the Job Outlook Survey report. Don’t fret if your major is not listed among the “in demand” list, focus instead on the unique skills and qualities you can bring to a position and make sure those experiences are articulated well in your resume, cover letter and portfolio. Hiring managers don’t evaluate candidates on major alone;
ASK the Experts: How did you get your job?

Finding a job that fits your interests and skills may be challenging but not impossible. Read how Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) mentors who graduated last year found theirs:

Using the Career Center’s Job Board

“I ended up receiving my BDO offer through DePaul.Experience.com, which I found to be an excellent resource. In regards to job offers/internships, I found the best strategy was to utilize the Career Center’s job board first, especially considering that most employers have a strong relationship already built with the university. Secondly, my next option would be to search in my network. I would contact professionals in my network that I thought would be the most willing to help. Lastly, I did end up receiving a couple interviews by randomly applying for jobs through Indeed/LinkedIn/Monster and other various recruiting search engines. I would advise students to craft an excellent resume, make sure you’re on time for your in-person/phone interview, and to do your research and prepare for the interview. I feel the biggest mistake recruits make is not doing their homework and researching the position, the firm, and the industry.”

~Ryan Radloff, Assurance Associate at BDO USA, BSB Accountancy & Finance 2014

Leveraging Classroom and Internship Connections

“During my senior year, I took GAM 230: Intro to Game Production with Patrick Dwyer, and at the end of the course, he mentioned that the studio where he worked as a designer, Robomodo, was interviewing for both production and design internships. I had enjoyed the class and never had a formal interview before, so I applied for the production internship. I got the (unpaid) internship and received class credit for my work. I did my best to make a positive impression during the internship, and it paid off. The internship ended in March, and when the studio picked up a larger project in June, they reached out to me, just a few weeks after graduation, to see if I had availability for a full-time position. The whole experience proved that the skills and ambitions you present during a class project can lead to more than an ‘A.’”

~Molly Baron, Production Coordinator at Robomodo, BA English 2014

Networking with Guest Speakers

“My capstone professor brought in three ASK mentors as guest speakers to talk about their experiences with interviewing and their career choices. After the class I added all three of the speakers on LinkedIn. I then started to follow their advice to use the site as a way to promote myself and my accomplishments. About a month later, one of the guest speakers had posted about an entry-level job opportunity at her company. I immediately messaged her, re-introduced myself, and expressed my interest in the position. A week later I was welcomed in for my first interview. A week after that, I came in for the second interview, and two days later I was offered the job. Take advantage of the speakers in your classes, the DePaul network, and the ASK mentor program. You’ll be surprised how excited people will be to help you out. Getting that first entry-level job is an incredibly stressful time, and all of the ASK Mentors have been there. Not everyone will be able to help you find that perfect job, but each person has a different experience that may help you understand the industry and can help guide you through your search.”

~Michelle McConaughhey, Associate Editor at June Media, BA Journalism & Media Studies 2014, MA in Journalism 2015

Want more tips? To connect with ASK mentors Ryan, Molly, Michelle, or other ASK mentors like them, visit ask.depaul.edu.

Good News for Graduates: Job Outlook for 2015

Continued from page 1

they make decisions based on who has the right mix of skills, experience and personality. If you performed well academically, be sure to note that in your resume, too, as more than 68 percent of NACE respondents said they plan to screen Class of 2015 candidates by GPA.

Your Online Presence

Nearly 65 percent of employers who took the NACE survey plan to use more social networks to recruit candidates. If you have not already done so, it is time to polish your online presence and personal brand by cleaning up your social media pages. This means deleting inappropriate content, or anything that you wouldn’t share with your boss. Over 60 percent of employers plan to use more technology in general. So, get ready to share your LinkedIn page, online portfolio, blog and more with hiring managers and recruiters.

We’re Here to Help

It is never too early or too late to start your job or internship search. Start preparing now! Update your resume, build your portfolio by gathering samples of your work and practice your interviewing skills. If you need help getting started or putting the final touches on your materials, the Career Center is just a call or click away.
Ace Your Phone Interview

Did you know that up to 95 percent of interviews start with a phone screening? Hiring managers begin with phone interviews because it saves time and money and works well with availability. Though phone interviews are usually short, up to 30 minutes, they help employers get a feel for a candidate, narrow down their applicant pool and decide who to bring in for a face-to-face interview. Follow these steps to ace your next phone interview.

