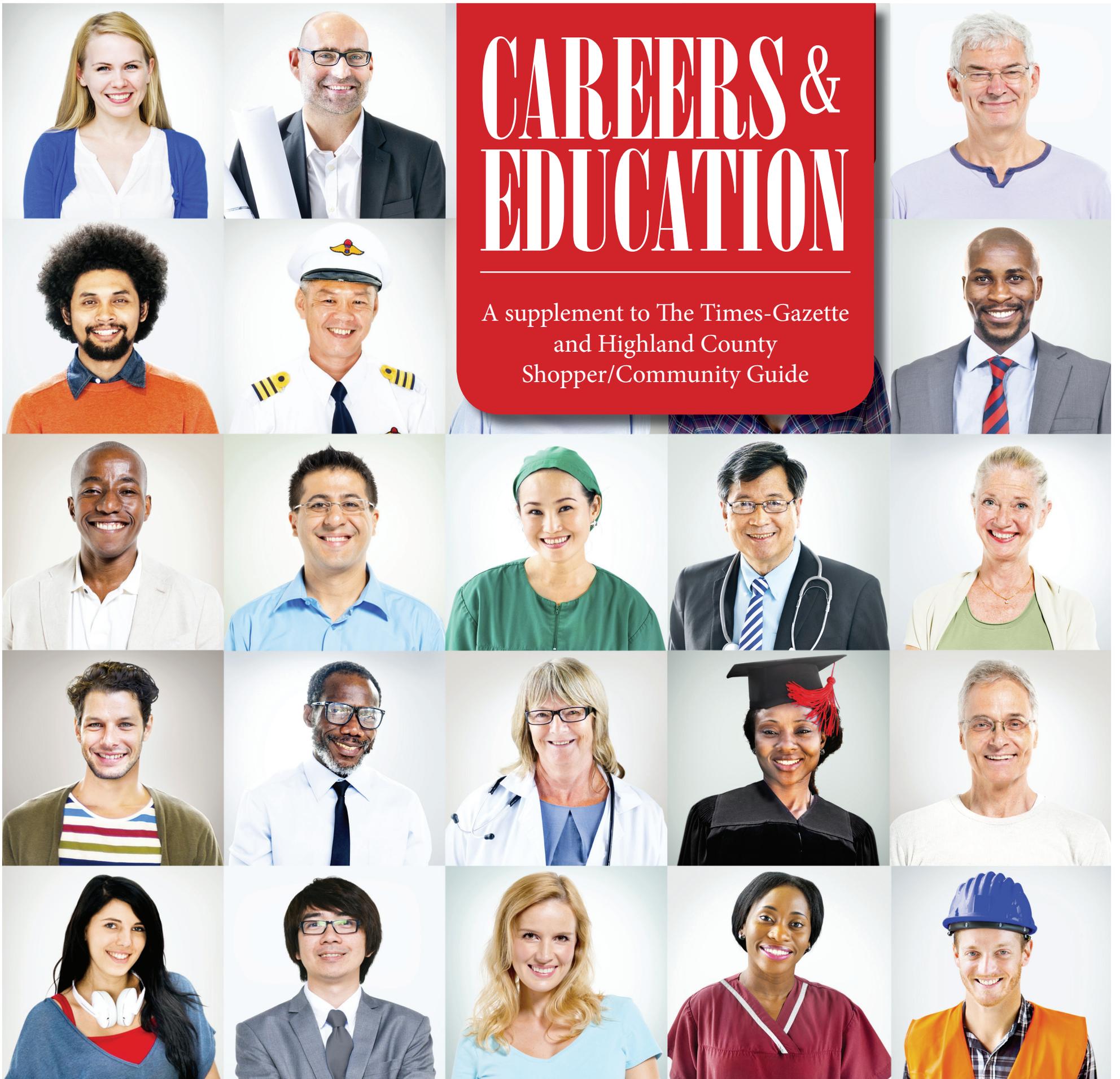


CAREERS & EDUCATION

A supplement to The Times-Gazette
and Highland County
Shopper/Community Guide



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Southern State Community College

