

The Career Development Center (CDC) is available to collaborate with academic affairs in diverse ways to help create a culture of career readiness for WCU students. In the following examples, you will see how faculty has partnered with us to integrate common career topics into the classroom and engage in their career development process.

Major & Career Exploration

Students are encouraged to connect with us, as early as their first year, to discuss their career plans and aspirations.

Collaboration Opportunities:

- Writing assignment based on identifying and researching career or major options
- Take FOCUS (Career Interest Inventory) and presentment results
- Short CDC overview or full presentations in your classroom or in the Career Center

Resumes and Job Searching

Resume formatting and the job search are industry-specific, and students should be familiar with the best ways to find employment in their field of interest.

Collaboration Opportunities:

- Make creating or updating a resume an assignment and provide feedback for students, which can be done through our office
- Encourage students to attend campus networking events and job fairs, if possible, incentivize attendance

Interviewing

Interviewing can be intimidating, help your students become more confident with the process and their answers to commonly asked questions.

Collaboration Opportunities:

- Students in internship preparation or capstone classes receive interview presentations and complete mock interviews with classmates
- Assign students to schedule in-person mock interview with Career Center or complete a virtual assignment through [Big Interview](#)

Professionalism

Developing the habits and behaviors of professionalism starts in the classroom. Students must be ready to embody their professional brand as they transition to their career.

Collaboration Opportunities:

- Including professionalism statement in syllabus that speaks to the importance of professional traits such as promptness, positive attitude, accountability, and being respectful of instructors and peers
- Capstone course project of creating portfolio or LinkedIn profile

CAREER READINESS IN THE CLASSROOM: MAKING THE CONNECTION

As students engage in their academic curriculum, they are inherently building a strong set of skills; however, they are not always able to evaluate their academic experience and identify these skills.

In a 2022 survey from the National Associations of Colleges and Employers (NACE), more than half of employers responding indicated they were seeking these attributes:

- Problem-solving skills - 85.5%
- Analytical/quantitative skills - 78.6%
- Ability to work in a team - 76.3%
- Communication skills (written) - 73.3%
- Initiative - 72.5%
- Strong work ethic - 71.0%
- Technical skills - 64.9%
- Flexibility/adaptability - 63.4%
- Detail-oriented - 62.6%
- Leadership - 60.3%
- Communication skills (verbal) - 58.8%
- Interpersonal skills (relates well to others) - 56.5%
- Computer skills - 52.7%

DID YOU KNOW?

Each academic college has a designated liaison in the office. Contact the appropriate liaison by visiting the [faculty section](#) of our website.

In addition to this survey, NACE has a defined set of Career Readiness Competencies*:

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|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Career & Self-Development | 5. Leadership |
| 2. Communication | 6. Professionalism |
| 3. Critical Thinking | 7. Teamwork |
| 4. Equity & Inclusion | 8. Technology |

*Head to <https://tinyurl.com/NACECC8> for more detail on each competency.

We know these skill areas are being built in the classroom, but we see a gap in our students' ability to reflect and translate those skills to their professional and personal journey. Faculty can help build that competency bridge.

Our goal in providing this quick context of Career Readiness is to allow faculty to identify attributes students are already gaining through their curriculum. By intentionally highlighting these broader skillsets, students can begin to better articulate what they are developing through their academic pursuits.

Want one simple integration tool? Add career competency language to your syllabus. Here is an example:

This course will provide you knowledge and skills related to these NACE Competencies: [insert relevant competency/competencies]. These skills will help prepare you in securing internship, employment, or continued education opportunities. Your academic courses not only provide you with discipline specific knowledge, but also opportunities for you to practice these competencies which are transferable to all career paths and industries.

You can learn more about these competencies and how to include them in your resume at WCU Career Services: wcupa.edu/cdc