1. **Research:** Phone interviews require just as much research as a formal interview. Become familiar with the job description and how your skills apply to the role you’re applying for.
2. **Focus:** Make sure you are in a quiet place where there are no distractions. You need to be able to focus on the interview and the employer should be able to hear you clearly. Use a landline phone if you have access to one just in the case the signal on your phone becomes weak and the call drops.
3. **Be ready for the call:** Wake up earlier than the interview to prepare. You don’t want to sound bored or sleepy over the phone. This will give off the impression that you aren’t truly interested in the job.
4. **Dress professionally:** Although you won’t be seen, the way you dress reflects how you feel.
5. **Stand like a public speaker:** When you stand up, you’re able to project your voice much better. When sitting, you may start to slouch and mumble.
6. **Smile!** Your tone of voice is very important during a phone interview. Be enthusiastic and excited to be speaking with the person that you’re interviewing with. Don’t chew gum, and have a cup of water with no ice nearby. When speaking, keep your answers brief and concise. It is okay if there are pauses between questions and answers. Don’t use the silence to ramble on. The employer may be writing and preparing the next question for you.
7. **Prepare a list of questions to ask:** A great advantage of having a phone interview is being able to have your resume, examples of your work, and talking points right in front of you. That way you will be able to answer questions more effectively. The more prepared you are the better chance you have of receiving a formal interview.

**Follow-up**

Following up is an important step for all interviews. Be sure to thank the interviewer for their time and consideration. Send a thank you note by email and restate your interest in the position. Also, if there was anything that you wanted to say in the interview and didn’t get a chance, include it in the follow-up email. Ask the employer about the next steps of the interview process and make sure you have their correct contact information. You can also include a link to your LinkedIn profile.

---

**Common Phone Interview Questions**

- Tell me about yourself.
- Why are you applying to our organization?
- Strengths and weaknesses?
- What motivates you?
- Why are you interested in this position?
- What challenges are you looking for in a position?
- Questions pertaining to your major and experiences

Illustration by Brooke Kravitz
Interview Prep

Practice Interviews with ASK
ask.depaul.edu

The Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Volunteer Network gives you the opportunity to enhance your interviewing skills by meeting with an ASK Volunteer. During the one-on-one session, you will participate in a mock interview and receive helpful tips and feedback. Visit ask.depaul.edu to view the schedule. Contact ASK at (312) 362-8281 or ask@depaul.edu with questions or scheduling concerns.

Practice Online with InterviewStream
depaul.interviewstream.com

InterviewStream Mobile, available on iTunes and Google Play

Short on time, but need interview practice? Use DePaul InterviewStream! With DePaul InterviewStream, you can practice with pre-recorded interview questions and record your answers using your computer or smartphone’s webcam. Once you create your free account online, you can practice as many interviews as you like from any device, at any time!

Get started today at DePaul.InterviewStream.com, then download the InterviewStream app to your mobile device for practice on-the-go. For questions email dpuinterviewstream@depaul.edu.

Job & Internship Fairs

Job & Internship fairs are free. Unless otherwise noted, the Job & Internship fairs are not open to the general public. You must be a DePaul student or alumnus to attend.

Hire Big10+ Virtual Fair
April 7 – 8
CareerEco.com/events/HireBig10

Just in Time Job Fair
Tuesday, June 16
10:00am – 2:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center, Room 120

Don’t miss this opportunity to interact with top employers, including temporary employment agencies and post-graduation volunteer opportunities! DePaul University’s Just in Time Job Fair is designed exclusively for DePaul recent graduates, students and alumni.

Career Networking Events

Networking Events often consist of a panel discussion followed by an informal reception where you can speak with panelists in small groups or one-on-one. Professionals share information about career paths, industry trends, specific companies and professional development.

Working for the Common Good
Wednesday, April 29
5:00 – 7:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center, Room 120

Working for the Common Good is a professional development and networking event which will provide opportunities to participate in roundtable discussions and visit ‘Open House’ tables represented by seasoned social service professionals joining from settings including non-profit organizations, associations, schools, government agencies, research centers, clinics, cultural institutions, and more!

Register for events at careercenter.depaul.edu
LIFE AFTER LPC WEEK

MONDAY  
April 13

Career Center Pit Stop
10:00am – 3:00pm
SAC Pit

Do you have a question about your resume? Need assistance with a cover letter? Want job search tips? Drop by the Career Center Pit Stop! No sign up necessary!

