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“Find the Right Job Fit”
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What I Wished I'd Known Starting Out: Advice For New College Grads

By Debra Auerbach, AOL Jobs Contributor, Posted Apr 27th 2012 @ 10:03AM

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If you had a time machine, would you travel into the future to see what's in store for you 10, 20 or 30 years from now? Or would you rather travel back in time, perhaps right after college graduation, to fix a mistake you made or take another path in life?

As college seniors get ready to graduate in the coming months, they will be faced with making big decisions on everything from their career to their finances to their personal and professional relationships. So we asked recent graduates, seasoned professionals and hiring managers to get in a virtual time machine and finish the following sentence: "If I knew then what I know now..." What would they have done differently post-graduation? How can their hindsight help the class of 2012 and beyond?

Here's what they had to say:

1. Find the right job fit.

"If I only knew how important job 'fit' was to one's strengths, weaknesses, values, likes, dislikes and work style, I might have gone down a different career path. I was misaligned for years in an industry that I had little interest in. It took a company layoff for me to take a step back and realize my true passion was in my current field of college career guidance. Today I tell students, 'Don't waste your talents or your precious life.' I strongly suggest to college graduates to complete an interests assessment and have a good understanding of

themselves before they start their career paths." — Elizabeth Venturini, college career strategist

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