TIPS FOR USING THE DEGREE EXPLORATION GUIDES

"What can I do with my degree" is one of the most frequently asked questions by students. The tips below will help you understand what is included in each section of the degree guides and how to effectively use them.

Career Options

This section identifies possible career options for a specific degree/major. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list of careers, but rather a list of the more common career paths that students may pursue after graduation.

It is important to note that some options listed may require additional education after completing the undergraduate degree. We recommend researching careers of interest to you to determine the level of study required. A good resource to use for researching careers is Career Cruising (see the link in the Career and Job Search Resources section of the guide). You may also choose to look at the career options listed for other degrees to help identify career options. For example, a Psychology major may be interested in the information for both the Psychology and Sociology degree guides.

Degree Specific Skills/Applied Skills

This section lists a variety of skills that a student may obtain by completing a specific degree. The skills may range from transferrable skills (i.e. communication skills) to content specific skills (i.e. Java programming) that apply to a particular field.

It is important to understand your skills and how you have developed them. Learning about the skills you have acquired from your degree is helpful when preparing your resume and cover letter, and getting ready for a job interview.

Business and Employer Directories

This section highlights directories that may helpful for identifying potential employers in your field. Research is an essential part of any job search, and educating yourself about different businesses and possible employer is essential before applying for jobs.

Professional Associations

This section provides a list of professional associations related to a specific field. Becoming familiar with different associations will help you to research different career areas (i.e. *Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science*) and may connect you with different companies that are involved in those fields.

Often, students may have the opportunity to join as a student member and be eligible to attend conferences and networking opportunities offered by the associations. There may be an option to sign up to receive newsletters or bulletins about upcoming events in that field. Some association websites also have a "careers" link with job postings included.

Internships, Exchanges & Volunteering

A great way to help make a career decision is to get involved by volunteering or doing an internship. This is also an excellent way to develop your network. There are many great sites that provide experiential opportunities for students. Each degree guide lists a variety of online resources to help students find those opportunities.

For example, the *Ontario Internship Program* gives students a chance to work in several departments in the provincial government over a two year time period, in a paid internship)or *Charity Village*, an excellent website for identifying employers in the Social Services field for job or volunteer opportunities.

Further Education and Training

Many students consider further studies after completing their undergraduate degree. This may or may not be necessary for you to achieve your career goals. If so, the list of websites provided in this section are helpful for finding information about graduate schools, college post-degree programs or professional schools. Pay close attention to application requirements, deadlines and fees for each institution.

Career and Job Search Resources

This section has been customized for a particular degree area to help provide the most relevant career and job search information for that field. It is important to explore many different sites and use a variety of job search strategies when trying to find work.

HOW TO GET STARTED:

- 1. Review the career options listed and sort them according to your interest level (i.e. very interested, somewhat interested, not interested)
- 2. Research the job titles in your 'very interested' column by looking at job descriptions (use the links listed in the Career and Job Search Resources section, such as career cruising and job futures)
- 3. Look for information about the skills needed for the job and the educational requirements by navigating through the links found in the Further Education and Training section
- 4. Update your resume by incorporating the Degree Specific Skills you have achieved with your degree, and those that are essential to the job you want
- 5. If you are looking to build experience in your field, search for opportunities in the Internships, Exchanges & Volunteering section and get involved
- 6. Find potential employers in your field by using the Business and Employer Directories and researching company websites for background information and the application procedures

^{**}Please note that there may be some formatting differences on the degree guides that may include more customized information for specific fields**