

How to Turn Your LGBTQ+ Identity Into a Career

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For some people, their job is their identity – but what if your identity could be your job? Believe it or not, there are tons of ways for you to infuse your sexuality or gender identity into your professional life, be it by working for an advocacy organization or literally writing the book on queer studies. If that sounds like a dream come true, we've rounded up a few ways for you to turn your paycheck into a gaycheck (sorry).

Before we get into different career options, remember to brush up on your job-hunting skills! This seems obvious for any job search, but it's important to remember the basics: How to create a resume, flawless interview techniques, office etiquette, the works.

Vicki Salemi, author of *Big Career in the Big City* and career coach, stresses the importance of your network.

"If you're in groups on campus, network among them and reach out to [alumni] as well," Salemi says. "If you have attained leadership roles in campus groups among the queer community, highlight it during your informational interviews and job interviews."

If you think you've mastered the art of the cover letter, then it's time to start exploring your options!

Work at a nonprofit



There is no shortage of nonprofits working to benefit the LGBTQ+ community, especially in Washington, D.C. From the Human Rights Campaign to the Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, you're bound to find a nonprofit that's right for you, and you can end each day knowing you tried to make the world a safer place.

What you could do at a nonprofit is pretty endless – communications students should bulk up on internships at local public relations firms (or PR departments) in order to score a position directing marketing strategy or public relations, and government majors could take courses on policymaking and public affairs to get in on lobbying local governments. Coding and web design are crucial if you're interested in the creative side of working at a nonprofit.

If you're looking to make a difference in the LGBTQ+ community, these are some great careers to think about. Whether you're an artist or an academic, there's a way for you to turn your queerness into a career!

<http://www.hercampus.com/lgbtq/how-turn-your-lgbtq-identity-career>