

University Career Services – Georgia State University

Parent and Family Guide to Career Services

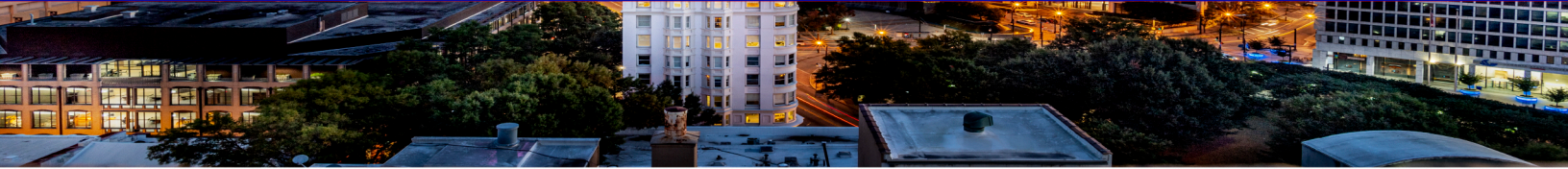


Georgia State University | UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES

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PURPOSE

The *Parent and Family Guide to Career Services* is designed to assist parents, families, and other supporters of GSU Students by:

- Educating parents and families of GSU students about the University Career Services Office and how we can help your student during their time at GSU and beyond.
- Addressing the most common career-related concerns of parents and families of GSU students.
- Providing specific tips and strategies to help parents and families of GSU students partner with UCS to support their student's career development .



CAREER SERVICES

Who We Are:

A source of career guidance and support for GSU students and alumni.

How We Support Students:

Resume Reviews	Using Handshake
Cover Letter Reviews	Employer Research
Weekly Resume Review Clinics	Graduate/Professional School Exploration
Personal Statement Reviews	Graduate/Professional School Research
LinkedIn Profile Reviews	Job & Internship Searching
Career Assessments	Career Fair Prep
Major Exploration	Interview Prep
Career Exploration	Mock Interviews
Professional Dress	Social Media Tips
Professional Etiquette	Salary Negotiation
Professional Communication	Evaluating Job Offers
	Evaluating

The UCS team provides many valuable services for students of the University, including:

Individual Career Services Appointments– Career counselors are available to meet individually with students at any point during their time at GSU. Topics for appointments include: Choosing a Major, Career Assessment Results, Internship Search, Interviewing, Mock Interview, Graduate School Counseling, Full-time Job Search, and LinkedIn Profile Review. Appointments are available virtually or in person.

Drop-In Hours – Staff are available for 15 minute chats with students from 11 A.M. until 3 P.M., Monday-Friday. Students may drop in for a resume and/or cover letter review, part-time job search questions as well as general career questions. No appointment necessary.

Handshake - Handshake is our career services platform for students and alumni. On Handshake, students have access to employment and career resources, including job/internship postings, UCS events, and career fairs. Additionally, students can schedule their Career Services appointments through Handshake.

Career Readiness Workshops: The Panther Pursuit Series hosts career readiness workshops each semester designed to prepare students for their job search. Topics include: Interviewing Skills, Resume Writing Skills, Get Career Fair Ready, Elevator Pitch Sessions, Conquering Interview Anxiety, Developing an Effective LinkedIn Profile, International Student Job Search, as well as other helpful topics.

To access a full list of services, visit career.gsu.edu

COMMON CAREER QUESTIONS

When should my student visit UCS?

The earlier, the better! We offer services to students as early as their freshman year.

Where is the Atlanta Campus UCS Office located?

25 Park Place, Suite 111, Lobby Level

What services does UCS offer?

We offer a wide variety of services to students, described briefly on page 5 of this guide. To access a full list, visit career.gsu.edu.

How does my student meet with someone in Career Services?

Appointments may be scheduled through your student's Handshake account or by calling the UCS front desk at (404) 413-1820.

My student is having a hard time choosing a major. What should they do?

The UCS Office has a wide variety of resources for undecided students. Encourage your student to try the following:

- Meet with one of our [Career Counselors](#) to discuss career options.
- Consider a career assessment to allow for a deeper exploration of career options
- Explore What Can I Do With This Major? on Handshake

How can my student find a job or internship?

Students also have support in finding a job or internship. Handshake appointments, career fairs, and events will all provide guidance for students as they decide what type of job or internship to pursue and then what steps to take to get there.

My student is unable to obtain an internship this semester. What are some other ways they can gain relevant experience?

First, holding a job while in classes is a highly valued experience. There are many ways for your student to gain experience that will build their resume and gain the interest of employers and graduate schools. For example, students are encouraged to [join campus organizations](#), [volunteer in the community](#), and [seek out research projects](#).

COMMON CAREER QUESTIONS

What is Handshake?

