

# 12 Hints for Landing a **HIGH-PAYING PROFESSION** After Graduation

If only graduation day came with a job guarantee, too... The truth is, once the excitement of graduation is over, the real work begins. Landing a great job is tough. It's especially tough if you lack experience or are not sure how to kickstart your search. So, we thought we'd help you out!

At the Pediatric Dental Assistant School, we've compiled a list of things you need to do and know in order to land the profession you really want. Let's get started!



## Streamline your social media profiles.

Your potential employer will be googling you. Use the same professional profile image across all your platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+, etc). And by all means, don't display a drunken party profile picture on any of your social media platforms. Chances are, your potential employer is going to see it; and this is a quick way to be passed over.

**Create a LinkedIn profile that reflects your best work.**  
Your online portfolio and resume establishes your professionalism and it's a great way to learn about companies you are interested in working with. Don't forget to take pictures of your work if possible. Make sure you take the time to proofread and polish your profile. Spelling, grammar, and tone... all of these add up and cause employers to stop and take notice!



## Don't be afraid to ask.

If you feel like your resume and/or cover letter needs work, ask someone you trust to proofread it for you. A resume or cover letter with typos will be immediately thrown out. Choose someone who is educated and resume savvy. Utilize the resources at your disposal: teachers, counselors, tutors, advisors... don't let simple mistakes cost you an excellent career opportunity.





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**Do your homework.**

Define the type of work you want to do within your desired industry and learn everything you can about it. Employers love it when you ask questions about their company. Make a list of questions in advance. It makes you look interested and invested in them.



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**Be diligent.**

Look for jobs every single day. Never give up! Use online resources like Craigslist Jobs, Monster.com, Indeed.com, Careerbuilder.com... There are literally thousands of jobs added online, every single day.



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**The experimental approach.**

Test out different versions of the same cover letter to see which works best for you. The truth is, you only need one employer to hire you.



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**Practice makes perfect.**

Read, watch TED talks, download practice interview questions, and rehearse your interview answers. Ask your family and friends to help you practice. If you have family or friends in the industry, ask them for pointers on which questions potential interviewers might ask. Do this until your answers flow naturally. You want to feel ready without appearing too rehearsed.

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**Become an expert networker.**

Being in the right place at the right time to snag your dream job is not a matter of luck. It's a matter of going the extra mile to get where you want to be. If the thought of networking is totally overwhelming, start with local universities, the Young Professionals Network, LinkedIn, or specific industry events. Just get out there and start meeting professionals in your desired field.



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**Never let them see you sweat.**

Rejection can be hard, but it can also be liberating. Think of it as a chance to try something you've never thought of before. It's an opportunity to adjust your approach for the next interview.



### Dress for the job you want, not the job you have.

It's all about first impressions. So, at the risk of sounding like your mother, make sure your clothes are clean and pressed. Make sure your shirt is tucked in and you are properly groomed. Cover any tattoos and realize facial piercings are not the best way to present yourself as a professional. And, take the necessary steps to not only look fresh, but smell fresh, too! First impressions are made just seconds after meeting someone...make yours count.



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### Mind your manners and follow up.

Always send a thank you note or email after each interview. Trust us. Just do it. Even if they politely reject you, a thank you note says that you appreciate the time they spent on you. And, the business world is very busy. If you haven't heard back after about a week, follow up with them. Take a pro-active approach, it says you are eager and ready to work and employers will notice.

### Job shadow/volunteer.

You can gain exposure and insight into the field you are interested in by job shadowing or volunteering. Even if you are working for free, you're gaining valuable experience and inside knowledge. Remember, you never know who you will meet or what doors will open when you put time in as a volunteer.



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Whew! That was a lot.

It's best not to rush this process. In the end, hard work and good timing will always pay off. We hope you've found this information helpful. Best of luck in your search for your perfect profession!

