

West Side Informer

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So You Want To Be A ...

Are you a freshman trying to figure out what classes to take and to what careers your major might lead? Are you looking to get job experience before graduation? Are you a senior starting to look into your job options?

Then you might check out the Career Center, (<http://careercenter.tamu.edu>) where you can find help writing your resume, practicing interviewing for jobs, and figuring out what sort of career is best for you.

The Career Center breaks down information by major, so if you're a student at the Mays Business School, you can talk to a Business Career Coordinator, and find information specifically for your major. You can find comprehensive information regarding careers in each major, including typical career paths, average salaries, and the skills you'll need to succeed. The Career Center also provides a list of student organizations at A&M related to your major that you might wish to join to gain leadership experience and to show prospective employers that you're involved with your campus community.

Another resource, available through Plunkett, is the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) which can tell you the training and education you'll need for prospective jobs, salary and expected job prospects in the current job market, working conditions, and job responsibilities.

HR and the Changing Workforce

With all the downsizing that has been taking place during the recession, there is hope that the new focus on the job market in the coming years will bring the workforce up to pre-recession levels by 2012. But according to Accenture's 2010 High Performance Workforce Study, while more than half of downsized U.S. businesses plan to rebuild their workforces, only fifteen percent believe their workforce has the skills necessary to lead in the industry. The survey also shows that similar numbers believe that their HR (human resources) and training capabilities are currently not adequate enough to get their workforce up to industry-leading levels. Good leadership and training are ways for companies to get their employees back on track, and this study is a "call-to-action to the training and development function to step up and address this challenge." (Pace, 2010)

Pace, A. (2010). As future brightens for job seekers, disturbing trends emerge for trainers. *T+D*, 64(9), 18-19. Retrieved from OmniFile Full Text Mega database



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