



Career Services

"Your journey to career success begins here..."

Gwynedd-Mercy College • Campbell Hall • Ext. 230 • careerservices@gmc.edu

Welcome Parents, Family & Friends

Family Information

Career Services is home to limitless resources for your student's career development, but your student, as a registered Gwynedd-Mercy College student or alumnus, must visit this office to take advantage of these resources.

Career Services can assist your student with all career related issues ranging from focusing on a career path, to resumé assistance, to finding employment. Our staff is well trained and eager to share their expertise through a wealth of in-house resources, leads, and links to the internet and to assist the student having difficulty deciding on a major. The office also sponsors job fairs, programs and events throughout the school year.

Please encourage your GMC student, regardless of age or year in school, to access our comprehensive web site or to call 215-646-7300; ext: 230 to schedule an appointment with a member of our staff to discuss their particular issue/concern. The Career Center, located in the Griffin Complex (across from the Book Store), is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. In addition we offer extended hours when asked in advance.

What does Career Services provide my student?

Services and resources assist your student with combining self-knowledge and skills to transform his or her academic work into career goals. Individualized career counseling is available through the center to contribute to this process. Internship & job fairs, networking events, employer information sessions, and links to alumni are also provided for students to build relationships with employers and others who can assist in their career planning and job search process.

What happens during a typical career counseling appointment?

This is an opportunity for your student to meet one-on-one with a professional who is well-versed on career issues and understands the major field he/she is pursuing. In addition, counselors utilize state-of-the-art assessment instruments such as the MBTI to aid your student in clarifying his or her career direction. Like any counseling, confidentiality is maintained so that your student feels comfortable discussing his or her own individual issues.

When should my student begin working with your office?

Your student can utilize Career Services at any time during their academic career and after graduation. The model of fostering a student's career development ideally begins when a student is a freshman. We have professional staff that can assess your student's individual career needs and guide them through this step-by-step process during their entire academic career.

My freshman has already decided on a major, why would he or she need Career Services?

Many students begin their freshman year of college with a good deal of confidence in what they intend to major in. With any major, there are a number of career paths that a student can choose depending on their interests and abilities. Shadowing, networking, gaining "hands-on" experience through an internship or volunteer work, can assist your student in developing important skills that employers look for, while providing experiences that aid in focusing on career goals. Career Services is a valuable resource for finding such opportunities and for providing students with links to a variety of resources.

As a freshman my student knew exactly what he wanted to do with his life, but now is confused and considering a completely different direction. Should I be concerned, or is this normal?

The college years for most students are a time of rapid and profound change. This is seldom observed more than with the change in their emerging interests. College is designed to provide opportunity for exploring new ideas and subjects. The common result is for a student to change his mind about his major. Career Services has counselors who are skilled in supporting your student as he figures out his career focus. Frequently they will administer assessment instruments that help your student clarify important aspects of career development such as interests, natural abilities and values. Given the complexity of today's job market this often takes many years, depending on the individual student, to accomplish.

What can I do to support my student as he or she establishes career goals?

No doubt the most patient of families can be challenged to find the best way to support their student as he figures out his career future. Important developmental changes are occurring that may manifest as confusion or lack of direction in your student. Because college is a time of exposure to new ideas and increased knowledge about the options for careers, a student's need to explore may increase and the length of time this takes differs with each student. Being knowledgeable about today's job market is an important part of being supportive of your son or daughter. Here are some key points to know:

Today's Job Market

- It is changing faster now than at any other time in history
- Advances in technology and widespread use of computers are influencing every aspect of the market place.
- We now live in a global market place which effects both competition and career opportunities
- A large percentage of jobs of the future will require the skill level obtained through a minimum of two years post secondary training or four years of college education
- Job opportunities are evolving at a rapid pace. Many of the jobs that are in existence today weren't heard of ten years ago.
- People entering the workforce today are expected to change careers five to seven times during their lifetime
- Life-long learning will be a fact of life for all workers, to continuously upgrade needed skills

My student is completely undecided about in what to major. How can Career Services help?

One of the main reasons we initially see a student is for assistance with clarification of career goals. If your student is uncertain which major would lead to a certain career goal they have in mind, career counseling may assist them with narrowing their major selection.

How can I find out what majors are offered at GMC?

One good resource for finding majors is the web site (www.gmc.edu/academics/). Within the site's Academics section you can find all the major programs currently offered.

Does Career Services offer internships?

In today's rapidly changing work place, gaining work-related experience is key to a new graduate's success in finding employment. For this reason we encourage all students to engage in some form of experiential learning such as an internship. The internships listed through the College Central Network (www.collegecentral.com/gmc) are both paid and unpaid. Some may also provide academic credit. In addition, there are multiple resources for identifying internships available in the Career Center Library. Please refer to the Experiential Learning Opportunities section of the "Parents, Family & Friends" page for more information on College Central.

What is Career Services' role in finding my student a job after graduation?

We are often asked what our "placement rate" is. Meaning, what is the percentage of graduating students who get jobs? Although we do not directly "place" a student in a job, Career Services is committed to facilitating employer recruiting and preparing your student for the best job search possible. Our office sponsors or co-sponsors several job fairs and hosts employers each year. In addition, the Career Services web page is home to the College Central Network (www.collegecentral.com/gmc) an interactive job-posting site that features part-time and full-time jobs as well as internships. Our counselors provide individualized assistance and focused group programs to assist your student in maximizing his or her job search abilities.

What help does Career Services provide if my student wants to go to graduate school?

The staff can assist your student in finding specific graduate programs as well as providing practice information and test dates on various admission exams such as the MCAT, LSAT or GRE. In addition to providing guides to graduate education in the Career Center Library. The Office also has a Graduate School Guide Book.

Gwynedd-Mercy College Career Services

Staff:

- Nick Schaefer, Director
- Sarah Kohut, Associate Director
- Christina Theodos, Graduate Assistant

Web Site: www.gmc.edu/students/careerservices/

