

Ensure Students Are Learning: Faculty Descriptions of Innovative Teaching Practices

Developing Career Readiness Through Stations and Research Portfolios

Innovative Teaching Practice Description:

This innovative teaching practice combines an online module on career readiness with a term-long project to create a portfolio that organizes research that students conduct on their career choice.

The instructor introduces this project by leading the class through a job search using different resources like LinkedIn.com and Indeed.com. The instructor then leads a class discussion on the job's educational and professional skill requirements, background experiences needed, and career benefits.

For the first part of the portfolio, students use an instructor-provided rubric to research their prospective career. They write an evaluation that addresses the benefits and challenges of the job, necessary educational and training requirements, salary information, common work schedules, and daily professional expectations.

For the second portion of the portfolio, the instructor places example resumes and cover letters from various career fields at different stations around the room. The instructor assigns students to small groups and they rotate through the stations evaluating the resumes' and cover letters' similarities and differences. This activity prepares learners to write their own resume, cover letter, and reference list.

Students conclude their portfolios with a final written reflection that revisits prior portions of the portfolio. Students synthesize their research and reassess their professional goals. The paper concludes with students either reaffirming or shifting their interest in a prospective career.

Notes from the Instructor About This Innovative Teaching Practice:

This project helps students generalize classroom learning to the professional world. Students are eager to engage with the course content because it helps them create useful tools that align with their personal career goals.