Tips for Parents

Most parents want their sons and daughters to find a workplace where they will be supported in their success. Getting to that first day on a new job can be a very stressful process, and you do not want to add to it. The Career Center is your partner in assisting your student as they go through the process of discovery, research, internships, and interviews.

Just a few things to keep in mind:
- Your sons and daughters know they have to find a job after graduation.
- In most cases, a choice of major will not determine the choice of career.
- It is never too early to start the job exploration process.
- Trust their decisions.

Expectations
What we do know is that you have a tremendous influence on your student’s choice of career. In every survey we utilize, parents rank first when students are asked who they look to for career advice; it is very important to spend time with your son or daughter, talking about the options they have after graduation. In addition to talking with you, they are listening to faculty and friends who are constantly giving them ideas.

During the first three years of the college experience, the focus should be on exploring the broadest set of options. Through internships, career advising, networking, and classwork, a student should be able to begin narrowing down their choices. By senior year, it is time for them to take ownership of their career choice, and it has to be their choice.

Resources
The Career Center is located on two floors of the Student Union building. Our main reception area is on the first floor, STU 110. Our Interview Center is located on the lower level in STU B1. We are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

We offer a full range of career services that includes career advising, Internship Weeks, Career Fairs, internships, On-Campus Recruiting, workshops, the connectSC Career Network, and connectSC (our online job listing database). Students can schedule an appointment with a career advisor, or come in for a walk-in advisement every day between 11:30 am and 3:00 pm. Once a student is registered with the Center and connectSC, they can view all of the part-time and full-time job and internship listings. Workshops are offered on a regular basis to provide information on careers and improve job search techniques. Our online Career Network offers an easy way to begin making connections with alumni who can provide career advice.

How You Can Help
Listen to what your sons and daughters are telling you about what they would like to do. Encourage them to explore options. Do not discourage any idea until they have had the opportunity to explore it for themselves. Offer them networking ideas or contacts: people you may know that can help them clarify their decision. Talk to them about your own career choices—just do not assume they will make the same ones. Tell them about the USC Career Center and suggest they take time to visit. Our advisement sessions with your son or daughter are confidential, so we can’t share details with you, but we encourage you to join us in promoting informed decision-making. Visit the parent section of our web site at http://careers.usc.edu/parents for more information.