



BUILDING YOUR CAREER

After your Master's degree.

A companion workbook to the Career Video Library.

Sample Only.

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Building Your Career
by The Center for Graduate Career Success
PO Box 6811 Denver, CO, 80206

www.beyondgradschool.com

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Contact: info@beyondgradschool.com

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How to Use this Workbook

The video interview library is designed to help you learn proven job search strategies from Master's degree holders who now work in career fields of interests.

In the interviews, you'll hear how people successfully navigated the job search, what they do now in their jobs, what they find energizing and rewarding, and how their graduate degree helped set them up for career success.

The interview library is designed to help you start thinking about the value of informational interviews and networking. What do we learn about job searching and careers by listening to other people's experiences?

One of the most important parts of a job search is networking. Too often, graduate students think of networking as transactional relationships: that networking is about getting a job, self-promotion, or getting referrals. This mistaken view of networking leads to frustration and failure when job seeking.

But networking is about building authentic relationships for life-long career success. It's also an important part of gathering information that can help you make an informed decision about where to work, and what specific roles or positions would align with your personal values, goals, and interests.

Most of the questions we have about our job search can be answered through networking. By networking, you'll learn:

- About company culture. Do the values and mission of the organization align with your values? Will this be a place where you'll receive mentorship and support to continue to grow and advance in your career?
- If a specific career path will be intellectually engaging. There will be many different ways for you to leverage your education. But what specific positions or roles within a company will be right for you?
- What skills employers value in candidates. Which skills do you have? What might you need to develop?
- What starting compensation packages (salaries and benefits) are for careers you're interested in pursuing. Will they allow you to meet your financial and personal goals?

We want you to learn how to network with confidence. By watching videos in the career library, you'll learn how to reflect and evaluate information you receive through informational interviews.

In the first section of this workbook, we'll ask you to evaluate the information you're learning through the interviews in Beyond Graduate School.

In part two, we'll help you develop a plan and strategy to build your network and begin conducting informational interviews so that you can gather the information you need to advance in your job search.

Happy learning!



Step 1:

EVALUATE:

How do Master's degree holders leverage their education to build meaningful careers?

Step 1: Evaluate

How do people leverage their education?

After completing this step, you will be able to:

- **Identify** careers that align with your values and interests.
- **Compare** the skills that are required for careers with your current skills.
- **Evaluate** careers based on skills, values and interests.

Why is this step important?

By listening to how other Master's degree holders find and build careers, you'll learn important information about the job search process. When you conduct research, you collect information from trusted sources to help inform your process. The job search is a research project. People who work in career fields of interest are experts who can provide you with relevant information that should inform your job search strategies.

How To Start

In the Career Video Library, use the filters to sort the career videos based on your academic discipline. Watch three career interviews and consider the following questions for each video. We have created worksheets to help you organize your research.

1. What aspects of the day-to-day work of this career sound interesting to you? What aspects are unappealing?
2. How did the speaker's experience from their Master's program prepare them for this career? What projects, internships, or other experiences did they find were the most helpful?
3. What steps did the speaker take to find their first job after their Master's?
4. In reflecting on the video, what experiences could you take advantage of in your Master's program that would help you in your future careers?
5. Do you have the skills that are necessary for this career, or would you need to develop additional skills?
6. If you were going to pursue a career in this field, how would you apply what you have learned from the speaker? What would you do next?

Step 1: Evaluate

Career Video#1

Name of Interviewee

1) What aspects of the day-to-day work of this career sound interesting to you? What aspects are unappealing?

2) How did the speaker's experience from their Master's program prepare them for this career? What projects, internships, or other experiences did they find were the most helpful?

3) What steps did the speaker take to find their first job after their Master's?

Step 1: Evaluate

4) In reflecting on the video, what experiences could you take advantage of in your Master's program that would help you in your future careers?

5) Do you have the skills that are necessary for this career, or would you need to develop additional skills?

6) If you were going to pursue a career in this field, how would you apply what you have learned from the speaker? What would you do next?

Career Video #2

Name of Interviewee

1) What aspects of the day-to-day work of this career sound interesting to you? What aspects are unappealing?

2) How did the speaker's experience from their Master's program prepare them for this career? What projects, internships, or other experiences did they find were the most helpful?

3) What steps did the speaker take to find their first job after their Master's?

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