LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE CAREER NETWORK

L&C Net is a group of alumni and parents who have volunteered to act as “career experts” to L&C students and alumni in transition. Hosted as a private group in LinkedIn, members live throughout the US and abroad and represent a cross-section of industries and professional careers. L&C Net is an informational resource and guidelines are in place to help you build relationships with alumni and parent volunteers.

JOINING L&C NET

All active students at Lewis & Clark College have access to L&C Net. To join, users must have a LinkedIn account.

NETWORKING TIPS

Networking is one of the best ways to learn about potential professions and organizations. Check out the Informational Interviewing handout from the Career Center for more information about how to network.

LINKEDIN PROFILE

LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) is the world’s largest professional network. It can connect you with trusted contacts and help you exchange knowledge, ideas, tips, and opportunities with a broader network of professionals. For some tips on building your profile, check out the Career Center’s social media handout and see infographics below.

LinkedIn allows you to:

- **Establish your personal profile** – LinkedIn profiles rise to the top of search engine results, enabling you to control the first impression employers get when searching for you online. The more you complete your profile, the more professional and prepared you will appear to potential connections, recruiters, and future employers.
- **Summarize goals and highlight skills** – By writing a professional summary integrating your goals, you allow others to quickly learn about who you are and what you do. Include your best skills and talents in your profile and ask your connections to endorse you.
- **Get advice** – Pose questions to the career experts in L&C Net and request informational interviews to gain insight about industries, navigating career paths, and preparing for graduate school and/or other future endeavors.
• **Find experts and ideas** – The search feature on LinkedIn lets you explore the broader network by name, title, company, location, and other key terms that will help you find the knowledge you’re looking for.

• **Explore opportunities** – The search engine, company search tools, and job board showing who you know at different companies all make LinkedIn a **great resource to learn about new opportunities**.
LinkedIn Profile Checklist

☐ PHOTO: It doesn’t have to be fancy - just use your cellphone camera in front of a plain background. Wear a nice shirt and don’t forget to smile!

☐ HEADLINE: Tell people what you’re excited about now and the cool things you want to do in the future.

☐ SUMMARY: Describe what motivates you, what you’re skilled at, and what’s next.

☐ EXPERIENCE: List the jobs you held, even if they were part-time, along with what you accomplished at each. Even include photos and videos from your work.

☐ ORGANIZATIONS: Have you joined any clubs at school or outside? Be sure to describe what you did with each organization.
**EDUCATION:** Starting with college, list all the educational experiences you’ve had - including summer programs.

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE & CAUSES:** Even if you weren’t paid for a job, be sure to list it. Admissions officers and employers often see volunteer experience as just as valuable as paid work.

**SKILLS & EXPERTISE:** Add at least 5 key skills - and then your connections can endorse you for the things you’re best at.

**HONORS & AWARDS:** If you earned a prize in or out of school, don’t be shy. Let the world know about it!

**COURSES:** List the classes that show off the skills and interests you’re most excited about.

**PROJECTS:** Whether you led a team assignment in school or built an app on your own, talk about what you did and how you did it.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Ask managers, professors, or classmates who’ve worked with you closely to write a recommendation. This gives extra credibility to your strengths and skills.

Want more LinkedIn tips for students? Check out students.linkedin.com
Building a Great Student Profile

Showcase your experience and professional interests on LinkedIn!

1. Write an informative profile headline.
   Your headline is a short, memorable professional slogan. For example, "Honors student seeking marketing position." Check out the profiles of students and recent alumni you admire for ideas.

2. Pick an appropriate photo.
   LinkedIn isn't Facebook. Upload a high-quality photo (your profile will be 7x more likely to be viewed) of you alone, professionally dressed. No party shots, cartoon avatars, or puppy pics!

3. Show off your education.
   Include all your schools, major(s) and minor, courses, and study abroad or summer programs. Don't be shy — LinkedIn is an appropriate place to show off your GPA, test scores, and honors or awards.

4. Develop a professional Summary.
   Your Summary statement is like the first few paragraphs of your best-written cover letter — concise and confident about your qualifications and goals. Include relevant work and extracurriculars.

5. Fill "Skills & Expertise" with keywords.
   This section is the place to include keywords and phrases that recruiters search for. Find relevant ones in job listings that appeal to you and profiles of people who have the kinds of roles you want.
Update your status regularly.
Posting updates helps you stay on your network's radar and build your professional image. Mention your projects, professional books or articles, or events you’re attending. Many recruiters read your feed!

Show your connectedness.
Groups you join appear at the bottom of your profile. Joining some shows that you want to engage in professional communities and learn the lingo. Start with your university and industry groups.

Collect diverse recommendations.
The best profiles have at least one recommendation for each position a person has held. Recruiters are most impressed by recommendations from people who have directly managed you.

Claim your unique LinkedIn URL.
To increase the professional results that appear when people search for you online, set your LinkedIn profile to “public” and create a unique URL (e.g., www.linkedin.com/in/JohnSmith).

Share your work.
You can also add actual examples of your writing, design work, or other accomplishments on your profile, where you can share rich media or documents. What better way to sell your skills than to show employers exactly what you can produce?

Get a Great Profile.
Get going at www.linkedin.com