Historical Roots:
Career counseling got its official start in 1908, when Frank Parsons, often referred to as the “father of career counseling” wrote his major work Choosing a Vocation.

Since that time, career counseling has seen a tremendous growth in both theoretical research and clinical practice.

Knowledge & Skills:
According to the National Career Development Association (NCDA) (2003a), career counselors need knowledge and skills in career development theory; individual and group counseling; individual/group assessment; career information/resources; program promotion, management, and implementation; career coaching/consultation; multicultural counseling; supervision; ethical/legal issues; and using technology effectively in the career intervention process. These skill areas obviously extend far beyond those limited to career advising and test administration!

At SLU:
The career counselors in Career Services have graduate degrees in counseling which enable them to assist each student from a theoretical model. In addition to the counseling background, all of the counselors have theoretical knowledge in career development and are experts in the areas of career assessment interpretation.

Each career counselor is responsible for keeping up-to-date industry and employment information and adheres to the principles of professional conduct of the American Counseling Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Career Assessments:
What are some of the career assessments that students take at Career Services?

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is a personality assessment used to help students and alumni understand how their personality type can point them in a career direction.

The Strong Interest Inventory uses the theory of John Holland to help individuals identify their top interests and how these interests compare to people in specific careers.

The Campbell Interest and Skill Survey helps students understand how their interests and skills map to the world of work.

Since career development and decision making is an important component of a student’s academic career, it is essential that all students connect with a career counselor. Please refer students to a career counselor. Students can call 977-2828 to set up an appointment.
2006 Graduate Survey

Each year, Career Services surveys graduating alumni six months after graduation.
FY06 survey results:
• 32% are enrolled in graduate school
• 62% are employed
• 2% are unemployed, but not seeking employment
• 4% are still seeking employment
• 96% are satisfactorily occupied
• 78% have used Career Services

Average salary was $37,890

To see the complete survey with salary information for your department, go to http://careers.slu.edu/faculty_staff.html.

The Importance of Experiential Ed

Experiential education, also called Experiential Learning, is the process of actively engaging students in an authentic experience that will have benefits and consequences. Students make discoveries and experiment with knowledge themselves instead of hearing or reading about the experiences of others. Students also reflect on their experiences, thus developing new skills, new attitudes, and new theories or ways of thinking (Kraft & Sakofs, 1988).

As a faculty mentor, is it important to encourage your mentees to get experiential education? Yes, say employers and career services professionals alike.

According to NACE, employers use internships to identify talent early. Nationally, more than half of all interns receive an offer of full-time employment from an internship.

Students referred to Career Services should call 977-2828 to schedule an appointment with a career counselor.

Gaining practical experience can also be a great way for a student to try out a career prior to graduation. If it is not the career that fits the individual, the student may still have time to change career directions or switch majors.

From a professor’s perspective, experiential education is a way to bridge classroom learning and the world of work. Students consistently report that the internship experience helped them recognize the importance of classroom learning.

If your department doesn’t have an internship coordinator, Peggy Sullivan, Career Services’ Internship Coordinator, would be happy to work with you and your students. You may contact Peggy at sullivmm@slu.edu.