

How to 'survive life after Elon' from a former student

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Just one year ago, Justen Baskerville was sitting under the oaks, in front of the oldest building on campus he patiently waited for his named to be called as sweat beaded down his face.

Baskerville, a broadcast communications major, is currently working for The Washington Post as an advertising service representative, within the major accounts unit.

Like many students, Baskerville joined family and friends at a gathering and cookout to celebrate a new beginning as adults in the real world. He knew that he wouldn't see these friends for a while, so attending parties was a necessity. What he didn't know was that he would leave with a possible job opportunity in Washington,

D.C. After several conversations with friends of friends, he left with a business card and was instructed to send a resume to The Washington Post. "I've done this several times before, so I wasn't too optimistic about it," Baskerville said.

After months of working and job-hunting he received a call from someone at The Washington Post. Weeks later, following an interview, Baskerville had his first job.

"I lucked up, but there's a few things I could have done prior to graduation day that would have helped," he said. Here's what he had to offer:

1 **Work your contacts.** Use family, friends and former coworkers to your advantage. Someone you know may know someone in your field

that may give you the opportunity of a lifetime. "Academics are important, but undergrad degrees come a dime a dozen, so it's good to know someone," Baskerville said. Use the people you have met at career fairs. Pull out those old business cards that may have been collecting dust, you might stumble upon someone that has something to offer you, or knows someone that can offer you something.

2 **Looking online for jobs is impersonal.** Take a weekend or a day to drive to a city you wish to work. "I wish I had done more in-person job searches," Baskerville said. If you do online job searching, be sure to schedule follow-up calls in your planner. When applying for so many jobs, it's easy to forget where you have

applied. Stay on top of things, your lovely Elon persona over the phone may land you a job. If you don't have the opportunity to visit job locations, stay home from that family vacation and use your time wisely.

3 **"Don't give up or get discouraged,"** Baskerville said. "If you have to work a job outside your field, do what you have to do until you get the job you want." Talk to people who have jobs and find out what they did to get where they are. Friends who are in the real world may be able to offer good advice.

4 **Take advantage of all your resources.** Just because you're graduating doesn't mean the people in the career center can't help you. By now you should



Photo submitted
Justen Baskerville, (left) had three internships and was president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity., Inc. He now works at The Washington Post.

know the Elon community is here to help. Don't be afraid to call your adviser once in a while and ask if they know of any job openings. The Elon job network is also a useful resource.

5 **"Play up your internships,"** said Baskerville. "You may think your job as an intern, filing papers and scheduling appointments was meaningless, but they make a

difference." In interviews, show what you've really learned. Make your resume stand out with great internships. If you've only had the chance to work one internship, call the company back and see if they would like to hire you as an intern with room for advancement. It never hurts to ask.

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