

Ed Psych 3690: Successful Career Planning

Key Findings and Actions Taken based on Pre, Post, and Course Evaluation

Key Findings

Humanities students develop unique competencies throughout their majors, yet are seldom given the opportunity to thoroughly understand and articulate them. The University of Utah College of Humanities, The Counseling Center and Career Services piloted a career course for undergraduate liberal arts majors to address the frustration this disconnect can create.

In order to determine the effectiveness of this pilot course both qualitative and quantitative assessments were conducted. To measure student learning and growth in terms of the course objectives pre and post assessments were administered. In addition, a final course evaluation that included twenty-five Likert scale questions as well as three open ended questions was administered in order to solicit feedback on pedagogical methods, specific assignments, presenters and course expectations. Qualitative data was gathered from students via four journal assignments. In addition, at the end of each class students were asked to write about the most impactful elements of the specific class and to identify one action item that they could implement in their own career planning. Finally, during the final class students were evaluated by a group of employers and given individual and group oral feedback on their presentations.

Actions Taken:

Data from these assessments will influence practice in several ways. To begin with, the course will continue to be offered once a semester and will be co-taught by Career Services staff and Counseling Center staff. The assessments regarding student learning and development have helped to inform staff of areas where students have experienced growth and areas where student learning can be improved and enhanced. In addition, the course evaluation allowed instructors to receive student feedback on pedagogical methods and tools to determine their effectiveness. The employer final evaluations gave students and teachers the opportunity to receive “real-world” feedback on students’ learning through the eyes of prospective employers.