5 Tips for a Successful Pandemic Career Search

Career Chats with ECDO Career Advisors:

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1: KEEP APPLYING
-but do your research and stay informed

1. Know how your target companies are responding to COVID-19
   - Check the company website
   - Follow on social media
   - Reach out to your network to learn more

2. Know who’s hiring and who’s not: [https://candor.co/hiring-frozes/](https://candor.co/hiring-frozes/)

3. Remote work: New “Remote” label on handshake

4. Re-evaluate your materials: To optimize your search, reevaluate your cover letter, resume and even the jobs you’re applying to.
2: Have a Backup Plan

- Think broadly about your career goals and be prepared to possibly pivot to an adjacent position
- Explore part-time work, temp positions or temp agencies
- Play the long game, there is a lot of shifting going on right now
- What are you doing this summer?

*When in doubt, talk to a career advisor!*

3. Hone your Skills

**Bolster your qualifications:**

- Analyze job descriptions by listing each required skill. If you don’t have a skill or if you don’t have “evidence” of that skill, actively seek out learning opportunities.

**Make yourself stand out!**

- LinkedIn Learning
- DoIt Classes
- MOOC’s
- Taking initiative (soft skills)
4. Reach Out & Reconnect

• Reach Out & Reconnect with your network:
  • **Connect with alumni** through student orgs and UW alumni network on LinkedIn
  • **Your friends, friends** of your family and parents of your friends: Have thoughtful questions that demonstrate what type of employee you would be
  • **Hiring managers/recruiters:** Ask if there is anything you can assist them with. Mention your specific skills and interest!

• **Organize:** Maintain a networking spreadsheet

• **Be Creative:** Use social media to stay top of mind, broaden industries/geographic areas, AND find internal champions/connections.

• **Be Understanding:** Of others AND yourself! Remember you are planting seeds.

5. Take Advantage of Virtual Networking

• **Know what’s out there**
  • Ask contacts about virtual industry events
  • HireBig10+ Virtual Career Fair on April 14 from 10 am - 1 pm (central): Employers now listed on website: [https://hirebig10.vfairs.com/](https://hirebig10.vfairs.com/)
  • Virtual employer sessions on Handshake
  • Search online for professional organizations or communities hosting virtual events

• **Join in the conversation on social media:**
  • Post, comment, and make yourself visible. Post relevant articles and chime in on topics that allow you to demonstrate your knowledge.

• **Practice:** before the interview or networking meetings with a career advisor, friend and/or use Big Interview.
  • Once you’ve mastered the technology, invite professional contacts to meet for a virtual coffee.
Questions & Answers

Submit questions via the chat feature

We are here for you!

Email: econcareers@ssc.wisc.edu

Virtual appointments in Starfish
(search for Economics Career Development Office)

Website: econ.wisc.edu/careers/