



CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Determining the Right Path for You

You may think that by pursuing and completing a terminal degree that it narrows your career options. Ironically, while what you study and/or research is more focused, you have more possibilities. For some people, more options is exciting. For other people, it can be overwhelming. Here are some suggestions on what to do to help you determine the right path for you.

GET IN THE MINDSET & FORMULATE A PLAN

You are responsible for your own career and professional development, but you're not alone. You have countless resources at Clemson University to assist you. It's up to you to learn about and take advantage of tools and opportunities that will help you learn about yourself, career options, and competencies that will set you apart during your job search and career.

Planning Tools

- [Graduate Student Career Development Plan](#) – suggestions on maximizing your competency development
- [Individual Development Plan \(IDP\)](#) – targeted for the sciences but useful for any discipline
- [Extensive IDP Resources from the University of Minnesota](#) – includes tools and next steps

Self-Assessment Tools

- [Self-Assessment of Core Competencies](#) – [self-assess](#) and then use [behavioral interview questions](#) to verify your assessment
- [Self-Assessment from the Medical College of Wisconsin](#) – reflective questions and resources to evaluate your interests, skills, values, transferable skills, and career preferences

Events, Workshops, and Training Opportunities

- [Center for Career and Professional Development Events](#) – provides a graduate workshops series every semester
- [Center for Career and Professional Development Videos and Workshops](#) – watch on-demand videos and workshops
- [Grad360](#) – Coordinated by the Graduate School and has a variety of workshop offers every semester
- [Additional Training Opportunities](#) – Searchable list of departments offering in-person and online trainings
- Department Opportunities – Look out for emails, flyers, and notices of opportunities offered by your department

GET CONNECTED & BEGIN TO GAIN CLARITY

Getting Connected with People

After developing your plan that includes continually taking advantage of career and professional development opportunities, it's important to get connected with a variety of people to gain clarity on different career options. There are several groups of people who can assist you in gaining clarity with different kinds of advice and resources by doing [informational interviews](#). You should connect with individuals in each category throughout your graduate studies.

Faculty (professors, advisors, etc...)	Center for Career and Professional Development	Alumni, Peers, and Other Industry Experts
Your graduate and undergraduate faculty are content experts in your field and can provide tailored advice on career options with your degrees. They can also provide the best advice and guidance on applying for postdoctoral opportunities or faculty positions and reviewing research statements for faculty applications.	CCPD staff can help you: (1) learn about resources to research different career options, (2) teach you how to prepare your application documents such as resumes and cover letters, (3) show you tools to search for internships and jobs, (4) prepare for interviews, (5) know about different career events occurring, (6) learn how to network in a variety of situations including informational interviewing, conferences, and receptions, and (7) develop a LinkedIn profile.	Identify alumni from your undergraduate institution and Clemson, peers, and other industry experts who are in jobs that interest you. Conduct informational interviews to learn about how they conducted their job search, what is their job like on a daily basis, and what advice they would have for someone looking to pursue that occupation.

Getting Connected with Online Resources

- [VersatilePhD](#) - Basic access to this resource shows different ways to leverage your different degrees in various fields
- [O*NET](#) - Provides overview of different occupations and also offers an assessment to determine potential occupations
- [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) - contains similar information to O*NET
- [What Can I Do with this Major?](#) - Look at different occupation options broken down by program of study
- [TypeFocus Videos](#) - See videos of individuals in different careers describe what they do

CAREER TRACK OPTIONS WHEN COMPLETING A DOCTORATE

If you are completing a doctorate, you have some additional career options to investigate when you are doing your informational interviewing and online research. Below are descriptions of those areas and additional resources you may find helpful in determining the right path for you.

Industry Opportunities

If you are not interested in being faculty, consider industry opportunities. The CCPD suggests using the resources provided in the list of online resources to determine the industries that are a good fit for you and your interests, skills, and work values. If your undergraduate and graduate degrees are in different areas, it could increase the industries that might be a good fit.

- [ClemsonJobLink](#) - Posting board that contains employment opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students
- [Careershift](#) - Webcrawler that searches for employment opportunities on company/association websites and posting boards such as Indeed, Monster, USAJobs, HigherEd Jobs, etc...
- [Goinglobal](#) - Provides career advice and information on companies and non-profits in major U.S. cities and other countries and also provides an H1B Visa search database the companies who have hired non-U.S. citizens.
- [Additional Search Sites](#) - Search sites are categorized by different areas of interest and industries
- [Additional Search Sites for Graduate Students](#) - Search sites tailored to students completing graduate degrees

Postdoctoral Opportunities

If you are interested in being faculty but not ready to apply for full-time faculty roles, consider postdoctoral opportunities. Post-doctoral appointments are typically less than five years and tend to be research focused opportunities on college campuses and in STEM. There are some post-doc opportunities outside of higher education and the STEM disciplines.

- [What is a Postdoc?](#) - Gain basic information on being a postdoc and the characteristics of a postdoc opportunity
- [Types of Post-docs and Long-Term Financial Considerations](#) - Article from Inside HigherEd
- [Postdoctoral Life](#) - Articles, resources, and handouts to help understand postdoctoral opportunities
- [Postdoc Jobs](#) - Search for postdoc opportunities

Faculty Opportunities

If you are interested in being faculty, it's important to understand the different types of faculty roles that exist: visiting, adjunct, clinical, lecturer, or tenure-track. It's important to note that in addition to supplying a Curriculum Vita or CV and a cover letter, you will likely be asked to submit a research statement, teaching philosophy, and perhaps a diversity statement.

- [Difference Between Faculty Roles and Faculty Life](#) - Discusses tenure and teaching, research, and service expectations
- [HigherEd Jobs](#) - Search for faculty opportunities
- [ChronicleVitae](#) - Search for faculty opportunities
- [Careershift](#) - Webcrawler that will pick-up opportunities on college and university job posting boards
- [Additional Search Sites for Graduate Students](#) - Search sites tailored to students completing graduate degrees
- [Writing a Research Statement](#) - UPenn outlines the purpose and how to get started writing
- [Writing a Research Statement](#) - Univ of Washington describes formatting and links to samples in different disciplines
- [Writing a Teaching Philosophy](#) - Clemson recorded workshops and learning inventories that inform philosophy
- [Writing a Teaching Philosophy](#) - Cornell provides an outline of statement and links to samples
- [Writing a Diversity Statement](#) - Inside HigherEd explains the purpose and topics to address
- [Writing a Diversity Statement](#) - Univ of Chicago shares Do's and Don'ts and where to begin when writing