Exploring International Opportunities
1:00 – 3:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 120

TUESDAY  
April 14

Finding and Applying for Jobs and Internships in the Federal Government
10:30am – 12:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 312

WEDNESDAY  
April 15

Pen & Paper: Exploring Careers in Writing
1:00-3:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 314

THURSDAY  
April 16

Coleman Entrepreneurship Center: Start-Up 101
1:00 – 3:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 314

FRIDAY  
April 17

Career Conversation: Exploring Careers in Languages
11:00am – 12:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 314

MONDAY  
April 13

Career Center Pit Stop
10:00am – 3:00pm
SAC Pit

Do you have a question about your resume? Need assistance with a cover letter? Want job search tips? Drop by the Career Center Pit Stop! No sign up necessary!

Exploring International Opportunities
1:00 – 3:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 120

TUESDAY  
April 14

Finding and Applying for Jobs and Internships in the Federal Government
10:30am – 12:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 312

WEDNESDAY  
April 15

Pen & Paper: Exploring Careers in Writing
1:00-3:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 314

THURSDAY  
April 16

Coleman Entrepreneurship Center: Start-Up 101
1:00 – 3:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 314

FRIDAY  
April 17

Career Conversation: Exploring Careers in Languages
11:00am – 12:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 314

Exploring International Opportunities
1:00 – 3:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 120

Beyond Volunteering: A Commitment to Empowerment & Activism
5:00 – 7:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 314

A Life in Politics: Your Future Career in the Political Realm
4:00 – 6:00pm
Lincoln Park Student Center Room 120

GRE Workshop
1:00 – 2:00pm
SAC 151

How to Finance Graduate School
2:00 – 3:00pm
SAC 151

APRIL 13-17

Explore your possibilities. Love what you do. Whether you plan on the 9 – 5 or beyond, Life After LPC will help you explore your career and grad school options and give you the confidence you need to enter the workforce and pursue a path you’re passionate about. View the schedule at careercenter.depaul.edu/lifeafterLPC
Navigating Your Career Change

Experienced professionals who are considering or already involved in the process of changing careers will benefit from this workshop. Learn how to develop a plan for your career change by identifying the development components you need to work on most. This workshop will help you identify the type of transition you are attempting and assess its level of difficulty.

Thursday, June 4
5:30pm – 7:00pm  DPC 9500

Workshops

30 in 30: Perfecting your Pitch
One of the most important elements in networking and building your personal brand is your elevator pitch. Get ready for upcoming job fairs and networking opportunities. Join us for a 30-minute workshop to perfect your 30-second pitch. Learn the components in developing a strong and effective pitch and have an opportunity to practice.

Tuesday, April 21
12:15 – 12:45pm  DPC 9500

Ace Your First Professional Interview
Preparing for interviews can give you the confidence you need to highlight your strengths. This workshop teaches you how to prepare for the interviewing and post-interview follow-up process. You will be introduced to the various types of interviews, including behavioral interviewing.

Monday, April 20
12:00 – 1:30pm  DPC 9500

Thursday, May 28
5:00 – 6:00pm  Teleconference

How Can Alumni Help Me Plan My Career?
Faced with many decisions, most college students and alumni feel uncertain about their career choices at some point. Talking to someone who’s been there can help. In this workshop, learn the different ways our alumni can help you as you plan your career. We’ll talk about where to find alumni and the best practices of building relationships and growing your networking. It’s easier than you think!

Tuesday, April 21
4:00 – 5:30pm  DPC 9500

Wednesday, May 20
4:00 – 5:30pm  SAC 151

Friday, June 5
11:30am – 1:00pm  Webinar

How to Build a Career Portfolio
A professional career portfolio provides you with a tremendous resource for showcasing your work skills and experiences to an employer. In this workshop, you’ll learn how to conceptualize and compile an effective portfolio.

Monday, May 4
1:00 – 2:30pm  DPC 9500

Identify Your Skills and Accomplishments
Skills are the currency of the job market; you get a paycheck in exchange for the skills you use in your job. Through this workshop, you’ll assess your skills, determine which ones you want to acquire or further develop, and identify ways to do so. Also, you’ll learn how to clearly articulate your skill set and provide solid examples of those skills in practice.

