If you've picked up this handout, you're already looking at alternatives to graduate or professional school. An internship or career search can be tough, especially if you don't know where to start. Career Services wants to assist you in starting off on the right foot by providing information on how you may utilize the skills you possess as a science major in a variety of positions and fields.

- Some of the skills you have developed through your coursework are: Analytical, Problem-Solving, Laboratory, Communication (oral and written), Observational, Curiosity/Creativity, Experimentation, Precision/Accuracy, conceptual. Through the use of these skills, you contribute to the work of an organization.

- As you explore organizations and professions, and get one step closer to answering the BIG question: "What am I going to be when I grow up?", some occupational categories to consider include: environmental health, soil/hydrology, food, plants & animals, consulting, laboratory/forensics, toxicology, research & development, process and quality control, intellectual property, pollution control, or sales.

- By meeting and developing relationships with professionals, you may gain mentors, role models, and friends. This is sometimes called networking—a scary term for an otherwise simple concept.
Tips for a Successful Search

- Define your goals.
  What area would you like to “test-drive” to see if you like it? Develop a list of criteria. Employers want applicants who understand their strengths and have specific goals.

- Plan to spend time each week on your search.
  Schedule and organize the time you spend on your search. Stay focused and motivated. It is easier and more effective to do a little each week instead of trying to do everything at once. Be proactive in your search.

- Research and identify opportunities (also see resource list at the end).
  There are three ways to find opportunities: A) You can search advertised listings; B) You can be proactive and approach employers that interest you, and C) You can build your network of people who can help you identify unadvertised listing. It’s best to spend time on all three approaches.

- Prepare and submit application materials.
  Every employer has specific requirements; following instructions is key. Always send a cover letter with a resume unless it specifies otherwise.

- Keep records and follow up.
  Typically, the best time to follow up is a few days to a week after you think they have received your application. If at all possible, don’t leave a message. Keep calling at different times until someone picks up.

- Interview effectively.
  Career services staff can provide suggestions and strategies to help you interview with confidence and competence.

- Make the decision that is right for you.
  There isn’t one best internship or job opportunity. Career services staff can assist you in weighing all of your options.

Getting Started: Information on Careers in the Sciences

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences
  http://www.aafs.org
- American Chemical Society
  http://www.acs.org
- American Chemistry Council
  http://americanchemistry.com
- American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
  http://www.asmb.org
- Chemistry Education Association
  http://www.cea.asn.au
- Environmental Careers Organization
  http://www.eco.org
- International Council of Chemical Associations
  http://www.icca-chem.org
- List of Chemistry Careers (eHow)
  http://ehow.com/list_6665434_list-chemistry-careers.html
- NetSci’s List of Professional Societies for Chemistry
  http://netsci.org/Resources/Web/society_chemistry.html

Science Internship and Career Resources

- Science Careers
  http://sciencecareers.scienecemag.org
- WWW Chemistry Guide
  http://chemistryguide.org
- Science Internship and Career Resources
  
  - Abbott Laboratories
    http://www.abbott.com
  - Argonne National Laboratory Internships
    http://www.dep.anl.gov/p_undergrad/
  - American Medical Association in Chicago
    http://www.ama-assn.org
  - Brookfield Zoo
    http://www.czs.org/czs/About-CZS/Careers
  - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
    http://www.atf.gov/careers
  - Cargill
    http://www.cargill.com/careers
  - Chicago Botanic Gardens
    http://www.chicagobotanic.org/internship/index.html
  - Domino Sugar
    http://www.dominosugar.com
  - Eichrom Technologies
    http://www.eichrom.com
  - Flexan Corp.
    http://www.flexan.com
  - Fuchs Lubricants Company
    http://www.fuchs.com
  - Gas Technology Institute
    http://gastechnology.org
  - GE Healthcare
    http://gecareers.com
  - IL Environmental Protection Agency
    http://www.epa.state.il.us
  - IL Department of Natural Resources Internships
    http://dnr.state.il.us/events/intbro.htm
  - IL State Police Forensic Science Unit
    http://www.isp.state.il.us/forensics/
  - Intertek
    http://interTek.com
  - Johnson & Johnson
    http://www.jnj.com
  - Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation
  - Museum of Science and Industry
    http://www.msichicago.org/info/HR/employ_opps.html
  - National Internships in the Sciences