

GET READY FOR 2026: *Your Job Search* Guide

Here's a simple, step-by-step plan to help you stay focused, stand out, and land your dream job in 2026!

GET CLEAR ON YOUR GOALS

- Think about your skills, achievements, and where you're headed in your career.
- Define your short-term and long-term goals—what's the next step, and what's the big dream?
- Picture the company culture, work-life balance, and day-to-day work that excites you.
- Browse job descriptions to pinpoint what you're drawn to and where your experience fits.

SPRUCE UP YOUR PERSONAL BRAND

- Update your resume with measurable wins and industry-specific buzzwords.
- Polish your LinkedIn profile: add a great photo and sync it with your resume.
- Clean up your social media so it reflects the professional you.
- Build a portfolio if your field calls for it—show off your best work!

KEEP YOUR SKILLS SHARP

- Take an online course or earn certifications in tools or tech trending in your field.
- Join industry webinars or networking events to stay in the loop.
- Practice soft skills like leadership, teamwork, and adaptability.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK ON COMPANIES

- Research companies with values and missions that align with yours.
- Check out their latest news, financials, and hiring patterns.
- Follow industry leaders and decision-makers on LinkedIn to stay informed.

NETWORK LIKE A PRO

- ☐ Connect and reconnect with past colleagues, mentors, and peers in your field.
- ☐ Attend events—virtual or in person—to meet new people in your industry.
- ☐ Join professional groups or associations to expand your reach.

APPLY WITH A PURPOSE

- ☐ Customize your resume and cover letter for each job.
- ☐ Use a separate, professional email address for job hunting. Check your spam folder regularly!
- ☐ Highlight how your skills and experience match the role in your pitch.

CRUSH THE INTERVIEW

- ☐ Dig into the company's background and competitors to show you've done your research.
- ☐ Prepare STAR (Situation, Task, Action, Result) stories to showcase your accomplishments.
- ☐ Practice your interview skills—both in-person and virtual—until you're confident.
- ☐ Use the job description to connect your past experience to the role.
- ☐ Come with thoughtful questions for the interviewer—it shows you're engaged.

STAY ON TOP OF THINGS

- ☐ Set reminders for deadlines, interviews, and follow-ups.
- ☐ Track your progress and adjust your strategy as needed.

FOLLOW UP AFTER INTERVIEWS

- ☐ Send a thank-you email within 24 hours to everyone you interviewed with.
- ☐ Reflect on how the interview went—what went well, and what can you improve?
- ☐ Keep in touch with recruiters or hiring managers—connect with them on LinkedIn .

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- ☐ Stick to a daily schedule for your job search to stay focused.
- ☐ Keep up with stress-relieving habits like exercise, meditation, or hobbies.
- ☐ Celebrate the little wins—they'll keep you motivated!



Need help polishing your resume?

Your resume should market your value, not just list your experience. We help you craft a compelling story that stands out and gets interviews. *With proven success across 3,500+ clients, we'll position you for the opportunities you deserve.*



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