

A Parent's Guide to Career Development



8 ways you can help your student in the area of career development

1. Encourage your student to visit the Career Center Office (and you go too!) Many students use their first semester to settle into college, so perhaps the spring semester of freshman year is the optimal time to start working with the Career Center. And, it's a good time for you to prompt that first visit! It is important for your student to understand that the Career Center is for ALL students, not just seniors, and should be visited regularly throughout their college career.

2. Advise your student to write a resume

Writing a resume can be a "reality test" and can help a student identify weak areas that require improvement. Suggest your student pick up the career guide from the Career Center.

3. Challenge your student to become "occupationally literate"

If your student is unsure about what they want to do after graduation, you can talk to them about personal qualities you see as talents and strengths. You can also recommend taking a "self-assessment inventory" such as the TypeFocus online assessment which is available on our website.

4. Allow your student to make the decision

It is not unusual for students to change majors. Many students also end up doing something completely different than they originally planned. Career development can be stressful. Be patient, sympathetic, and understanding - even if you do not agree with their decisions.

5. Emphasize the importance of gaining work experience through cooperative education

Encouraging your child to obtain a co-op assignment will help them build their resume and stand out among other applicants when applying for full-time jobs. The Career Center is the first stop to begin applying for co-op opportunities.

6. Encourage extracurricular activity

Part of experiencing college life is being involved outside the classroom. Interpersonal and leadership skills - qualities valued by future employers - are often developed in extracurricular activities.

7. Teach the value of networking

Suggest your student contact people in your personal and professional network for information on jobs and careers. Students should begin looking for full-time employment two semester prior to graduation by using our Handshake online job database and attending our five annual career fairs.

8. Help Career Center

Call Career Center when your company has a co-op, internship or full-time job opening.

Tennessee Tech University Career Center

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