

GRADUATION



THE ORACLE

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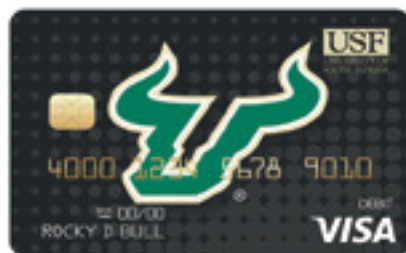
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A Bulls Guide to finding job opportunities after college

By Hannah Wagner
STAFF WRITER

Receiving a diploma is a great milestone. However, the thought of embarking on the next step or finding employment after college can be anxiety invoking, especially when preparing materials necessary for securing a job.

The format and availability of job opportunities for graduating college students have been shaped by the pandemic. For example, many workplaces have begun to implement both hybrid and remote arrangements for their employees to minimize contact-exposure, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Spring graduates entering the labor market are also expected to be met with positive trends in employment proceeding into the future. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics added that between January and March, employment in the U.S. rose by 431,000 to a total of 6 million workers, causing the unemployment rate to decline from 3.8 to 3.6%.

Having a plan of action can aid in reducing unwanted stress associated with managing the job-seeking process. Hopefully, the following guide will inspire graduates to prepare for opportunities as they begin their journey into the workforce.

Research potential career paths and job listings

Although students have most likely chosen a major in hopes of pursuing a certain career path or goal, it can be difficult to identify how the skills they learned throughout their undergraduate education translate to a workplace environment.

Learning about what kinds of

jobs are available, what a typical workday looks like, how selective the current job market is and what requirements are necessary can help graduates narrow listings to find the exact career path they are looking for.

Graduates should begin the search process by finding careers associated with their majors, interests and skill sets to better tailor their applicant profiles to job listings. USF offers a variety of resources to students looking to find employers and job opportunities through Career Services, including programs such as CareerShift, GoinGlobal and Glassdoor.

Handshake provides both current students and alumni access to specialized job listings through USF.

In addition to being able to search and apply for part-time and full-time jobs on the platform, graduates can create and upload a resume and career profile, research contact information for local and national employers and learn which employers will be attending future career and internship fairs on campus.

Students looking for more specialized assistance can also book a 25-minute session with a career coach, according to the Career Services website. During the session, coaches will provide advising on networking, interviewing and career exploration. They will also review resume and cover letter writing.

Create a well-structured resume

A properly structured resume and cover letter are essential for marketing one's academic and professional credentials to prospective employers. Given the number of individuals that



Having a plan of action for finding employment opportunities after graduation can aid in reducing unwanted stress experienced by graduates. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/UNSPLASH

apply to some job listings, having creative and engaging application materials can help a graduate stand out from the crowd.

Resumes serve to provide employers insight into past academic and employment experience as well as personal background. They are typically viewed by hiring managers and recruiters after being submitted to a job search engine, an organization's career search website, a professional social media page or directly in an in-person interview, according to Indeed's Career Guide website.

Standard requirements for a resume usually include contact information, education, objectives, work experience and skills. However, the manner in which a resume is formatted greatly relies on the field a graduate is looking to enter, as well as the stage they are in their career progression, according to the Career Services website.

Applicants should refer to a

company's website to structure their resume and cover letter so it best fits the requirements listed in the desired job posting. Career Service's website offers an extensive list of resume and cover letter examples for those looking to learn more about how to create career-specific application materials.

Prepare for interviews

Preparing for an interview is the final and most important stage of the employment process. While one's resume may have been attractive to the hiring manager when reviewing applications, interviews provide employers the opportunity to directly evaluate an applicant's compatibility with the company and its values.

Job descriptions will act as the best point of reference for identifying exactly what an applicant needs to study, whether it be role responsibilities or

general information about a company. Not only will this provide applicants insight into what will be expected of them in the future, but the company's culture and work environment.

Formulating responses to general questions prior to the interview can reduce the uncertainty an applicant may experience. Having an elevator pitch that describes who you are, what you currently do and what you expect from a job establishes a baseline for applicants to work from when developing responses to unexpected questions.

Last but not least, soon-to-be graduates shouldn't overlook their achievements in the present when envisioning a plan for the future. Graduating college marks not only a transition to the workplace, but the end of countless hours of dedication, studying and sacrifice invested toward obtaining a college degree.

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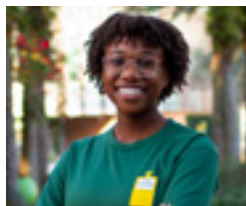
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Commencement regalia prices elicit mixed reception from graduating students



Jordon Myrick

STAFF WRITER

With the 2022 commencement ceremony taking place soon, the prices for regalia have garnered a mixed reaction from graduating students.

