Introduction

We know that entering the workforce during a weakened economy caused by the Coronavirus pandemic is surreal and overwhelming - this is not the world you thought you’d be graduating into. While these are stressful and uncertain times, your education and time on Hawk Hill will serve you well!
How We Can Help

The good news is there are many immediate and long term actions you can take that are within your control. By building your network, honing your skills, and managing your resources wisely, you’ll be able to overcome these challenging times. This guide will introduce a variety of resources, ideas, and mindsets you should adopt and utilize to make progress toward and achieve your goals.

Obviously, we know that written content cannot replace personal advising or coaching. Luckily, career counselors in the Career Development Center have added additional appointment hours and are here to assist you in achieving your goals. Remember, as a Hawk, you have lifetime, free services from the Career Development Center.

Please schedule an appointment on Handshake to meet with a counselor and develop your personal plan of action!
Job Search Phases

01
Getting Started

02
Immediate Actions

03
Resources for Long Term Success
Before taking action, we recommend you spend some time in reflection. Prior to COVID-19, what were your post-graduation goals? Have they changed? Have you thought about what’s important to you in an employer, job, industry? Using a values assessment or meeting with a career counselor may help bring clarity. These are not ordinary times and you will likely need to stretch your comfort zone and adapt to the world as it is.
Focus on Who's Hiring

For many of you, your professional plans and job search strategies may have to be adapted to meet demand. The companies you’re interested in may not be hiring right now, as entire sectors are being reconfigured and overturned. That said, new companies are emerging as key sectors respond to the pandemic and learning how to navigate life with new social norms. This is painful and bizarre, but it can also be a call for action. You will need to adopt a practical approach and align your job search with organizations that are actively hiring. Additionally, if you remain focused on applying to positions that employ your top skills, you’ll be poised for an effective job search and able to transfer those skills to your target role when the economy loosens up.

We know this can be difficult, and in many ways counterintuitive to everything you heard during college, but it’s necessary. You may need to compromise and make concessions in the short-term, but you will also be setting yourself up for long-term success!

Phase 1: Getting Started
Get and Stay Connected

Your personal and professional network will be more important than ever in your job search. Fortunately for you, there are multiple tools to facilitate networking and informational interviewing in this virtual world. Increasing your network should be a daily exercise! In addition to family and friends (and friends’ families), don’t forget about the most supportive alumni on any campus. Hawks help Hawks. Period. Full Stop.

- **SJU Connects**
- **Saint Joseph’s University Career & Networking Group on LinkedIn**
Be Action-Oriented

When all of this is over, how will you answer “What did you do during COVID-19?” It is up to you to be action-oriented, thinking creatively about how you will build skills and be productive while navigating a fluid economy. Being intentional, adaptive, entrepreneurial, and gritty will serve you well. Use this time to hone your tech skills, think about problems you can solve, or volunteer your time to those in need. Continue to bring value to others while building skills and experiences that demonstrate your resiliency.

Phase 1: Getting Started
Don't Do This Alone

Make sure you practice *Cura Personalis* with self-care. Lean on your campus network for both support and advice. Whether it’s your campus advisor, a close friend, or a mentor, share your feelings and don’t be afraid to ask for help with specific challenges. Most people want to help (we are, after all, men and women with and for others), they just don’t know how they can best assist you or simply need to be asked. Meeting with a career counselor can help you work through your challenges and develop a specific, achievable plan.
Phase 2: Immediate Actions

In a very short period of time, the labor market has shifted in unprecedented ways. To enter the workforce in these changing times, you’ll need to take specific and consistent action. Your education has prepared you well to succeed in the workforce, but first, you must conduct an effective job search in a time when the old rules may not apply. View this guide as a toolkit and meet with a career counselor in the Career Development Center to discuss your goals, your challenges, and to make a job search action plan that leverages your best skills.
Who's Hiring Now?

Many companies are still hiring. These resources will help you stay connected to who’s hiring:

- **Handshake** - Up-to-date remote job opportunities can be found on Handshake by selecting Jobs, Job Search, and typing "remote" into the search box. Check out the top 500 hiring companies with the link.
- **Candor** and **The Muse** - who’s hiring and who’s not.
- **Coronavirus Career Advice** - 27 Best Work From Home and Remote Jobs - Forbes
- **FlexJobs** features remote and flexible jobs

**Tip** - Follow hiring status and updates for state and federal government jobs

**Tip** - Follow #GetHired on LinkedIn to get real-time information about companies that are hiring.

Phase 2: Immediate Action
Virtual Resources

In response to COVID-19, individual employers and consortium groups are hosting remote info sessions and recruiting events. With recruiters unable to travel, check out these sites for connecting with employers virtually and preparing for those interactions:

