



# The 6-Step Plan to Confidently Launching Your Career

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CoachOiseau

Coaching today's students into tomorrow's leaders

# It's 7 am on Monday morning.

You open your eyes, reach for your phone, and kill the cranky alarm that's blasting from the cell's speaker.

You catch a glimpse of today's date and notice something that makes your chest tighten up – *you're only a few quick months away from your university graduation!*

Your life as a student is coming to an end. And while you *should* be ready for this big transition to the world of work, you can't find it in you to say to yourself, *"I've got this."*

Instead, you're worrying constantly about what lies ahead.

*What exactly do I want to do after I graduate? How will I land that first job? What will I freaking wear to that interview? Will I fit in with my new colleagues?*

Here's a bit of good news: you're not alone. You're not wrong in feeling stressed out every time you think about becoming a real adult...whatever *that* means anyway. You're going through a perfectly normal part of your life's journey.

More good news: you can alleviate your stress and anxiety. You can change your reality. **You can build the confidence that you want to feel and show up with as you launch your career.**

What follows is a 6-step plan that will move you forward into becoming the confident professional you aspire to be. It will help you grow up just a little bit faster. And it will allow you to look at the months ahead and say to yourself, *"I've got this!"*

If you're ready to take action and begin your transformation from starving student to consummate pro, then it's time to dive into *The 6-Step Plan to Confidently Launching Your Career*.

**The 6-Step Plan to  
Confidently Launching Your Career**

1. *Create Your Dynamic LinkedIn Profile*
2. *Find a Mentor*
3. *Start Building Your Network*
4. *Reach Out for Informational Interviews*
5. *Follow the Movers and Shakers*
6. *Keep Growing Your Skills*

# Step 1: Create Your Dynamic LinkedIn Profile

## *Digitally connect with the working world*

This is a relatively quick and easy win for you right out of the gate.

LinkedIn is *the* social platform for folks who are serious about growing their careers. It's a digital networking ground, allowing you to connect with other [career builders](#) across various industries and organizational positions.

Get on the platform that you'll use today, tomorrow and years from now as you develop the relationships that will power up your career. All worthwhile achievements in a career stem from a relationship: an awesome promotion, a huge sale, an exciting new job opportunity...the list goes on!

Put together your profile's nuts and bolts:

- a great profile photo taken by someone other than you (a professional photographer is ideal, but not mandatory!)
- a simple, clear headline that talks about what you do, what you aspire to be, and/or how you help companies or clients succeed
- a well-written "About" section which further illustrates your story, your strengths, your value and yours passions
- all of the important educational and career milestones that you've reached to date (degrees, diplomas, jobs you've held, wins you've experienced)
- an overview of your technical skills and project work (which can be very relevant if you don't yet have a lot of work experience)
- at least one recommendation from someone who has experienced and appreciates your work

Building a dynamic profile means keeping in mind that your profile is a living document, like all of your job search and personal marketing material.

Review your profile on a regular basis - every 3-6 months is good timeframe to start with. Ensure that it's always a strong, current and complete reflection of who you are and how you add value to your workplace/marketplace.

## Step 2: Find a Mentor

*You don't have to figure it all out on your own.*

The people who guide you through the challenges and opportunities of your career will be the people who have the greatest impact on your professional life.

Learning from your own successes and setbacks is a great way to grow both personally and professionally. But an even faster way of grow your career is to learn from the successes and setbacks of others. That's where a lot of the value in finding a mentor comes from.

Another aspect of mentorship that's beneficial for your career is the relationship itself. It's wonderful to have a close connection to someone who understands you and your unique professional life. Being able to exchange stories and lessons learned over the years can be stimulating and fulfilling in the long term.

Thirdly, the new relationships your mentor(s) can help you create can sometimes catapult your career forward in dramatic ways. The network of a seasoned professional is a valuable asset (after all, it took them years of work to create it!). When you have a mentor who introduces you to people who could potentially hire you, do business with you, or continue your network growth, then you're truly running in a career express lane.

Find someone who has the professional habits you seek to build for yourself. Do you struggle to relate to and communicate with other people? Go and learn from someone who's an exceptional "people person" and watch as your own interpersonal skills begin to transform.

As you gain repeated exposure to people who already are what you aspire to be, you'll begin to turn into the person you dream of being.

Stuck trying to connect with someone who will be your guide? Speak to your university's alumni association. They might be able to put you in touch with a graduate who is interested in helping someone like you.

That being said, there may already be someone in your life who would make a great mentor for you. A key point to keep in mind is to find someone who shares a similar level of passion for their work as you do. To learn more about this, check out [this podcast episode](#).

## Step 3: Start Building Your Network

### *“Always Be Networking...”*

Networking is how a lot of people get hired in today’s world. The more connections you can build with individuals in industries you’re interested in working in, the easier it will be to find new job opportunities when the need arises.

Use your newly built LinkedIn account to discover people who interest you, and begin to reach out.

Reaching out doesn’t have to be a tough task. If you go through someone’s profile and discover something unique (such as their involvement in a local charity or association) or relevant (you both went to the same university or interned at the same large corporation, for example), then go ahead and introduce yourself.

Hit the “Connect” button, writing them a quick message mentioning the point of interest that initially jumped out to you. Be curious about your new contact’s world and ask them questions to better understand who they are and what their strengths are. (This advice holds true in an offline networking setting as well!)

Virtually everyone likes to feel known and connected to something greater than themselves. There is a biological basis for this tendency. For thousands of years, humans connected to larger social circles (think of groups like tribes, for instance) have been more likely to survive in the long-term than individuals going through life alone. Take advantage of the way that we’re all naturally wired and create your professional “tribe” that will help you build your career.

