Career Advising @ ACM
Networking Tips

1. If you do not have a LinkedIn account OR if your LinkedIn account is outdated, update your profile. Outside of using LinkedIn as a networking tool, it is an aspect of your application that recruiters may view in order to further evaluate you as an applicant.

2. Although there is no one **correct** way to use LinkedIn as a resource, if you are curious, feel free to follow the following template. Alumni tend to be more responsive than others:

    a. Finding Princeton Alumni at Companies
        i.   While looking through potential companies that you would like to apply for, pick a few companies that specifically interest you
        ii. Search those companies in the LinkedIn search box
        iii. Filter the results by school (Princeton University in our case)

    b. Sending an Initial Message
        i.   Look through the alumni who come up in the search results and send them a brief message asking them for 15-20 minutes of their time. A lot of Princeton alumni are very generous and love to talk / help out undergraduates, so do not be scared!
        ii. Also, do not be discouraged if the alumni do not respond right away. Some people do not check their LinkedIn on a daily basis, so they may end up getting back to you two weeks later. Do not be discouraged and keep attempting to connect with alumni

    c. Connecting with Alumni
        i.   When an alum messages you back and is willing to chat with you, be polite and schedule a time to meet (potentially by phone or by Zoom)
        ii. **Do not** go into the meeting unprepared. Make sure that you have done your research on them (via LinkedIn profile) as well as their company. Make sure that you have a few questions that you want to ask the alum.
        iii. Enjoy the meeting. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn from someone who has already stepped into the field that you are interested in entering.

You can also use the formula above to reach out to other recruiters, company representatives, etc. Expect a lower response rate, however, and don't let this discourage you!