EDCP 108C: Career Clarification-Choosing a Major

Tuesdays 10:00-11:50 (section 0101) or 1:00-2:50 pm(section 0201)

Fall 2009
SUSQUEHANNA 3105

Instructor: Dr. Linda K. Gast
Office: Counseling Center, 4135 Susquehanna
Office Hours: by Appointment, Tues 3:00-4:00pm
Phone: 301/314-7668
E-mail: lgast@umd.edu

EDCP 108C is a 10-week, 1-credit course meeting once a week for 1 hour and 50 minutes. This course is designed to help students decide upon an academic major or confirm a choice they already have made. Individual interests, values, and skills are explored to assist in making the best decision. Course content will be delivered through a variety of learning modes including lecture, small group discussion, assessment instruments, and experiential activities that encourage self-reflection and interaction among class members. Students are expected to attend and participate fully in ALL classes and activities and complete ALL assignments in order to ensure that course objectives are met.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of having fully participated in this course, each student should
1. understand how individual interests, values, abilities, & performance relate to the process of choosing a major;
2. identify at least two majors that are congruent with individual interests, values, and abilities;
3. understand the importance of and have begun to develop a support system for major/career decisions;
4. understand various decision-making and learning styles and can articulate what constitutes effective decision-making for him/herself;
5. have declared a major and/or developed a “Next Steps Plan” toward choosing a major/career path.

MODULE I – SELF-AWARENESS: Identity, Career Development & the Global Workplace
Career Development & the Global Workplace
Identity, Personality & Career Development
Influence of Others, Culture & Environment on Choices

MODULE II – SELF-DEVELOPMENT: Preferences, Performance & Values
Relating Interests, Skills, Abilities to Major/Career Choice
Academic Performance & Major/Career Choice
The Role of Personal Values in Academics & Major/Career Choice
Preparing for Decision-Making: Integrating Past Experiences with Future Goals

MODULE III – MAKING CAREER DECISIONS: The Process of Choosing a Major
Career Decision-Making: UMCP Majors & Personal Career Goals
Making a Decision & Implementing Your Goal
Next Steps Plan, Moving On . . .
ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Students are responsible for upholding the University of Maryland Code of Academic Integrity (http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html) which includes cheating, falsification of information and citations, helping others to violate the Code, and plagiarism. Students may be asked to sign the “Honor Pledge” for assignments.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: Attendance and punctuality are required. Five (5) points will be deducted from the final grade for each tardiness and ten (10) points for each unexcused absence. Any requests for excused absences or deadline extensions must be negotiated with the instructor. Students must notify the instructor in advance for absences due to religious holidays. Students are expected to come to class fully prepared and actively participate in class activities and discussions. Students who are registered with Disability Support Services and wish to receive accommodations should provide the instructor with the Accommodations Form at the beginning of the course.

ASSIGNMENTS will be due in class at the beginning of that class. Assignments not handed at the beginning of class will be considered late and points will be deducted from the grade and for each additional day (including weekend days). The student is responsible for seeing that the instructor has received all assignments; the instructor is not responsible for assignments submitted outside of class (e.g., to the instructor’s office, mailbox, or emailed). All assignments and papers must be typed, doubled spaced and written with proper spelling and grammar. Poorly written assignments will receive lower grades regardless of the content.

Grades will be based on the following point system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation &amp; homework</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>A = 360-400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Reflection or Interview Paper</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>B = 320-359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researching Majors Assignment</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>C = 280-319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper (5-7 pages)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>D = 240-279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL POINTS</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>F = lower than 240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INCOMPLETES AND GRADE DISPUTES: In accordance with University policy and the Undergraduate Catalog, a grade of “I” (incomplete) is assigned only for work that has been of a passing quality throughout the academic term, but which for good reason and with approval of the instructor, cannot be completed within the time frame of the semester. Students who believe that special circumstances may warrant a grade of “I” MUST discuss this with the instructor BEFORE the last day the class meets. For grade disputes, students have ONE (1) WEEK after an assignment is returned to schedule an appointment with the instructor to discuss the grade.

CourseEvalUM is the University’s online evaluation of courses. It is important that you complete evaluations for each and every course you are taking. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations, beginning in May. You will be alerted, via your official University e-mail account, about the exact dates and provided more information closer to that time. Please complete these evaluations as they are very important in helping to improve the course for next semester’s students!
MODULE I – SELF AWARENESS: Identity, Career Development & the Global Workplace

9/8-Week 1: Introduction to Career Development & the Global Workplace
CLASS OBJECTIVES:
- To understand the purpose, requirements, and objectives of this class
- To learn about and explore the concepts of career development and global workforce and their inter-relatedness
- To explore the various factors that influence career choices and career development

9/15-NO CLASS

9/22-Week 2: Identity, Personality and Career Development
CLASS OBJECTIVES:
- To understand the broad concepts of identity and identity development over the lifespan
- To understand how others impact our identity development
- To consider aspects of one’s own identity that might influence choice of a major and career path
- To set some initial career goals for this class

9/29-Week 3: The Influence of Others, Culture & Environment on Choices
CLASS OBJECTIVES:
- To explore family history and careers, and their impact/importance to your identity
- To explore the influence of environment, life changes in career decision-making
- To consider what things outside of your individual control might influence your career decisions now and in the future

MODULE II – SELF-DEVELOPMENT: Preferences, Performance & Values

10/6-Week 4: Academic Performance and Major/Career Choice
CLASS OBJECTIVES:
- To learn about attitudes, motivations, and practices with regard to studying and school
- To identify and connect past and present academic successes and academic difficulties
- To identify several strategies and set “SMART” goals to become more effective in your academic studies

10/13-Week 5: Interests, Skills, Abilities and Major/Career Choice
CLASS OBJECTIVES:
- To explore occupational/career and academic major “daydreams” in relationship to what you know about yourself, your family, your environment
- To learn how interests, activities, skills/competencies are related to careers and majors that employ similar interests, activities, and skills
(Module II continued…)

10/20-Week 6: The Role of Personal Values in Academics & Major/Career Choice
CLASS OBJECTIVES:
- To identify, compare and contrast your reasons for attending college with your parents’ or significant others’ reasons
- To begin to formulate an academic plan by drafting your “ideal major”
- To learn about, prioritize, and apply personal values to your college objective(s)

CLASS OBJECTIVES:
- To synthesize personal information about majors and career areas that are reflective of individual values, interests, skills, and academic abilities
- To learn about your personal decision-making style and apply it to career your current situation
- To identify personal barriers to current career/major decision-making

MODULE III – MAKING CAREER DECISIONS: The Process of Choosing a Major

11/3-Week 8: Career Decision-Making: UMCP Majors & Personal Career Goals
CLASS OBJECTIVES:
- To identify where you are in the process of choosing a major and career, including any barriers you are experiencing
- To learn how to evaluate different majors according to your interests, strengths, values, and goals
- To re-draft “SMART” career goals that are reflective of your values, interests, abilities, and academic performance
- To get feedback from class members to refine/prioritize career goals

11/10-Week 9: Making a Decision & Implementing Your Goals
CLASS OBJECTIVES:
- To synthesize class experiences/information
- To understand the concept of “readiness” in decision making
- To identify ways to get support from important others during your decision-making
- To draft Next Steps in your career development and decision making

CLASS OBJECTIVES:
- To receive feedback regarding career plans and Next Steps
- To learn about resources to assist with your Next Steps
- To complete course evaluations and provide feedback to instructor