3 Things to Know; 1 Thing to Do
The Work of a Humanist
UChicagoGRAD

grad.uchicago.edu
Romi Crawford: SAIC

Research and methodological skills are useful to artists and scholars
Art needs interpreters not just historians
Combining interests is valuable
Thing to Do:
Start or found something – Embody the DIY spirit.
Paul Durica: 
Arts Club of Chicago

I get to develop relationships with arts organizations and cultural institutions across the city and the country.
Paul Durica: Arts Club of Chicago

I get to work with artists and academics from many different fields in developing programs.
Paul Durica: Arts Club of Chicago

I have the opportunity to share humanities-based content with a broad and general audience.
Thing to Do:

Develop the research, presentation, and structuring skills you will use on a daily basis.
Professional positions in academic libraries blend public service with intellectual work. The blend is often flexible and can be shaped by the person in the job.
Humanists understand the need to preserve texts; they are skilled at planning, explaining and carrying out preservation efforts.
Bibliographers serve as liaisons between the Library and University faculty, particularly new faculty.
Thing to Do:

Gain relevant experience by getting a job in an academic library (at UChicago or elsewhere).
Career growth: The skills that get you into the industry are not the same skills that will move you ahead.
Critical thinking: Use your critical thinking skills to help your company/team make the right decisions; don’t use them as a weapon to fight people
Continuous learning: Keep up with industry trends and stay attuned to changes in corporate culture – adapt!
Thing to Do:

Create a LinkedIn account and use it to research industry trends, identify individuals who you can help (and who may be helpful to you network actively).
Working closely with faculty (on research, workshops, managing your dissertation, etc.) as a grad student can be turned into valuable experience for a job in higher ed administration.
Data and Excel spreadsheets are your friends.

Learn them.

Love them.
Get to know the people at the university where you would like to work, preferably in the office/unit that interests you most.
Thing to Do:

Apply for a Higher Education Internship

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The U.S.’s 1.6 million nonprofits are businesses.

They require strategy, business plans, goal-setting, measurement, accounting, management, human resources, budgeting, communications, accountability to stakeholders, creating and delivering a valuable product, making payroll, federal reports, legal oversight, revenue generation, etc.
Running a nonprofit is like running a business, but **harder**.

For-profits don’t have missions – just bottom lines.

For-profits, unlike many nonprofits, usually have high-capacity boards.

For-profits often are better organized, and better equipped to support career development.
The non-profit sector needs the insight, empathy, and analytical skills brought by humanities PhDs.
One thing to do (you’re good at this): LEARN
Read: Peter Drucker, *Managing the Nonprofit Organization*

Familiarize yourself with thought leaders: Stanford Social Innovation Review (ssir.org), Bridgespan (Bridgespan.org), BoardSource (BoardSource.org), FSG Consulting (fsg.org).

Start big: Guidestar.org
Switching careers to consulting is a great way to constantly renew your vertical learning curve.
People in the consulting field and business world in general are thoroughly impressed with PhDs.
Only the big firms will actually train qualified candidates with advanced degrees to do the job.
Thing to Do:

Find a good mentor! It’s not just about networking, it’s about sourcing good mentorship.
Elena Yatzeck: JP Morgan

Things to know about being an IT exec, in order from most to least worrisome:

You have to zealously orienteer. The steps are not defined the way they are in graduate school or the academic career path.
You must be charming, fearless, and able to cut to the heart of a huge and ambiguous stream of communication, and react accordingly.
You must be really smart, able to learn things quickly, and able to write well.
Thing to Do:

Read this blog post first: Pragmatic Agilist: Non-Crazy Job Hunting in 5 Steps.

Then, if it seems appropriate, take advantage of consulting firms (McKinsey & co), who are specifically looking to recruit PhD students. You are low-pay-demanding genius-gold to them!
Jim Barron:
Germantown School

Multiculturalism: I need to constantly adapt to different audiences and not look like a remote scholar.
Jim Barron: Germantown School

Teaching is all about collaboration / facilitation / guidance
Faculty Community: I am a colleague in a diverse and dynamic faculty environment.
Thing to Do:

Become clear about what specifically excites them in their field; think concretely about how they would engage students with the subject of their expertise.