

# The Entrepreneurial MINDset and SKILLset for the Search Process



The world of work is complicated and ever-changing...making the job search a complex and messy process, full of twists and turns, especially for liberal arts grads. Successfully navigating the search process requires a certain MINDset and a specific SKILLset that can be considered entrepreneurial in spirit.

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**The MINDset.** Ask yourself ...

*What characteristics will serve you well as you frame and conduct your search and make decisions about the next step?*

- **Willingness to take control of the search process.** This characteristic is THE key to your success. It is your search. Be proactive, energetic, and assertive! No company or organization will come looking for you.
- **Tolerance for ambiguity.** The path may not—and probably will not—be clear at the outset of the search. Persist anyway.
- **Openness to taking risks.** In reality there is more than one opportunity out there for each of you. Sometimes an opportunity that you didn't expect will present itself and lead you in a direction that you hadn't planned. Your openness to at least considering opportunities will serve you well in your decision making process.
- **Self-confidence.** You need to understand that your academic background and the experiences you've gathered have provided you with a very enviable set of qualifications. Be confident in what you have to offer. Believe in yourself!
- **Resilience.** The search can be a long process, one that certainly offers the potential of multiple rejections. You need to believe that there is a job or internship out there for you. Ask for help when you need it, and identify a support system.

**The SKILLset.** Ask yourself ...

*What skills are necessary to a productive and successful job or internship search process?*

- **Ability to think broadly, see the big picture.** Think broadly as you identify starting points to your career path. There are many different and equally valuable starting points for everyone.
- **Ability to be creative.** Think creatively about the opportunities that will give you the experience that you need to get started.
- **Ability to identify the value you can add to an organization.** Leverage your experience and relate it to the new position through an understanding of your academics and transferable skills.
- **Ability to think strategically.** Make a plan for the search. Take control of the process.
- **Ability to identify and utilize resources.** There are many resources available to you on campus and elsewhere. Utilize these resources!