Monday, May 18
10:30am – 12:00pm  SAC 151

iPrep – Find Your Dream Internship Workshop
This workshop will help you create a strategy for applying to and securing your dream internship. You will also learn about the University Internship Program as a way for undergraduate students to receive academic credit for an internship and fulfill the Junior Year Experiential Learning (JYEL) requirement. This workshop also meets the University Internship Program Orientation requirement.

Thursday, April 23
12:00 – 1:00pm  Webinar

Wednesday, May 27
2:00 – 3:00pm  Webinar

Job Search Strategies
Learn how to identify effective job search strategies in a challenging job market. Get an overview of job search tactics and begin the process of selecting the strategies that make the most sense for you. Learn how to maximize the numerous job search resources available at DePaul and beyond.

Tuesday, June 2
12:00 – 1:30pm  SAC 151
LinkedIn Basics for Job Searching

This is part one of the hands-on workshop held in a computer lab.

Learn the value of LinkedIn as an online networking tool and the basics of building a professional profile that represents your online brand. After building your profile, we will also discuss and demonstrate making connections to build your network, joining relevant groups, and cover some basic job searching tips on LinkedIn. Please be sure to create a LinkedIn account before the workshop so you have a starting point when you attend the workshop.

Monday, May 11
12:00 – 1:30pm Loop TBD

Wednesday, May 13
12:00 – 1:30pm LPC TBD

Leveraging LinkedIn: Using Your Profile to Create Results

This is part two of the hands-on workshop held in a computer lab.

Do you already have a profile, made some connections, joined some groups, but still want to know how to use your profile to get results? This workshop is for people who are already comfortable with the basics of LinkedIn, but want to learn more about leveraging their network, utilizing 2nd and 3rd degree connections, advanced job searching techniques, and much more. Workshop participants should be active LinkedIn users as we will not cover the basics of building your LinkedIn profile in this workshop. Please come to the workshop ready to work on your profile as we discuss these techniques. Still a LinkedIn beginner? Check out the first workshop in the LinkedIn workshop series, “LinkedIn Basics for Job Searching.”

Thursday, May 14
12:00 – 1:30pm Loop TBD

Maximize Your Job & Internship Fair Experience

First impressions count! Learn how to approach employers and make a lasting first impression. DePaul’s Career Center hosts multiple Job & Internship Fairs throughout the academic year with hundreds of employers looking for candidates like you. This workshop helps you maximize the Job & Internship Fair as an opportunity to showcase your skills and abilities in an active job searching forum.

Thursday, June 11
12:00 – 1:30pm SAC 151

Monday, June 15
12:00 – 1:30pm DPC 9500

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)

Looking for work that is intrinsically interesting and gratifying to you? The MBTI is used to assist individuals in identifying their personality strengths, preferred work environments, communication styles and career possibilities. While few occupations provide a “perfect” match between personality and work tasks, this indicator and workshop will assist you in making an informed decision.

Tuesday, April 28
2:00 – 4:00pm SAC 151

Panic-free in 30: Prepping for your Phone Interview

Ninety-five percent of the time, the interviewing process starts with a seemingly simple phone call. However, there can be some serious professional pitfalls if you are not thoroughly prepared. Join us for this 30-minute workshop and learn how to wow prospective employers before, during and after the interview.

Wednesday, May 13
5:00 – 5:30pm DPC 9500

Soup it Up! – Resume Preparation for Educators

*These workshops are only open to students and alumni in DePaul’s College of Education

How do you transition a traditional resume to an educator’s resume? What is the best way to highlight my skills on paper? Join us to answer these questions and more as you learn important components of an education resume and how to highlight your strengths which will allow you to stand out and showcase what you have to offer.

Whether you are beginning to craft your teaching resume for the first time or preparing for the job search, this workshop examine nuts and bolts, best practices, and key areas to consider to draft a strong educator resume!

Wednesday, April 8
4:00 – 5:30pm SAC 151

Soup it Up! – Interview Preparation for Educators

*These workshops are only open to students and alumni in DePaul’s College of Education

How can I make the best impression in an interview? What is the best way to answer behavioral interview questions? Join us to answer these questions and more as you learn key components of how to prepare for a teaching interview in an educational setting. This workshop examines best practices, exploring traditional and unique questions straight from principals, and hands-on practice to prepare for various interview situations. Practices your interview skills in order to stand out and showcase what you have to offer!