Commencement is scheduled to take place May 6-8 at the Yuengling Center for graduating bachelor, master and doctoral students, according to the commencement website.

Director of USF commencement Travis Miller said the ceremony is free to graduates and guests, with no limitations on how many guests students are allowed to bring. Parking for the event is also free of charge.

Even without these charges, some graduating students have expressed that the prices for purchasing regalia have added unnecessary costs to their overall expenses for the graduation season.

Prices for the cap and gown range from \$68-\$248, with costs increasing according to the degree students are receiving. Supplemental regalia, including sashes and medallions, have additional costs ranging from \$45-\$64.

"I think [regalia costs are] pretty expensive considering how much students pay the university to complete their degree," senior cell and molecular biology major Brooke Fasano said. "They should



As graduation approaches, some students are disappointed by the cost of commencement attire. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/USF

at least be able to celebrate their accomplishments at a reasonable cost."

USF has pre-approved regalia offered through the USF Bookstore that students are required to purchase in order to participate in the ceremony, according to the Office of Commencement.

The price of regalia is set by the Office of Commencement's partners at the USF Bookstore and their regalia partner Herff Jones, according to Miller. With this partnership, Miller said the Office of Commencement was able to lower the price since 2021.

Some seniors felt these costs were an expected price to pay to participate in the ceremony and they did not discourage them from participating due to the personal importance of the event.

"I guess I didn't really give much thought to the costs, because in my head, [I thought] 'Well, that's what they always charge,'" senior mechanical engineering major Jesutomi Banigbe said.

"My mind was already made up that I was going to participate because I always looked forward to it. And my parents were looking forward to it as well, so I put the money down to participate."

Students also shared that commencement expenses outside of regalia, such as formalwear and visiting family, have led to higher overall costs that were less than ideal.

"Just in terms of preparing for graduation, like getting the suits and stuff like that, you can throw in about an extra \$100," Banigbe said. "It would sum to upwards of about \$200."

With these costs in mind, some upcoming graduates have had to search for more cost-effective methods of obtaining regalia that fits the standards set for the ceremony, according to industrial engineering major Rossana Benavides Cordova.

Sharing that a few seniors have had to borrow regalia from past graduates, Benavides Cordova had her own ideas on how regalia could be more accessible for students who can't afford it or have to make multiple purchases.

"I don't think that costs are a big obstacle, especially because it's right on campus. I do think that maybe the cap and gowns should be a little less expensive, considering we're only using them once," she said.

"There should be an option to rent [for undergraduate and

graduate students], because although it was not a bad price, I am thinking that I'm using [the regalia] once, why am I paying \$70 for it? There should either be a place you can rent them or you should be able to sell it back."

Overall, Fasano said she is fortunate she can still afford the expenses of commencement regalia, yet is disappointed that there aren't cheaper alternatives.

"I am lucky that I have multiple jobs and can afford to pay for the commencement ceremony [and the regalia], but I know many people who cannot afford it," Fasano said. "My view may be skewed because I have gotten so much regalia which costs a lot, and that's a personal choice, but I still would not exactly consider it affordable."



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Presented By: WestShore Plaza
Dates: April 29 - June 24
Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
WestShore Plaza
250 WestShore Plaza, Tampa, FL 33609

XOXO Carnival

Dates: May 5 - May 8
Time: 4-11 p.m., 4 p.m. - midnight, 11 a.m. - midnight, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Armstrong Works
1910 N Ola Ave., Tampa, FL

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Tampa Museum of Art
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Six celebration-worthy restaurants for post-commencement dining



Katherine Maily

STAFF WRITER

After several years of classes, grades and meeting deadlines, graduation is a time to connect and celebrate with loved ones. An enjoyable meal can round out graduation day, and Tampa provides an array of locations and cuisines.

Don Julio's Authentic Mexican Cuisine – East Bearss Avenue

Winning the titles of Best Mexican Restaurant and Best Taco in Tampa Bay for 2020 and 2021, Don Julio's Mexican Cuisine provides a flavorful variety of dishes well-suited for a day of celebration.

With a menu complete with kids' meals, desserts, sides and tacos, Don Julio's offers online ordering as well as catering to bring the party home. House specialties include vegetarian and chicken fajitas and fajitas de camarón, onion and peppers.

A comfortable and inviting environment rounds out the family-run business, making it a go-to after graduating.

First Choice Southern Barbeque – East Adama Drive

A hearty menu of classic barbeque dishes, such as corn

beef sandwiches and chicken dinners, has earned First Choice Southern Barbeque 4.5 stars on Tripadvisor.

