

*How to successfully*  
**AND CONFIDENTLY**  
**NAVIGATE A JOB**  
**SEARCH**



A step-by-step guide  
for individuals looking to begin  
and/or advance their careers

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# You just graduated...Now what?

I graduated from my doctorate program and became a licensed physical therapist in October of 2011, after 7 years of combined undergraduate and graduate education. It had been an intense journey and I had learned so much. Unfortunately there were still some key things I wish I had been prepared for before beginning for professional career.



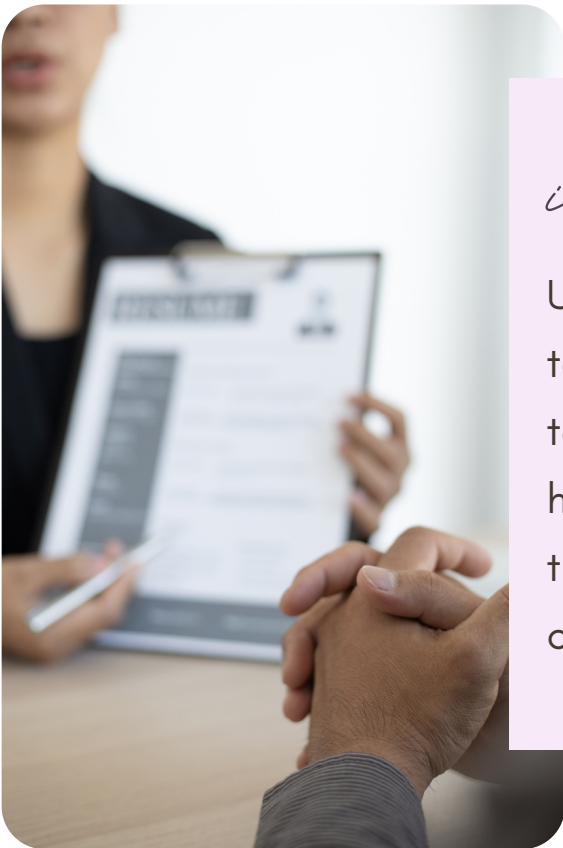
## *important tip*

When applying for any job, ALWAYS request a copy of the benefits for your review. You don't want to accept a position with a company only to find out they don't offer perks that are important to you; like health or disability insurance

One of those things was a thorough understanding and working knowledge of how to navigate a job search and accept a position in my career field. After 11 years and several job changes within and across companies I now feel much more confident when applying for a position for looking for a new job.

Had I known then what I know now, I wouldn't have had to go through the painful and sometimes awkward process of learning on the spot how to navigate interviews and accept or negotiate aspects of job offers, I could have avoided some painful and awkward encounters. Like the time I was asked what I was thinking for a salary by a regional director during a job offer and I responded with "I actually have no idea what a typical salary is for someone with my experience". Not one of my finer moments. So, without further ado, let's get into some of my recommendations for new grads as they begin their job search.

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## *important tip*

Use your interview scheduling phone call to find out information about the company to prepare for your interview! It helps to have some background information about the place your interviewing before the day of your scheduled appointment!

## First things first...

Your last year of school, start making a list of settings you think you would enjoy working in. Base this off of what you've enjoyed learning in school and what clinical settings you've enjoyed working in. From there, start making a list of what other qualities you'd like your first job to have: location, pay, hours, internal promotion opportunities, etc.

Once you have that list it's time to start looking for open positions. Be the person to look up positions on glass door, Indeed and other sites. Use your network to get in. Make sure your resume is up to date and submit your applications. Most companies will respond fairly quickly to your interest.