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WAYS TO PREPARE FOR THE REAL WORLD

FORM A NETWORK.

Form a network. Build rapport with professors, classmates, and employers. When graduation comes, you'll have no trouble with references and connections to possible job opportunities.



PRACTICE INTERVIEWING.

Nail down answers to [common interview questions](#).



VOLUNTEER.

Take advantage of your free hours between classes to do something good for someone else. It will build your resume – and your character!



PREPARE AN ELEVATOR PITCH.

Craft a 15- to 30-second conversational pitch that highlights your skill sets and job goals.



CLEAN UP SOCIAL MEDIA.

There's a good chance potential employers will [check your digital footprint](#) before making a job offer. Don't let a silly picture on Facebook stand between you and your dream job!



OPTIMIZE YOUR LINKEDIN PAGE.

Make sure your LinkedIn page is up to date. Add a professional picture, create a complete profile, join relevant groups, and ask for recommendations.



GET A POWER SUIT

or an interview-appropriate outfit that you feel great in, but don't break the bank! A simple black blazer and pants are great staples for your wardrobe.

LAND AN INTERNSHIP.

An internship in your field will give you an edge over other entry-level applicants.



LIVE WITHIN (OR BELOW) YOUR MEANS.

By now, you're probably used to living frugally. To start your financial life on the right foot, stick to a budget. This will allow you to save for a car, down payment on a house, graduate school, or a vacation.



CREATE A JOB HUNTING PLAN.

Research companies that you'd like to work for and make a list of career sites. Also consider partnering with a recruiter. They offer a number of [perks for job seekers](#) with no obligation or cost!

