

40 IDEAS TO BOOST YOUR JOB SEARCH



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Feeling stuck in your job search?

Choose a few of these proactive ideas to give your search a boost!

1. Identify one professional association in your field of interest and utilize any free career resources on their website (i.e. job boards, career guides, industry trends, etc.)
2. Email friends telling them your career field of interest and asking for ideas or contacts.
3. Request an Informational Interview with a CSU COB Informational Interview Network LinkedIn group member.
4. Devote one hour to creating a list of 40 interesting companies.
5. Send an email to someone whose career you admire. Tell them why they inspire you.
6. Reach out to a recent graduate of the COB to ask about what their experience has been since graduation.
7. Visit a professor's office hours and tell them about your career interests. Ask for ideas and suggestions.
8. Find a *Young Professionals* or *Leadership* group in your target city (*Tip: Check the local Chamber of Commerce*).
9. Send an email to someone whose career you aspire to and ask for advice.
10. Find a Meetup.com group related to your career interests.
11. Contribute to 2-3 LinkedIn discussions per week.
12. Become a "Student Member" of a professional association in your field of interest.
13. Send a LinkedIn connection request to a recruiter from a company that interests you. Tell them why you admire their company, how you would like to contribute, and that you hope to earn a job there someday.
14. Check the local Chamber of Commerce website for a list of companies in the community.
15. Write a "Fan Letter" to the author or subject of an article you enjoyed, creator of a podcast you liked, etc.
16. Write a letter to your *Future Self* telling them what you hope they have accomplished.
17. Find a Top Places to Work List online (i.e. The Denver Post's "Top Places to Work in Denver 2019", Outdoor Magazine's "Best Places to Work"). Write down five intriguing companies from the list.
18. Read a local business journal (i.e. *Denver Business Journal*) to find five new companies coming to the market.
19. Browse the *Denver Business Journal's* "40 Under 40 List" (40 professionals under the age of 40) – write down the companies they work for (seek out similar lists in other cities you are targeting).

20. Find 15 professionals on LinkedIn whose career you would like to have 5-15 years from now – browse their profiles and write down their previous companies and job titles.
21. Subscribe to a career-focused podcast (try these: <i>Dr. Dawn on Careers</i> , <i>The Work Remix</i>).
22. Find LinkedIn pages of companies you like – scroll to “People also viewed”. Write down these similar companies.
23. Email family members telling them your career field of interest and asking for ideas or contacts.
24. Ask a professor for the name of an alum they think you should speak with about their career.
25. Research startups with funding for potential growth. Try www.crunchbase.com or www.builtincolorado.com .
26. Write down products you interact with regularly. Review their company websites and browse their career pages.
27. Read a career book. (Try these: <i>2 Hour Job Search</i> , <i>Designing Your Life</i> , <i>What Color Is Your Parachute</i>)
28. Join a group on LinkedIn – discover one by searching profiles of those you admire.
29. Talk to a fellow student who interned at a company where you would like to work.
30. Volunteer to help at community, industry, or university events. These are great opportunities to network!
31. Reach out to past connections (professionals who spoke to your class, recruiters you met at career events, etc).
32. Make a list of past employers and coworkers, family friends, classmates, and recent grads. This is your network!
33. Send customized LinkedIn connection requests to experts in your field of choice. Tell them about your interest!
34. Follow your target companies on social media. Sign up for their news alerts.
35. Search LinkedIn for the keyword “We’re Hiring”.
36. Follow industry leaders on LinkedIn. Engage with one of their posts (like, comment, share).
37. Identify 3-5 roles you are interested in learning more about.
38. Share an interesting article on LinkedIn once a week. Try posting it to a group for a more targeted audience.
39. Make a list of all the locations you want to work and write down interesting companies in those locations.
40. Identify the top five criteria a job needs to meet for you (for example: intellectual stimulation, earning potential, collaborative culture, growth potential, etc.). Do a Google search for companies known for those qualities.

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