

## **23.**

### **Integrating a Career Component into the Curriculum**

**Jean Pretz (Psychology), Michele Kozimor-King (Sociology & Anthropology), Elizabeth Newell (Sociology & Anthropology), Jane Nini (Career Services)**

Our students are increasingly career-focused. Yet some report feeling uncertain about their career options in liberal arts majors, and students often report feeling unprepared for the job market upon graduation. Furthermore, certain national scholarly organizations have begun to emphasize the importance of career preparation for undergraduate majors in the field. The departments of Psychology and Sociology & Anthropology have collaborated with Career Services to integrate career components into their academic advising models and major curricula to address these needs. This presentation will describe the two models currently used by these departments, including details such as course content, staffing, integration into the major curriculum, integration with academic advising, contributions of Career Services, and student outcomes. The Department of Sociology & Anthropology requires the participation of all majors in two professional seminars. In the introductory seminar, students are introduced to the expectations and opportunities in the department, receive cohort curricular advising, and learn about career options in the field. The senior seminar is intended to provide majors with professional skills and dispositions that will assist them in achieving their post-graduate plans. The Psychology department requires all majors to enroll in a 1-credit Career Seminar course in the spring of the sophomore year. During this course, students reflect on their own strengths and interests, learn about the diverse subfields of Psychology, and discern potential career paths. Activities include conducting informational interviews with professionals in the field, developing resumes, learning about networking and LinkedIn, and conducting Zoom interviews with departmental alumni about their experiences. Students also get an overview of the application process for jobs and graduate programs, and the final exam is a mock interview with Career Services. As part of the presentation, Dr. Kozimor-King will introduce an ongoing community-based research project being conducted by students enrolled in the year-long research course sequence in the Sociology & Anthropology Department. The project will enter the data collection phase this spring, in collaboration with Career Services, to identify the career planning and exploration needs across the Elizabethtown College campus.

**Learning Outcome(s):** Participants will learn about career preparation materials and presentations available through Career Services and how select content has been successfully integrated into these specific models. Participants will consider how to apply these models to their own advising and major curriculum. They will also have the opportunity to contribute to the dialogue about current needs and perceptions of career planning and exploration across departments.