



Why Are We Doing This?

Enhancing Curriculum with a Career Readiness Toolkit

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University Career Services

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 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



Career Readiness – In your classroom



EARN
DEGREE

+



GAIN
EXPERIENCES

+



MARKET
YOURSELF

=



CAREER
READY



Career Readiness – In your classroom



EARN
DEGREE

+



GAIN
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+



MARKET
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=



CAREER
READY



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

	Career Readiness Competencies							
								
Metacognition – thinking about thinking	✓			✓		✓	✓	

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

Course Assignments	Career Readiness Competencies							
								
Example 1: Class Participation	✓	✓		✓				
Example 2: Online discussion	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Example 3: Research paper	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Example 4: Group project with presentation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Example 5: Extra credit – student-selected event with prior instructor approval	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Example 6: Extra credit – LinkedIn profile	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

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



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