

Career Planning for Parents
Graceland University Career Services

Don't worry if your student doesn't have a clue as to what to major in! Students (and adults) are at different rates of speed.

How can you assist and support your student the first year?

- Support your child's exploration of new areas of study and interests.
- Affirm what you know to be areas of skill and ability they have.
- Talk about the courses and activities they are enjoying. Listen!
- Urge use of the personnel in Career Services Office

How can assist and support your student the second year?

- Don't assume choosing an "impractical" major won't produce a job.
- Encourage "Informational interviewing" in fields they are thinking about.
- Don't insist upon a decision immediately.

How can assist and support your student the "mid-career" year?

- Encourage use of the resources available at the Career Services Office.
- Support internships or summer experiences
- Don't ignore non-paying and distant location opportunities
- Don't conduct the internship or summer job search for your student.

How can you assist and support your student the senior year?

- Suggest Career Services for resume, letters, interviewing, and job-search skills,
- Don't nag, Use positive reinforcement.
- Don't call potential employers to intervene for your child.
- Support them through ups and downs of the job and graduate school search.

A few final thoughts

Throughout the college years, students are developing a "record of achievement" evaluated by employers and graduate schools.

- **Academic achievement.** The grade point average (GPA) is one factor considered by competitive employers and graduate schools.
- **Responsible work experience.** Many employers seek students who have related internship, summer, cooperative education, or part-time job or volunteer experiences.
- **Responsible involvement outside the classroom.** Students need extracurricular activities to gain valuable skills: team member; leadership; planning; priority-setting and time management.

Best of luck to you supporting your university student!