I'M GRADUATING - WHAT NOW?

Making Decisions in Uncertain Times
Making decisions is not easy. We make decisions based on best guesses and past experiences, and we incorporate new information when it becomes available. That is what we have to do now. It is easier said than done, so as you are managing through this time of great uncertainty, consider the following:

- **Nobody has all of the answers.** Nobody. It’s not just you dealing with uncertainty. Everyone is dealing with it right now.
- **Don’t drive yourself crazy with what if’s and different possible scenarios.** Don’t try to predict the right scenario. Focus on the most likely ones instead.
- **Make decisions that give your future flexibility,** especially in the early stages where information is limited. This is not the time to double down on only one path.
- **Make the best decision you can** based on the information you have and your expectations about future scenarios. Be kind to yourself knowing that you don’t have all of the information and you are doing the best you can, just like everyone else.
- **When new information is available, adjust and update** your decisions accordingly. The situation is constantly evolving, and your decisions can evolve too.

In business, as in life, sometimes we have to make decisions without all of the facts and information that we’d normally like to have to make the decision. But we need to make the decision anyway, keep moving forward, and make another decision down the road if we need to. You got this.

- Forbes | Robin Moriarty

Don't Give Up Hope
My advice is to be persistent, stay confident and don’t be afraid to self-evaluate. I applied for 50+ different jobs when I first graduated with my Bachelor’s before I was finally able to accept a position. I had a friend who had applied for 100+ positions around the same time frame as myself. Don’t let failure of securing the job you desire drag down your mentality and confidence. It is a full-time job applying for and seeking jobs, but it will be worth it in the end. Also, it may be awkward, but complete a few mock interviews with family and friends. They can give you valuable feedback on how you’re perceived, if your questions are resonating or not, and what positive changes you can make for future face-to-face interviews. The more interviews you complete, the more confident you’ll become.

- Monte Stewart | Director, McNair Scholars Program

StandOut - Mock Interviewing
StandOut is a virtual mock interview platform to practice your interview skills. StandOut allows you to practice answering interview questions in the comfort of your own home and gain feedback from Career Services professionals! Within StandOut you will find over 25 industry specific practice interviews. The platform allows you to create your own practice, customizing the difficulty of questions, number of questions asked, and field specific criterial. StandOut’s advanced artificial intelligence assists you by listening through video responses while assigning you a comprehension score. The comprehension score is based on how well your words were understood and catches a pause or hesitation. This comprehension score can help you better enunciate and diminish your use of “filler” words such as; um, uh, like, and you know. StandOut has helped me be more mindful of my body language, speech rate, and hesitations throughout an interview. What better time to practice your virtual interviewing skills, than now!