



Graduate School Career Plan

LSU Career Services – B-2 Coates Hall – 578-1548

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Congratulations! You have successfully gained admission to graduate school. By following the steps below, in addition to completing your coursework, you will create a pathway to career success.

1. Explore Yourself

- Take career assessments to understand your interests, personality, values and skills
- Meet with a Career Services career counselor to discuss your results
- Schedule a follow-up career counseling appointment to process your decision and to develop a strategy and timeline to reach your goal

2. Explore Your Options

- Research your options using the Occupational Outlook Handbook and ONET
- Review “What Can I Do with This Degree?” on the Career Services website
- Network with professionals currently in the field
- Create your Careers2Geaux account and review the Tiger Network for contacts in the field
- Check out job posting boards to see what the market holds for those in your field
- Attend the Career Expo and other campus recruiting events
- Discuss your career interest with faculty to learn about careers achieved by alumni of your program
- Join professional organizations for your discipline and field of interest
- Contact organizations of interest and request an informational interview

3. Confirm through Experience

- Assess the gap between current skills and those needed in your target occupation
- Take on a teaching assistantship or graduate assistant position related to your field
- Connect with faculty to learn about available research opportunities
- Make conference presentations in your field both on and off campus to establish your reputation
- Shadow a professional in your field of interest during breaks
- Seek out and secure an internship, summer job or other work experience related to your goal
- Use your internship to connect with professionals in the field to expand options and professional network
- While in your internship, volunteer for projects that will help you develop needed hands-on skills
- Volunteer to round out your skills
- Take on a leadership role in a student or community organization

4. Polish Your Professional Presentation

- Review the Job Search Handbook for tips to start out right
- Create a resume or CV based on protocol for your discipline or career goal
- Request a resume critique with a Career Services professional
- Prepare for interviews using the Job Search Handbook
- Invest in professional interview attire
- Schedule a mock interview with a Career Services professional