Abracadabra: It’s Time for Graduation

The University of Akron
Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences
Academic Advising and Career Services
Monday, May 13, 2019
The University of Akron
OUR STUDENTS

Approximately 20,500 students representing 45 U.S. states 92 foreign countries culturally diverse from a broad economic spectrum
The University of Akron
COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

10 colleges and schools
offering undergraduate, graduate
and professional programs
The University of Akron
Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences

Academic Advising
11 academic advisers overseen by Dean’s office

Career Services
1.5 full-time Coordinator in the College of Arts and Sciences
Coordinators from the main office and other satellite offices assist
with our college’s events
Ask the Magic Eight ball...
Purpose

Collaborated to demystify the graduation and career transition processes.
Demystifying Graduation and Career

- Large institutions have many resources, but these are managed by different departments on campus
- Students were asking us questions about graduation, commencement, and employment after college
- We wanted to help students be more clear on the graduation process and career and job search skills
The Magic of Collaboration

- New Career Services satellite office in the College of Arts of Sciences building

- Sophie came by as any good neighbor would do! (but she had a greater purpose in mind)

- We asked each other: how can Academic Advising and Career Services collaborate to best serve our students and to take advantage of the Five Star Friday schedule
All 2019 Arts and Sciences Grads

CAS Seniors,
Get Ready for GRADUATION!

Friday, March 15, 2019
Come anytime between 11:00am-4:00pm
College of Arts and Sciences Atrium

PRE-REGISTRATION RECOMMENDED
• RSVP on Handshake
• Questions? Email career@uakron.edu or call 330-972-7747

Meet with your Academic Advisor and Career Coordinator to review:
• Your DPR (degree progress report)
• Graduation Requirements
• Career or further education plans after graduation

CAS Seniors,
Get Ready for GRADUATION!

Friday, November 16, 2018
Come anytime between 10:00am - 1:00pm
College of Arts and Sciences Atrium

Meet with your Academic Advisor and Career Coordinator to review:
• Your DPR (degree progress report)
• Graduation Requirements
• Career or further education plans after graduation

PRE-REGISTRATION RECOMMENDED
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FALL ’18 & SPRING ’19 GRADS
Snacks and Prizes!

The College of Arts and Sciences and Career Services Presents

SOPHOMORE & JUNIOR LAUNCH TO GRADUATION & BEYOND

Friday, April 5, 2019
CAS Atrium

Are you interested in an internship? 12:00pm-2:00pm
Visit our CAS Internship Information Fair to learn about internships in your major and also learn about graduate school and law school.

Are you on track for graduation? 12:00pm-4:00pm
Review your remaining graduation requirements with a BCAS Advisor. Meet with a Career Services Coordinator to talk about experiential learning and job opportunities.

Goals for our Events:

- **Academic Advising**: Help students understand their remaining degree requirements for graduation and to apply for graduation.

- **Career Services**: Meet with students on career skills and internship/job search tools – for many, this was their first conversation.

- **Other Campus Departments**: Collaborate with appropriate campus resources to inform students of their services and opportunities.

- **Overall**: Make the events fun and engaging and help students celebrate their progress and milestones.
Students were asking:
Am I ready to graduate?
Will I be able to walk?
How do I apply to graduate school?
Oh my gosh, now I need a full-time job! How do I get one?
Graduation Can Be Confusing; Academic Advisers Are Here to Help

By Brooklyn Dennison, Editor-in-Chief
February 25, 2019
Academic Advising met with Career Services to address these questions.
We developed “one-stop shopping” events:
Get Ready for Graduation and Launch to Graduation and Beyond and invited other relevant departments to be at the events.
Post events:

Assessment and planning future events!
Event Assessments

- With each event we surveyed our students and the stakeholders who attended the event.
- The response rate improved with each event as did our surveys and method.
- We learned from feedback and planned subsequent events to better serve students and stakeholders.
Students were asking:
Am I ready to graduate?
Will I be able to walk?
How do I apply to graduate school?
How do I get a full-time career job?

Academic Advising met with Career Services to answer these questions.