This inexpensive option is wheelchair accessible and provides a laid-back setting to bring the academic year to a close. The dishes served here should be every student's first choice when searching for savory barbeque.

Eddie V's Prime Seafood – West Boy Scout Boulevard

Those looking for a more upscale location to celebrate

their graduates should look no further than Eddie V's Prime Seafood. The "Traveler's Choice" menu boasts a variety of seafood including a fresh oyster bar and calamari.

Its gluten-sensitive menu has options such as scallops and a warm goat cheese salad. End the meal with dessert classics such as banana foster butter cake.

Live music gives the venue a more vibrant ambiance to commemorate the occasion. Reservations can be made to ensure that students and loved ones will be able to dine after commencement.

Coppertail Brewing Co. – East 2nd Avenue

An inviting environment complete with friendly staff and outdoor seating sets the scene for Coppertail Brewing Co. Those looking to party with friends and loved ones may be interested in the various drinks available at this pub. The list of available brews is constantly updated by the pub's brewers as they come up with new formulas.

Finger food, like the panko shrimp sliders, and shareable plates such as the loaded waffle fries will satisfy post-

commencement cravings.

Think An Kitchen & Tofu – West Waters Avenue

Home to authentic Vietnamese cuisine, Think An Kitchen & Tofu allows graduates to try new dishes or flavors, or to return to what reminds them of home. Its assortment of egg rolls, soups and noodles are also available through catering.

The menu accommodates gluten-free diets with various salads and fried rice dishes. Vegetarians and vegans can also enjoy the night out with Think An's vegetarian menu, which features dishes like udon noodle soup and vegetarian tofu sandwiches.

La Terrazza Ristorante Italiano – East 7th Avenue

La Terrazza Restaurant is home to hearty Italian flavors for both lunch and dinner, making this a good spot for earlier graduation times. The menu features classics like Caprese salad and penne alla vodka. Gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan options are also available so that everyone can enjoy an evening of food and fun.

The restaurant also caters and hosts private parties, letting the students take the party anywhere. La Terrazza is a good stop for graduates and families with what reviews have described as a genuine Italian environment and friendly staff.



Students can get more courses — full-course meals, that is — to enjoy with their family and friends. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/Don Julio's Authentic Mexican Cuisine



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Simple ideas to decorate graduation caps



Graduation caps are the one piece of commencement attire students can personalize. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

By Michael Mardones and Alexandra Urban

Although all graduating students will be wearing the same green gown at the ceremony, they have the liberty of expressing their personalities and achievements through their graduation cap.

Every year some students may draw or paint their caps, print out and glue quotes or even make collages of photos from their time in college. While you could stay with the plain green cap, finding a way to commemorate your college years could make for great memorabilia.

Inspirational messages

Songs, books or movies can all provide messages one is

looking for. Whether it's a time of preparing for a big exam or enjoying the magical week where no work appeared on your calendar, picking the right thing can help express how you're feeling.

Picking your favorite verse from a song or line from a book or movie that resonates with your college experience is a great way to add identity to your cap.

Iconic messages from legendary athletes are also a good way to express yourself at graduation.

Submitting assignments on Canvas may not be as cool as Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James clutching game-winning shots, but sometimes an athlete's in-game motivation can be mirrored by students to get

those last-minute papers done. With that, quoting one of those motivational lines is an excellent way to pay homage to those who inspired you on your educational journey.

Some of the best messages come from those with sentimental value. Maybe it's something your parents always told you since you first started school or encouragement from a mentor. Finding a way to include those moments on your cap would be a good way to close the education chapter of your life.

Images

If a few words placed on the back of your cap doesn't adequately illustrate your college experience, don't worry. A telling

alternative is pasting an image that solidifies an important time you encountered over the past four years.

With a picture being worth a thousand words, a good place to start when searching for the perfect moment to capture is what's important to you. Maybe it was an outing you went on with a group of your closest friends or you and your fellow researchers trying to have fun during a late night in the lab.

There's no doubt that four years of classes will yield frustrations that need to be aired out at some point. Your last day as a student might be the perfect day, and what better way to do that than through a comical image that sums up anything that may have pushed you there.

Future Plans

Despite college being renowned as the "best four years," usually it's better regarded as a stepping stone for future plans. To encapsulate those future ambitions, decorating your cap with images of your future graduate program, the company you are working for or an area you're moving to can provide inspiration for your next steps in life.

Especially at a graduation ceremony, the sentiment will be strong that this is the end of an era. With memories flooding your mind, having a physical reminder what the journey was for, as well as where you are headed, would be a good way to validate all of those times.

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