

What is a piece of advice you wish you could have told yourself coming out of college?

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 1. I'd say to explore as much as you can. Sometimes, like, something that you might think is interesting, when you actually do it, might not be as fun. And some things you, like, maybe didn't want to do end up being really fun and interesting. Like for me, I didn't try coding until really late, and I realized I really enjoyed it. And I think when you're trying these things, really think about, what do you find energizing, and what do you find draining? And I think those were, like, the two questions that really helped me I guess ask people when I was networking to figure out, like, what the right next step was for me.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 2. Yeah. Along those lines, I would say talk to as many of your professors as you can because your econ department's going to be a unique setting in that you'll have a lot of different types of economists around you. So talk to them about what they do and how they apply what they do. And you can also even ask them if they need help with things. That is always, they always need help. So, yeah, talk to your professors.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 3. Yeah. My piece of advice would be to try to find as many, you know, good mentors as you can early on, and they can help you--guide you--if you have questions. I still talk to Professor Williams, and it's just on, like, what stuff to do next and advice in general about other things going on. And it was pretty easy for me to find a mentor because I went to a small liberal arts college, but I could see it being more difficult in, like, a large institution. I think it'd be easier if you're, like, interested in the research they're doing. You approach them on, like, a paper they've written and try to, like, talk to them during their office hours would be a good way to start trying to form that relationship with a mentor.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 4. So one thing I wish I knew earlier was, like, I don't think I'd thought about doing a graduate program until, like, late in my senior year, and then now more

because I have a better understanding of what economists do, especially outside of academia. I think the only economists I knew were, like, professors, so I didn't really understand economists work on policy and, like, a bunch of other things and all the roles they can take on. So I wish I knew that beforehand. And then, also, like, coming here, I've learned a lot about the way to get to grad school. So I didn't know that, like, the NSF has a fellowship for grad students that want to do economics. And also, just the fact that even if you don't get the NSF because very few people do, most programs help fund you. And I wasn't aware of that because it's very daunting to think about, like, an economics PhD is, like, five, six years. It's a really long time, so that's something I've learned now and is good to keep in mind.