

Planning for success after college:

What Parents Need to Know About Campus Career Services



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Topics to be Discussed

- How we serve students
- Career success
- Job search essentials
- Dealing with a difficult job market
- What parents can do to help

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How We Serve Students

Career Development: How the College Experience Connects to Careers

- Deciding on a major or exploring career options for majors
- Dealing with, "I don't know what I want to do"
- Making intentional decisions about minors, electives and activities
- Resumes, letters, and Interview skills
- Internship and job search support - *ePACK*
- Career fairs and Information sessions
- Evaluating options and offers
- Extensive web site guidance and resources

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Planning For Career Success The Three Boxes

- Academics
- Personal & professional development
- Career-related experience

The key is BALANCE

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Planning For Career Success

- Students should start early.
- Those who wait until the senior year are often at a huge disadvantage!
- Everything your student does while in college has possible career implications.
- 1st and 2nd year students should envision what they want their resumes to look like when they graduate.

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Career Services Goals

Maximizing Student Career Development to Increase:

- Clarity
- Consciousness
- Competence
- Confidence

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Decision-Making Resources

- [Career assessments](#)
- [Majors & careers website](#)
- [Information interviews](#)
- [Career-related courses](#)
- [Career counselors](#)

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Indecision in Career Direction

Students are typically undecided on major/career because of one or more of the following.

- Unsure of their own interests due to limited experience
- Lack of knowledge of career options
- Too many choices... broad interests (trying to make a job fit all of them!)
- Stress about making the “wrong” decision
- Think they are the only one who doesn’t know what they want to do

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Job Search Essentials

- Create an A+ Resume
(have it critiqued by a Career Counselor)
- Develop strong interviewing skills
- Develop a “career story”
(a brief introduction of who you are and what you have to offer)
- Participate in career activities
(attend career fairs, use ePACK, attend employer info sessions ...)
- Gain experience through internships, co-ops, research, volunteer, or leadership

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Dealing With a Difficult Job Market

- View yourself as a professional
- Strong basic tools are essential
- Companies are still hiring and can be selective
- Being pro-active rather than passive
- Start early and allow for longer searches
- Use creative strategies
- Try job shadowing and informational interviewing
- Start building “value” now and don’t stop after you begin work

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What Can Parents Do To Help?

- Talk to your students! Ask them how courses are helping with career decisions.
- Realize this is a big decision that affects the other areas of their lives. It will need to be their decision, however.
- Encourage campus involvement. If not involved, what seems to be the barrier?
- Encourage your student to get exposure to different career fields via internships/co-ops, part-time jobs, student organizations, informational interviews, etc.
- Encourage your student to come to the Career Center and take an active role in their search.
- Help your student become proactive, not reactive in his/her job search activities.

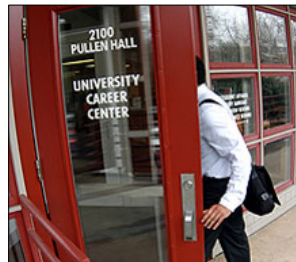
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University Career Center

We are here to help.

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