

# Engaging in Career Connected Learning

A Comprehensive Guide for Faculty

Career Connected Learning bridges the gap between academic knowledge and workplace application, preparing students for successful professional transitions. This guide offers practical strategies for faculty to integrate career-focused approaches into their

teaching practices, enhancing student employability and ensuring curriculum relevance.

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## Five Key Strategies for Faculty

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### 1 Highlight Career Connected Learning in Course Syllabi

Many existing activities and assignments already contain learning outcomes that relate to workplace skills and competencies. Faculty can develop a systematic approach to highlight these connections in their syllabi.

**Implementation Ideas:**

- ✓ Create a "Workplace Relevance" section for each major assignment
- ✓ Map general education outcomes to industry-specific competencies
- ✓ Use visual cues (icons, colors) to identify career-relevant components
- ✓ Include a matrix showing how course content aligns with industry needs

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## **Build Experiential and Project-Based Activities into Curriculum**

Provide students with opportunities to learn in hands-on environments that simulate workplace scenarios and challenges.

## Implementation Ideas:

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- ✓ Design case studies based on real industry challenges
- ✓ Incorporate role-playing exercises that mirror workplace situations
- ✓ Develop team projects that require collaboration skills valued by employers
- ✓ Create simulation activities that replicate workplace procedures
- ✓ Implement problem-based learning with authentic constraints

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## Award Credit for Career-Connected Activities

Allow students to earn course credit through participation in activities that directly connect them with professional environments and experiences.

### Implementation Ideas:

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- ✓ Integrate service learning projects with community partners
- ✓ Facilitate job shadowing opportunities with credit components
- ✓ Develop structured internship programs with academic reflection components
- ✓ Create independent study options focused on industry-specific research

- ✓ Establish practicum experiences with measurable learning outcomes

## 4 Partner with Career Services

Leverage institutional resources through the Career Services office to bring professional development directly into the classroom.

### Implementation Ideas:

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- ✓ Schedule resume and cover letter workshops within class time
- ✓ Incorporate workforce portfolio development into course assignments

- ✓ Host job search strategy sessions tailored to your discipline
- ✓ Arrange mock interview sessions with Career Services staff
- ✓ Co-develop career exploration activities specific to your field

## **5 Bring Employers into the Classroom**

Create opportunities for students to interact directly with potential employers and industry professionals.


**Implementation Ideas:**

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- ✓ Organize guest speaker series featuring local employers
- ✓ Facilitate panel discussions on industry trends and employment outlook
- ✓ Arrange for employers to provide feedback on student projects
- ✓ Develop industry-sponsored design challenges or competitions
- ✓ Host networking events focused on your academic discipline

## Conclusion





Implementing these strategies will enhance the relevance of academic content while providing students with valuable professional experiences. By integrating Career Connected Learning into your teaching approach, you help students develop both the knowledge and skills needed for workplace success.