

Interviewing a Junior or Senior in Your Major

The goal of this assignment is to help freshmen and sophomores at the introductory level of their major begin to think beyond the semester about their time in the major, to see it as a continuum and plan their experiences accordingly. Talking to juniors and seniors about their projects, research, clubs, internships, relationships to faculty and their plans after graduation will facilitate an early planning process for students.

The reverse is also true. Creating these connections for upper division students gets them thinking about their plans after college and helps reflect upon their experiences here. Creating a linked assignment for 300/400 level classes would help create expectation and a culture that encourages planning for the future.

Assignment: Interview a junior or senior in your major. It is not required but ideally they will have done at least one of the following: had an internship, participated in research, been a part of activities or clubs on campus, travelled to a conference, worked in their field, or they have been recommended to you by a faculty.

Use the questions below as a standard for the kind of information you will look for in the interview. Following the interview you will need to write a 2 page response incorporating their responses to the questions asked and addressing these prompts: What was valuable to you? Anything you plan to incorporate in your own plan to complete you degree? Any concerns arise?

You need to turn in your notes from the interview process with your response paper.

Questions:

- What led you to choose our major?
- Did you consider any other majors, and if yes, which ones?
- What have been the best parts of your experience here on campus in general? In this major, specifically?
- What kinds of things have been the most challenging?
- Have you had any internships, research experiences? What were those like?
- What kinds of projects have you done in classes that you were proud of?
- What kinds of things have you gotten involved in on campus?
- Have you done anything else to prepare you for life after graduation?
- Anything I should plan for in particular?
- What kinds of connections did you make with faculty? Any recommendations on how to get started with building those connections?
- What are your plans after graduation?
- How can I be most successful in this major?
- What advice would you give to someone just starting in this major?