

"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 world also recognizes that everyone is facing different circumstances. For some of us, making money now is our top priority because we need to provide for ourselves and our families. Others of us may have more flexibility. Regardless, the key is to develop clear goals and maximize your capacity to achieve them. 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 your resume in the future.

Explore Career Options & Develop Relevant Skills

- ◆ Analyze the job descriptions for positions you might be interested in pursuing and identify the skills and qualifications the employer is seeking. Use the time you have this summer to enhance your development in these areas. How can you maximize your strengths? Improve potential weaknesses?
- ◆ Take advantage of free online webinars, courses, certifications, etc. to continue building your marketability, such as:
[Skill Share](#) | [LinkedIn Learning](#) | [EdX](#) | [Coursera](#)
- ◆ Work on a project such as building a website or creating your own podcast or blog. Your project can help you develop new skills, as well as provide an opportunity to showcase the skills you already have!
- ◆ Pursue informational interviews and/or networking opportunities to not only learn more about the career paths in which you may be interested but to also query alumni about how to make the best use of your summer (ie. what skillsets you should focus on developing to be marketable in your career field?). Check out our [online guide to informational interviewing](#).
- ◆ Listen to podcasts about careers/ industries in which you are interested. Several great ones are outlined on the following sites: [Career Builder](#) | [Glassdoor](#) | [Feedspot](#) | [Player FM](#)
- ◆ Explore a variety of online exploration resources to discover more about the career (s) in which you are interested. Check out our long list of [Career Exploration Resources](#).
- ◆ Try a "[virtual work experience](#)" (a simulation of the work done in that field).

Gain Relevant Experience

- ◆ Search for job and internship opportunities. Employers have told us that many of office-based positions they fill will likely involve a remote component. You don't necessarily need to limit your search to "remote" opportunities. You'll likely get better results if you have a "pivot" strategy that will allow you to locate opportunities in sectors that are hiring. Check out [Handshake](#) and [Indeed](#), which has added a COVID Jobs button.
- ◆ If you're in an internship right now, inquire about the possibility of extending it through the summer months.
- ◆ Look for volunteer experience – 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.
- ◆ Apply for a micro-project/micro-internship through [Dickinson's partnership with Parker-Dewey](#). These are paid, short-term, remote projects that give you the chance to hone and demonstrate your skills – not least your ability to handle remote work.
- ◆ Reach out to alumni through [Alumni Fire](#) to explore the possibility of an externship or job shadow opportunity.

Prepare for Graduate School

- ◆ Use the time to immerse yourself in full-time study for a graduate or professional

school exam. There are lots of self-study options/books, fee-based [prep course organizations](#) (many of whom also offer free practice exams) and plenty of free online test-prep resources as well, such as [Khan Academy](#).

- ◆ Research graduate programs and professional schools: [GRE](#) | [LSAT](#) | [MCAT](#)

Continue Your Education

- ◆ Take a summer course
- ◆ Start developing your senior thesis project
- ◆ Continue developing your language skills, or learn a new language

Get Ready for the "Real World"

- ◆ Take an online professional etiquette course
- ◆ Explore the cost of living in the geographic region in which you want to live
- ◆ Lean into the practical dimensions of "life after launch." It's never too early
 - Budgeting
 - Credit Cards
 - Lease vs. finance
 - Loan deferment
 - Taxes
 - Home buying

Take Care of Yourself!

Your well being is always important. No matter what your circumstances, do your best to support your physical and mental health. Dickinson's Wellness Center has shared [resources and recommendations](#).

Center for Advising Internships & Lifelong Career Development

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