

Parent Information

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who can help my child with career development?**

In addition to a higher education, today's competitive job market requires students to impress potential employers with their talents and job skills. Encourage your child to take advantage of the free career development services provided by Lander University's Office of Career Services.

- **How can I help my child choose a college major?**

Whether seeking a career in Accounting or deciding to pursue talents in the Arts, your son or daughter should choose their own career path. Of course you may want to talk with them about job market demands, salary ranges, and long range career goals. – NACE Jobweb

- **What about my child's Grade Point Average (GPA)?**

Encourage your child to make academics a high priority beginning with freshman year. Some students get off to a rocky start at the beginning before adjusting to the rigorous academic demands of college. Some employers use GPAs when considering a job applicant, while others look at the student's overall experience. – NACE Jobweb

- **What kind of skills should my son/daughter develop?**

Encourage your son or daughter to develop strengths in several of these areas.

- **Computer skills** - Programming, Word processing, Spreadsheets, Data base management, E-mail, Internet
- **Quantitative skills** - Accounting, Statistics, Economics
- **Communication skills** -Written and Oral
- **Marketing skills** - Sales, Publicity, Fundraising
- **Scientific skills** - Lab skills, Scientific research
- **Foreign language skills** -especially Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, or Russian
- **Leadership skills** - Supervisory, extracurricular leadership roles, Team leader

- **My child wants to join a student organization, how can he/she use this on a resume?**

"Many employers rate leadership activities even more highly than GPA. Students who were very active in high school activities may be less involved in college extracurricular activities. However, employers regard high school as "ancient history" for a college senior. It is more valuable for a student to be involved in a few meaningful leadership roles on campus than to be in a "laundry list" of many campus clubs." NACE Jobweb

- **What about summer jobs? Can my child use this on his resume?**

"Future employers look for graduates with relevant, real-world work experience. Some students have little to write about on a resume if their summers were spent in school, traveling, or working at low-level jobs. Students should seek career-related experience for their

sophomore and junior summers even if they must live away from home or accept an unpaid internship. Students needing financial support can combine an unpaid internship with a paid job such as waiter/waitress, etc.” NACE Jobweb

- **My child is graduating Early / Late ... will this affect his/her job search?**

“Some students graduate early through advanced placement credits, heavy course loads, and summer school courses.” NACE jobweb

Advantages for EARLY Graduation are:

- Lower educational expenses
- Ability to start employment
- Graduate school earlier

Disadvantages of EARLY Graduation may include:

- The sacrifice of academic honors
- Work experience
- Extracurricular and volunteer activities that may contribute to a student's maturity level and qualifications.

Other students graduate late due to light course loads, academic difficulties, changing majors, lack of direction, or reluctance to leave the cocoon of the college environment.

Advantages to LATE Graduation include:

- The ability to improve grades with light class loads
- Extra time to change major
- The ability to take additional electives to improve marketability
- Extra time to gain more career-related or leadership experience.

Disadvantages to LATE Graduation may be:

- Increased college costs
- Possible disapproval of employers and graduate schools

- **My son/daughter is talking about Graduate School.**

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), “about 88% of the nation's college freshmen indicated in a recent survey that they plan to go to graduate or professional school, yet only about 24% actually do so within a year of completing their bachelor's degree.”

Students aspiring to graduate or professional school should:

- Be clear about the reasons they want to go on for further education
- Research the qualifications required for admission and be realistic about their chances of acceptance

- Always have a back-up plan in case they are not accepted.
- Students should discuss their interest in graduate or professional school before their senior year with their academic adviser, the graduate school advisor and a college career adviser to obtain advice and guidance from three different perspectives.
- **My child wants to take some time off after he/she graduates, will this make it more difficult when he/she starts looking for a job?**

Many students want to take time off after college graduation before attending graduate school or taking a career-related job.

Future employers will want to know how the student has spent the intervening time. Do activities during this period demonstrate relevance to future career goals and/or a good work ethic?

While short-term travel may be personally broadening, it does not increase a student's marketability to employers unless it is seen as career related.

Therefore, the time off may result in a longer job search. For example, management trainee programs, which often begin shortly after graduation and hire large numbers of new graduates, may be filled by the time your child is ready to begin a job search. – NACE Job web