

Program

The Career Planning and Placement Office is open to all California State University, Chico students and alumni. We offer services that help you make career decisions and the transition from college student to professional in the real world. Our purpose is to help you succeed in the highly competitive labor market. We have an excellent record of service!

We are proud to have a dedicated and highly skilled professional and support staff, each of whom has extensive training in specific fields.

James N. Starmer is director of the office and the placement counselor to majors in the College of Communication and Education. Office Manager Linda Wimmer and staff members Crystal Williams and Lora Ferguson assist with office management.

Jodie Rettinhouse is the placement officer responsible for advising graduates with a liberal arts education and interdisciplinary programs, behavioral and social sciences, humanities, fine arts, nursing, natural sciences, and agriculture.

Pamella Healy is the career planning counselor who assists students with choosing or changing majors, and applying to graduate school. She provides administration and interpretation of various career assessments.

Megan Odom is the placement officer responsible for coordinating on-campus recruiting and for advising students in the colleges of Business and Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management.

Services

Career Planning

We provide several resources to assist students in selecting majors, careers, and graduate schools. The career counselor administers and interprets career assessments, offers workshops to facilitate career planning, instructs students in the use of computerized career guidance programs, and presents information on career planning to classes, clubs, and campus groups. We have numerous resource materials and handouts in the Career Exploration Center to assist students in identifying appropriate career goals.

Career and Employment Counseling

The professional staff offers individual and group counseling to assist all students and alumni in developing career goals, identifying methods to obtain those goals, and implementing an effective career search. We encourage you to utilize our office early in your college career so we can help you make decisions that will assist you in making the most of your college experience. You may see a counselor either at a scheduled workshop or on an individual basis.

Reference Material

We have a computer lab and a career library available that will facilitate your career and job search. You can access career planning assistance and occupational information, develop resumes and cover letters, and access jobs and the on-campus recruiting information at <http://www.csuchico.edu/plc>.

Workshops

Job offers do not spring mysteriously from uncultivated soil. We offer several workshops that nourish your career planning and job search activities. Each semester we offer workshops on career assessments and presentations on career exploration, orientation to the on-campus recruiting program, getting a government job, writing a resume, interviewing techniques, sales, and making the most of career fairs. Information about these workshops is available on our Web page at www.csuchico.edu/plc and in our office.

On-Campus Recruiting

Approximately 200 employers send recruiters to California State University, Chico's Career Planning and Placement Office each fall and spring. We encourage all interested graduating students to participate in this interviewing process because of the easy access and exposure to a variety of employers it provides. To participate, you must complete a short data form and attend an orientation workshop.

Typical entry-level jobs are in management, sales, computer science, accounting, and bank management. Remember, your first job is not your last. Once you get into a company or industry, your chances for growth are endless.

We do not advise, however, that you limit yourself to on-campus recruiting. It is smart to make as many connections as possible. Advisors are available to discuss other options for all majors.

Career Fairs

We sponsor or co-sponsor three career fairs each year to assist students seeking careers. The CSU, Chico Career Fair is open to all majors and the business and technical industries are featured at this fair. Another career fair we sponsor is the All Majors or Late Spring Career Fair. It is open to all academic majors and features employers from government, private nonprofits, hospitals, and businesses. Lastly the Education Career Fair, which generally features up to 100 school districts, is open to potential teachers and teacher alumni.

Job Notification

Throughout the year we receive notification of thousands of employment possibilities. We post them in our office and often e-mail them directly to you via our Wildcat Recruiting network. When you register with our office the semester you will graduate, you become eligible for these services.

Education Placement Services

Services for educators include assistance in preparing a professional "self-managed" file that will help you throughout your teaching career. We also offer counseling and guidance with respect to professional letters of inquiry, resume review, interview techniques, workshops, ethics, supply and demand trends, and application procedures. On our Web site (www.csuchico.edu/plc) we list many excellent educational job search sites. Select the "Placement" button, then "Job Links," then "Teaching and Education." We provide a free computer lab in our office, a scanner to upload documents, and a laser printer for your use at any time during your job search. The lab is available any time our office is open.

Student Affairs

Vice President: Jim Moon

Career Planning and Placement Office

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