

Collaborating with a Career Coach to Improve Professional Seminar Course

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BACKGROUND

- Students' career readiness is frequently identified as an area of concern by undergraduate health sciences faculty.
- Preparation for competitive graduate school admissions and employment searches are critical, but time-intensive.
- Career coaches are new members of the academic support team that are often underutilized by students.
- A collaboration was formed with the Radford University (RU) Center for Career and Talent Development for coaching.



MEET YOUR CAREER COACH

PURPOSE

- To assess the integration of career coaching into HSCI 395 Professional Seminar.
- This course is a requirement for B.S. in Health Sciences students during their junior year at RUC.

METHODS

- HSCI 395, a 3 credit-hour synchronous online course, was modified to integrate career coaching.
- Career coach supported course instructor by:

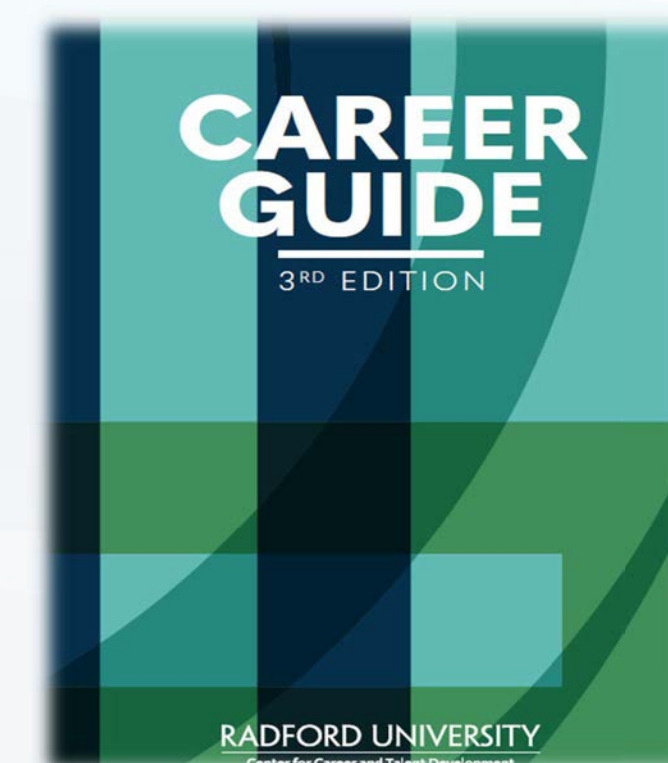
Facilitating two professionalism webinars with student reflection.

Providing one-on-one feedback on resumes and cover letters

Conducting 30-minute virtual mock interviews with de-briefing session.

Adding Career Guide and coaching materials to students' online resources.

- Online student resources:



- Mixed-methods, anonymous post-course online survey administered to students in Spring 2022 and Spring 2023 courses.
- Feedback and suggestions for improvements obtained from students through a "course check-in quiz" administered in D2L.

RESULTS

- Fifty-eight students enrolled in HSCI 395:
 - Spring 2022, n=28
 - Spring 2023, n=30
- Course evaluation survey scores:
 - Response rate = 28±3.5%.
 - **Global index:** 4.9±.01/5 out of 5 outstanding.
 - **Course content and materials:** 4.86±.04/5 out of 5 outstanding.
 - **Instructors' teaching strategies and feedback:** 4.95±.01/5 out of 5 outstanding.
- Common themes from students' comments:

"Career coaching was engaging & helpful"

"Developed awareness of personal strengths and weaknesses"

"Offered preparation for the real world."

DISCUSSION

- Collaborating with a career coach positively impacted the HSCI 395 learning experience.
- Instructor and students could reach out to the career coach for questions, advice, and suggestions.
- Primary challenge encountered was scheduling the mock interviews.
- Future evaluation will assess:
 - Senior-level internship readiness,
 - Graduate school acceptance, and
 - Employment placement.

CONCLUSION

- Career coaches are a valuable member of the academic support team.
- Integrating career coaching into instruction improves utilization and course quality.



To access student career resources, scan the QR code or email kgbaskette@radford.edu.