Action Guide for Parents

Freshman Year…..Parent’s Role

- Stress to your student the importance of planning ahead
- If your student is undecided about a major or career choice, direct him/her to DSU Career Services
- Encourage your student to make grades a priority (many employers want to hire graduates with a high g.p.a. – even for entry level positions)
- Encourage your student to meet with each of his/her professors regularly
- Encourage your student to schedule an appointment with DSU Career Services to schedule a career assessment inventory (free to enrolled DSU students)
- Talk with your student about the different campus activities that may match his/her interests and long term career aspirations
- Become a “fan” of the DSU Career Services’ Facebook page to stay informed of events and services available to your student

Sophomore Year…..Parent’s Role

- Talk with your student about his/her choice of major and career choices he/she is considering
- Encourage your student to attend as many career preparation workshops as possible
- Encourage your student to meet with a Career Services’ staff member for assistance with creating a resume and having that resume critiqued by experienced staff
- Help your student come up with a list of friends or relatives that may work in a field of interest to him/her
- Encourage your student to obtain a career-related internship experience over the summer if he/she has the core classes necessary

Junior Year....Parent’s Role

- Encourage your student to take advantage of leadership and teamwork opportunities
- Encourage your student to attend as many career preparation workshops as possible
- Advise your student to update/expand his resume and have it critiqued by a Career Services’ staff member
- Encourage your student to attend as many career and job fairs as possible
  - DSU Career Services sponsors several career / job fairs:
    - DSU Career Fair (fall semester)
    - Summer Job Fair (spring semester)
    - SD Business, Industry & Government (BIG) Job Fair (spring semester)
    - Black Hills Regional Job Fair (spring semester)
    - SD Teacher Job Fair (spring semester)
• Discuss internship options with your student and encourage him/her to begin seeking internships at least four months in advance
• Encourage your student to obtain a career-related experience (i.e. internship) that matches his/her career goals
• Oversee student’s progress in applying for internships or other major-related experiences (*students should be doing this on their own, but parental support is always helpful)

Senior Year….Parent’s Role

• Ask your student if you can be of help as they finalize their career plans
• Listen to their fears or concerns about securing a full-time job after graduation
• If applicable, talk with your student about their plans for graduate or professional school
• Encourage your student to participate in workshops and information sessions offered by DSU Career Services (check out the Career Services’ News and Events section often)
• Remind your student that they must have a dynamic resume and polished interview skills if they wish to compete with other job candidates
• Advise your student to sign up for mock interviews and actual on-campus interviews (if appropriate for their major)
• Remind your student that they must follow up on job interviews by sending thank you letters, or making follow up phone calls
• Support your student as they navigate their way through the job search process
• Listen, be patient and encourage your student if they receive letters of rejection
• Be prepared to talk with your son or daughter about job offers, benefit packages, etc.

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