Students Should Start Now on their Job Search

In tough economic times, it is even more important for applicants to start their job search as soon as possible.

Remind students that it typically takes three to six months to secure employment—longer in a slow economy!

How should seniors start preparing for the job search?

1. Update their resume and have a career counselor critique it. Employers typically spend less than 30 seconds reviewing a resume, so it must be concise yet attractive to the eye.

2. Work with a career counselor to create a job search plan.

3. Network with people in the targeted industry. Networking is the best way of securing employment.

4. Attend the spring career fair on March 3 to get an opportunity to interact with employers.

Helping Students through the Recession

We have all heard the negative reports about the economy and loss of jobs throughout the country.

At Career Services, we have actually seen an increase in both jobs and internships posted on CareerLink, our on-line database. While some industries are shrinking such as manufacturing and retail, others are expanding, like healthcare and social services.

While students may find it more difficult to secure employment, there are various things that faculty can encourage students to do to enhance their market-ability.

1. Work with a career counselor to identify a first career goal. Employers want to know that students have reflected on their career and have done their homework on the industry of interest.

2. Obtain as many intern-ships or co-ops as possible to increase experience and to enhance the resume. It also allows students to connect classroom learning to the working world.

3. Participate in Career Services’ Job Shadow Program to talk to employers in the targeted career.

4. Get involved on campus. Employers want to see applicants who have good grades, relevant experience, and extracurricular activities.

5. Stay flexible. The first job will probably not be the last. Being open to various possibilities can enhance career satisfaction!

Faculty News from Career Services

Essential information to help students in their career transitions.

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Career Services publishes this newsletter three times annually to keep faculty abreast of the latest career news. We welcome suggestions on topics for future issues or feedback on the information in this issue. Feel free to contact Kim Reitter, Director of Career Services, at reitterk@slu.edu or 977-2927.
Will you miss a class because of other obligations or conflicts? Career Services would be happy to come to your class to present on any of the following topics:

⇒ Choosing a Career
⇒ Resume Writing
⇒ Writing Cover Letters
⇒ The Successful Job Search
⇒ Deciding on the Offer
⇒ 1st Year on the Job

To schedule a presentation, please call Tanya Davis at 977-2828.

Even if you are not missing any classes but want us to talk to your class for 5 minutes or 90 minutes, we welcome the opportunity to connect with a classroom of students!

News from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE)

According to Edwin Koc, director, strategic and foundation research, at NACE:

1. The overall unemployment rate is likely to reach 8.5% in 2009.
2. Unemployment for those with a bachelor’s degree or better may rise from the current 3.1% to 3.7%.
3. Unemployment for young bachelor’s degree holders figures to go from the current estimate of 3.4% to an estimated 4.1%.
4. Job prospects for the class of 2009 are considerably below those for the previous five graduating classes.
5. NACE’s Job Outlook 2009 Quick Poll, conducted in October, 2008, found an overall flat job market for this year’s candidates.
6. Most sectors were projecting decreases, with government, high-tech manufacturing, and professional services firms still projecting some increase.
7. New jobs are not likely to be plentiful, but replacement openings due to aging in the workforce will be dominant.
8. The average age of the current workforce is 41 (up from 35 in 1980).

A January 2009 NACE study shows that new graduates must become the perfect job candidates.

Nearly 70% of employers who took part in the study said they screen candidates by GPA. For most, the minimum is 3.0.

Top skills, attributes, and qualities that employers look for in candidates include communication skills, leadership, a strong work ethic, the ability to work in a team environment, and initiative.

How can students have an edge in the job market? According to NACE’s Job Outlook 2009 Survey, new college graduates who have taken part in an internship or co-op assignment have an edge in the job market over their peers who lack such experience.

Merilyn Mackes, NACE executive director, noted that nearly 75% of employers stated that they would prefer to hire new college graduates who have relevant work experience.

While results were similar to the fall 2007 report, the study shows that in a poor economy, employers will often look first at their own interns when there are job openings.

About NACE: Since 1956, the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) has been the leading source of information about the college job market.