

# LinkedIn 101: Using LinkedIn to Land Your Dream Job Before You Graduate

LinkedIn is helping soon-to-be grads from around the country tap into their professional community—whether they realize they have one already or not.

Trying to land your dream career out of the gate is a tall order. But here's the good news: There are roughly [11 million job openings](#) per month in America at any given time. Sure, you don't want all those jobs, but you want some of them—and some of them want you!

LinkedIn connects qualified candidates with companies and organizations that crave top talent. With these tips, you'll be well on your way to snagging a seat at the professional table before graduation.

## Why LinkedIn?

- 80% of LinkedIn members consider professional networking to be important to new job opportunities and career success, according to [LinkedIn research](#).
- 70% of people were hired at a company where they had a connection
- More than 20 million professionals including recruiters, hiring managers and decision makers use LinkedIn every week

With 530+ million professionals in the LinkedIn community, there is no other place where you can access such a wide range of knowledge, skills and resources to help you reach your goals.

## Let LinkedIn do the work for you

Searching for [careers](#) can seem like a daunting task. More than a [quarter of professionals](#) say they have no time to search for new job opportunities.

But worry not, with search alerts you can get notifications and updates to a saved search via email or shared with you on LinkedIn. Use advanced search filters to narrow down opportunities by industry, location, experience level and more. Once your filtered search is set, simply create the alert.

Let recruiters know you're open to new opportunities by simply flipping a switch on your LinkedIn profile. It's called [Open Candidates](#), and yes, it's that easy. Open Candidates is accessible from the "[Preferences](#)" tab on the [LinkedIn Jobs](#) home page.

By flipping the switch, you privately signal to recruiters that you're interested in new opportunities. Don't forget to update your [career interests](#). This helps you appear in the search

results that recruiters are regularly scouring. Additionally, this helps inform the daily job recommendations LinkedIn sends you and surfaces on the jobs homepage.

### **Discover your earning potential**

LinkedIn Salary has tapped into its network of more than 530 million members to give you deep salary insights into the compensation landscape. You can also dig deeper into compensation insights about specific companies you're interested in so when the time comes to talk money, you're ready.

This tool includes [average salary](#), bonus, and equity data for specific job titles, and the different factors that impact pay such as years of experience, industry, company size, location, and education level

### **Connect with alumni**

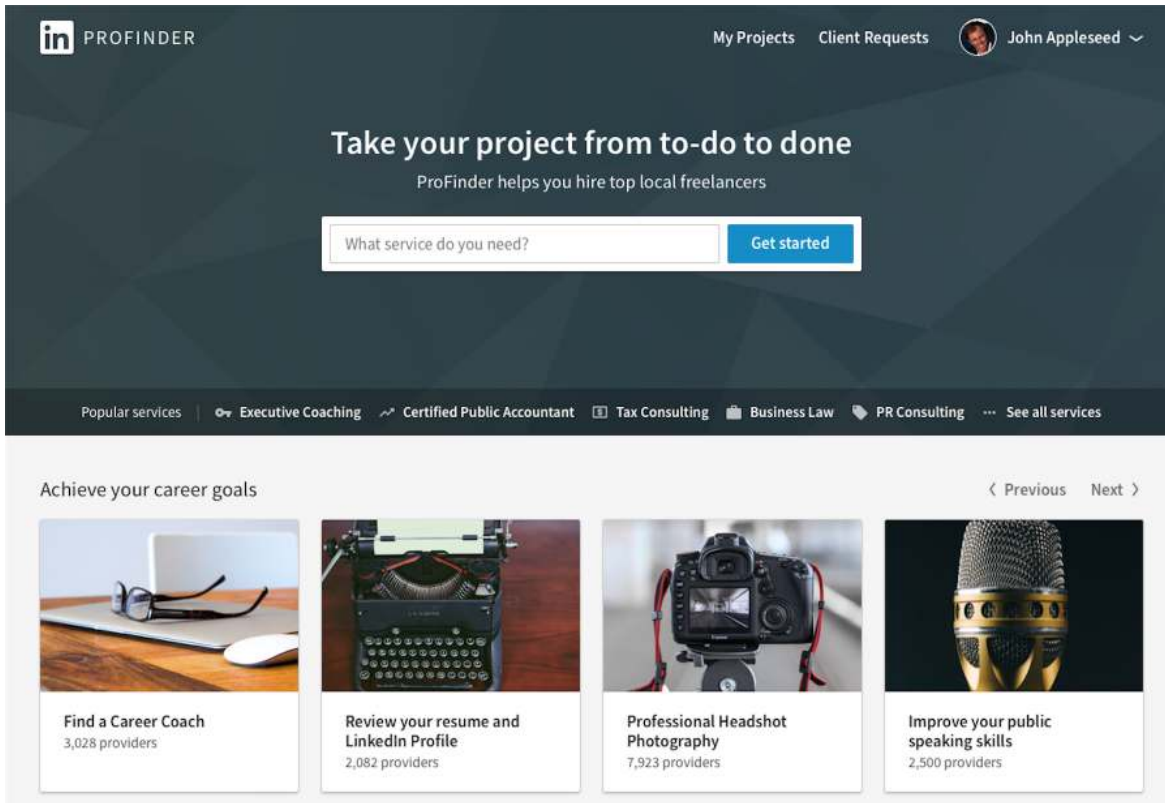
One of the easiest ways for students and alumni to make connections is through the [LinkedIn Alumni tool](#). It's an easy way to explore your [alumni network](#) for people who graduated from your same school, where they work now and in what cities. Simply search for your school and select "see alumni" to get started. You can access career paths for more than 23,000 colleges and universities worldwide.



