

MCB

**Incorporating Career Advising  
into Your Program  
by Partnering with Alumni**

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**Career Advising**

Virginia Gordon (2006)

A dynamic, interactive process that  
“helps students understand how their  
personal interests, abilities, and values  
might predict success in the academic  
and career fields they are considering”

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**Why Integrate with  
Academic Advising?**

- Advisors are uniquely positioned to assist students throughout four years.
- Help students to make connections between what they are learning and the real world.
- Economic realities for students
  - Average student debt in 2011, \$26,600Bugeja (2013)

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## Steps to Integrating

- Recognize similarities and differences between career and academic advising.
- Identify resources and determine where additional competencies are needed.
- Create and execute a specific plan.

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## Similarities

- Both are grounded in student development theory.
- Both require listening, reflecting, communicating, supporting and referring

Burton and Mcalla-Wriggens, 2009

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## Differences

- Academic Advisors
  - Knowledge of procedures, degree requirements, discipline specific career information
  - Alumni connections
- Career Advisors
  - Knowledge of specific skills required for jobs and strategies used to obtain employment.
  - Employer connections.

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## Resources

- **The Career Center/Career Services Office**
  - Information, Workshops, Tools
- **College/Departments**
  - Graduate surveys, lists of alums
- **Advancement Office**
  - Contact information for your alums
- **Alumni**
  - Real world experience

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## Our Plan

- **Connect with Alumni**
  - Email Request to Participate in Workshops
  - LinkedIn
  - Advancement Office
- **Develop Mentorship Program**
- **Advertise and Grow Program**
- **Provide Other Opportunities for Interactions Between Alumni and Students.**

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## 2010

- **Kevin Johnson, LAS Advancement**
- **Richard Berkowitz, MD, 1979 grad**
  - Information Session on His Career Path to Medicine.
  - Selected two student applications
  - Dinner
  - Summer job shadowing
  - Mentorship

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## Student Feedback

- **“Extremely beneficial and fulfilling”**
- **“Exceeded my expectations”**
- **“I caught a true glimpse of the life of a physician.”**
- **“I came home excited to share my experiences, and with my faith reaffirmed in my future in medicine.”**

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## Student Feedback

- “He is really there for us and having someone that has been through it all already is something I feel I really needed.”
- “This opportunity is really one of a kind. It's a privilege...”

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## 2011 Enhancements

- **Sarah Morris, LAS Advancement**
  - Provided list of biology alums and physicians who were potential mentors.
    - Volunteer Confidentiality form
- **Panel Presentation**
  - Richard Berkowitz, MD, 1979 grad
  - John Santiello, MD, 1999 grad
  - Lorien Menhennett, Health Journalist, 2003 grad

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## 2011 Enhancements

- **Each Panelist Gave 10 – 15 Minute Overview of Current Career and Path**
- **More time allotted for Q and A**
- **Increased # of Mentees Selected for Mentorship Program to 4**

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## Alumni Feedback

- “This program is an incredible and exciting experience... it is unequivocally a great way for you to become re-connected with your Alma Mater!”

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## 2012 Enhancements

- Four Panelists, Colleagues
  - *Richard A. Berkowitz, M.D.*
  - *Michael Berkowitz, M.D.*
  - *John M. Santaniello, MD*
  - *Guy Weinberg, MD*
- Six Mentees

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## Student Feedback

- “It was a really wonderful and comfortable atmosphere and all the doctors were beyond wonderful. I **learned a lot about the career path to being a doctor that is not found on any website** and I walked out feeling confident about pursuing a career in medicine.”

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## 2013 Enhancements

- **Joan Volkmann and Joan Tousey, LAS Development**
  - Build Bigger Pool of Alums/Mentors
- **Expectations**
  - Make contact with students 3-4 times per year either by e-mail or in person
  - Provide at least one annual shadowing experience

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## 2013 Enhancements

- **Sought out More Diverse Panel/Mentors**
  - Women
  - Dentists
  - Pharmacists
- **Dr. Richard Berkowitz, MD, Anesthesiology**
- **Dr. Holly Rosencranz, MD, Internal Medicine**
- **Dr. Allison Jones, MD, Occupational Medicine**
- **Dr. Greg Martin DDS**

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## 2013 Enhancements

- **Mentorships Offered**
  - 31 Pre-med
  - 6 Pre-dent
  - 4 Pre-Pharm

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### Student Feedback

- “I had a really good experience.”
- “...it’s comforting to know that he is readily available if I were to have questions about my future career.”
- “...really sparked my interest”

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### Student Feedback

- “This was an amazing experience and was very beneficial for me as a student pursuing Pharmacy school.”
- “This was very helpful and **opened my eyes to several new paths** I had never considered.”

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### Student Feedback

- “I really appreciate that UIUC makes this possible...By shadowing, I have gained much more knowledge and experience than from just volunteering in the hospital.”

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**Suggestions for Improvements**

- “they seemed to not really know where I came from or how I was involved with them”
- “I did not get the chance keep up with the mentor nor has he emailed or stayed in touch this semester. ”
- “Communication between student, mentor, and program organizers needs more work so that everyone is on the same page.”

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**Plans for 2014**

- **Four or Five Panelists**
- **Continue to Increase Diversity**
- **Expand List of Potential Mentors**
  - Focus on Better Communication
- **Create different experiences for students**
  - Sean Williams, LAS Advancement

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**New Experiences**

- **Paid Summer Research Internship at Scripps Beckman Center in La Jolla, CA**
- **Annual Donations to Help with Travel Costs for Summer Research Internships**
- **Paid Summer Research Internship at City of Hope in Palo Alto, CA**

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## New Experiences

- Paid Summer Research Internship at Wisconsin National Primate Research Center
- Paid Summer Research Internship at School of Freshwater Sciences, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

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## Benefits to Alumni Partnerships

- Students
  - Experience, Insight, Mentor
- Alumni
  - Re-connect with University
    - Reminisce
    - Pay it forward
- University Advancement
  - First step with potential donors

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## Student Perspective

- Angela Shupe
  - Senior in MCB
  - Pre-dental
- Michael Rigby
  - Senior in MCB Honors Concentration
  - Premed

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