

Fall 2009- Section 81- Humanities

Executive Summary

Overview

In the fall of 2009, the Career Services office offered a second 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. Approximately 20 students were enrolled this fall. 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: individual meetings with career counselor, elevator speech exercise, networking workshop, interview workshop, and resume review with career counselor. Students reported the least valuable aspects of the course as: diversity discussion, occupational outlines, career action plan worksheet, journal 1 (major map), and journal 4 (next steps).

A few comments that stood out were the high number of students who reported that they would recommend the course to a friend, the course expectations were clear and the course met their expectations.

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 to make it easier 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: awareness of the decision making process, acquired the tools necessary to make effective career decisions, and awareness of on campus resources to utilize to help reach set career goals. All of these reported increases are aligned with the course objectives. Specifically, the following course objectives are addressed in the self reported student scores:

- Gain an understanding of the career decision-making process.
- 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.