

OPCD Podcast: Episode 14 - “The OPCD - Helping You Get Hired ” (1/15/2015)

Interview with Mr. Chris Baker, *Interim Director of the Office of Professional and Career Development, Harbert College of Business*

Voiceover: Hey everybody! This is Anna, welcome back to Spring '15 here on the Harbert College OPCD Podcast. There's a lot of cool stuff coming your way this semester and we're looking forward to hanging out with you and helping make great things happen when it comes to your professional and career development. And for those of you who are new to tuning in, let's talk specifics on exactly what we mean by that. You never can tell, we just might be the game changer that you've been looking for!

So kicking things off with the basics, what exactly is the OPCD? What are we all about? As the interim director, Mr. Chris Baker can tell us everything we need to know in one simple sentence.

C. Baker: The OPCD is here for one purpose and one purpose only. That's to help our students improve their professionalism and get a job, start a career and build a life after Auburn.

Voiceover: So in short, we're here to help you get hired - here's how:

C. Baker: The services are actually well designed to support you over your time here at Auburn. When you're a freshman a lot of people come in, don't know exactly what they want to go do, what they want to major in. Our job is to help build your awareness in what you might be interested in, share those experiences with you, let you talk to some alumni that are in those career fields so that you can build your own path of interest. That'll help you pick a better major and if you're in a major that you're really interested in you to be more dedicated to it. You're going to be more involved with student organizations, professional organizations, going on trips to go visit employers and really learn more about what they do.

Then a lot of it is around the skills around getting that job. Researching the companies, building your resume, learning how to tune up your cover letter for every job position you apply for, meeting the employers. So they don't see you just the very last time your senior year, they've seen you as a junior at a career fair and you've built that relationship. That's the stuff that will help you get the job that you really want and that you really deserve.

Voiceover: And to focus in on the last thing mentioned here, it's vital that you start this process now. But hey, if you're not exactly sure what you need help with or even where to begin, don't let that stop you from coming in to see us.

C. Baker: There are a couple of ways to engage with the OPCD and the best way is “you know, I have no clue, I want some help, I need some help and I'm not afraid to ask for it, so what can you do to help me?” That is actually the best question because that means:

one, you're early in the process, two, you're open to input and three, we've got somebody that we can work with and we've got time to work with them.

Our success is your success, but frankly the best time to show up is when you don't have a clue and you're seeking for answers and you're seeking direction. That's the best time.

Voiceover: If that's the point you're at, then you know the drill. Check out the website at harbert.auburn.edu/opcd or even better - stop in to see us in Lowder 101. Our main goal is to see you succeed and do whatever we can to get you there.

C. Baker: What I would love to see in our students is that a couple of years after graduation they don't have regret that they didn't use our services. That in fact they used our services early in their careers at Auburn so when they graduate they have the job, the location, the company and the career that they want. We're here for four years to get them ready for that job and you gotta start early. I've seen too many times where alums will come back and say "boy, I wish I had done this, I wish I had done that." Our job is to make sure you don't have those regrets after you graduate.

Voiceover: Simple as that and don't forget to check us out on youtube to see what other students have to say about their OPCD experience. A big thanks to Mr. Chris Baker who took the time to talk with us today and we'll be back here next week, same time same place - see ya soon!