

As a parent of a Nebraska Wesleyan student, you play a significant role in your student's career decision making process. One of the most valuable things parents can do to help a student with career planning is listen: be open to ideas, try to help your student find information, and be non

5. Emphasize the importance of internships.

Career Centers of today do not “place” your child in a job at graduation. Colleges grant degrees, not job guarantees, so having relevant experience in this competitive job market is critical. Your son or daughter can sample career options by completing internships and experimenting with summer employment opportunities or volunteer work.

Why an internship?

- Employers are interested in communication, problem-solving, and administrative skills developed from internships
- Employers look for experience on a résumé, and often hire from within their own internship programs
- A strong recommendation from an internship supervisor can often tip the scale of an important interview in your student’s favor

6. Encourage extracurricular involvement.

Encourage and empower your student to take advantage of the entire college experience. Not only should they be going to classes, but also participating in other experiences that are available to them. Employers and graduate programs seek candidates with relevant, real-world experiences. While grades are of course important, a record of involvement both on- and off-campus will help a student be competitive in a future job market. Students should consider looking for these experiences and opportunities:

- Clubs and organizations related to their interests and skills
- Leadership roles
- Opportunities to practice teamwork and communication
- ~~Study abroad programs~~ Broad and similar experiences
- Job shadowing
- Research experience

7. Persuade your student to stay up-to-date with current events.

Employers will expect students to know what is happening around them. Your student can stay informed through reading the New York Times or the Wall Street Journal, which are free to access through NWU’s library. When your student is home on break, discuss major world and business issues.

8. Expose your student to the world of work.

Most students have a stereotypical view of the workplace. Take your child to your workplace. Explain what you do for a living. Help your student identify potential employers.

9. Teach the value of networking.

Introduce your student to people who have careers that are of interest. Suggest your child contact people in your personal and professional networks for information on summer jobs. Encourage your child to shadow someone in the workplace to increase awareness of interesting career fields.

10. Help the Careerless