

## **CAREER INFORMATION BRIEF #50 THE NEED TO INTEGRATE CAREER ADVISING WITHIN THE CLASSROOM**



The Centre for Career Education is excited to present the 50<sup>th</sup> monthly career information brief. The purpose of these career information briefs is to provide faculty and staff with timely information which they can use to assist students who are inquiring about more career specific information.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Students today not only have significantly more career options than their predecessors, but they also face new economic realities. Providing support to students as they try to make some meaning of their curricular and co-curricular activities is becoming increasingly important.

### **WHAT DOES CAREER ADVISING PROVIDE TO THE STUDENT?**

By participating in the career advising process students are able to gain an understanding of how their personal interests, abilities, and values fit in within the various academic and career fields they are considering. In addition, students also learn how to identify their academic and career goals and develop an appropriate plan of action. Career advising is a process that not only provides the opportunity for students to get to know who they are, it also assists them in developing an understanding of the various vocational options that support their strengths, skills, interests, and passions. As a result of engaging in the career advising process, students will ultimately develop a greater potential to make academic decisions that have personal meaning. This is extremely beneficial as those students who are susceptible to dropping out are more likely to be retained and persist to graduation.

### **REASONS IN SUPPORT OF BRINGING CAREER ADVISING INTO THE CLASSROOM**

Many students are often not able to describe their skills, interests, values, and passions. As a result they do not possess a personal reference point from which to evaluate potential academic and career options. Outside of the classroom, they are reluctant to seek out assistance in making these very important decisions. By incorporating career advising within the classroom, students are given the opportunity to receive a structured campus endeavor that will provide them with information, options, choices, available resources and contact information for sustained interactions with career development staff.

It is apparent that some students enter higher education without the benefit of adequate career guidance in secondary school. This comes as no surprise to both academic and career advisors who work with students, both undecided and declared, who do not have clear academic or career goals, or whose reasons for selecting a specific major may include one of the following: my best friend chose this major; my parents selected it for me; it sounds interesting; or I was told the job prospects are good. These realities offers an opportunity for all faculty to be pro-active and to be aware of the resources and opportunities present on campus which can be introduced to students in an effort to get them to explore and reflect on how they can make personal meaning of both their curricular and co-curricular experiences.

Incorporating career advising into the class schedule also provides the opportunity to provide support to students and graduates as they navigate the ever changing world of work. This integration provides students with the opportunity to learn about themselves to evaluate academic and career options within the context of self- knowledge, to explore multiple options in a safe environment, and to develop important decision making skills. These skills are critical and will be utilized multiple times throughout their lives as graduates seek meaningful employment in a world where change is constant.

### **RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

One of the easiest methods of incorporating career advising into the classroom curriculum is to book an in class presentation. These presentations can be tailored to address a wide variety of topics, some of which include: what can I do with my degree; how to conduct a job search; labour market information for a specific career field; how to write a resume or conduct an interview; or how to properly network to name a few. To book an in class presentation please go to <http://www.uwindsor.ca/cce> click on the faculty and staff resources and then go to the in class presentation link.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

Incorporating career advising in the classroom is an important consideration for faculty who seek to better assist students as they make decisions that will impact the rest of their lives.

## **Resources Available to University of Windsor Students**

The Centre for Career Education offers a wide variety of programs and services that can assist students with career development including:

- a. Vocational assessments to help identify potential career paths and choices;
- b. 1-1 Career Advising;
- c. Experiential learning programs such as Volunteer Internship Program;
- d. Assistance with resume and cover letter writing, job search planning, and interview preparation and practice through Mock Interview sessions;
- e. Extensive online references materials.

**For a complete list of services** visit our website at <http://www.uwindsor.ca/cce>