

After you graduate

If you don't have a position lined up by the time you graduate (which is probably the most likely scenario), you can relieve some of your frustration if you treat the job search like it is your job. Get up every weekday morning and sit at your desk and do the work of finding a job. Work at it eight hours a day. Continue to use the checklist that you created while you were in school and add the following:

- Follow up on contacts from 1st Gig or applications from other sources. While there is mixed advice about whether you should do this, it is unlikely to hurt to follow up with an email message or handwritten note if you have not heard within 10-14 days after submitting an application. This is especially appropriate if you (1) have the address of a specific contact (hiring manager) within the organization, (2) submitted your application via email or mail, (3) really want this job, and (4) think you are a good match.
- If you hear from an employer that you did NOT get the job, you can politely ask if they could tell you either why they chose the person they chose or what you lacked so that you can improve your chances with the next opportunity.
- Attend meet ups, professional association meetings, or other community events that will allow you to expand your network.
- Join your alumni association and contact alumni in your field to ask for assistance with your job search or for information interviews.
- Take breaks, just as you would for a regular job. And enjoy the weekends. Don't burn yourself out with the search process.