- **Handshake** - check the Events section
- **JobFairsIn** - open virtual job fairs
- **LiveCareer** - tips on how to succeed in virtual job fairs
- **CareerCast** - prepping for a virtual fair

Phase 2: Immediate Action
Remote work arrangements will be in place until the economy opens and employers determine how to practice social distancing within the workplace. The following sources will help you find remote-work:

- [Weworkremotely.com](https://weworkremotely.com)
- [Pangian.co](http://pangian.co)
- [Jobspresso.com](http://jobspresso.com)
- [Justremote.co](http://justremote.co)
- [Skipthedriver.com](http://skipthedrive.com)
Virtual Interviewing Best Practices

As virtual interviews are how interviews will be conducted for the foreseeable future, you need to be ready!

- Best Practices - Fast Company
- Acing the Virtual Interview - Glassdoor
- Virtual Interviewing Tips - The Muse
- 3 Easy Ways to Perfect Your Virtual Interview: Advice from the Experts - CampusPhilly

Phase 2: Immediate Action
Increase Your Knowledge and Stay Informed

Keep your brain in learning mode, stay on top of trends and new developments in the economy, and expand your industry and career knowledge. Check out these resources:

- **Fast Company Daily Newsletter** - sign up to receive tips and articles
- **LinkedIn Learning** - improve digital skill sets
- **SJU Connects** - Career & Job Search Webinars
- **Candid Career Videos** - a large library of career videos from industry professionals
- **Career Cloud Radio** - download this job search podcast
- **Occupational Outlook Handbook** - career outlook and growth projections

Phase 2: Immediate Action
Grad School Application Process

If the state of the economy has you considering enrollment in graduate school, make sure it’s an intentional approach and you’re not just hiding out until the economy improves. Meeting with a career counselor to discuss aligning your goals with a graduate program is a great first step. For application tips and guidance on financing your education, check out these resources:

- [Navigating the Graduate School Application Process](#) - Video Presentation
- [Grad School Road Map](#) - Dr. Don Martin
- [COVID-19’s Implications on Grad School: 5 things to consider](#) - Grad School Roadmap
- [Key Tips for Financing Your Graduate Education](#) - Grad School Roadmap

Phase 2: Immediate Action
Phase 3: Resources for Long Term Success

With so much uncertainty and change, managing and protecting your resources takes on particular importance. Take stock of your financial situation, manage your debt, and seek alternate sources of income. Here are some resources to help you gain control so you position yourself for financial security.
Understanding Your Student Loans

The average college student in the U.S. graduates with about $30,000 in student-loan debt. This presents a formidable, often prolonged financial burden that can weigh you down for years to come. It is absolutely imperative that you fully comprehend all aspects of your student loan management, repayment options, impact on your personal budget, and of course, relevant and current legislation. Click on the following resources and to get started:

- Studentloansherpa.com - a great overview
- Understand Federal Student Aid
- Understand Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) Plans and Which IDR Works For You?
- Understand the Role of a Student-Loan Servicers
- Understand Loan Forgiveness Programs and Opportunities
- CARES Act Information

Phase 3: Resources for Long Term Success
Personal Budgeting Resources

Your ability to save, be frugal, and budget your money wisely is essential when graduating into a recession. Click on the following resources to get started:

- **Understand Budgeting Basics** - The Balance
- **Create a Comprehensive Personal Budget** - Policy Genius
- **Planning & Budgeting App** - Mint
- **Essential Money Management Guide for New College Graduates** - Best Wallet Hacks

Phase 3: Resources for Long Term Success
Supplementary Income Options

Graduating into a recession may force you to be resourceful and creative with the ways you generate income if you hope to “catch up.” Look to further develop the strengths required in your dream job so your tools are sharp when that job comes along. Micro-internships and side hustles offer opportunities to patch together experience. And do not be too proud to do basic jobs in order to supplement your income.

- **Parker Dewey**: Micro-Internships platform
- **Skip the Drive**: List of micro job sites
- **QuadJobs**: Part-time or one-time jobs

Phase 3: Resources for Long Term Success
In Conclusion

You’ve got this! Remind yourself of what you bring to the table:

- An excellent education under your belt
- Four years of building skills and resiliency
- The most supportive alumni network imaginable
- Lifetime, free services from the Career Development Center
- THWND! mentality

To schedule an appointment to meet with a career counselor, login to Handshake.