Planning for Your Career After Graduation

You don't have to wait until graduation to start thinking about what comes next. Whether you know exactly what career you want or have no idea where to start, here are some steps you can take during your time at Corban.

1. Explore Your Career Options
Start by thinking about what you want your life and career to look like.

Consider:

- What are you interested in?
- What are you good at?
- What types of work do you enjoy?
- What careers connect with your major?
- Where would you like to live?
- What is important to you in a workplace? Are you considering graduate school?

You do not need to have your entire career figured out. Career Services can help you explore careers, take career assessments, research possibilities, and narrow down your options.

2. Research Careers & Opportunities
Once you have a few ideas, start researching them. Look into:

- Common roles in your field
- Employers and organizations that interest you
- Education or certifications you may need
- Typical qualifications for entry-level positions
- Locations where opportunities are available
- Graduate programs, if additional education is needed

Look at real job postings even if you aren't ready to apply yet. They can show you what employers are looking for and help you identify skills or experience you can start building now.

3. Build Experience Before Graduation
Don't wait until graduation to start building your resume.

Look for opportunities through:

- Internships
- Part-time jobs
- Volunteer experience
- Campus involvement
- Athletics
- Leadership positions
- Research or projects
- Job shadowing

Your experiences do not all have to perfectly match your future career. Focus on developing skills and experiences you can take with you.

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4. Build Your Network
Start building professional relationships before you need a job.

Connect with:

- Professors and faculty
- Corban alumni
- Employers
- Internship supervisors
- Professionals in careers that interest you
- People you meet at Career Services events and career fairs

Ask questions and learn about their careers. Networking is about building genuine professional relationships, not just asking someone for a job.

5. Prepare Your Professional Materials
Before senior year or your final semester, make sure you have:

- An updated resume
- A general cover letter you can customize
- A professional LinkedIn profile
- References who have agreed to recommend you
- A portfolio or work samples, if relevant to your field

Career Services can help you prepare and review all of these.

6. Start Your Job Search Early
Don't wait until after graduation to begin applying.

Start researching employers and opportunities during your final year and regularly check:

- The Corban University Job Board
- Company career pages
- LinkedIn and other job-search sites
- Professional organizations in your field
- Opportunities shared by faculty and alumni

Create a list of organizations you would like to work for and check their career pages regularly.

7. Apply, Interview & Follow Up
When you find positions that interest you, tailor your resume and cover letter to the specific opportunity.

- Keep track of: Where you applied
- Application dates
- People you've contacted
- Interview dates
- Follow-ups
- Application status

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Before an interview, research the organization and practice answering questions. Career Services can also help you prepare through mock interviews.

8. Evaluate Your Options
Your first job after college does not have to be your forever job.

When considering an opportunity, think about:

- Responsibilities
- Salary and benefits
- Location
- Workplace culture
- Opportunities for growth
- Skills you will develop
- How the position supports your longer-term goals

Your first role is an opportunity to learn, gain experience, build relationships, and continue discovering where you want your career to go.

Start With Career Services
Whether you're a freshman starting to explore possibilities or a senior actively applying for jobs, Career Services is here to help throughout your time at Corban and after graduation.

- Career Services can help you: Explore career options
- Take career assessments
- Find internships and job opportunities
- Build your resume and LinkedIn
- Write cover letters
- Prepare for interviews
- Build networking skills
- Research employers
- Navigate job offers and next steps

You don't need to have your future figured out before you come in. We can start wherever you are.

Book a Meeting with Career Services

CORBAN UNIVERSITY | Office of Career Services