

Good career paths for recent grads

It has been a stressful couple of years for college students. An unstable economy has led many students to second-guess their investments in higher education, and fear regarding employment prospects after graduation are common among today's students.

Graduates who majored in fields of study that are more recession-proof than others could have decided advantages over students who went with other majors. Knowing which careers are still going strong and which have stalled can help college students with goals of finding a career with growth potential.

*** Financial analysts and managers:** Many forecasts indicate jobs in finance will continue to remain strong with high growth. Despite financial ups and downs, people still need to be educated on how and where to spend their money. Students with degrees in finance and marketing may have advantages over others.

*** Engineers:** Engineers

apply the principles of science and mathematics to develop economical solutions to technical problems. Their work is the link between scientific discoveries and the commercial applications that meet societal and consumer needs. Many different fields require engineers, from mechanical and civil industries to electrical and chemical industries. Engineering remains a strong course of study with many different subsets for specialization.

*** Networking/systems administration:** With the world revolving around computers, jobs in the systems administration field remain viable. Keep in mind that there is also a wide array of competition in these careers, but the ability to make high salaries is what drives many to pursue careers in networking and computer systems administration.

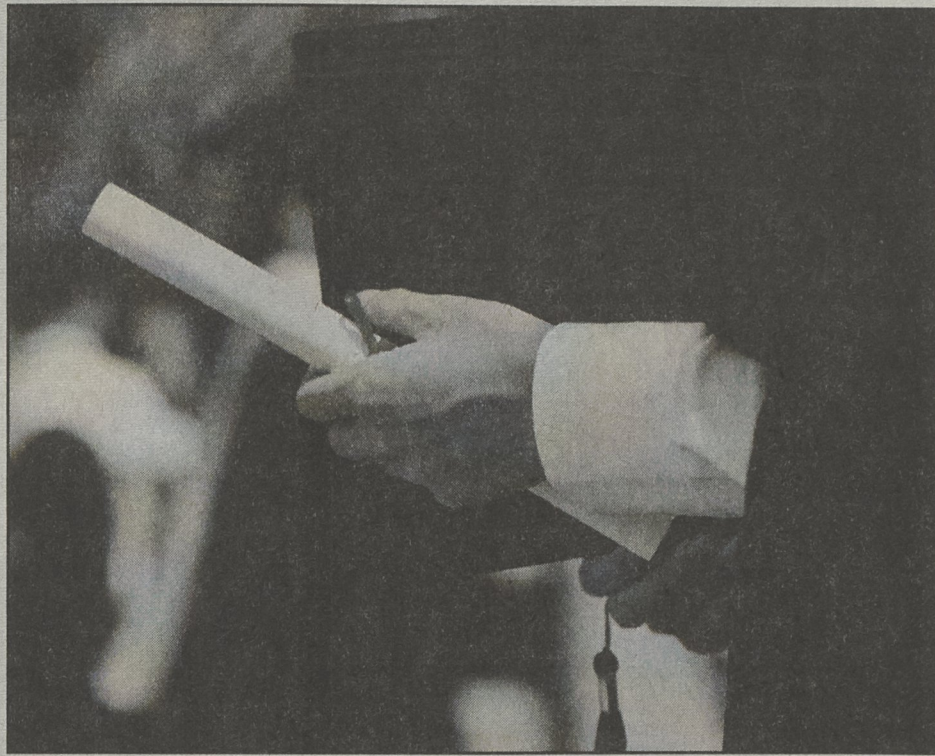
*** Accounting:** Similar to other financial careers, accounting jobs remain stable despite the uncertain economy. Where there is money to be spent, individuals and

businesses will require the services of accountants to keep all of their accounts in check. Entry-level accountants can receive in-house promotions and become finance executives.

*** Nursing/medical careers:** Jobs in healthcare continue to be strong as well. An aging population keeps nurses, doctors, aides and medical-supply companies in business. There are many different nursing specializations, making nursing an attractive career choice.

*** Software design and development:** Keeping today's digital world running requires a staff of people constantly updating and creating new software. From games to business applications to all of those entertaining apps downloaded each day, software designers pave the way for computer innovation.

*** Salespeople:** Sales is one of the oldest and longest-running types of occupations available. Every industry needs quality sales professionals to meet with



the public and drive interest in products and services. There are sales positions in just about every industry.

*** Educators:** The Millennial generation is just as large as the Baby Boom generation, and children will continue to fill up class-

rooms across the world. It is estimated three million more teachers are needed by 2015 to fill openings in the United States alone. Also, initiatives to require Pre-K classes could increase the number of education jobs even further.

*** Computer information security:** The need to protect personal information from those who want to exploit it continues to grow. Computer information security will continue to increase with the expansion of technological applications.

Clever ways to circumvent rising college costs

College tuition and fees are perpetually on the rise, so it's no great surprise that today's students are graduating with more college debt than ever before. Though some students might feel helpless with regard to avoiding student loan debt, there are some clever ways for youngsters to pay for college and stay out of debt.

*** Work with a service organization.** Many universities are affiliated with nonprofit organizations, and students who work for affiliated organizations may be eligible for scholarships provided by the organization and/or the university. Wages for workers who take advantage of such programs tend to be very low, but those students who serve full stints could earn scholarships worth several thousand dollars. Students can explore such opportunities by speaking with their universities to determine if the schools are affiliated with any service organizations. If not, students with a desire to give back can find charities that reward their workers with college scholarships.