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TRUCK DRIVING ACADEMY



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SSCC offers affordable education

Throughout the years, Southern State Community College has gone through many changes, but one thing will never change—our commitment to our students. Keep your eye on us, as we continually strive to offer you an accessible, affordable, high quality education. Learn more about your community college at www.sccc.edu, and check out some new initiatives we've recently unrolled:

Accelerated AA/AS

The time toward a college degree can be shortened by pursuing SSCC's Accelerated Associate of Arts (AA) or Accelerated Associate of Science (AS). The AA and AS are both considered transfer degrees, providing the first two years of study toward a bachelor's

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- o A Degree in 18 Months – A traditional associate degree program typically takes two years to complete; the accelerated option gets students to degree completion sooner.

- o Two Evenings Per Week – Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings, allowing students to work around family needs and full-time job obligations.

- o Hybrid Classes – Half of the course time will be spent in a classroom setting, while the other half will be completed online through readings, activities, and discussions.

- o Learning Community – Participants move through the accelerated program with the same group, or cohort, of students which builds a

supportive learning community.

- o Cost Savings – Less time in school means more savings for students.

Engineering Co-Op

In collaboration with leading employers—currently GE Aviation's Peebles Test Operation, Candle-Lite Company, Airborne Maintenance and Engineering Services, and C-Mold—Southern State is now offering a degree in Electrical/Electronics Technology with an opportunity to build industry-relevant experience through co-op programming.

Co-op, or Cooperative Education, is a structured method of alternating classroom-based education with practical work experience. Students selected by the industry

partner to participate in the program can expect:

- o Alternate semesters with one semester in the classroom, one semester working with industry partner, rotating throughout the 2.5-year program;
- o During classroom semester, attend courses typically offered in late afternoon and evenings;
- o During co-op semester, work full time earning competitive entry-level wages; and
- o Graduate with both an associate degree and relevant experience in highly competitive industries.

Accelerated Real Estate Program

A new accelerated program in Real Estate was initiated Fall Semester at Southern State. The eight-weekend program includes four classes—

Principles of Real Estate, Real Estate Law, Real Estate Finance, and Real Estate Appraisal—and is typically offered from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. Financial aid is available to those who qualify. After successful completion of the coursework, students can qualify to sit for the Ohio Real Estate Salesperson exam and earn a license to become a Real Estate Agent.

AAS in Biotechnology & Laboratory Science

Southern State's new associate of applied science degree in Biotechnology & Laboratory Science prepares graduates to work as entry-level laboratory technicians or continue their studies in biotechnology, biology, molecular biology, or cell

biology at a four-year college.

AAB in Logistics Management

Southern State's new associate of applied business degree in Logistics Management prepares graduates to work as freight rate specialists; freight forwarders; shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks; production, planning, and expediting clerks; logistics analysts; cargo and freight agents; warehouse managers; customer order managers; storage and distribution managers; outbound operations managers; inventory planning and control managers; and supply chain managers.

—Submitted by Southern State Community College

Great Oaks leading to great careers since 1970s

Great Oaks, one of the largest career and technical education districts in the United States, has been providing career development, workforce development and economic development services to individuals, business, industry, labor, communities and other organizations in southwest Ohio since 1970.

The educational programs and services available through Great Oaks enhance the lives of tens of thousands of people each year. Even though we cover over 2,200 square miles and serve so many people, we believe that each individual is unique and that we have a responsibility to assist each one as they determine their chosen path and take the steps leading to their destination. We also believe that everyone can learn and can be a productive, contributing member of society.

We provide a very broad spectrum of services. They range from the coordination of career development services to students in grades K-12 in our thirty-six affiliated school districts; to technical foundations courses, co-op programs and other classes that we offer in many of our affiliated high schools; to the career technical programs for high school juniors and seniors that are available at our four campuses.

Many people are aware of the part-time programs that are offered to adults, but we offer much more than that through our Adult Workforce Development Division. Career changers and those who are entering or re-entering the workforce have access to assessment and counseling services.

