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Photo by Mia Bertelsen

Getting a job these days is tough, but there are some things new graduates can do to make it easier.

School ends, job search begins

By now we've all heard about the nightmare of a job market graduating seniors are facing, and few people see that changing in the near future.

But knowing which fields are expanding, getting practical experience while in college, and mounting a serious job hunt during the senior year will ease your way into the work force.

This year's seniors have been finding more jobs in entry level business management than any other field this year, said Career Planning and Placement director Lawrence Smith.

According to a recent *Business Week* article, management will continue to grow as government agencies sink into debt and taxpayers demand more services. Already, private enterprises are managing public transit systems, prisons and job training programs.

Careers in health and leisure will also grow in the next decade because of our aging baby-boomers, according to the article. Consumer spending on toys and sporting goods has increased this year, even through the recession. Demand

for quality health care will continue to rise in this already stable field.

Demand for computer services, software and data processing continue to expand as technology increases. As companies start trading texts and video tapes, information managers and coordinators will find their job market expanding. As on-line information becomes more important, information providers will also be in demand.

In all of these fields, graduates with hands-on experience will stand the best chance of finding jobs. Work experience is the first thing employers look at when searching for new employees, said Cherie Wheatley, co-owner of Evans and Wheatley, a high-end employment agency in Eugene.

Wheatley said even a degree doesn't have much meaning if it isn't backed by good work experience, and that many students don't realize this until they are faced with the tight job market.

Allan Shapiro, director of Microcomputer Associates, Inc., agreed. Shapiro said he hasn't been hiring recent graduates because he prefers experi-

enced people, but added he would be interested in recent graduates who had worked before applying for a job with his company.

Summer employment and volunteer work will better prepare college students for their prospective careers, but students also have to be aggressive in their job hunts.

Leslie Wright, student employment coordinator, said most graduates who haven't found employment and who come back to the university for internships "haven't seemed anxious" to find a job.

Instead of waiting for employers to seek their services, students should start their job searches now and be persistent, Smith said, adding the more time graduates spend on a job search, the sooner they will find jobs.

Hilary Jansen, a double major in journalism and economics, said after graduation she plans to set up shop at her father's office and have a full-time job searching for a job.

"I think I have the skills I need and I'm happy with myself," she said.

-Ellen Shaw



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