Compass

Career & Academic Planning

“The Compass provides Coastal Georgia students with direction and purpose as they embark upon their college and career journey”.

He who loves practice without theory is like the sailor who boards ship without a rudder and compass and never knows where he may cast. **-Leonardo da Vinci**

Why Blend Advising and Career Services?

- The overall purpose of college is to help students find a career path that will lead to a successful future, i.e. a career.
  - Students who use Career Services to explore career opportunities during and after college learn how to become the best possible marketable job candidates
- There is little debate on the value of Academic Advising and the impact their counselors have on the retention, progression and graduation rate among Coastal students
- Therefore, blending Advising and Career Services allows students to receive a more holistic approach to college planning, i.e. career planning.

Students and the Momentum Year

- The 3 tenets of the Initiative are:
  - Start college by making a purposeful choice in a focus area or program.
  - Enter with a productive mindset
  - Follow clearly sequenced program map
- This Momentum pathway should be intentional and informed by the student's interests and skills.

Students and the Momentum Approach

- The 5 tenets of the Approach are:
  - Deepen purposeful choices
  - Cultivate productive academic mindsets
  - Maintain full momentum along a clear pathway
  - Heighten academic engagement
  - Complete critical Milestones
- This Momentum pathway should be intentional and informed by the student's interests and skills.

Orientation

The student will:

- Have taken the Focus2 APPLY as part of admissions process
- Made a Purposeful Choice in major
- Meet with Compass Advisor
- Receives prepared schedule
- Makes changes as needed

First Year

The student has:

- An introductory meeting where students learn that they can visit their Compass advisor at any time.
- Receives info on Academic Resources
- Takes full Focus2 Career Assessment
- Meets with Compass Advisor at midterms again
- Schedules classes
- Advisor speaks to student's Intro class

Second Year

The student will

- Work with COMPASS Advisor to identify experiences on and off campus
- Explore Service-Learning classes
- Use Coastal Careerlink to find PT Jobs, Volunteer and Internship opportunities
- Attend job fair
- Perform Mock Interview with COMPASS Advisor

Third Year

- The Compass advisor speaks to the “Methods” class about career opportunities
- Check in with Compass advisor on major and career options
- Reviews co-curricular leadership experiences for resume
- Works on resume in preparation for Internships
- Uses Careerlink to apply for Internships
- Attends Job/Career/Graduate Fair programs

Fourth Year

- COMPASS Advisor visits capstone courses
- Student prepares final resume
- Student participates in Internship(s)
- Student attends Graduate School Fair
- Student attends Career Fair
- Student reports first job to COMPASS Advisor

Most school have policies that ensure Academic Advising but few have policies that require students to get career counseling.

- Students end up picking classes or majors that don't align with their professional path—or even worse, make academic plans without thinking about their intended career at all.
- Most students only meet with a Career Counselor in the semester before graduation (if at all).
- It is far too late to address the academic misalignment that might prevent a student from securing the career they really want.

Source: NACE 16/17 Benchmark Report

- COMPASS brings a holistic, student-centered approach to the advising experience.
- Leveraging and expanding areas of expertise to support the needs of students through coordinated services, the COMPASS approach leads to increased retention and completion

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Dr. German Vargas, AVP for Academic Student Engagement
gvargas@ccga.edu

Brian Weese, Director
bweese@ccga.edu

Pat Morris, Associate Director
pmorris@ccga.edu