Full-time programs leading to careers in such high demand fields as practical nursing, automotive technology, aviation



Great Oaks has been providing career development, workforce development and economic development services in southwest Ohio since 1970.

maintenance, IT, construction and heating, ventilating and air-conditioning are available. Employers in the community tap into our assessment, testing and customized training services to maximize the effectiveness of their workforce.

We are proud of the accomplishments and contributions of our students. They are the backbone of our economic system and our communities.

They work in hospitals, offices, restaurants, and banks. They work for large, medium and small companies. They keep our country, our communities and our businesses safe and secure. They maintain our autos, airplanes and all kinds of equipment and machinery. They build our homes, repair our roads, teach our children and care for our pets. They help us learn about and use

technology.

We also take great pride in the accomplishments and contributions of our staff members. They are outstanding individuals who work hard to help people achieve their goals and improve their lives. They also provide educational and economic leadership at the local, state and national levels. They are responsible for the excellent reputation that

Great Oaks has earned over the decades.

We invite you to learn more about us. You can find out how our programs and services can assist you, people you know, and people who work for you, by perusing our web site at www.greatoaks.com, reading our catalogs and visiting our facilities.

—Submitted by Great Oaks

Career opportunities in health and wellness

Health and wellness has grown increasingly popular over the last several decades as more and more people have adopted lifestyles designed to improve their immediate and long-term health. Not surprisingly, career opportunities in healthcare and health and wellness are on the rise, and the following are a handful of careers men and women interested in health and wellness may want to consider.

- **Health educator:** The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that between 2012 and 2022, the job outlook, which projects the percent change in employment, for health educators and community workers was 21 percent, nearly twice the average growth rate for all occupations dur-

ing the same period. Health educators perform a host of tasks, including teaching and promoting various wellness practices. Health educators may also develop strategies and campaigns to promote wellness.

- **Massage therapist:** Massage therapists help people recover from injury and relieve stress, but they also might be used to improve circulation and increase relaxation, both of which can contribute to their patients' long-term health. The BLS projects the job outlook for massage therapists between 2012 and 2022 to be 23 percent, indicating that there figures to be an array of opportunities available to men and women interested in pursuing massage therapy. Such people should



know that massage therapists typically must complete a substantial amount of postsecondary education before they can earn their license or certification.

- **Nutritionist:** Men and women with an interest in food

and nutrition may want to consider a career as a nutritionist. Dietitians and nutritionists often fall under the same career umbrella, and the BLS reports the job outlook for both careers between 2012 and 2022 is 21 percent. Dietitians and nutri-

tionists often serve as advisors to people or organizations looking to embrace or encourage healthy lifestyles, and both may work in hospitals, nursing homes, cafeterias, and clinics.

- **Occupational therapists:** Occupational therapists employ everyday activities to treat patients dealing with injury, disability or illness. Occupational therapists may help their patients relearn how to feed and dress themselves, while some might work exclusively with stroke patients who have lost their ability to perform certain tasks as a result of their strokes. The BLS reports the job outlook for occupational therapists, who earned a median annual wage of roughly \$75,000, between 2012 and 2022 is 29 percent.

Tips to help students choose the right major

As recent college graduates can no doubt attest, the job market for young people can be difficult to navigate. Many recent graduates are still struggling to find full-time employment, and some might be wondering if they chose the right major.

Though choosing a major is about more than just finding a job, the financial burden of earning a college degree can't be ignored. According to the Project on Student Debt, 71 percent of college seniors who graduated in 2012 had student loan debt, with an average of \$29,400 per borrower. In fact, between 2008 and 2012, the average student loan debt at graduation increased an average of 6 percent each year. So while the right major should incorporate a student's interests, skills and strengths, it's also important to find a major that can help students earn a living after they walk across the stage and receive their diplomas.

The following are a handful of tips college students can employ to ensure they

choose the right major.

- **Don't jump into it.** Some students might want to pick a major before they ever step foot on campus. While that strategy might work for some, it should only be employed by those students who are wholly certain a major is for them. Some students choose a major early on because they feel they may get a head start at navigating their way through a job market that recently endured exceptionally high levels of unemployment. But the pressure of finding a job should not be what drives students when choosing a major. Unless you're entirely certain that a particular course of study is for you, give yourself some leeway and wait to choose a major. The first year or two of college is a great time to expand your academic horizons so use that time to your advantage.

