# STEM Graduate Students

**Navigating Your Future**

This career path is for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math disciplines and is geared towards students who are looking to pursue careers in industry/non-academic fields including areas such as:

- Biotechnology
- Consulting
- Data Science
- Education
- Engineering
- Finance
- Government
- Industry
- Patent Law
- Research Administration
- Science Medical Writing
- Science Outreach & Policy
- Software Development
- Tech Companies
- University Administration

**Gaucho Paths to Success (GPS)** is a career education program offering you a framework to effectively pursue various occupational areas, through optimizing your academic, experiential, and career development preparation.

## Explore Options

Here are some initial questions to ask yourself:

- What skills do I have from my graduate studies that are related to my career of interest? What skills do I need to gain?
- What industry/field am I drawn to? Do I know anyone in those fields?
- Which of my interests and strengths do I want to use in my career?
- What job qualifications do I have? How can I talk about my skills in a way that translates into industry?

### Career Preparation

- **Sign up for any of these FREE assessments with a peer advisor in Career Resource Room (CRR):**
  - Strong Interest Inventory
  - Myers-Briggs Type Indicator
  - Strengths Finder

- **Read these books** (copies are located in the Graduate Student Resource Center (GSRC) at Lana Smith-Hale's office SRB 1216):
  - Alternative Careers in Science: Leaving the Ivory Tower by Cynthia Robbins-Roth
  - Guide to Non-Traditional Careers in Science by Karen Young-Kreeger
  - Put Your Science to Work: The Take-Charge Career Guide for Scientists by Peter Fiske
  - So What Are You Going to do With That: Finding Careers Outside Academia by Susan Basalla & Maggie Debelius
  - The Professor is In: The Essential Guide to Turning Your PhD into a Job by Karen Kelsky

- **Browse through these career blogs/websites** to learn more about career options:
  - Cheeky Scientist: www.cheekyscientist.com
  - Doug's Guides: www.dougsguides.com
  - From PhD to Life: www.fromphdtolife.com
  - How to Leave Physics, Jennifer Hodgdon: http://www.peclarware.com/personal/leave_physics
  - Versatile PhD: www.graddiva.ucsb.edu/versatile-phd

- **Check out where other students have gone:**
  - Check out www.LinkedIn.com/eduumni to explore where students are currently working
  - Talk with your department Graduate Program Advisor, academic advisor, or former students for ideas

- **Conduct Informational Interviews** with professionals in your area of interest and ask these questions:
  - How did you get to where you are today?
  - What qualifications/education/background did you have that helped you get this position?
  - What aspects of the job do you like and fit well for you?
  - How did you find this job?
  - Ask a question-based on your values (e.g., if you want freedom in the job, ask “how much freedom do you have?”)

- **See more sample questions on the Informational Interview Handout**

- **Consider filling out a career plan for STEM students:**
  - MyIDP: www.myidp.sciencecareers.org

### Academic Preparation

- Create a clear plan and timeline with your advisor/committee about how you can meet the requirements to file your dissertation
- Consider taking time during your program to get outside the academy experience if considering a non-academic job
- Consider diversifying your academic skills to be more marketable (e.g., lab skills, personal projects, software trainings, data analytics)

### Personal Preparation

- **Join a student organization and/or professional organization** through your department or UCSB Office of Student Life's website to get well-rounded experience, leadership experience, and/or team work experience
- **Create a website or online portfolio** to begin showcasing personal and class projects
- **Identify a skill** you want to learn and attend a course, training, or experience in that field
GET EXPERIENCE

Connect with Career & Campus Resources
- Sign up for Gradpost to stay up to date on career events, jobs, and opportunities for Graduate Students exclusively
- Sign up for GauchosLink and check out a variety of experiential opportunities such as internships and part-time jobs
- Attend Career Services workshops such as Résumé and Cover Letter for Graduate Students (check GradPost for dates & times)
- Meet with a Lana Smith-Hale during drop-in or personal appointment to review your résumé or cover letter
- Review Non-Academic Job Search Resource Handout for Graduate Students to look for jobs, internships, or opportunities
- Attend UCSB’s Annual Beyond Academia (BA) Conference (check GradPost for more information)
- Check out the Get Experience section on the Career Services website for jobs, internships, and opportunities in your field of interest
- Attend quarterly career fairs, employer information sessions, and industry panels (check Career site for dates & times)

Internships, Part-time Jobs, & Volunteering
- Search via GauchosLink and Internships.com
- Consider proposing your own internship and get help by reviewing the Internship Toolkit on Career Services’ website
- Meet with potential employers to network for opportunities
- Sign up for your academic department’s listserv to stay up to date on targeted opportunities
- Get involved with campus activities to gain leadership and diversified opportunities (e.g., GSA, department representative)
- Seek volunteer opportunities in your community (e.g., Research for local companies, SB Young Professionals Club)

Industry/Non-academic Jobs
- Review National Job Links, Job Search Tips & Guidelines, and Accepting Offers handouts or on the Career Services website
- Attend a Get Experience and Transferable Skills workshop for Graduate Students
- Set up Informational Interview with people who you are interested in their jobs, careers, and/or company
- Check out Versatile PhD and LinkedIn/edu/Alumni to explore ideas for jobs/companies and make connections

International
- Research international opportunities via GoinGlobal through GauchosLink

Networking
- Attend a LinkedIn and Networking workshop for Graduate Students and set up a LinkedIn profile to build connections
- Set up an appointment for a LinkedIn critique with a Career Counselor
- Reach out to previous students to review your résumé and ask for possible job leads to contact

MOVE FORWARD

- Check out full-time jobs on various search engines (check out Non-Academic Resources handout)
- Create profiles/advanced search features on various websites to get automated emails for opportunities

Résumé/Cover Letter
- Attend Résumés & Cover Letters workshop for Graduate Students
- Meet with career counselor during CRR drop-in or Graduate Student drop-in to review your résumé or cover letter
- Attend resume+ and have résumé critiqued by employer
- Make an appointment with faculty/colleagues with non-academic experience to review your résumé and ask for job leads to contact

Interview
- Attend Interview workshop for Graduate Students and check out the Career site for tips
- Make 1 hour appointment at Career Services for Mock Interview (NOTE: limit one per quarter)

Job Search
- Attend quarterly career fairs, employer information sessions, and industry panels (check Career site for dates & times)
- Attend Job Search Strategies workshop for Graduate Students
- Continue to network and build relationships with people in companies of interest

Negotiation
- Review the books in the CRR such as Negotiate Your Job Offer
- Check out articles on Grad Post for how to negotiate offers