Networking is the process of developing and nurturing personal and professional contacts to obtain referrals, advice, information and support. You build your own network by identifying contacts, and linking and expanding those contacts to grow your own network and reach into other people's networks. Networking is an essential component of a job search. Here are some quick tips to boost your networking experience:

- Networking occurs at social events, community functions, the grocery store, the bus stop, everywhere!
- People in your network could include friends, relatives, former teachers, classmates, neighbors, former bosses and co-workers.
- Contacts can come from volunteer work, courses, leisure and community activities. As well, people you meet on a casual basis can provide valuable information.
- Organize your contacts list for efficient follow-up.
- Develop a plan and goals for your networking activities.
- Your network will provide you with invaluable advice and feedback that you need.
- Increase your network by making new contacts through "cold calling."
- Always ask "Is there someone else you can suggest that I talk to?"
- When you are given leads or referrals, ask the people providing them for permission to use their names.
- Never assume that a person will not be able to help you. Sometimes well-connected and helpful people are missed because of assumptions.
- Thank people who help you. Keep your network posted on developments.

https://www.workablesolutionsbc.ca/seeker/resources/js_tips_nqt.asp
Networking Tips for College Students

1) Determine Your Networking Goal

2) Don’t Wait Until Graduation: Start Now

3) Understand That Companies Are Using Internal Referrals

4) Build Your Online Reputation

5) Focus On Giving Back & Helping Others

6) Go To Conferences & Meet-Ups

For in-depth information on these tips please visit: http://thoughtcatalog.com/porter-gale/2013/06/networking-tips-for-college-students/

The Best Way to Network on Campus?

Attend the University Career Fair

A free event hosted by Career Services that is open to students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Check the Career Services website for participating employers.

Bring Multiple Resumes!

Bring your Student ID!

Dress Professionally!

March 5, 2014
10:00 AM—2:00 PM
Student Center Ballrooms

Bring $5.00 and have your professional photo taken by a professional photographer!
Six Ways to Use Social Media to Network After College

Social media can play a key role in helping you establish your professional brand as well as create numerous opportunities that might otherwise not have been made available. I've outlined a few ways you can use social media to network after college below:

1. Create An Online Portfolio
   With any potential job opportunity, an employer is going to want to know what you're capable of. There's a heavy interest in the type of results you can deliver, what your skills are, what you're experienced in, and so on. That's where an online portfolio comes into play.
   Sites like Behance.net or dunked.com allow you to create a free online portfolio and upload your work to share on their site as well as other such as LinkedIn (I'll talk about this more later). Another benefit to online portfolios is they give you a place to share your academic accomplishments.

2. Create A Blog
   Of the best ways to demonstrate your thought leadership and skill set is to create a blog. With your blog, you can share your own thoughts and ideas, as well as the thoughts and ideas of others. If something is happening within your industry, write a blog post and discuss it. Share content you come across and write something up about it. One of the cool things about a blog is conversation it can create.

3. Join LinkedIn
   More and more, you hear people saying it's a good idea to get on LinkedIn ...and that's because it is. LinkedIn is the premier social network for professionals to connect. LinkedIn allows you basically create an online resume to brand yourself professionally. You can also obtain professional endorsements; so if have any previous work experience, find who you worked with and ask them for an endorsement. These are a great way to let others know what you're capable of, and depending on whom that person is, can carry a lot of weight in how others perceive you.

4. Keep Your Accounts Professional
   It's no secret that when someone is applying for a job, they're going to get Googled, and the buck doesn't stop there. It's likely that the hiring manager is going to take a look your various social networks, so it's a good idea to remain professional online (sure you could make your accounts private but that hinders your opportunity to demonstrate who you are and why you're different from the rest so just keep them public).
   Don't go off blasting F-bombs every two seconds and posting pictures being passed out at the local dive bar on a week night.

5. Be Social On Social Networks
   Contrary to what you may think, or see, not everyone is interested in how many industry articles you can share in a day. If you are using social network, be social! Talk with others, comment on their posts, share other people’s post that you find interesting or you think your friends will enjoy. Find relevant hash tags or trending topics within your world and use them to join in conversation. As mentioned earlier with LinkedIn, join relevant groups to either jobs you’re seeking or the industry you're in.

6. Take Online To Offline
   Alright you’ve spent time creating some stuff, you’ve been talking to some people, and people know who you are ...now what? Creating and establishing yourself online can get you far...but in order to take it one step further and really carve a niche out for yourself, take your online relationships to the offline level.
   Once you’ve created relationships with these people, find a place you can meet up and meet face-to-face. It could be a networking event, a coffee shop, a restaurant for lunch ...all of that is up to you but the point is to meet in person. Meeting in person can strengthen your relationships and help position you for future opportunities. The more and more you spend networking with your peers both online and offline will help create brand recognition and people will begin to recognize who you are. The stronger your relationships become, the higher potential that when an opportunity comes up, that you’ll get the heads up, or in some cases, the recommendation.

All in all, it’s no secret that employers have the upper hand in today’s job market. It’s vital that you do your best to stand out amongst other job seekers. By using the social media skills that have been outlined above, you’re sure to have your voice heard, and be opening the door much sooner to your successful future after your college graduation.

Networking

The first step to searching the hidden job market is to network, network, network! The majority of jobs are found by talking to people who may know about a job opening. By interacting with others, you are networking and learning about potential job openings. Make a list of people you know who may fit into your networking family. You may be surprised to realize how many possible contacts you really have!

Who is on your contact list?
Here are some ideas to get you started:
- Relatives & family friends (and their friends!)
- Acquaintances & friends
- Co-workers & former co-workers
- Neighbors (current & past)
- Teachers & professors
- Previous employers or those to whom you are applying
- Teammates from your athletic/sport teams
- Classmates or other students
- People from your church or community groups
- People with whom you volunteer
- Business people (e.g. bank manager, insurance agent) Professionals within your desired field
- Members of professional organization(s)
- Politicians

What exactly is networking?
Networking is the art of building mutually beneficial professional relationships and alliances. It allows you the chance to access the knowledge and wisdom of others in your field. Remember, networking is a two-way street; a professional give and take.

Benefits:
- As many as 40% of new hires come from employee referrals
- 80% of jobs are not posted in bulletins or classifieds
- Individuals who find employment in this manner tend to be more satisfied in their jobs and earn a higher income

Networking Dos
- Meet people! Meet people! Meet people!
- Circulate when you meet a group at an official meeting or seminar
- Appear likeable and approachable
- Follow up with prospective contacts without hounding them
- Call your contacts at regular intervals once a week, once a month, or once every three months
- Consider preparing business cards
- Create a LinkedIn profile

Networking Don’ts
- Presume or make distinctions while meeting people
- Ramble or go off on tangents when describing your career objectives. After a short prologue about yourself and your job, get straight to the point
- Let an unpleasant encounter get you down. Always be positive, clear, and attentive

For more information visit the Career Services website: http://careerservices.siu.edu/_internal/Handouts/