Strategizing for Your Professional Success Throughout Your Academic Program

(Workshop and Welcome)

Jenny Furlong
Director, Career Planning and Professional Development
Jfurlong@gc.cuny.edu
Careerplan.commons.gc.cuny.edu
Why Are You Here?

• MALS program is a great intellectual fit for you.
• Intrigued by the diversity of the Graduate Center’s offerings and resources, particularly the Digital Initiatives.
• Planning to “test the waters” for possibly pursuing a PhD.
• Hoping the degree will lead you to a more fulfilling, intellectually engaging career.
Common Career Challenges for MA Students

- Lack of full-time experience or field-based knowledge
- Changing careers is never easy
- Focused on a narrow field
- Employers don’t always recognize value of the additional degree
- Doctoral admissions are tough
- Lack of a strong network
- Postponing a search for job/internship
- Lackluster job market
What Can You Do?

• Determine your direction(s)
  – Career assessments
• Build a strong network
• Develop a strong resume/CV
• Be able to articulate your worth to employers
• Make clear your purpose and qualifications in applying to graduate school
• We talk about all these things in my office
Things to Do in Grad School

• Hone your writing
• Learn to speak with confidence to groups
• Be able to talk about your work to anyone
• Maintain (and grow!) your network
• Always have polished job documents
• Seek external funding
• Be “digital”
• Keep an eye on the larger world
GC Resources

• Office of Career Planning and Professional Development (that’s us)
  – http://careerplan.commons.gc.cuny.edu (Info about career assessments under “Resources”)
• New Media Lab
  – http://newmedialab.cuny.edu/
• JustPublics@365
  – http://justpublics365.commons.gc.cuny.edu/
• OpenCUNY
  – http://opencuny.org/
• GC Digital Initiatives
  – http://gcdi.commons.gc.cuny.edu/
• Academic Commons
  – http://commons.gc.cuny.edu/
• Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
  – http://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Resource-Services/Research-Sponsored-Programs
• GC Library (I’ll highlight here the “grants and funding” topic page)
  – http://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/grants