

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
- Follow DSU Career Services on Facebook and be in the know 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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