Office of Career and Professional Development

The Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD) is committed to providing Georgia Southern University students and alumni with a broad range of personalized services to prepare them for professional success. As career advisors, the OCPD staff assists students with choosing majors, identifying career options, gaining related work experience, awarding non-credit "tuition free" co-op/internship hours, and providing guidance in their full-time professional job search strategies through four distinct areas: Career Advisement, Experiential Learning, Course Instruction, and Professional Employment. The Career Advisement phase is designed to assist students in identifying academic majors and career options. Strategies include one-on-one or group career advising, career assessments, investigation of careers through a comprehensive collection of online information, as well as through the Major and Career Exploration Centers located on the Statesboro and Armstrong campuses. Opportunities for Experiential Learning are developed through the outreach efforts of the Employer Relations team, who proactively engage employer partners to create internship and co-op opportunities. Students are prepared for these experiences through mock interview training, résumé/cover letter critique assistance, and structured academic courses that focus on Emotional Intelligence development and professionalism in the workplace. Professional employment opportunities are available through the Eagle Career Net online job board and are open to all Georgia Southern University active students and alumni.

Experiential learning provides a valuable opportunity for students to acquire relevant work experience that will increase their marketability upon graduation. Internships and co-ops provide an opportunity for students to evaluate whether their chosen career path or field of study is a good fit for them, develop their professional skills, and apply their academic knowledge while obtaining valuable real world experience in their field. The Office of Career and Professional Development at Georgia Southern University is committed to recruiting and promoting internship and co-op opportunities for all students and provides a centralized contact for all academic and non-academic related issues associated with experiential learning for all colleges and majors.

The OCPD professional staff advises and assists students in developing professional skills during their academic career so that they may complete an effective job search campaign prior to graduation. Workshops, class presentations, individual career advisement appointments, along with resources provided on the OCPD website, help prepare students in the areas of effective job search and networking strategies, cover letter and résumé development, interviewing techniques, negotiation strategies, and making the transition from college to the world of work. The department attracts a variety of industries and organizations to recruit Georgia Southern University students and alumni through résumé referrals, on-campus interviewing, and by allowing employers to post positions on Eagle Career Net. By participating in on-campus recruiting opportunities, students are able to network with potential employers from all industries to inquire about full-time employment upon graduation.

For more information, please visit the Office of Career and Professional Development website at G [http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/career](http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/career) or call (912) 478-5197.