



ASK THE EXPERTS

APRIL 2023

COLLEGE STUDENTS

I am completing my last semester of classes for my degree in business and will graduate in May. I am waiting to apply for jobs until I finish school because I don't want to get an offer before I have graduated. Is this a good plan?

First, congratulations on achieving your degree! It's not too early to start looking for your first job. Many employers begin recruiting college students months before graduation, and some even extend job offers before students receive their degrees. By starting your job search early, you increase your chances of finding a suitable job that aligns with your career goals and interests.

Here are some of the best ways to start your search while finishing your degree:

1. **Create a target list of companies:** Your target list should include companies that match your career goals, values, and interests. When researching companies, consider the industry, company size, location, culture, growth potential, reputation, and compensation.
2. **Network:** Reach out to your college alumni network, professors, work and social contacts, career counselors, and industry professionals to learn about job opportunities, get advice, and make valuable connections. Attend networking events and career fairs to meet potential employers and learn more about their companies.
3. **Research jobs:** Use job search websites like Indeed, LinkedIn, Glassdoor, and Monster to find job openings that match your skills and interests. Check company career pages and apply for job openings that match your qualifications. Use websites like ONet OnLine and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to learn details about industries, experience and education requirements, and much more.
4. **Internships:** Consider securing an internship in your desired field to gain relevant experience and make connections in the industry. Many internships can lead to full-time job offers.
Some great websites for college students looking for internships include:

https://collegegrad.com/topemployers/internships	https://www.internships.com/ (Chegg Internships)
https://www.internshipfinder.com/	https://www.usajobs.gov/
https://www.wayup.com/	https://collegegrad.com/
https://avenica.com/	https://www.collegerecruiter.com/
5. **Professional organizations:** Join organizations related to your field to connect with industry professionals, attend events, and learn about job opportunities.
6. **Social media:** Use social media platforms like LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter to connect with industry professionals and companies, and to learn about job openings and industry news.

Remember: Start now. It's important to be proactive, persistent, and strategic in your job search to increase your chances of finding a job that best fits you and your goals.

Career Experts Group

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