



EXPLORING CAMPUS CAREER SERVICES

By CollegiateParent

As the first person in my family to attend college, I made a lot of mistakes. One was thinking a college degree would automatically lead to a career. I didn't realize how many other tasks I needed to complete in order to make my dream job a reality.

Students today can access a world of information that didn't exist when I started college. Despite that, many students are still making the same career mistakes I made. They assume that career preparation just happens along the way.

Fortunately, there are campus resources available to help your student. One of the best is the career services office. The counselors there truly want to see your student succeed! But first, students need to take the initiative and reach out.

A quick visit to the career center reveals a variety of services students can take advantage of, including:

1 Job search skills / job postings

Career services can help your student learn how to conduct a successful job search. Most offices also maintain an active job postings database available only to current students and alumni. These job postings are usually from employers looking specifically for students interested in a summer job or internship or upcoming graduates seeking a full-time position.

2 Resumé and cover letter help

For most students, creating their first resumé or cover letter is a challenge. Career services staff can help them by offering tips on format options, items to include (or not!) and current best practices in resumé writing. They can also proofread and offer suggestions for improvements after the initial draft is done.

3 On-campus recruiting and interviews

Career services staff work hard to develop relationships with businesses, from local employers to global companies. They actively market their students to these companies, many of whom take advantage of the opportunity to hold on-campus interviews. Career services can help your student sign up for these on-campus interviews, or schedule online interviews when those are offered.

4 Interview skills development / mock interviews

Interviewing is stressful, no matter how much work experience your student may have. Students preparing for their first professional interview may feel scared. Career services staff can offer guidance and support. They should be able to provide a list of likely interview questions, helpful tips on answering questions, ideas on how to prepare, and — best of all — staff who will do practice interviews with your student and provide constructive feedback.

