

UCSD graduates participate in the Career Services Center's Job Search Club

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UCSD GRADUATES PARTICIPATE IN JOB SEARCH CLUB

Students who wait until the last minute to consider their future after graduation, are often faced with what seems to be an overwhelming task -- finding a job.

But commencement is not the end of the road for approximately 30 University of California, San Diego graduates and graduating seniors. These students are planning for the future by participating in the UCSD Career Services Center's Job Search Club June 27 through July 15.

The new job seekers will participate in an active workshop based on personal networking within a group structure. To alleviate the frustration and loneliness of the job search process, students meet with other graduates and work with experienced career counselors to learn assertive job search strategies.

Time is spent actually looking for work, rather than just talking about it. Students learn to identify and articulate their marketable skills to employers and report to the group about their progress in networking.

"This has proven to be a very effective technique for job-hunting," said Barbara Wesser, career counselor and program coordinator.

The graduating seniors and graduates form a support group that assists them in developing their job search skills and in learning assertive techniques while they hunt for a job during the three-week period.

"The students learn interviewing techniques, negotiating skills and more clever tricks, such as how to get past the receptionist to talk with the person in charge," Wesser said. "We also have a panel of human resources specialists available to provide typical interviewing questions and share important skills and qualifications that employers are looking for."

The workshop also provides an emotional support network for students who are job hunting. "We begin with effective telephone skills and take them through salary negotiations and job offer evaluations," Wesser said.

"One of the students' favorite assignments is to develop a 60-second commercial that is videotaped during a session and criticized by fellow job hunters. Students then try out their techniques and come back with proven strategies and contacts that they share with others looking for similar jobs," said Wesser.

This is the sixth year the Job Search Club has been offered by the Career Services Center. The club is limited to 30 participants.

The Career Services Center is available to all UCSD students and alumni to assist them in pursuing and fulfilling their career goals. Another workshop, "Finding the Hidden Job Market," teaches a systematic step-by-step strategy for developing a network of people who can lead to referrals to an identified list of potential employers. The MENTOR Program takes this concept even further by giving students well-connected contacts who have agreed to help job-seeking students.

MENTOR may be used during students' last quarter at UCSD before graduating. During a month's time, the student spends approximately eight hours with a professional in the field in which he or she would like to work, getting inside job search advice and being introduced to others.

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