

What comes next?

It's not too early: what you can be doing right now
to prepare for the job market and
building a long-term career

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Get to know the field

What kind of skills does your desired job need?

Unique opportunity in grad school to develop concrete skills and apply them—do it! (GIS, Stata, etc.)



Explore; easy to get focused on one topic via thesis, etc.

Get to know your whole field to some degree (enough to speak intelligently about it)—rare to get a job that is *exactly* the topic you've focused on

Developing **interests** and taking **opportunities**

Make the most of your thesis, internship, coursework

Can help clarify your interests early on and help you gain expertise, within existing time/resource constraints

Pick something that would be of use to the type of organization you would like to work for

Do be open to new opportunities, use time to explore (but be strategic)



Saying yes, saying no

Look for opportunities that build your resume, skills, knowledge base—if you’re not seeing them pop up in your email, go find them!

Okay to say ‘no’ to the wrong opportunity—but use that to be able to say ‘yes’ to something else

Be present—go to events, lectures, meetups, etc.

Start early with opportunities that *could* lead into where you want to be

Skills can be more helpful than topical areas; more transferable

Not all has to be ‘strategic’—enjoy *your* life!—but be conscious of it



Networking: not just about finding a job

Start early, don't stop

Shouldn't be about asking for a job or trying to get into a specific opening—if you do this *before* you need something, much better chances of success

Also about future collaborations, fostering learning, sharing resources as you build your career

The 'big picture': do what feels right in each situation—everyone is different—above all, be **authentic** and be **considerate**

The people next to you right now are your future network, too

Be ready to give back

Getting out there: not big on mingling?

Two (of many) strategies

1) Networking events: find a ‘champion’



2) The informational interview: contact people in jobs, sectors that interest you—people love free coffee, people love to talk about themselves

Be genuine, really listen—don’t be waiting for an opening to market yourself or see if there’s a job—learn from them

*How did they get where they are? What do they like/dislike about their job?
What advice do they have for someone new to the field?*

Etiquette: go the extra mile; dress appropriately; send a ‘thank you’ later; let them take lead on future opportunities; don’t make them feel “used”

Not the time to ask for a job or help getting a job—these are earned

Bringing it together: developing your **brand**

“[Your brand is] **the unique value you contribute** to your company.”

-Inc.com

What do you do? What are you good at? How do your experiences tie together? **What's your niche?**

In the end, shouldn't feel like a ‘strategy’—it's your life and what you care about, and cultivating that

Figure out what you have to offer the world that's different



Marketing yourself: tips and tricks

Business cards—at every event, after every interview

One recommendation: zazzle.com

Clean, simple website—employers like to see what you can do

Link to your **best** and most **relevant** work (not all of it)

Opportunity to narrate how your skills, interests, experiences intersect

One recommendation: wordpress.com (and a custom domain)

In your email signature, on your LinkedIn, on your resume...

And actually **applying**...

New to the field? Leverage the experience you do have (SOC 519, OPAL, etc.); do the work for them on explaining *how* you're qualified

Think through how your experience concretely ties into the job qualifications; come up with multiple examples to draw from in advance

Didn't get the job? Well, who did? How do you get there?

Government job applications in particular...

Be really, really detailed (HR and the 'blind process')

Answer every question fully—supplemental questions aren't cover letters or covered by your resume; highlight transferable skills if you lack something

What's your story?



Creating the ‘**thread**’ that ties your story together

Easier to see it in hindsight...but you can look forward and anticipate what may connect!

From a SOC 515 topic to my current job

Is what you’re doing helping build **who you want to be** and **where you want to be?**

Be strategic, but leave room for deviations—never know where they may lead

Finding a job is just one event, that you’ll do more than once—much of this is also about building a career and success in your future job(s)