

JOB TIPS

Tips For 2004 Grads: How To Enter, Survive And Succeed In The Real World

(NAPSA)—The real world is nothing like the MTV show—this year's college grads are entering a competitive job market. In fact, according to MonsterTRAK, the leading career site for college students and young alumni, 57 percent of students plan to move back home with their parents after graduation. In addition, 51 percent don't even expect a single job offer upon graduation and 56 percent would relocate for employment. Though the market is slightly improved from the past two years, there is angst among young people entering the workforce. So, how to land that first job with just a diploma and little experience?

The key is to remember employers are interested in job performance potential. Start with a can-do attitude and display a willingness to accept an entry-level position. Typically, according to Steve Pogorzelski, Monster President, North America, "an entry-level position is the ideal place to demonstrate your ability to learn quickly, pay your dues and exceed your employer's expectations."

Hiring managers consistently look for problem-solving skills, interpersonal skills and the ability to work in a team setting. All of these soft skills are transferable from one job to another (and that means you are too). Of course, employers still seek graduates with some on-the-job skills, making internships and co-ops the preferred path to a permanent position.

Survival and Success

You've landed a job, now what? Consider this as you embark on



A can-do attitude can help new grads get the jobs they want.

your first adventure in the real world:

- **Your First Job Is Not Your Destiny:** Talk to anyone in mid-career and you may be shocked where he or she began. This is the time to test your wings and learn how business gets done.

- **Be True to Yourself:** Discover what you're good at, what you're not and what tasks you enjoy. Observe management styles and learn from the people around you.

- **Watch Your Attitude:** Often, recent college grads expect too much too soon and come across as thinking they know more than seasoned employees. You must gain the trust of supervisors before earning responsibility. Demonstrate your skills and keep a positive attitude.

The first job can be an exciting time in anyone's life. It's always a good idea to get regular feedback. Even if it's not protocol, ask for a three/six-month evaluation to determine how you can improve and advance your career.