We developed “one-stop shopping” events:
Get Ready for Graduation and Launch to Graduation and Beyond and invited other relevant departments to be at the events.

Post events:
Assessment and planning future events!
Get Ready for Graduation

Check In and Popcorn!

Students received a card that Academic Advisers and Career Services Coordinators would sign ...
Get Ready for Graduation

... so students could pick up their bag of goodies and spin for a prize.
Target audience: Rising Seniors

Dates:
Friday, March 15, 2019 11am - 4pm
Friday, November 16, 2018 10am – 1pm

Administrative: Dean’s Office sent senior discrepancy reports

Marketing: Emails (from advisers and Handshake) sent out to 1700 seniors; Posters and Campus Ads

Outcome:
52 of 110 rsvps attended on 11/16/18
54 of 137 rsvps attended on 3/15/19

- Registrar to apply for commencement
- Academic Advisers to review DPR
- Career Services Coordinators to review resume and discuss job search
Get Ready for Graduation
Student Surveys

- No survey data for initial event in November 2018
- 1 Student Response for second event in March 2019
- Our initial surveys had 12 Questions – too many!
Sample Questions Asked for Get Ready for Graduation in March

1. How did you hear about the Get Ready for Graduation Event? (check all that apply)
   - Word of mouth
   - Email
   - Adviser

2. Did you attend all the department resources (Career Services, Academic Advising, and Commencement) at the event?

3. Did the Career Services Coordinator answer your questions about employment, resume preparation, and interviewing?

4. Did the Academic Adviser answer your questions about your degree requirements or Degree Progress Report (DPR) for graduation?
Student response
(Get Ready for Graduation in March)
Academic Adviser, Career Coordinator and Registrar Survey Questions
(for both Get Ready for Graduation and Launch to Graduation and Beyond)

1. Did you find the events were helpful? Please explain your answer.

2. Would you recommend continuing these events for future semesters? Please explain your answer.

3. Do you have any suggestions to improve these events? If yes, please explain.
Feedback from Career Services Coordinators on the “Get Ready for Graduation” event for rising seniors:
Feedback from Academic Advisers on the “Get Ready for Graduation” event for rising seniors:
Feedback from Registrar’s Office on the “Get Ready for Graduation” event for rising seniors:
Launch to Graduation and Beyond

Target audience: Sophomores and Juniors

Date: Friday, April 5, 2019  11AM-4PM

Marketing:
Emails (from advisers and Handshake) sent to 1575 sophomores and juniors;
Posters and Campus Ads

Outcome:
57 of 78 rsvps attended on 4/5/19

- Internship coordinators to discuss internships
- Academic advisers to review DPR
- Career Services coordinators to discuss experiential learning opportunities and strategies
Student Survey for Launch to Graduation and Beyond

4 Questions – much better

We tried a QR code to have students respond while finishing at the event, but all were not recorded due to a technical glitch.

22 of 57 student responses for event on 4/5/19

38% response rate
Student Survey Results
Launch to Graduation and Beyond

Questions:

1. How beneficial was this event for you? **4.227**

2. Do you feel you are now better informed about your progress towards your degree completion? **4.136**

3. Do you feel you are better informed about internships and experiential learning? **4.045**

4. Please give us any additional comments you would like to share

Total Average for Questions 1-3: **4.136**

Rating Scale:
1 = poor
5 = excellent
Feedback from students on the Launch to Graduation and Beyond:
Feedback from faculty/staff at Launch to Graduation and Beyond:
Feedback from Career Services Coordinators on the “Launch to Graduation and Beyond” event for sophomores and juniors:
Feedback from Academic Advisers on the “Launch to Graduation and Beyond” event for sophomores and juniors:
What did our team learn?

Good points
• Collaboration and communication
• Replication in other colleges in The University of Akron
• Students’ interest in internships

Improvements
• Marketing through all campus avenues
• Student Feedback before they leave the event
• Ways to assess events in light of our university’s goals for student retention and degree completion
Share Your Ideas:

(1) What questions do students ask you about graduation?

(2) What has worked at your institution?

Or type in this URL: http://popin.it/na11c4
Thank you for your time and participation!
Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences

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