

# 4 Year Guide to Helping Your College Student

## First Year

- Encourage your student to make grades a top priority, and to meet with each of their professors/advisors regularly.
- Help your student investigate career possibilities by promoting the different self-assessments offered through the Career Center, including the Strong Interest Inventory.
- Talk with your student about different co-curricular activities and clubs that might match their interests or goals.
- Promote your student's attendance at Career Center workshops, programs, and networking events.
- Support exploration of all career interests and reinforce that there are many options.
- Remind your student to meet with a career counselor for an individual appointment.
- Encourage your student to plan early to find a summer job.

## Sophomore Year

- If your student is unsure about major or career decisions, encourage them to visit the Career Center.
- Talk with your student about the different career and major options that they are considering.
- Encourage your student to follow their dream, not anyone else's, and to make the choices that fit for their goals.
- Connect your student with friends, family, and colleagues who can provide information on careers of interest.
- Recommend to your student that they speak with faculty of any department they are considering.
- Continue to encourage attendance at Career Center events and programs.
- Remind your student to create an up-to-date résumé, and upload it to the JobZone.
- Discuss with your student the importance and benefits of gaining relevant experience through internships, volunteering, research, and other activities. Encourage them to gain such experience over the summer.

#### Junior Year

- Remind your student to meet with a Career Counselor, and to continue attending programs and events.
- Encourage your student to take advantage of leadership opportunities at Nebraska Wesleyan.
- Discuss employment and graduate school options, and encourage your student to start narrowing down their choices.
- Promote strong interviewing skills by encouraging your student to schedule mock interviews in the Career Center.
- Promote the Career Assistance Network and the importance of networking and building relationships early.
- Reiterate the value of expanding career-related experiences. Suggest finding opportunities for growth through experiential learning, volunteering, and student activities during both the academic year and the summer.

### **Senior Year**

- Listen, be patient, and don't worry. Ask your student how you can help.
- Encourage your student to visit the Career Center for assistance with graduate school applications or the job search.
- Urge your student to complete a résumé and participate in on-campus interviews and networking opportunities.
- Propose they create a calendar with graduation, job, graduate school, and/or fellowship deadlines (and any other important information that may be of assistance in making their life easier and less hectic).
- Remind your student to update the Career Center and their counselor regarding their post-graduation plans.
- Tell your student that you are proud of them, and that you will continue to help them in reaching all of their goals.

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTER