

Exploring Careers

Do you know what you want to do after you graduate? Most students don't, and that's o.k. You will most likely have five or six different careers in your lifetime, so exploring careers is something you need to learn how to do. The Office of Career Services is a great place to help you with the process of exploring careers and has many resources and services available.

Step One: Assessment

The process of exploring careers involves assessing your interests, skills, strengths, and work values as well as learning about different career options. You need information about both yourself and careers in order to figure out a good fit for you. The Office of Career Services encourages you to make an appointment with a career advisor to help get you started.

Step Two: Research

Once you have begun to clarify your career interests, the next step is to identify one to three career fields to start researching. This doesn't mean you are limited to just the fields you initially select, but you have to start somewhere. The Office of Career Services' website has great resources for career research including those listed on the back of this sheet.

Step Three: Informational Interviews

The next step is to talk to people who are working in the field(s) in which you are interested. A conversation with someone about his or her career is often referred to as an

informational interview. This is one of the best ways to get the real picture of what a particular career is like. Oberlin College alumni are a wonderful, willing and available resource. Make sure to use Career Services' **Guide to Informational Interviewing** to find out who to contact, how to contact them, and what to say and ask. Meet with a career advisor if you would like to get access to the OBIEweb alumni directory or discuss how to use LinkedIn.

Step Four: Experience Internships

Consider doing a summer, winter term or academic year internship in a field that interests you. An internship is a fun and exciting way to put your liberal arts skills into action. We encourage each student to complete at least one internship during their time at Oberlin.

Internships help you:

- Identify and explore career areas of interest
- Gain new skills
- Build your résumé
- Develop a network of professionals in your fields of interest

For more information on locating a internship review the Summer Job and Internship guide on the Office of Career Services website.

Community Service

Community service work can be something you do as an individual, or something you do because an organization to which you belong takes on a service project. Not only is it a great way to give back to the community, but it also develops skills and experience that you can list on your resume and apply towards a future opportunity. To learn more about community service through Oberlin visit the [Bonner Center for Service and Learning](http://www.oberlin.edu/bcsl): (www.oberlin.edu/bcsl)

Undergraduate Research

Participating in undergraduate research is particularly important for students interested in pursuing graduate degrees or research assistant positions upon graduation. Speak with your academic advisor about research assistant positions in academic departments.

Visit www.oberlin.edu/career for access to the following resources:

Spotlight on Careers

A career resource created by the Liberal Arts Career Network (LACN) that provides information on career fields popular with liberal arts majors. The resource will provide you with an overview of each field, alumni profiles, tips on how to gain experience, and job and internship leads. Fields of interest covered include:

Advertising	Journalism
Architecture	Library & Information Science
Arts Administration	Multimedia
Computers & The Internet	Museums
Consulting	Paralegal
Divinity	Peace and Conflict Management
Entrepreneurship	Performing Arts
Environment	Psychology
Event Planning	Public Health
Federal Government	Public Policy
Film & Television	Public Relations
Fundraising	Publishing
Geology	Sales & Marketing
Graduate Fellowships	Sciences
Higher Education	Social Activism
Human Resources	Social Science Research
Human Services	Sports Management
Insurance	Teaching: Overseas
International Affairs	Teaching: Private School
International Business	Teaching: Public School
Investment Banking	

What Can I Do With This Major...

A convenient website that helps you connect majors with careers. For each major that interests you, choose "either the PDF or HTML version" to find an outline of common career areas, typical employers, and strategies designed to maximize career opportunities.

MyPlan

Use MyPlan to find career information, determine your skill sets, and explore career options. The site features online career tests to assess career personality, interests, skills and values. It also features dozens of easy-to-use tools, careers videos and online career discussion forums.

Vault Online Career Library

The Vault online Career Library is the foremost source of research on employers, industries, and much more.

Use this resource to:

- Demonstrate employer knowledge in cover letters
- Explore career fields you might be considering
- Strengthen your job search skills

70+ PDF versions of Vault Industry & Career

Guidebooks including:

- International Careers
- International Development
- Biotech
- Finance
- Book Publishing
- Journalism
- Education
- Government & Nonprofit

- Resumes, Cover Letters, and Interviews
- Top Internships

And more...

- 40+ updated Vault Premium Employer Profiles, 50-pp. each (Goldman, McKinsey, etc).
- 1000+ pages of information on more than 50 top employers
- Company Research Area: link to 2,500+ Vault Company Profiles
- 2,500+ Company Discussion Areas in Vault's Electronic WaterCooler™
- 1,100 Vault Career Advice (covering 29 key categories) 30+ Vault Industry Overviews
- 70+ Vault Occupation Profiles