

Career Tips for Today's Job Market (2026 Edition)

RESUME AND PORTFOLIO POINTERS

- Keep your resume, portfolio, and LinkedIn profile up to date at all times. New opportunities often arise unexpectedly.
- Tailor your resume for each position you apply for by highlighting the skills, experiences, and accomplishments most relevant to the job description.
- Use keywords from the job posting to improve compatibility with Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS), which many employers use to screen applications.
- Focus on measurable accomplishments whenever possible. Quantify results using percentages, dollar amounts, project sizes, timelines, or other metrics.
- Leading with a professional summary and key qualifications before your employment history is always a great way to start the resume.
- If you are early in your career, emphasize internships, freelance work, studio projects, leadership roles, volunteer experience, and relevant coursework.
- For design-related fields, maintain a professional portfolio that showcases your strongest and most current work. Quality is more important than quantity.
- Use AI tools responsibly to help improve grammar, formatting, and organization, but ensure all content accurately reflects your skills and experience.
- Keep resumes concise. One page is generally appropriate for students and recent graduates, while experienced professionals may require two pages.

LINKEDIN AND PERSONAL BRANDING

- Maintain a complete LinkedIn profile with a professional photo, detailed experience, project examples, and current contact information.
- Build your network by connecting with classmates, alumni, faculty, employers, and industry professionals.
- Engage with industry-related content by sharing projects, commenting on discussions, and participating in professional groups.

- Request recommendations from faculty, supervisors, internship managers, and professional colleagues.
 - Ensure your online presence reflects the professional image you want employers to see.
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NETWORKING TIPS

- Networking remains one of the most effective ways to discover job opportunities.
 - Utilize NewSchool Career Services, alumni networks, Career Fairs, Lunch and Learn events, industry conferences, and professional organizations.
 - Develop a concise "30-Second Introduction" that summarizes who you are, what you do, and what type of opportunities you are seeking.
 - Follow up with professionals you meet through email or LinkedIn within 24 to 48 hours.
 - Attend industry events, employer presentations, and networking opportunities whenever possible.
 - Stay involved with professional organizations related to Architecture, Interior Design, Product Design, Graphic Design, Construction Management, and other relevant industries.
 - Focus on building genuine professional relationships rather than only seeking immediate job opportunities.
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JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES

- Dedicate time each week to your job search and track applications in an organized manner.
- Utilize multiple job search resources including LinkedIn, Indeed, Handshake, company websites, industry-specific job boards, and Career Services resources.
- Research organizations before applying to understand their culture, values, projects, and hiring needs.

- Consider internships, contract opportunities, freelance work, and project-based positions as pathways to long-term employment.
 - Follow employers and firms of interest on social media and LinkedIn to stay informed about hiring needs and company developments.
 - Regularly review Career Services job postings and employer communications.
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INTERVIEW TIPS

- Research the company, position, leadership team, and recent projects before every interview.
 - Prepare examples that demonstrate problem-solving, teamwork, leadership, adaptability, creativity, and technical skills.
 - Practice answering behavioral interview questions using the STAR Method (Situation, Task, Action, Result).
 - Be prepared to discuss specific projects included in your portfolio and explain your individual contributions.
 - For virtual interviews:
 - Test your technology in advance.
 - Ensure a professional background.
 - Dress professionally.
 - Minimize distractions.
 - Arrive 10-15 minutes early for in-person interviews and log in 5-10 minutes early for virtual interviews.
 - Bring additional copies of your resume and portfolio when attending in-person interviews.
 - Prepare thoughtful questions for the employer about the team, projects, culture, and expectations.
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AFTER THE INTERVIEW

- Send a professional thank-you email within 24 hours.
- Reinforce your interest in the position and briefly reference key discussion points from the interview.
- Connect with interviewers on LinkedIn when appropriate.
- Follow up respectfully if you have not heard back within the employer's estimated timeline.
- Continue your job search activities while awaiting a decision.

CAREER SERVICES RECOMMENDATION

Students should begin working with Career Services during their first quarter and continue throughout their academic journey. Regular engagement through career advising, portfolio reviews, resume workshops, mock interviews, Career Fairs, Lunch and Learn events, and networking opportunities helps ensure graduates are prepared for successful careers in today's competitive job market.

Remember: Career success is not built at graduation. It is built through consistent professional development, networking, portfolio growth, and career planning throughout your time at NewSchool and beyond.

Contact Richard Hess (Director of Career Services) to get started:

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