Networking For Political Science and Policy Studies Majors

Studies show that 70% to 80% of jobs and internships are found through some form of networking.

What is an informational interview and how do I set one up?

An informational interview provides an opportunity to speak with professionals and gain useful information about their careers and experiences. To set up an interview, introduce yourself in a clear and concise way and then quickly let the person know why you are contacting him/her. If someone referred you, use that individual’s name in your introduction. Ideally, you want to arrange a time to meet with the person directly (or by phone, skype, or email) so you can ask him/her detailed questions and gain useful information through an informational interview. If connecting through LinkedIn, include some of this information in the message.

What is networking?

Networking is talking with people who can help you explore career options and goals.

Where do I begin?

LinkedIn and the Elon Mentor Network are two fantastic tools for networking. Before you contact anyone, think about why you are contacting him/her and what you want to say.

1. Utilize LinkedIn to find over 18,000 Elon alumni. Once you set up your profile, you can immediately begin connecting with professionals in your network.
2. Utilize the Elon Mentor Network tab within the Elon Job Network to find over 900 active members.

For a list of sample questions, visit Potential Interview Questions on the SPDC website.

Sample industry contacts in the Elon Mentor Network

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<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Job Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Booze Allen Hamilton</td>
<td>Senior Consultant</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Homeland Security</td>
<td>Project Manager</td>
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<td>Office of the Governor</td>
<td>Policy Advisor</td>
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For More Information visit [www.elon.edu/careers](http://www.elon.edu/careers) > students > Job & Internship Search > All About Networking

Questions? Contact Career Services for an individual appointment ■ Moseley 140 ■ 336-278-6538