



CAREER PHILOSOPHY



Career Orientation

There is a difference between a job and a career. And there is a difference between job hunting and career planning. The college track student is reminded to be intentional about his or her career planning efforts and to be deliberate about adopting techniques and strategies that will foster a professional career planning orientation and avoid the less sophisticated, less effective, job hunting orientation.

Proactive Approach

Students need to be proactive, plan ahead, and begin early establishing a relationship with their college career center. A career is too important to be tended to only under desperation circumstances and in a state of panic. It is not wise to solicit help from the career center on short notice. It is not advisable that students wait until the last minute to address any component of their career planning or job search process.

Ongoing Process

Career planning is a process, not a one-time act. It is multifaceted and progressive. To be successful in their career pursuit, students will need to understand that important things in life take time and require planning. One visit to the career center will not solve all their problems, nor will it equip them with everything they need to be effective in the attainment of their career goals.

Beyond the Degree

A degree alone will not guarantee a lucrative career upon graduation. In order to be regarded as a serious candidate in today's competitive job market, students will need to extend their education beyond the classroom and expand their experience beyond the degree. To have the necessary credibility, students must get involved in extracurricular activities and projects, relevant clubs and organizations, and internships that can provide opportunities to apply their knowledge and gain experience before graduation.



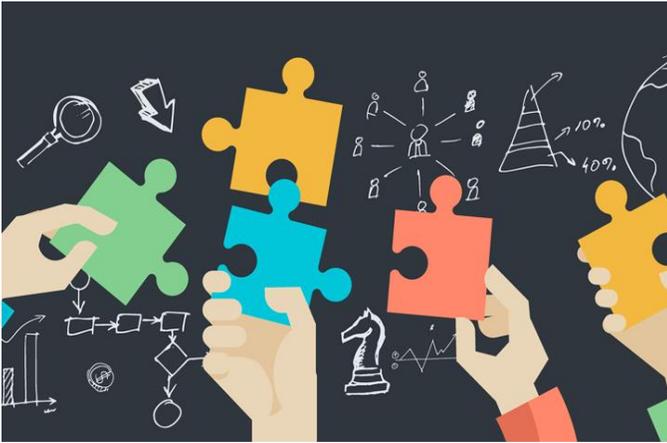
Goal Oriented

The more goal-oriented students are, the more likely they are to obtain career success. Once students explore their range of career options, they should be encouraged to set realistic and attainable career goals. Without some notion of where they want to go and what they want to do, students will lack the sense of focus and direction necessary for career success. Choosing their career goal before they choose their academic major is oftentimes more advisable.

Active Participation

To ensure they are adequately prepared and fully equipped, students will need to take full advantage of the services offered and actively participate in the various programs, events and activities sponsored by

the career center. Students' attendance at career workshops, career fairs, information sessions, and other career-related events provides them the tools necessary to effectively manage their career.



Professional Growth and Maturity

College is an appropriate time for students to begin thinking and acting like professionals. If they intend to pursue a serious career, it will be necessary for them to devote adequate time and energy to such critical details as professional attire, professional behavior and attitude, etiquette, employer expectations, workplace culture, networking techniques, prospecting techniques, negotiation techniques, job market research methods, job search strategies, interview preparation, and résumé writing skills. Too often, young candidates head out into the job market with no training in any of these important areas, and they suffer the consequences.

Self-Awareness

Students' ability to make good decisions about their career and education are greatly enhanced by their ability to clearly and accurately define who they are. A deep understanding of one's personal traits is the basis for understanding one's interaction with the world around them. It is advisable that students assess themselves in terms of their interests, skills, strengths, weaknesses, talents, abilities, values, beliefs, needs, and attitudes. Students can gain greater confidence in their goal-setting and decision-making when they possess a firm understanding of their unique personality.



Holistic Perspective

Students must realize that effective career planning and career development require a holistic and broad-based perspective. The concept of a career encompasses more than the simple matters of employment. Career issues are intricately related to one's personal life. They are expressed through academic pursuits, extracurricular activities, volunteer community service, leadership development, membership in clubs and organizations, and continuing education, including graduate and professional school. The concept of a career encompasses a broad array of life issues, including family, relationships, finances, health, and leisure.

Assume Responsibility

Students will need to take responsibility for their own career planning and job search efforts. It is not the role of the campus career center to find a job for their students. More often than not, the career center will focus on teaching job search skills rather than actually placing students in jobs. While many job openings will be posted through the career center, and many interviews will be available through the career center, the majority of opportunities that await students will be the ones they discover through the comprehensive career planning and job search process taught by the career center. It is the intention of the career center to provide the tools and resources that empower students to manage their own independent campaign.

Philosophical Foundation

In all the work we do... the job and career... impenetrable mysteries are involved. In our work we find deep pleasure, meaning, fulfillment, and a way to make a living. When the unique character of our soul blends with the character and quality of our work, we find a sweet blend of nature and effort that heals many wounds. Finding the right work often appears to be the panacea that will finally make life worth living. A career gives us our very identity and offers a profound sense of meaning and purpose in life. What we do in life is the most important factor in expressing our individuality. The work we do reveals our values, vision, longings and desires, ethical sensitivity, and passions... the greater part of our soul.

[Thomas Moore / The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life]

Meaningfulness begins with recognizing that you are not alone, that you are part of the human community, that everything you do sends a ripple through the entire human family. Allow your natural compassion to suggest creative ways that you can serve. Meaning is not found in acquisition, but in feeling ourselves a part of something greater. To the extent that your work takes into account the needs of the world, it will be meaningful. To the extent that through it you express your unique talents, it will be joyful.

[Laurence Boldt / How to Find the Work You Love]

What are you going to be when you grow up? What is your work in the world going to be? What will be your works? These are not fundamentally questions about jobs and pay, but questions about life. Work is applied effort; it is whatever we put ourselves into, whatever we expend our energy on for the sake of accomplishing or achieving something. Work in this fundamental sense is not what we do for a living but what we do with our living.

[WILLIAM BENNETT / The Book of Virtues]

I wish to preach not the doctrine of ignoble ease but the doctrine of the strenuous life; the life of toil and effort; of labor and strife; to preach that highest form of success which comes not to the one who desires mere easy peace but to the one who does not shrink from danger, from hardship, or from bitter toil, and who out of these wins the splendid ultimate triumph.

[THEODORE ROOSEVELT / In Praise of the Strenuous Life]

Work is applied effort toward some end. The most satisfying work involves directing our efforts toward achieving ends that we ourselves endorse as worthy expressions of our talent and character.

[WILLIAM BENNETT / The Book of Virtues]

Happiness, as Aristotle long ago pointed out, resides in activity, both physical and mental. It resides in doing things that one can take pride in doing well, and hence that one can enjoy doing. It is a great mistake to identify enjoyment with mere amusement or relaxation or entertainment. Life's greatest joys are not what one does apart from the work of one's life, but with the work of one's life. Those who have missed the joy of work, of a job well done, have missed something very important.

[WILLIAM BENNETT / The Book of Virtues]

Success is not defined exclusively in economic terms but includes the opportunity to express your innate talents and abilities, to be creatively engaged, to feel as though you are making a meaningful difference, and to integrate your spiritual values with the everyday business of working and making a living.

[LAURENCE BOLDT / How To Find The Work You Love]



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