Why Are We Doing This?
Enhancing Curriculum with a Career Readiness Toolkit

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What do you think?

• How would you rate your students’ ability to talk about the skills they developed through their coursework?
• How do you think students in your classes would answer this question?
Why does career readiness matter?

• If students see the connection between their career and what is taught in the classroom, they will be more engaged

• Students expect to have positive career outcomes as a result of going to college

• Mason has a focus on career readiness: Mason’s 2014-2024 Strategic Plan = 100,000 Career-Ready Graduates
Career Readiness

EARN DEGREE + GAIN EXPERIENCES + MARKET YOURSELF = CAREER READY
Career Readiness – In your classroom

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Career Competencies employers seek

- Problem Solving/Critical Thinking
- Oral/Written Communication
- Teamwork/Collaboration
- Digital Technology
- Leadership
- Professionalism/Work Ethic
- Career Management
- Global/Intercultural Fluency
Connecting learning with career competencies

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Once you’re in a course, you can structure your learning to develop more marketable skills or work toward a personal career goal. For instance, I am taking a course about genocide and decided to write a paper about the role of the radio in Rwanda by analyzing radio transcripts.

My professor indicated that this research would give me experience with analyzing primary documents.

(EB, Student, Political Studies)
Career Readiness Toolkit

Connecting class to competencies
Map existing assignments to competencies

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<tr>
<th>Course Assignments</th>
<th>Career Readiness Competencies</th>
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<td>Example 1: Class Participation</td>
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<td>Example 2: Online discussion</td>
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<td>Example 4: Group project with presentation</td>
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<td>Example 5: Extra credit – student-selected event with prior instructor approval</td>
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<td>Example 6: Extra credit – LinkedIn profile</td>
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Enhancing students’ career readiness (1)

- Provide feedback on presentation skills in addition to the content (Oral Communication)

- Require peer review of the level of teamwork demonstrated by their group members (Teamwork)

- Take points off for being late to class or leaving early (Work Ethic)
Enhancing students’ career readiness (2)

• Provide feedback to students about unprofessional emails (Professionalism/Written Communication)

• Assign end of semester reflection on how course supports career goals (Career Management)

• Provide extra credit assignments for engaging with University Career Services (Career Management)
Career Influencers Network

Join the university-wide network of 150+ faculty and staff committed to students’ career readiness!

Register for the next training in September: careers.gmu.edu/faculty/career-influencers-network

✓ Mason’s career-readiness definition/equation
✓ Low effort high impact strategies for enhancing the career development/ career readiness competencies of students
✓ Digital career resources you can leverage in your classes
✓ Where to refer students for more internship/career support
✓ Ongoing lunch and learn skill-building/networking sessions
QUESTIONS