



networking

WHY NETWORK?

Networking is by far the most important, yet most neglected aspect of career planning. The key is to consider every person you come into contact with as a potential source for leads. It's such a small world, you never know who may guide you to that perfect opportunity. Many job openings are filled through word of mouth, or networking.

WHAT IS NETWORKING?

- Building connections with people and developing mutually beneficial relationships
- Gathering and exchanging information, contacts and experiences
- Helping you to acquire information, advice and referrals about all sorts of opportunities and job prospects

WHEN SHOULD I START?

It is never too early to start networking. If you want a job when you graduate, you have to know people in the industry in which you want to work NOW. The concept is plain and simple: plant the seeds before you need to harvest them.

WHERE DO I BEGIN?

Networking is vital, but where do you start the building process? Very simple—with people already in your network.

- Your family and their friends, your friends and their families.
- College classmates, professors, coaches, neighbors, current or former bosses, and coworkers.
- Anyone you or your family have a relationship with—doctors, religious leaders, lawyers, realtors, accountants, insurers and bankers.
- CUC alumni – they are often willing to help new graduates. The CUC Networking event is the perfect place to meet some of them.

HOW CAN CAREER SERVICES HELP?

Networking opportunities are never-ending. Career fairs, company visits, workshops and more take place throughout the year. Check out the Career Services page on the Portal to view our upcoming events. Using *LinkedIn* and professional association sites are also great tools for networking.



THE KEY CARD

Business cards are helpful when networking and offer the opportunity for potential employers to check in with you later when they have time.

Online resources:

vistaprint.com,
moo.com, zazzle.com

More info:

findspark.com/business-cards-recent-grads/

CONNECTING WITH PROFESSIONALS

LinkedIn

Develop your *LinkedIn* profile and use the platform to connect with professionals in your field.

Professional Association

Professional associations in your field often have student memberships at reduced rates. Attend events to meet people in your field.

want more information? need help?
check the student portal
or make an appointment

708-209-3033 career.services@CUChicago.edu