## Step 4: Reach Out for Informational Interviews

### *You’ll be surprised what you can learn in ten minutes*

A slightly more advanced networking strategy involves asking your contacts (new or old) if they’d be interested in sharing some insights into their work with you.

An informational interview like this will do at least two things for you:

1. Deepen your relationship with the contact

2. Teach you more about the various roles and industries you may be interested in – information that can help you land a job when it comes time to go through an interview

You'd be surprised by how eager a lot of folks will be to help you out at the beginning of your career. Again, put your growing LinkedIn network to good use and send direct messages to people who are doing work that interests you. Ask them directly and politely if they could spare you ten minutes of their time for either a phone or video call.

Not everyone will say yes to your ask. If that happens, don't take it personally and move on to the next person who catches your interest. If you ask ten people for a conversation, and five of them agree to do it, then you're off to a great start in your prospecting for interviews.

When the time comes for the call, be concise and direct with your questions (write down at least two or three so you're not stumbling and wasting your interviewee's time). You'll get better at engaging people in these kinds of conversations as you gain experience, so go forth and get asking for informational interviews!

If you'd like to learn more about this strategy, then I highly recommend [this podcast episode](#).

## Step 5: Follow the Movers and Shakers

### *All great leaders start out as followers*

One way to fast-track your career is to integrate yourself into the larger community within your field of work.

All industries feature individuals who are authoritative voices within their space. Gary Vaynerchuk and Seth Godin are both authoritative voices in the marketing and entrepreneurship space, for example.

Being up-to-date with the key terms, topics and buzzwords helps build your credibility in your field. How much would you listen to a basketball coach who had never heard of LeBron James?

Gaining this kind of credibility can be as easy as following the folks who are dictating all the latest thoughts, ideas and terms on social media (again, LinkedIn is great for this).

This is important because it allows you to demonstrate your competence with current

language and build trust with others in settings like interviews and networking conversations.

Stay in the know with the major players in your field - one day, this just might be you!

## Step 6: Keep Growing Your Skills

*Your education doesn't stop when you graduate from school*

You're either growing, or dying.

That sounds harsh, but it's true nonetheless. If you really want to enjoy a spectacular career, commit to evolving your personal and professional skills each and every day, week, month and year that you're alive.

One of the best parts of graduating from school is that you are now in total control of what you want to learn moving forward. Why not focus your efforts on growing the skills that will help you accelerate your career?

Whether it's through reading non-fiction written by leaders in the field, watching educational videos on YouTube, or enrolling in online or offline courses, take regular (ideally *daily*) action that will help you broaden and/or deepen your professional skill set.

As James Clear explains in his book *Atomic Habits*, a 1% increase in a given skill per day will make you **37 times** more skilled over the course of a year. Imagine what you'll be in a few years time as you employ this approach to building your career!

(I highly recommend this book, among others which you can find a list of [right here](#)).

## How do these actions steps help me land a job?

If you follow the six steps in the plan - create a LinkedIn profile, find mentorship, start building your network, reach out to folks for informational interviews, follow the movers and shakers in your field and continue to grow your skills – *you will inevitably find a job.*

*"You're either growing, or dying."*

You'll have so many people working in

your favour and your passion for your career will shine through to those who are looking to hire someone like you. The work is yours to do, but the results will come.

Get yourself focused on the *process* of building your career, and the opportunities for work will begin to appear. Taking these steps and putting them into action will be like building yourself a treadmill that moves you forward, instead of always finding yourself running on a job-search hamster wheel.

## Need a bit more help with all of this?

Every first Wednesday of the month, I put on a live webinar for soon-to-be and recent grads who are trying to accelerate their transition into the working world. To learn more and sign up for these monthly shows, check out [this webpage](#) or email me at [mike@coachoiseau.com](mailto:mike@coachoiseau.com) with your questions.

## Listen to podcasts?

I've got some additional resources you can check out! As a co-host on [The Career Builder's Podcast](#), I get the opportunity to talk with experts on a variety of career development topics. We've got episodes focused on everything from [resume writing](#), [interview preparation](#), [getting promoted](#), and much more.

Check out our weekly release by subscribing to the show on your favourite podcast platform.



## Bonjour-Hi!

I hope you enjoyed reading *The 6-step Plan to Confidently Launching Your Career* and found the content valuable. My name is Mike Bird, and I'm honoured to be playing a small (but hopefully useful!) role in your career development journey.

I'm the founder of [CoachOiseau Career Coaching](#), live in Montréal, Québec (hence my use of the city's signature greeting), and am an avid fan of young people like you.

When I was in your shoes and looking for my first "adult" job, I found myself in a perilous position. I didn't have the language skills needed to work in very many places locally, and felt awful about my chances of finding employment.

My whole attitude held me back. I saw myself as someone who wouldn't get hired by anyone, so I barely applied to jobs. My biggest enemy was me. In the end, I found my way into my first real gig through relationships I'd built up over several years, and now I'd like to help you do the same.

Being a young 20-something can have both huge advantages (you've got lots of energy, enthusiasm, and hopefully a desire to learn) and huge disadvantages (you might feel confused about what to do next in your life, believe you lack needed "experience," and generally aren't fully confident in yourself yet). If you value stability and security, this can be a scary time in your life.

Now, I've got some great news for you: *the struggles you're facing are perfectly normal!*

This 6-step plan will relieve some of the stress you're feeling by allowing you to carve out a path to your first real job. If you actually take the actions outlined here (which is where most people blow it!), you'll be in much better shape to step away from your studies and into the working world.

If you're struggling to execute any part of this plan, reach out to me by email at [mike@coachoiseau.com](mailto:mike@coachoiseau.com). I'd be happy to talk you through this plan and answer your questions. You can also access more free resources by going to [www.coachoiseau.com](http://www.coachoiseau.com).

Cheers,

-Mike