- **Don't procrastinate.** While rushing into a major is a mistake, it's also foolish to procrastinate with regard to choosing a course of study. According to The College Board's annual survey of colleges,

the average tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year colleges for the 2013-14 school year was \$30,094, while public four-year in-state tuition and fees averaged slightly less than \$9,000 for the same year. So no matter which type of college or university a student enrolls in, he or she will be making a significant financial commitment. Waiting too long to choose a course of study may find you paying for courses you ultimately won't need, increasing your already expensive tuition along the way.

- **Use the resources at your disposal.** Students undecided about a college major should make use of their schools' career development departments to help them get on the right path. Many such departments provide assessment tools to help students find a major that synthesizes their interests and skills with a field of study. In addition, the personnel within career development departments have dealt with hundreds, if not thousands, of previous students who found themselves in similar situations, and that experience

can prove invaluable to students who might feel lost with regard to choosing majors.

- **Know the requirements if you have a specific career in mind.** While many majors are not difficult to navigate, some fields of study have strict guidelines that students should be aware of almost immediately. For example, students hoping to attend medical school after graduation need to determine which courses they absolutely must take in order to qualify for medical school. In addition, students with such specific plans in mind often must choose their majors as early as possible so they can plan their curriculum in accordance with the standards they will need to meet to be considered for postgraduate work.

Choosing a major is a decision college students should not take lightly. But students who are unsure of what they want to study should approach the process of choosing a major with patience and an eye on finding a course of study that matches their interests with their skills.

3 ways to quickly pay down college debt

Student loan debt is a big concern for today's newly minted college graduates. According to an analysis of government data by Edvisors.com, a website that provides financial information about college to students and parents, the average student in the class of 2015 will graduate with more than \$35,000 in student debt. That figure is roughly \$2,000 more than the class of 2014 graduates faced upon receiving their degrees.

With such substantial debts, it's no wonder many college graduates find themselves looking for ways to pay down that debt as quickly as

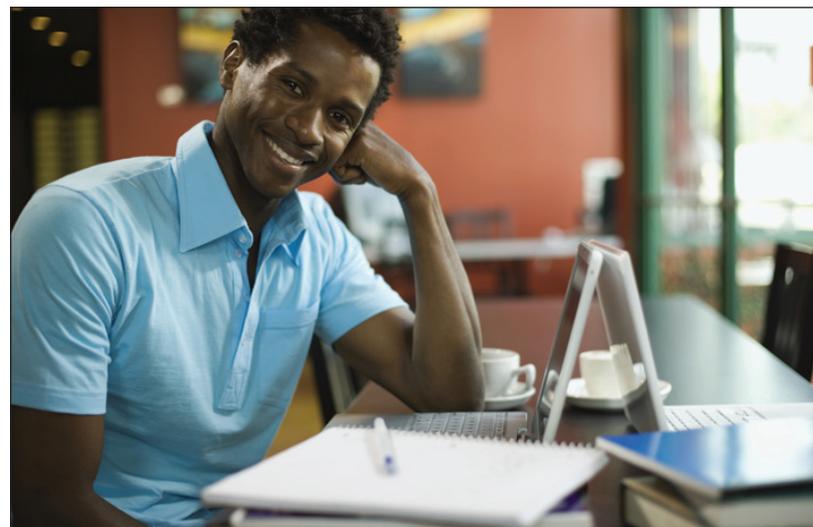
possible once they leave campus life behind. Paying down college debt may seem daunting at first, but the following are some ways for recent grads to get out from under that debt sooner rather than later.

