

Graduating During COVID-19

UIC Engineering Student Guide



**Engineering
Career Center**

Getting Started

First, we must acknowledge the unprecedented time we are living in. As a result, you will likely need to think creatively about your job search and be flexible in adjusting your process to help you obtain results.

This is our attempt to provide you with some ideas and direction. If there is any “best advice” we may impart, it is to reach out to us for help. Guides are helpful but are no substitute for personal advising.



How to Meet Us

Make an Appointment Online.

Email Us.

View our online resources, available 24/7 ecc.uic.edu



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Searching and Virtual Networking

SEARCHING

Companies are still hiring. Here are a few resources to help you find which ones are:

[General Job Boards](#)

[Engineering-Specific Job Boards](#)

[UICcareers.com](#)

[The Muse](#)

WHO IS NOT HIRING

[Candor.co](#)

[Is My Internship Cancelled?](#)

VIRTUAL NETWORKING

The necessity to network is required now more than ever. Make sure you have a LinkedIn profile and start connecting.

Resources to help get started:

[Engineering Career Center Tips](#)

[LinkedIn for Students](#)

[The Balance Careers](#)

[Thank You Notes](#)



Career Fairs & Events

For the time being, most career fairs and networking events will be held virtually. Keep track of virtual events hosted by UIC at ecc.uic.edu and on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

Most virtual events are free, but some may charge a slight fee. Additional resources to find virtual events are:

Jobfairsin.com

[Illinois Technology Association](#)

[BuiltIn Chicago](#)

[mHUB](#)

[1871](#)

[Eventbrite](#)



Tips for Virtual Interviewing

In-person interviews are now being converted to phone/virtual interviews. Download and make profiles for Zoom, Hangout, Skype, Teams, WebEx, etc.

Some helpful tips for virtual interviewing are:

[Virtual Vocations](#)

[Harvard Business School](#)

Engineering Career Center Tips for:

[Technical Interviews, Practice Questions, and Questions You Should be Asking During your Interview](#)

[Request a Mock Interview](#)



Developing New Skills

While you are searching, take advantage of the time to learn and develop new skills and knowledge. Engineering companies are always looking for job candidates who are eager to learn a new technology or technique:

[LinkedIn Learning \(free for UIC students\)](#)

[Coursera.org](#)

[edX](#) (some free, some not free)

[MOOC.org](#)

[Open Culture](#)



Negotiations & Getting Creative

NEGOTIATING

Graduating during a recession can result in lower-than-market salary rates. It also means a job seeker's negotiating power is hindered.

Work on your negotiating skills and always try to negotiate to help you prepare for future job negotiations.

[Career Center Tips for Negotiating](#)

SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME

Graduating during COVID-19 may force you to get creative and pursue other forms of income.

Apply for [gigs](#), [contract jobs](#), or [microinternships](#). Be open to taking on basic jobs to help supplement your income.



Find us online 24/7

ecc.uic.edu

- **Résumé & Cover letter tips**
- **Interview tips**
- **Job search advice**
- **Events**
- **CPT info**
- **Offers & Negotiations**
- **The Spark**
- **Professional Connections Program**
- **Much More!**

Make an appointment

ecc.uic.edu/meet



Resources/References

The Washington Center

The Muse

NACE



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