

## The 4-Year Parental Guide to the *Gateway* Program

### During the First-Year

- Encourage your student to:
  - investigate career possibilities by taking career assessments available through Career Services
  - pursue academic strengths and interests
  - participate in some of the many campus activities opportunities offered at Lafayette
- Remind your student to meet with a *Gateway* Counselor in Career Services.
- Remind your student to attend a First-Year Group Meeting in October, so he/she develops an understanding of what the *Gateway* Program has to offer.
- Encourage attendance at Career Services sponsored workshops, programs, and networking events; while promoting exploration of all career interests and reinforcing that there are many options.

### During the Sophomore Year

- Positively assist your student in researching their career interests by:
  - suggesting a visit to Career Services, the career library, as well as performing internet research for career information
  - recommending he/she speak to faculty in his/her field of interest
  - connecting your student with friends, family, and colleagues who can provide them with information on careers of interest
- Remind your student to meet with his/her *Gateway* Counselor to begin developing a career plan and to update his/her resume; also insist on continued attendance at workshops, programs, and networking events.
- Discuss with your student the importance and benefits of completing experiential learning opportunities (externships, internships, and community service). Advise your student that these experiences will help him/her learn about potential careers, gain experience, build a network, and make them more competitive in the job or graduate school search. Talk about the various opportunities as well as concerns, including costs associated with the internship.
- Have your student work with a *Gateway* Counselor to obtain an *AlumNet* list from the online Lafayette Alumni Database; advise him/her of the integral need for networking and building relationships early.
- Encourage your sophomore student to begin researching industries or employers that might be of interest and/or graduate/professional programs for continued education.
- Remind your student to upload his/her resume to the *Job Vault*.

### **During the Junior Year**

- Remind your student to meet with his/her *Gateway* Counselor and continue attending workshops, programs, and networking events.
- Encourage your student to start narrowing down possible career or graduate program choices, and begin making decisions for the future.
- If your student has decided to attend graduate/professional school, encourage proactive preparatory techniques like enrolling in prep courses, buying test-prep books, and taking practice tests.
- Reiterate to your student the importance and value of expanding related experiences. Suggest finding opportunities for growth and experience through employment, experiential learning, volunteer opportunities, and student activities during the academic school year, interim, and summer.
- Encourage your junior to research possible graduate/professional schools during the year so that he/she can apply in advance of application deadlines.

### **During the Senior Year**

- This is the final year; remind your student to meet with his/her *Gateway* Counselor and update his/her resume, as well as, encourage any final opportunities to network.
- Have your student practice interviewing skills with you, family, friends, and anyone else who may be beneficial and unbiased. Career Services also provides mock interviews for students. Another option is to have your student contact past employers to provide feedback on how they interviewed with them.
- Propose to your graduating student to create a calendar with deadlines of job, graduate/professional school, and/or scholarship applications (and any other important information that may be of assistance in making life easier and less hectic).
- Tell your student that you are proud of them in whatever they choose to do and continue to help them in reaching their goal, whatever it may be.
- Remind your senior to update his/her *Gateway* counselor regarding final plans for after graduation.