Tuesday, May 5
4:00 – 5:30pm SAC 151

Tell Me About Yourself 101

This workshop will help you build confidence in approaching and talking to potential employers at job fairs. Specifically scheduled right before the job fair, this workshop will help you build confidence in approaching and talking to potential employers at the job fair. Attendees will work on perfecting their introduction to employers. With help from DePaul Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) mentor Lynn Gibson, you will leave knowing exactly what to say when an employer says, “Tell me about yourself.”

*Workshop is 9-10am; practice and critique of your answer is 10 – 10:30am

Tuesday, June 16
9:00 – 10:30am LPC TBD

University Internship Program (UIP) Orientation

*Please Note: All orientations are facilitated in webinar format. This is a prerequisite workshop for UIP and must be completed in order to enroll in an academic internship course to earn Experiential Learning credit. Students who have not yet secured an internship are welcome to attend this workshop.

The UIP Orientation provides you with the information you need to complete the enrollment process, and register for a University Internship Program course. In this workshop, you will learn the format and content of the UIP 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 350 and 356 courses, as well as how completing an internship can help you explore career paths, gain valuable experience and connect with professionals in your area of interest.

Note: For UIP Webinars, you will receive instructions via email the day before the scheduled webinar. An internet connection and the ability to hear audio is required to participate. If you have technical difficulties or questions regarding participating in the webinar, please contact the UIP team at uip@depaul.edu or 312.362.8437.

Wednesday, April 1
11:00am – 12:00pm

Thursday, April 2
3:30 – 4:30pm

Monday, April 6
12:00 – 1:00pm

Tuesday, April 7
2:00 – 3:00pm

Thursday, April 30
10:00 – 11:00am

Wednesday, May 6
2:30 – 3:30pm

Tuesday, May 12
3:30 – 4:30pm

Friday, May 22
9:30 – 10:30am

Friday, June 5
11:00am – 12:00pm

Monday, June 8
5:00 – 6:00pm

Friday, June 12
11:00am – 12:00pm

Thursday, June 18
3:00 – 4:00pm

Monday, June 22
10:30 – 11:30am
Portfolios: Rated E for Everyone  continued from page 1

when speaking about your experiences. Highlighting examples in an interview shows the employer that you can walk the walk! If you decide to build a physical copy of your portfolio, invest in a binder, portfolio case, and dividers. It is important to thoroughly proofread everything that goes into your portfolio. This step is even more critical for physical copies because you can’t go back and fix an error as easily as you can online.

No matter what platform you decide to use, your portfolio should include the basics such as your resume, work samples and contact information. You can also include recommendations from teachers or advisors. Your content should be divided into separate sections. Online portfolios need to be easy to navigate; physical portfolios should include a table of contents. It’s perfectly okay to include coursework in your portfolio if you are still building your “real-world” experience.

Tailoring Portfolios for your Major: What should you include?

What you include in your portfolio may vary depending on your major and the industries and positions you are interested in pursuing. For example, a graphic design student may include design and illustration samples that display their proficiency using various design tools. An English major may include a variety of writing samples to showcase their writing style and versatility. Here are some other examples by major:

1. Communication students: Writing samples may include articles, blog posts, speeches, papers, newsletters, press releases, social media copy examples

2. Computing and Digital Media students: Flyers, posters, website screenshots, typography samples, and other related projects; Samples of code, game designs and wireframes can be beneficial to include

3. Education students: Lesson plans, presentations, teaching philosophy, field experiences

4. Science and Health students: Medical research, findings and results

5. Business Students: Executive memos, case studies, business plan, marketing research, statistical data, budget examples

6. Liberal Arts and Science students: Research papers, maps that you designed, assignments that show language comprehension

For each sample, be sure to provide details of each project. If it was a group project, what role did you play? Give the employer a clear sense of what you did to achieve the goal of the project.

Start building and gathering samples for your portfolio before you start applying to jobs and internships. Don’t wait until the last quarter of your senior year to start. Your portfolio can grow and change as your experience, interests and skills grow and change. The effort you put into developing a portfolio can also play a factor when applying for a job and getting hired.

Ready to get started? Portfolio resources and workshops are offered by the Career Center, including the “How to Build a Career Portfolio” workshop on May 4 (see page 6 for details). Visit careercenter.depaul.edu/resumes/portfolios for more resources.