*** Sign up for studies.**

College students often lament their lack of spending money. That's especially true today, when many students put their earnings from summer jobs or internships toward their tuition. But opportunities for relatively easy money abound on college campuses, where researchers need subjects for studies. Signing up to be a subject for a study can be an easy and lucrative way to earn money that can be used to pay tuition or everyday expenses that often go overlooked when planning a budget. University job boards or department bulletin boards often advertise needs for study participants, so college kids strapped for cash should monitor such boards in an effort to earn some extra income.

*** Start a business.** Though college kids might not have the time to start building the next Fortune 500 company, starting a small business can be a great way for students to earn money and set their own schedules. A tutoring business that caters to local high school students or even fellow college kids can be a

great way for college students to make practical use of their education. Just a few hours of tutoring each week can be enough to help college students mitigate the costs of campus life, and if the business grows big enough, students might even be able to put a dent in their tuition fees.

*** Live at home.** While living at home is an option available only to those students who attend in-state universities within spitting distance of Mom and Dad, it's an increasingly reasonable decision for students worried about accruing excessive student loan debt. While room-and-board fees vary widely, U.S. News reported that the average charges for on-campus living during the 2013-14 school year were \$9,689. Over the course of four years, students will spend nearly \$40,000 just to live on campus, and many students will pay those costs via student loans. Students whose primary goal is to avoid substantial postgraduate debt may find that living at home, while not necessarily ideal, is the most effective way to do just that.

Pomp and circumstance

When asked to list renowned classical composers, Mozart or Beethoven may come to mind. Many people may not think to mention Edward Elgar. But there's an excellent chance thousands of people are very familiar with the most famous work by Elgar.

"Pomp and Circumstance" is undoubtedly Elgar's biggest claim to fame. It has become the standard to which many soon-to-be graduates proceed into their graduation ceremonies, both in high school and college. As such, it has become one of the most recognized concert marches.

The song -- the trio section of the first march in a series written by Elgar -- was

not written with the intention of being a graduation processional. Elgar built up his reputation as a composer of works for great choral festivals throughout England. In 1901, Elgar began composing five marches that would be named "Pomp and Circumstance Marches." He is perhaps best known for the first of the marches, which went on to be simply named, "Pomp and Circumstance," or "The Graduation March." Since 1905, it has been used at virtually all high school and university graduations in America.

The first time "Pomp and Circumstance" was played in a graduation setting was when Elgar received an honorary

Doctorate from Yale University in 1905. At the end of the ceremony, the march was performed as recessional music. It was so well received that it was soon expected to be played during graduation ceremonies at many other prominent schools. Today it is rare to hear "The Graduation March" played outside of commencement ceremonies.

Many graduates have fond memories of hearing "Pomp and Circumstance" at their school commencement, even remembering the exact moment they received their degrees. For those attending a graduation ceremony in the near future, expect to hear this powerful march.

Tips to land a good internship

Many college students recognize the value of internships. Internships can help college students start building their resumes before they even earn their degrees, and those experiences can give them an edge in a competitive postgraduate job market.

Landing internships gives students some firsthand experience within a given profession, and that exposure can help them decide if a projected career path is right for them or if it's good to go back to the drawing board. The following are a few tips to help college students land an internship and make the most of the opportunity.

*** Don't hesitate.** Though many internships are tailored to students with a year or two of college under their belt, that doesn't mean freshman can't begin to explore potential opportunities. Even if you don't intend to get an internship in the coming school year or during summer break, you

can begin to explore potential opportunities that might interest you when the time to start seeking internships does arrive. Looking early may yield valuable information, such as courses that would improve your chances of landing an internship, that your fellow students who hesitate or procrastinate won't have.

*** Speak with the career placement specialists** at your school. Career placement departments at colleges and universities are an increasingly valuable resource for today's college students, many of whom will graduate and face an uncertain and crowded job market. But career placement departments are not just a resource for grads. Such departments can be valuable tools for current students interested in landing internships. If you don't know where to begin your internship search or simply want to see if any opportunities have opened up, speak with representatives

at the career placement department at your school. Look the part on such visits, dressing nicely and bringing a resume. Doing so might just separate you from your fellow students, and that can only help as you begin your search for an internship.

*** Ask around** among friends and family members. Sometimes you need a little help to land a good internship, so don't be afraid to ask your friends and family members if they're aware of any opportunities. Adult relatives might be aware of internship opportunities at their companies before the general public, and there's no shame in seeking help as you try to take the first step toward a rewarding career. In addition to friends and family members, inquire about your college or university's alumni network. Many alumni look to hire students from their universities for internships or even entry-level positions, so make the most of this potentially valuable resource.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2015

J&B
AUTOMOTIVE
N.C. STATE INSPECTIONS
See us for all your Automotive needs!
1516 N. Cansler St. Jamie Carrigan
Kings Mountain 704-739-5116

Now Including USED AND NEW TIRES!

Congratulations
Class of 2015!

Linwood Produce & Restaurant

805 Cleveland Ave., Kings Mountain
704.739.7308

Pray For Your Children, Schools And Teachers

moms in PRAYER
INTERNATIONAL

Moms In Prayer Meets For One Hour Weekly To Pray For Your Child, Their School And Teachers To Find Out How To Join Or Start A Group Log On To:
WWW.MOMSINPRAYER.ORG