Handshake is our career services platform for students and alumni. On Handshake, students have access to employment and career resources, including job/internship postings, career events, and fairs. Additionally, students can schedule their UCS appointments through Handshake.

What companies and employers recruit at GSU?

Thousands of companies recruit GSU students through job postings, professional development events, and career fairs. Students can use Handshake to explore employment opportunities, both full-time, part-time, and internships.

Where can my student access resources for professional dress?

UCS offers a Career Closet to students seeking free professional attire. Our clothing is gently used and donated from the GSU and Atlanta community. Students may select up to 5 pieces per academic year.

Where can my student find free professional headshots for LinkedIn?

UCS offers the IRIS Photobooth free of charge. Students can drop by to use the booth during the UCS business hours. No fee and no appointment necessary.

What can I do to assist my student with their career exploration? Encourage your student to visit the UCS office early and frequently. Individual career counseling appointments are available to assist students in exploring their career interests and researching employers in their field of interest. We offer many services to assist students with their career and job search readiness goals. Also, encourage your student to explore **PIN - the Panther Involvement Network**. This resource provides listings for hundreds of student organizations that will assist your student in discovering unique opportunities, find events to attend, and explore ways to showcase their involvement at GSU.

ADDRESSING CAREER CONCERNS: MYTHS

It is important to be aware of the top career-related myths and how you can address them within yourself and through conversations with your student. Each of these myths does have an element of truth, which is why they commonly impact career decisions or increase anxiety about choosing poorly. Use the reality statement to remind yourself and your student what's most commonly true of the career development process.

Myth

1 The college major limits / dictates career options.



Reality

The majority of majors have a wide variety of opportunities and do not lead to one specific career. According to recent research, only 27% of college graduates are working in a job that even relates to their major.¹

2 Certain major disciplines are "better" than others; therefore, some majors should not be chosen.



Every major has different pros and cons. It is better to pursue a major that you find interesting and aligns with your values rather than one that is "in demand" - careers in demand change about every 4-5 years!² When choosing a major, the most important factors to consider are interests and ability to do well in classes.

3 Academic performance predicts professional success.



There is almost no correlation between education and job performance.³ Even if your academic performance wasn't as strong as you may have preferred it to be, you still will gain valuable experiences and transferable skills that employers desire in applicants.

4 Earning potential is dependent on the college major choice.



Certain fields do yield higher incomes, but your major does not have to always align with that industry in every case. Employers are more concerned your work ethic, attitude, and experiences.

ADDRESSING CAREER CONCERNS: MYTHS

Myth

5 If you want to pursue something professionally, you have to be studying it in an academic setting.



Reality

Many careers do not follow a specific major. Each major can lead to a variety of different career pathways. Your aptitude and abilities are more likely to influence your future career pathway than your major. Additionally, employers often train new employees on specific job requirements but are less likely to hire those needing support on soft skills development. All majors support soft skill development!

6 My major limits me to a small set of career options.



Choosing a major and choosing a career are not the same thing. Students from any one major could be employed in many different jobs; likewise, people who are employed in any one job could have different majors. Employers are more interested in experiences and skills developed during time in college.

7 The purpose of college is to get a good job.



This is (somewhat) true. Your time in college serves many purposes with career development being only one aspect. College is also a time to learn about yourself—your interests, values, skills, and personal goals.

8 I'm behind or out of time to explore my options.



It is never too late to explore a new career. The average person changes their career 5 to 7 times during their working life,³ and typically the topic of their major doesn't limit career options!

CAREER CONVERSATIONS

As you continue to bust the most common career-related myths, it is also important to consider how you can engage your student in conversations about their career development and choices. Below, you'll find some "questions to ask" as well as a few "comments to avoid." We know it can be hard to support your student as they make career decisions, so we hope these examples help you feel equipped to encourage your student and partner with UCS in supporting their career decision-making.



Comments to avoid



Questions to ask

You will have to go to graduate school if you continue with the that major.



Have you looked at the What Can I Do With This Major located in Handshake? This resource provides information about occupational choices for each major offered at GSU.

I'm worried you will not find financial stability with that major or career choice.



What do you enjoy about that major/career? Have you talked with a Career Counselor about your plan?

You can do anything you want. I know you will figure out what to study.



Have you visited the GSU University Career Services Office for help in choosing your major and exploring options?

CITATION PAGE

- 1) Career Change Statistics. (2020, June 27). Retrieved November 09, 2020, from <http://careers-advice-online.com/career-change-statistics.html>
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- 5) Hornaday, G. (n.d.). The 5 Most Common Myths About Choosing Your Major. Retrieved November 09, 2020, from <https://blog.empowerly.com/the-5-most-common-myths-about-choosing-your-major>
- 6) Peterson, T. (2017, October 03). How good is education at predicting job performance? Retrieved November 09, 2020, from https://advising.gmu.edu/current_students/Myths_About_Majors.pdf