The Career Trail

OUR GOAL – Every student will be transition ready when they leave OSU.

The Challenges
1. Students procrastinate about career planning or are not aware of the activities they need to complete in college in order to be transition ready.
2. Students are more likely to participate in career development when encouraged or required to by faculty.
3. If there was a simple way to incorporate career assignments into the academic curriculum, students would be ready to transition upon graduation.

How Can We Address These?
With the Career Trail! The Career Trail is a program that leads students through a series of assignments, introducing them to concepts in career development without creating more work for faculty.

Why Is This Important?
• Recent news headlines regarding higher education question the applicability of the learning students do in college to the workforce. The Career Trail is a way for students to engage more fully in intentional planning, relating their learning to their career.

• Career development is not something that happens upon graduation, but throughout a student’s college experience, as they interact with others academically, socially, and in the co-curriculum.

• If students have confidence in themselves and their ability to transition after college because of ample preparation, they will be more likely to succeed. Deliberate career development can help ease the tensions students feel as they work toward transitioning to the working world.

• Research shows that students are more engaged, and therefore more likely to be successful, when they interact with faculty regarding career. When faculty members require students to engage with career development, a certain value is placed on the activity.

What Do We Need from You?
• We hope you will consider participating in a pilot program to research the impact of the Career Trail on student learning.

• If you teach a particular course 2 terms during the year, we would love to include you in our research phase of the program. In the first term, we will come in to give a resume and/or interviewing presentation in the same way that we have in the past. Students will hand in a resume or engage in an online interview after
the presentation. During the 2nd term, we will ask your students to complete one of the Career Trail assignments before the presentation. Then, we will evaluate the difference between the two groups. Our expectation is that students who were assigned the work in advance of the presentation, with the opportunity for reflection and revision after the presentation, will develop more successful resume writing and interviewing skills.

**How Would It Work on a Larger Scale?**

- Faculty members would assign one of the Career Trail assignments for credit when they request a Career Services presentation in their course.

- Students complete the assignment and bring it to class with them, so that the presenter can use the assignment in engaging classroom activities.

- Faculty members collect the assignment in whatever way they choose, through Blackboard, email, or hard copy, and do not need to grade or provide feedback on the assignment. In fact, faculty members do not need to do anything except require the assignment be completed and attach credit for completion. Career Services will do the rest.

- Consider having Career Services sub for a class when you’re away and assigning a career activity for that day. Don’t Cancel that Class!

- We hope to create a cultural shift at the Oregon State University campus by consistently engaging faculty in student career development and echoing the messages of Career Services across campus through the many collaborative partnerships we form in academic and student affairs with this program. 
  
  _We need your help to do it!_