

INTRODUCTION



Congratulations, graduate! You are accomplished, educated, degreed, and ready to succeed in life. This transition period from student to professional can be both exhilarating and overwhelming. As your opportunities expand, so do the challenges. *Life After Graduation* will guide you through this process and help you achieve the success you desire.

You've mastered the art of student life: You can write a twenty-page paper in three hours, move all of your belongings in an afternoon, and stretch your budget like Laffy Taffy. You've memorized the library hours, as well as every other study area on campus, and learned where to get the best cheap eats in town. Of course, you also have knowledge of your subject area. You have skills. And chances are, you also have debt.

What you need now is a financial advisor, retirement planner, trusted insurance agent, career counselor, image consultant, marketing manager, and communications expert. And you need all the advice they have to offer as soon as possible. Well, look no further – we've done the legwork for you. We consulted experts in financial planning, insurance, and career development, then distilled everything they had to say about life after graduation into one little book. *Life After Graduation* covers all the relevant topics of this new phase of life – from what to expect of your first days on a new job to planning for retirement.

In these chapters you'll find answers to all your important questions – including some you might not have thought to ask. We'll address common questions, such as...

- What kind of insurance coverage do I need?
- How do I create a workable budget?
- How can I use credit cards wisely?
- Where can I find good--and inexpensive--financial and career advice?
- Why should I start investing in my retirement now?
- Should I consolidate my student loans?
- How can I make a great impression on my new boss and coworkers?
- What can I expect from my first few months on the job?
- How should I ask for a raise?
- How can I use my alumni connections to network?

Soon *you'll* be the expert on workplace culture and insurance riders and the best ways to trim your variable expenses. In the meantime, *Life After Graduation* will be your go-to resource, your quick and complete guide to the essential terms and concepts you need to understand as you transition from student to professional.

Here's to your future!