1. Pay more than you owe.

The best way to reduce the principal on student loans quickly is to pay more than you owe each month. Once the repayment grace period ends, grads will see what their monthly student loan payment is. Paying more than that amount each month can drastically reduce your repayment period, and you will pay

considerably less in interest over the life of the loan. For example, a graduate who owes \$25,000 and pays 6 percent interest annually for 10 years will pay roughly \$278 per month to eliminate that loan in exactly 120 months. Over those 120 months, grads will have paid more than \$8,300 in interest in addition to their \$25,000 principal. However, grads who pay an additional \$50 per month will pay their loans off nearly two years earlier and pay nearly \$2,000 less in interest over the life of the repayment.

2. Arrange for automatic deposits into a repayment



Graduates who stay disciplined and pay a little extra each month can repay their student loans long before the loans reach maturity.

fund.

One of the more difficult parts of repaying student loans for recent grads is setting aside enough money to pay them off. Upon landing their first professional jobs, new grads are often making more money than they've ever earned in the past, and many have no idea how to manage their newfound financial windfalls. In addition to making your monthly payments via your everyday checking account, arrange for automatic deposits

into a savings account you will exclusively use to repay your student loans so you are not tempted to spend that money on more frivolous pursuits. You won't miss the money if you never get used to having it, and you will celebrate the day the balance in your student loan savings account matches the payoff amount on your student loan balance.

3. Make plans.

Failure to make a plan is one way to miss the opportunity to pay off

your college debt as quickly as possible. Make specific financial goals, such as owning your own home in 'X' amount of years or saving money for postgraduate tuition. Having specific goals and plans in place can provide the motivation you need to pay down college debt sooner rather than later.

Student loan debt intimidates many recent graduates. But those who stay disciplined can repay their loans quickly and regain some financial freedom as a result.

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Be successful.

Did you know?

Six of the 10 college majors with the highest salaries for new graduates have something to do with engineering. So says a survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers, which notes that computer engineering majors earned the top spot with an average starting salary of \$70,400 for graduates who finished school in 2012. Chemical engineering majors came in second with an average starting salary of \$66,400, while computer science majors, with average starting salaries of \$64,400, came in third. The NACE salary survey relied on information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States Census Bureau and Job Search Intelligence, a compensation management firm. In addition to computer science, the survey, which examined starting salaries for new graduates in more than 90 fields of study, found that finance, construction science/management and information sciences and systems were the only majors outside the field of engineering to crack the top 10.

Helpful hints to land your first job after college

Though the job market for newly minted college graduates has proven less than ideal in recent years, members of the class of 2014 entered a job market that was on the rebound. According to the "Job Outlook 2014" survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers, employers anticipated hiring nearly 8 percent more 2014 graduates for their domestic operations than they hired from the class of 2013.

That's good news for new grads, but members of the class of 2014 should still expect a competitive job market in which companies can afford to be patient as they attempt to find the best possible candidate for each opening. Oftentimes the best candidate, especially for entry-level positions, is the one who combines some experience with a willingness to learn and do whatever

it takes to help a company succeed. Many candidates boast such experience and enthusiasm, but there are some additional steps new graduates can take to improve their chances of landing their first jobs out of college.

- Gain some relevant experience. While college is the best time to gain some experience that's relevant to your field, that does not mean you can't still earn an internship now that you have donned your cap and gown and received your diploma. Many businesses look to recent graduates to fill their internships, as recent grads have years of study under their belts and, because they are no longer enrolled in classes, more flexibility than current students. If the job market in your chosen field is tepid, start looking for internships. These can be a great way to start making some profes-

sional contacts, and many people find themselves ultimately working full-time for the company where they first landed an internship.

- Establish an online presence. Another way for recent graduates to get noticed is to establish a positive online presence. Something as simple as creating a profile on the professional networking site LinkedIn can help recent graduates get noticed by prospective employers. Even if you have little or no relevant professional experience, create a profile that includes your education history, interests, accolades or awards you earned while in school and even a brief summary of your career goals.

Another way to establish an online presence is to begin a blog. The blog should not be used as a tool to discuss your personal life, but rather to

express your thoughts on topics relevant to the career you hope to pursue. Demonstrating an understanding or even just a passion for the industry can be a great way to show prospective employers that you are looking for a career and not just a job.

