

Spring 2010- Section 81- Humanities

Executive Summary

- “I liked the personal interviews, course materials, and help provided by instructors.”
- “The wealth of knowledge accessible in the Career Services Library is astounding. The tour was cool! Also having access to the online tests were very helpful.”
- “Writing resume, cover letter, practice interviewing. I like all! Before I attended this class I was worried and did not know any of those above. But I now feel more confident and prepared. Thank you!”

Overview

In the spring of 2010, the Career Services office offered a third Career and Life Planning course section for students in the College of Humanities; the decision to offer this section again was based off of the positive evaluations from the pilot course started in spring 2009 and the fall 2009 section. Twenty-one students were enrolled this spring. In order to ensure that the learning objectives were being met for the course, a pre and post assessment was given to the students. Additionally, a final course evaluation was created by the Career Services office and disseminated to the students.

Course evaluation results

From the final course evaluation students reported what the most and least valuable aspects of the course were. Among the most valuable aspects, these activities were ranked highest: networking workshop, individual meetings with career counselor, 2 articles, and the globalization and diversification of the workplace discussion. Students reported the least valuable aspects of the course as: visualization exercise (1st class icebreaker) and website overview.

A few aspects that stood out were that most students thought the class helped them to structure their thinking about their career and that the course met their expectations, in addition to the presenters being knowledgeable about the subject matter.

With respect to the pre and post course assessment, student responses were tracked to measure the amount of increase in various aspects of the career development and planning process. Scores were averaged in order to track progress made in these career development aspects. According to the average scores, students made the most amount of progress in the following areas: describing how major relates to career options, knowledge of availability of resources to research careers of interest, awareness of career related skills developed through major, and ability to communicate skills to employers. All of these reported increases are aligned with the course objectives. Specifically, the following course objectives are addressed in the self reported student scores:

- Begin to connect undergraduate education with possible career outcomes and competencies
- Learn methods and reliable resources for gathering occupational information
- Develop skills and materials needed to implement the job search process including writing resumes, creating professional correspondence and interviewing

Relation to office strategic objectives

The Career Services office has created 8 strategic objectives to focus on for the next 5 years. Out of these 8, there are two that have been specifically addressed through the Career and Life planning courses. These include increasing awareness of the career development process and implementing coordinated assessment and research in support of the office mission. By offering the opportunity for students to explore their career planning process in a detailed, individualized manner, they will be better equipped with the tools and resources they will need to enter the professional work environment. Additionally, through assessment measures utilized to track the progress of the students throughout the sections, the career counselors in the office will be able to evaluate its effectiveness in meeting various office objectives.