College to Career
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Outline

• USC vs. University of Idaho
• General intelligence vs. specific skills
• Relationships as assets
• Complement or Substitute for Computational Power?
• Finding your way
• Notes on grad school
USC vs. University of Idaho

• Why are USC students more successful than U of I students?
• Selection and peer effects
  • Alumni network
Specific skills vs. high general intelligence

• High general intelligence fields: Consulting, investment banking, law
  • High GPA from an elite university is key here
• Specific skill fields: Medicine, statistics, computer science
  • LSAT vs. MCAT
Valuable Skills

• Are scarce:
  • Difficult or unpleasant to acquire (or have bad reputations)
  • Require unique specific talent
  • Are new
• Are increasing in demand

• How to get them?
  • Classes
  • Internships
  • Extra-curriculars
Certifying your intelligence

• Major selection
  • What majors best signal high general intelligence?
• Fellowships and awards matter here.
Skills you need in general intelligence fields

• Two skills
  • Writing and public speaking
    • Seize opportunities for public speaking
    • Writing is time-consuming to teach
      • Don’t pass up someone willing to work with you
Relationships

- Peer relationships
  - Now and later

- Relationships with professors
  - Office hours are pure gold
  - Research assistantships

- Internships

- Extra-curriculars
Will a Robot Take Your Job?

• Are robots & computers a complement or a substitute for your work?
• Anything rote is easily replaced, so do interesting work
  • Don’t underestimate the liberal arts
• Expect multiple careers
Finding your way

• Active research
• Find people who have the job you want (linkedin, career services)
  • Look at their resume
  • Informational interview
Should I go to grad school?

- Mediocre grad schools often cost almost as much as elite institutions
  - So get into a good one
  - Invest in good test scores
- Get letters of recommendation before you graduate
- Don’t take on debt for a masters that doesn’t directly qualify you for a specific job
- Ph.Ds are free and you can quit after two years with a masters...
Group Assignment

• Pick a job might want when you’re 35.
• Specific skill or general intelligence?
• What skills/certifications are most critical?
• How would you get them?
• What relationships are most critical?
• How would you get them?
• What is the career ladder? List the graduate degrees and prior experience that is necessary to land that job.
• Where did you learn what you know about this job?
• What else do you need to know about this job and where will you learn it?