“But I have no skills!”

Debunking Myths and Exploring Career Options for PhDs

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Knowledge vs. skills

Discipline-specific knowledge matters.

But that’s not all you have to offer.
Debunking time

Myth: I have no useful skills.

REALITY: Graduate students possess many skills valued by employers
Skills sought by employers

Ability to:

- Plan, organize, and prioritize work
- Obtain and process information
- Analyze quantitative data
- Work in a team structure
- Make decisions and solve problems
- Verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
- Apply technical knowledge related to the job
**Debunking time**

<table>
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<th>Myth:</th>
<th>I’m only trained for one job.</th>
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<td>REALITY:</td>
<td>Graduate programs require you to develop a broad set of skills for a wide range of career paths</td>
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Debunking time

Myth: My experience is so limited, what skills could I possibly possess?

REALITY: Throughout your education and training, you have developed transferable skills
Transferable skills

- What does that even mean?
A nationally prominent law firm is seeking a Patent Agent to join its Intellectual Property (IP) Practice group in its downtown Washington DC office. The Patent Agent’s duties will include conducting analysis and interpretation of patent searches; preparing written opinions on issues of patentability; preparing and filing patent applications and oppositions; and performing other duties as assigned. The Patent Agent position offers a generous compensation package, full benefits, and a congenial work atmosphere that promotes teamwork. The successful candidate will have an M.S., Ph.D. or equivalent technical experience in any branch of Biology, Chemistry, or Biochemistry. Excellent analytical, interpersonal, and communication skills are a must for this position. The candidate should also have strong project and client management skills.
Ok, but what skills do I have?
Finding a match

Connect your preferred skills to different career fields
Evaluating options

- Talk to people in professions of interest
- Attend professional society meetings
- Conduct research online and in print
- Test your interest and gain experience
- Take advantage of CPD’s resources and programs!
Build your network

- Be sure your LinkedIn profile is UP-TO-DATE
- Contact others in fields of interest
- Attend programs in person and online
Best of luck on your journey!