



## Career Preparation supporting a World Class Education

We embrace and actively promote student success through our programs, counseling, and events, providing students and alumni with a wide range of options to find and build lifelong career engagement.

Inspiration.  
It's the Washington Way.

### Our Story

The path to discovering one's passion and career is usually not a simple process. During college, experiences both inside and outside the classroom shape students in unexpected ways, offering fresh perspectives and creating new interests that can profoundly impact one's future.

The building blocks of academics, internships, service learning, leadership, travel abroad, and other University opportunities combine to shape tangible career options. However, navigating these experiences and achieving insight into the learning that takes place can be challenging and intimidating. A perennial hurdle for students is learning to acquire the tools, efficacy, and self-knowledge for charting the next phase of their life after college.

The Career Center helps students translate their UW experience to the world of work. We facilitate the process of individual exploration where students and alumni can learn about their options, share their interests, and build the tools and skills to engage with the community outside of the UW in their career. We provide practical tools, interactive workshops and professional insights through our counselors and direct access to and relationships with local and national employers.

We approach student development with a strengths-based focus. This focus allows us to help students and alumni identify their own individual strengths and learn how to talk about and market them in ways that demonstrate tangible value to an organization. This strengths-based approach, combined with our other services, helps connect a student to work that is both engaging and rewarding.

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*"Thank you very much for your brilliant suggestions on my cover letter and resume last week. You've shown me how to transform them both into a much higher quality presentation, and I am very excited about the improvements." Alum*

### Our Commitment

**Access** – The Career Center provides the connection between academia and the world of work. We believe everyone has the opportunity to discover their passion and calling for good and meaningful work.

**Engagement** – Employers benefit from The Career Center's many services, with tips for building a robust internship program and writing recruiting plans that increases a company's campus visibility. Students and alumni benefit from The Career Center through individual career counseling, workshops and events.

**Diversity** – The Career Center and our services are respectful of all students and alumni. Our services are free to students and very affordable to alumni. We are committed to equal access for everyone.

**Care** – We understand the pressures of transitioning from school to work. We help our students and alumni build their future careers by providing guidance around personal interests, individual strengths, focus and insight into various workplace environments.

**Student Learning** – Creating learning environments and engaging experiences has always been the core of our work at the Career Center. Our team of talented counselors and administrators teach students how to translate their UW experience to their future world of work.

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*"The Career Center has helped me develop into an expert in my own career and academic experiences. I've learned to leverage myself to recruiters and interviewers in a way that has yielded me superior results." BA, Business Administration*

## Quick Facts

**8,000** alumni are registered in HuskyJobs (internship & job listing service)

13,452 students and alumni attended career events

**4** counselors saw **10,464** students through appointments, walk-ins, and workshops

**2,788** employer interviews were held on campus, facilitated by our office

**73%** of incoming freshmen listed "getting a career" their reason for attending the UW

**365,556** visits representing **192,979** users were counted on our website

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*"I wanted to compliment you on the Career Center as a whole, and let you know that I have found it to be an excellent resource, positively world class. I have had a great experience working through my career-search and talented people really take the uncertainty out of the process and offer priceless guidance that has certainly helped me find my job."*

*PhD candidate in Astronomy & Aerospace*

## Efficiencies

Although we continuously look for opportunities to increase efficiencies, since 2008 we have increased efforts to partner with our colleagues and look for additional opportunities to streamline our operations. These efforts have resulted in effectively reducing our operating budget by 30%.

One example of this efficiency includes a partnership we created with Undergraduate Advising and the Office of Minority Affairs/Diversity that is looking at ways to involve more advisers in exploratory advising. This partnership is working to develop a consistent base of services for students and expanding the reach beyond what each individual unit could achieve on its own.

In 2009, as part of an ongoing review of revenue generation opportunities, the Career Center stepped out from other U.S. universities and started charging our employers for various services and programs we had never charged for in the past.

## Challenges & Opportunities

Prior to recent budget cuts, the Career Center's staffing model was already 60% smaller than our peer institutions. Although, because of this size differential, meeting the mission of the Career Center has always been challenging, the budget cuts further frustrate our ability to offer comprehensive and cohesive services that are comparable to our peer institutions.

Currently, students and alumni requesting one-on-one career advising must wait a minimum of three weeks before seeing a counselor. Programs, including Career Discovery Week that served more than 5,000 students each year, have been eliminated. Other prime services, such as mock interviews and departmental workshops, have been dramatically reduced. Outreach efforts to area businesses and alumni have been significantly reduced or delayed, despite ever increasing demand.

A career services operation develops and maintains relationships with employers who provide internships and employment opportunities for students and alumni. Businesses who contribute to the UW expect access to candidates through multiple recruiting opportunities. Considering that 76% of UW graduates stay to work in the State of Washington, it is imperative that we continue to link students and alumni to area employers.

These challenges are effectively eroding relationships between the UW and key employers by not meeting their needs in a climate that is demanding more from us. As we face the potential of additional budget cuts, we constantly struggle to find ways to meet the demands of our constituents while maintaining the UW's mission and providing meaningful services and programs that engage students, and future alumni.



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