- Join a professional organization. Other options to network and improve your chances of landing your first job can be attained by joining a professional organization. Many such organizations welcome new members, even those with relatively little or even no professional experience. Your university may even sponsor such an organization and host regularly scheduled forums relevant to your industry. Such forums often feature lectures or talk sessions with already established professionals who can provide advice on landing a first job or internship or furnish grads

with industry contacts who might offer similar help. Memberships in such organizations is often free or inexpensive, so take advantage of this opportunity if it presents itself.

- Use the resources at your disposal. Many college graduates are unaware that they have valuable resources at their disposal that can greatly increase their chances of securing a job out of college. The career services office at the university is an invaluable resource that is plugged into the business community in its town or city. Such an office can connect you will fellow alumni, many of whom want to help their fellow graduates establish their careers. A career services office also can help new graduates fine tune their resumes and cover letters so they have a greater chance of landing a job.



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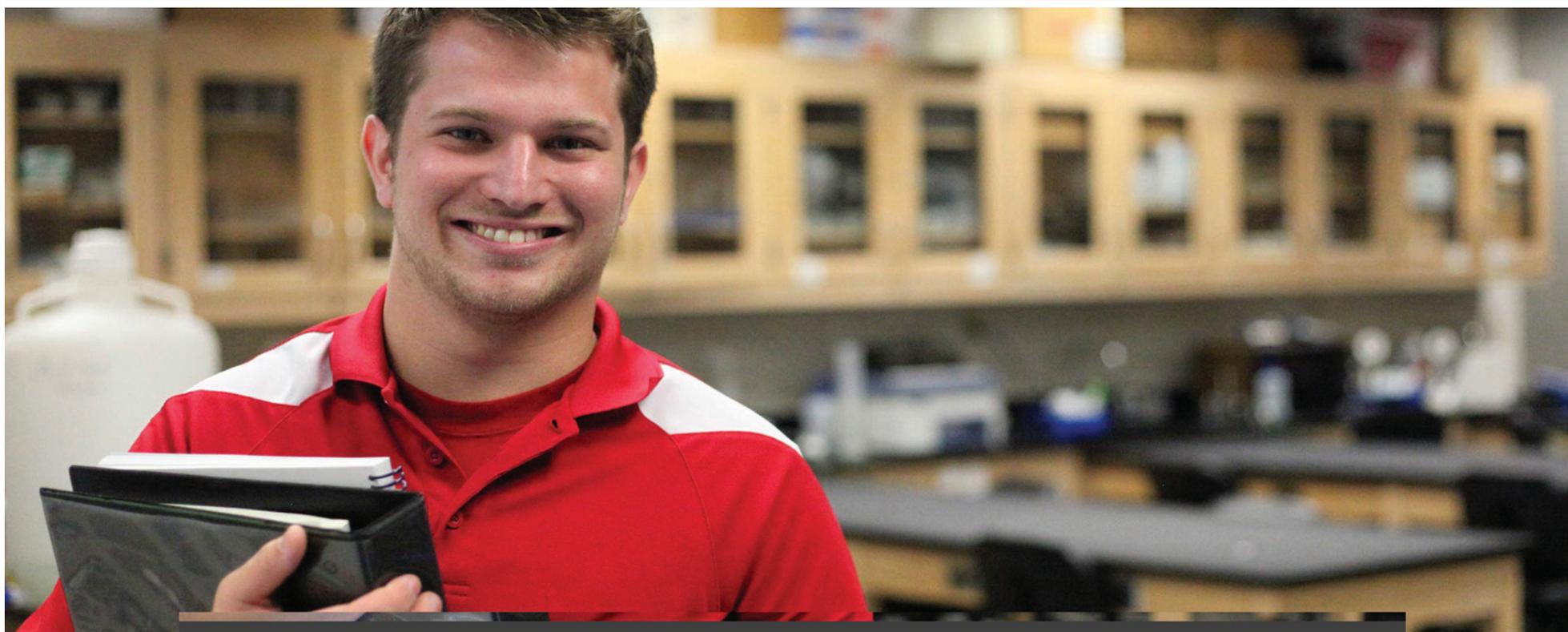
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