

Our advising team recognizes that seniors are facing an enormous amount of uncertainty, and we're here to help. We have continued to meet with students since the college moved to remote operations, and we will offer support throughout the summer.

Everyone is facing different circumstances. Some of us need to earn money as soon as possible to support our families and ourselves. Others of us may have more flexibility. With this in mind, here is some general advice.

I CANNOT CONTROL

(SO, I CAN LET GO OF THESE THINGS)

The
Economy

Shutdowns

I CAN CONTROL

(So, I can FOCUS on these things)

- How you present yourself
- Learning about Organizations
- Learning how to Video Interview
- Learning a New Tech Skill
- Reaching out to Alumni for Advice
- Retooling your Resume
- Developing a Portfolio
- Holding Virtual Info Interviews
- Developing a Plan B

How long
this will
last

Hiring
Practices

State and
Federal
Regulations

Focus on What you Can Control

Regardless of the economic climate, you'll maximize your chances by presenting yourself as a polished candidate. All the guidance, workshops, and resources our center *is still providing every day* will continue to be essential.

Work with our staff to develop a personalized action plan: Assess your interests, strengths, goals, and areas for growth; update your resume, Handshake & LinkedIn profile; create a portfolio of cover letters for 2-3 different positions that look interesting (even if you're not applying at this instant); refine your networking skills (tighten up your elevator pitch, get input on your email & LinkedIn outreach messages, arrange informational interviews); develop and implement an opportunity search plan; practice your interview skills...and practice them some more!

This is a long list, but our team is here to help no matter where you are in the

Stay Strong

Historically, college graduates have emerged from economic downturns in a much stronger position than workers without college degrees.

Dickinson grads have transferable skills, content knowledge, and – this is extremely important – flexibility and the ability to solve problems creatively. At the same time, it's important to acknowledge that launching into 2020 will probably not be easy or linear.

Remote Work

If you can, dip your toe into remote work through Dickinson's micro-internship program with Parker Dewey. Your first position after you finish your coursework could start remotely, and experience will help you a) distinguish yourself from other candidates b) transition into your eventual job. Our team sent details to students about micro-internships via email. There's no cost, and you'll earn money on every project.

Volunteer

Explore volunteer opportunities. You can contribute to the greater good and develop important professional skills at the same time.

- Dickinson's Center for Civic Learning and Action can help you connect to local, regional, national, and international opportunities and has posted good resources.
- You can also search for volunteer opportunities on sites like Idealist and, Volunteer Match. The latter has added features to help you connect with virtual positions.

Upskill

Continue to build your skills. Outside your Dickinson coursework, you can upgrade your skills on your own by starting a blog, building a website, and mastering office basics like Excel, Photoshop, or InDesign. You can also earn certification through online learning platforms like Coursera, EdX, LinkedIn, and HBX.

Be Agile

Successful millennials navigated the 2008 recession by pivoting to new opportunities and/or stitching together short-term posts while they continued to pursue long-term positions aligned with their goals and values. Part of this agility may involve pivoting into a sector you hadn't considered to get started. For example, if you're interested in working in HR in a hospitality industry, consider pivoting to HR in the healthcare industry to get started. You can "pivot back" if you choose when the economy rebounds.

- Through companies like LinkedIn and Handshake, job seekers have more real-time hiring data than ever before. You can use this information as part of a strategy to land an opportunity as you build towards your dream job. No one can tell the future! But our team is working with national organizations, consortia of selective liberal arts colleges, and others to stay current - and you can, too.

Continue to Network and Apply for Opportunities

While some industries are affected by Covid-19, many are not. Continue to apply for opportunities and network. It is important that you continue to seek opportunities and work to build relationships with people who may be hiring now or in the future.

Pursue informational interviews/networking to not only learn more about the various career paths in which you may be interested, but to also query alumni for suggestions on moving forward. Check out our [online guide to informational interviewing](#).

Join a Job Search Club

Searching for a job is inherently a social process. In May, Dickinson will be launching job search clubs for those seniors still searching for opportunities. A job search club is an informal group of senior student job seekers who meet weekly to provide advice, networking leads and general encouragement on the job search process. Members, supported by a career advisor will both give and receive job search support and advice. Members might share resumes and cover letters, conduct mock interviews, recommend job leads, and offer general encouragement and advice about the job search.

Stay Positive

This is important for your well-being and your success. Launching into the wider world has *always* required grit and perseverance. Today's climate will likely require more of it. Employers hire for qualities like enthusiasm, curiosity, the ability to navigate ambiguity, and the desire to learn. Some potential candidates will get discouraged, and others will give up entirely. *You can distinguish yourself by showing up, sticking with it, and demonstrating your resilience.*

“We’re all in this together.” Every employer we’ve spoken to has repeated a version of this sentiment. They all understand that many students and job seekers will need to develop and enact innovative strategies for professional development during the current crisis. The key is to develop clear goals and to maximize your capacity to achieve them given *your* circumstances. Whatever you do, be clear about your rationale: Ask yourself how you’ll explain the way you spent your time when an employer asks you about 2020 in the future. The need to pay rent and buy groceries are legitimate priorities. Living under quarantine is a legitimate hardship. A global economic downturn is a legitimate obstacle. What’s your game plan, and what steps are you taking to achieve your goals?

Center for Advising Internships & Lifelong Career Development

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