Resource Guide

Career-Connected Learning

Students enter degree programs with an idea of their future career aspirations, yet they often lack the knowledge of how to successfully navigate a transition to the workforce and how to advertise their skills to perspective employers (Gray, 2021). This disconnect has important implications for the types of learning environments we design for students and the learning experiences they encounter in our classrooms. To assist students in connecting their learning in your course or field to a prospective career, consider the following strategies

- x Immerse professional experiences with course content: Connecting your research and past life experiences to course topics can assist students in developing an identity as a professional. Inviting guest speakers or using case studies that simulate hypothetical situations in a field enable students to form real-world connections with course content. These lived experiences give meaning to key concepts and help students identify next steps in their professional development (Leven and Mudd, 2018).

- x Incorporate authentic and performance-based learning activities to give students practice with foundation skills: By design, authentic and performance-based learning activities enable students to act on prior and new learned knowledge in applied, meaningful, and personally relevant ways. Project-based learning exercises, simulations, labs, mock patient meetings, and/or case studies give students practice developing these skills and the opportunity to make mistakes in a low-stakes environment. Providing multiple activities for students to practice these skills will deepen their learning and enable them to better identify, strengthen, and advertise their strengths to prospective employers.

- x Help students develop a disciplinary workforce literacy: Spencer (2021) defines

Resources

Gray, K. (2021). "