

CAREER CENTER

Mission Statement:

The CSUSM Career Center empowers students and alumni to attain personal success through lifelong career development in a global society.

The Career Center staff provides comprehensive career services to currently enrolled students and members of the Alumni Association (approximately 10,500). They also work with regional employers to source candidates for internships and full-time positions upon graduation.

Resources and Services Provided for Students and Members of the Alumni Association:

Drop in advising from 12-1 Monday-Thursday during fall and spring semesters; career counseling and major exploration; career assessments including DISCOVER, MBTI, Strong Interest Inventory and 'StrengthsQuest'; graduate and professional school advising; information on internships; job fairs and other employer sponsored events including annual business etiquette dinner, employer mock interview weeks, employer resume reviews and information tables and sessions; resume, cover letter and personal statement critique service; mock interviews; resource library and computer lab; student recruitment services including CougarJOBS electronic posting and on-campus interviewing program; workshops on resume writing, effective interviewing and networking and job search strategies; a comprehensive career guide publication; presentations in classes; and delivery of a two week career development module in all GEL 101 classes.

Research supports the notion that students who utilize career center services early and often typically have more success in their job development and job search activities and transition into the world of work upon graduation with higher percentages employed in professional career positions. They are better informed about opportunities available to them and are more confident during interviews. There is also a direct correlation between early use of the career center, student academic performance and experiential work through internships and overall student success through graduation

The need:

Demand for career services continues to increase as the enrollment rises; demand for services from alumni has also increased due to the high unemployment rate. The Career Center made over 160 presentations and reviewed more than 1500 resumes during academic year 2009-2010.

Career Center staff:

At present, the Career Center is staffed with a director, two career counselors, a budget/office manager, an employer relations and events coordinator and a half-time technology coordinator (5.5 FTE). While enrollment has more than doubled since 1996-97 when staffing was at 6 FTE.