

Seniors – Congratulations on your upcoming graduation!!

In addition to the [general career resources](#) we shared last week, we've put together a Top 10 list designed especially for you and *especially for this time*.

We are living through an extraordinary and unprecedented moment in history...the first global pandemic and the first time the global economy has voluntarily shut itself down. This is not the economy anyone thought you'd be graduating into. *The key will be your capacity to adapt*. In this context, we have brought these resources together for you, offer our support, and encourage you to connect. We are here to help you sort through your thoughts, navigate these resources, and develop a game plan. Our Top 10 Senior Tips:

1. **Mindset:** Realize that the most important thing you have is your mindset. No matter what happens to you, you always have control of three things: your attitude, your effort, and your enthusiasm. We don't always get to control our circumstances, but we get to control our response!
2. **Review this excellent resource** from the Washington Center: [Graduating in the Age of COVID-19](#). This visual, easy-to-read, comprehensive guide will introduce you to critical approaches and resources, and importantly, provide you with immediate and long-term actions to take in response to COVID-19.
3. **Be flexible.** Entire sectors of the economy are currently being upended and overturned, and the companies you were originally focused on may not be hiring right now. Consider how you can apply the broad set of skills you have obtained from your Luther liberal arts degree in new ways, including in industries that are ramping up, such as technology, communications, online platforms, government services, supply chain management, consumer products, medical supplies, and logistics. It may also be easiest to get an immediate job in your local area. Being able to pivot, make concessions, and adapt will substantially increase opportunities for long-term success.
4. **Connect with people and build relationships.** The vast majority of people find jobs through networking and personal connections. There has perhaps never been a time where it has been more important or **easier** to grow your network, so make it a daily practice! Who is in your parent's network? Your neighbor's? Your faculty member's? Many people have more open schedules right now and a willingness to respond and help. Focus on **building relationships**, so that when the economy picks up, you will already have a presence. Actively curate existing relationships and develop new ones through social media, LinkedIn, and the Luther alumni network. Let your **curiosity** be the driver, and **ask people for their story**, rather than about job opportunities.
5. **Focus on gaining new skills.** Your job search is likely to be extended. Give yourself time to adjust and re-group, and then take action to use this time to your advantage. Consider:

- **Micro-credentialing** to add needed skills to your toolbox. An incredible resource that's free to you as a Luther student is [LinkedIn Learning](#). Complete short training courses on topics ranging from Excel to Salesforce to Shopify and more, and then add them as badges on your LinkedIn profile.
 - **Taking additional coursework post-graduation**, or even completing a second major or minor that may be pertinent to the Covid economy, such as Luther courses in data science, visual communications, statistics/analytics, counseling, writing, etc. Luther alumni receive a 50% discount.
 - **Auditing a Luther course.** While neither credit nor grades are awarded, this option enables much of the learning experience at a substantially lower cost.
6. **Update/Create!** Make sure your resume, LinkedIn profile, and Handshake profile up are up to date. Research where job creation and opportunities are happening, and then **tailor your messaging** as to why you are interested and a great fit for that *particular* opportunity. Invest time in [fewer] specific opportunities, rather than submitting generic materials for many.
7. **If you find yourself stuck**, or lacking direction in the world's Covid reconfiguration, dig into [Design Your Life](#) for a toolkit to apply design thinking towards your life and career. The principles of 'Get curious, reframe problems, try stuff, talk to people, and tell your story' are especially relevant to the Covid era. View a [Ted Talk](#), as well as newly emerging [Design Your *Covid* Life](#) video series, to get started!
8. **Plot your financial future and student loan strategy.** The average college student graduates with ~\$30,000 in student-loan debt, and graduating into a (possible) recession could result in reduced income. Learning the basics of [budgeting](#), including [templates](#) and valuable personal finance [tips](#) for young adults will be essential. For understanding student loans and navigation, the [Student Loan Sherpa](#) is a good place to start. Understanding and managing Federal Student Aid loans and repayment plans can be found [here](#). Need an accessible and fun way to understand the economy? Listen in to NPR's [Planet Money](#) podcast!
9. **The Job Search will Look Different.** We've compiled a few ideas to aid you in this process:
- **Employment Agencies.** Since you are probably currently at home, and may be there for the next few months, consider contacting an employment agency to seek out local part-time and entry level jobs. Aerotek is a national employment agency that has local offices throughout the U.S. Search for [your closest office](#).
 - **Remote and Project based work.** This could be an ideal time to broaden your skill-set and experience through working on some short-term projects. Here are just a few companies to explore that offer short-term, project-based work.
 - <https://www.paragonone.com/students>
 - <https://www.flexjobs.com/jobs>

You can also filter your job search on Indeed.com, LinkedIn, and the Muse for remote opportunities.

- https://www.indeed.com/advanced_search
- <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/>
- <https://www.themuse.com/jobs>
- **Jobs Created by COVID.** US government is [hiring in response to COVID-19](#)
- **Companies that are Hiring:**
 - [500 Companies Hiring Students on Handshake Right now.](#)
 - [Companies are still hiring During COVID-19: Here are 75 that want your applications now](#)
 - [Coronavirus Career Advice: 27 Best Work From Home and Remote Jobs](#)
 - <https://candor.co/hiring-freezes>

Pro Tip. Follow #GetHired on LinkedIn to get real-time information about companies that are hiring.

International Students. We know this will likely feel like an extra difficult time to find a job. [Job Search Tips for International Students in the Age of Coronavirus](#) provides some practical tips.

10. We're here for you! These are truly unprecedented times and finding a job right now will likely feel challenging. Know that you're not alone and that we're here with you to support you throughout the process. The Luther family—fellow students, faculty, staff, and alumni—are all cheering you on.

Still have questions?

Connect with a member of the Career Center team and receive customized help directly.

Email us at career@luther.edu to connect with our team in various ways:

- Coaching Appointments with Carol Johnston, Dan Marlow, or Sarah Franklin Crose
- CliftonStrengths or Strength-story Coaching with Miriam Skrade
- Mock Interviews with Joni Rollinger
- Design Thinking and Networking Tips with Dr. Jodi Enos-Berlage