SAN MARCOS, TX – Making the transition from college life to professional life can be rough. We have all been putting in time in school, writing papers, researching data and so on. However, when graduation is around the corner we have to start thinking about how we will get a job. That is where William Ross Wood comes in (he likes to be called Ross).

He has been working at Career Services for over 5 years as a Career Advisor and point of contact for student veterans who are getting ready to graduate. There is a veteran-to-veteran connection with him, so he makes us feel more at ease and comfortable talking with each other.

Resumes are key in the application process. Every employer looks at them to see what skills a veteran has accumulated and can bring to a position. Ross’ skillset includes how to translate military experience into civilian terms. Jobs conveyed in terms like managing troops, writing EPRs, security protocols, dealing with NCOs, meeting a first sergeant and having to deal with UCMJ issues can be written with non-military jargon for future employers.

When it comes to actually looking for employment, Ross suggests going to career fairs and using LinkedIn as well as networking with various companies. Job fairs and online searches like these can be hit or miss, but they are a good start. Networking will probably help you out more than you think. The power of information and networking within your field can go a long way. He states that 70 – 80% of jobs cannot be found online.

Career Services also offers a “closet” for vets who do not own a suit or professional attire to wear when going to an interview. You can go in, find something nice to wear, dry clean and return it. Mock interviews are another resource available. These practice interviews can help calm your nerves, get your ready for questions you may not anticipate and prevent you from having the “deer in the headlights” look.

All these resources are available at Career Services. Please take advantage of them, as we are already paying for them in our tuition and fees. Don’t be shy. Make an appointment with Ross to get your resume together, practice your interview and look professional. He can be reached at rossw@txstate.edu or (512) 245-2645. Career Services is located on the fifth floor of the LBJ Student Center in suite 5-7.1.