### **Entrepreneur? Create your own job — become a freelancer**

- Nearly 20% of freelancers confirmed they'll make six figures or more this year with their [freelance work](#), [according to LinkedIn](#)
- More than half of freelancers confirmed that they will never return to more traditional, full-time employment
- 80% of freelancers do not actually have any concern about their freelance work being replaced by technology, artificial intelligence, or automation in the next 10-20 years.

[LinkedIn ProFinder](#) started as an idea that has grown into a vibrant marketplace being used by more than 70,000 freelance professionals across the nation. LinkedIn has seen client demand surge with weekly requests for proposals growing more than fivefold in one year.



### Seek career advice from others

- More than 80% of professionals on LinkedIn have stated they either want to have a mentor or be one to others
- More than half don't know where to begin and more than one-third have a hard time finding the right person

LinkedIn launched [Career Advice](#), a new feature that helps connect members across the LinkedIn network with one another for lightweight mentorship opportunities. Whether you need advice on your career path, switching to a new industry or best practices for a project you're working on, [Career Advice](#) can help you find and connect with the right person who can help.

### Learn the skills needed for your next gig

- One-third of job-seekers have expressed concern that they don't have the necessary skills to be competitive in the job market
- Many people who are looking for [work from home jobs](#) use LinkedIn learning to gain the skills needed to be an ideal candidate for remote work.

With [LinkedIn Learning](#), you can now access a gigantic database of online courses on topics from [coding](#) and [graphic design](#) to [public speaking](#). And here's the best part: each course is typically sliced up into very manageable 5-10 minute learning chunks. Learning a new skill over the course of a week quickly becomes very achievable.

### What now? — Get started

Create or update your [LinkedIn profile](#) today. This provides other LinkedIn members with a better understanding of the unique skills, interests, and experience that make you — you.

- Make sure you have a profile photo - it will help get you recognized and connect to potential opportunities. Members with a profile photo receive up to 21x more profile views and 9x more connection requests.
- Members with current positions are discovered up to 16x more in recruiter searches
- Members with more than 5 skills are 27x more likely to be discovered in searches by recruiters
- Including the city where you are based makes you stand out up to 23x in searches

***Bonus:*** Check out [Resume Assistant](#), a new integration from Microsoft and LinkedIn that acts as a resume generator and helps you craft a compelling document directly within Microsoft Word.