



Managing Your Career

Getting a dream job is often perceived as the culmination of a successful professional career or thorough academic training. Most of the self-help books about careers that populate the business section at the local bookstore are designed to help job hunters create tools like resumes and cover letters to get jobs that they believe will live up to their professional aspirations. There is good reason for this; our society heaps accolades upon those who claim job satisfaction and deprecates those who struggle to find meaning in their professional lives.

Career Management is not just about getting what may seem like a great job at the time. At a strategic level it also includes:

- Developing a combination of values, beliefs and skills that can be translated into how you will make a difference in your professional life
- Planning how you will balance the demands of your professional choices with your social and personal needs
- Ensuring you have done your best to obtain the information and experience you need to make decisions you won't second guess
- Understanding how decisions you make today may affect you professionally in years to come and preparing for probable outcomes
- Enhancing your professional skills and training so you can plan your career moves from a position of strength and minimize your weaknesses
- Taking risks when necessary and learning from your mistakes

People who engage in Career Management are better prepared to undertake the tasks of job search including occupational research, networking, resume development, interviewing and offer negotiation. We recommend that you engage the professionals at the Career Management Office early in your academic career at CGU for ongoing consultations so that you can approach your next job search experience with the confidence that comes from having one or more ambitious yet realistic career strategies.