SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO



COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES

CODE NO.: OAD103 MODULES: THREE

& FOUR

PROGRAM: OFFICE ADMINISTRATION – EXECUTIVE

(ACCELERATED)

AUTHOR: SHEREE WRIGHT

DATE: DEC. 2009 **PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED:** JAN.

2009

APPROVED: "Penny Perrier" Dec./09

CHAIR DATE

TOTAL CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITE(S): NONE

HOURS/WEEK: 3 HOURS/14 WEEKS

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For additional information, please contact Penny Perrier, Chair School of Continuing Education, Business, and Hospitality (705) 759-2554. Ext. 2754

EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES	2	OAD103
Course Name		Code No.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will develop the tools needed to conduct a successful job search. Emphasis will be placed on performing a self-assessment to identify skill sets and personal goals and objectives; developing an effective functional resume; completing various job search documents (including job applications, cover letters, and other related forms of correspondence); and researching and preparing for an interview (including participation in a simulated interview).

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Analyze individual strengths, values and goals.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Identify the steps involved in finding the right job.
- Complete a self-evaluation of job skills and interests.
- 2. Apply techniques to conduct an effective job search, including preparation of a cover letter and follow-up letters.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Establish a network of people to help you find a job.
- Explain the importance of career fairs and other contact with employers.
- Use the Internet to conduct a job search.
- Create letters for gaining employment cover, application, networking, prospecting, thank-you, and acceptance.
- Prepare envelopes.
- Complete a job application.
- Design personal business/calling card.
- 3. Produce an effective resume.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Create a functional resume.
- List and categorize/label skills.
- Analyze job ads (postings).
- Match your resume to an employer's needs.
- Create a list of references.

EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES	3	OAD103
 Course Name	-	Code No.

4. Apply strategies for interview and employment success.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Identify types of interviews.
- Prepare responses to interview questions often asked by employers.
- Participate in a team interview with classmates.
- Prepare a list of questions interviewees can ask employers during an interview.
- Describe types of tests employers use.
- Describe fully traits employers seek in employees.
- 5. Prepare for, and participate in, a simulated interview.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Prepare and submit a cover letter/envelope and resume in response to a simulated job posting by the deadline indicated in the job posting.
- Conduct research related to job posting prior to the interview.
- Prepare questions to be asked during the interview.
- Attend a simulated job interview/debriefing session during out-of-class hours.
- Prepare a report summarizing the simulated interview process.
- Prepare and mail a thank-you letter/envelope following participation in the simulated interview.

III. TOPICS:

(Note: These topics sometimes overlap several areas of skills development and are not necessarily intended to be explored in isolated learning units or in this order.)

- Taking the first steps in job search.
 - What is involved in finding the right job.
 - What are you really looking for in a job.
 - Listing your skills and abilities.
- Parts of a resume.
 - Types of resumes.
 - Samples of resumes.
 - Creating/adapting a resume.
- 3. Conducting company research.
 - Using the Internet to find jobs.
 - Networking.
 - Telemarketing.

EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES	4	OAD103
Course Name		Code No.

- Career fairs and other employer contact.
- Creating cover letters.
 - Preparing other employment letters.
 - Completing job applications.
- Types of interviews.
 - Basic structure of the interview.
 - Preparing yourself.
 - Knowing what to expect.
 - Identifying what employers are looking for.
 - Using portfolios.
 - Testing part of the selection process.
 - Preparing pertinent interview questions to ask interviewers following the interview.
 - Participating in, and preparing for, the simulated interview process.

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- Dealing with job offers.
 - How to keep the job.

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATIERALS:

No textbook required.

One labeled letterhead size file folder.

V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

A variety of assignments/activities will be assigned to include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Skills Listing & Summary of Qualifications (what you can offer employers) (5%)

(2) Functional Resume with References (35%)

(3) Miscellaneous Assignments to consist of: (35%)

- Letter of Application (Cover Letter)
- Thank-you Letter
- Job Application Form
- Research Assignment using the Internet
- Responses to Prepared Interview Questions
- Participation in Team Interviews with Classmates
- Preparing Interviewing Questions to Ask an Interview Team at the End of an Interview

EMPLOYMENT	5	OAD103
STRATEGIES		
Course Name		Code No.

Networking Assignment (attendance at a job fair if available)*

(4) Attendance and Participation

(students are allowed two missed class hours – a 1% deduction will be applied for every missed class hour after the allowed two absences) (10%)

(5) Participation in Simulated Interview**

(15%)

*Students must have completed all assignments in order to be eligible to participate in the mock/simulated interviews. Students must attend 75 percent of all classes in order to be eligible to participate in the mock/simulated interviews. Failure to attend 75 percent of all classes will result in a grade of 0/15 for this component.

Elements of the simulated interview include:

- Preparing a cover letter, envelope, and resume in response to simulated job posting.
- Conducting research on the company posting the job.
- Attending a simulated out-of-class interview and debriefing session.
- Preparing a report summarizing the experience.
- Preparing and mailing a thank-you letter/envelope to members of the mock interview team.

The following semester grades will be assigned to students in postsecondary courses:

		Grade Point
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	Equivalent
A+	90–100%	4.00
Α	80–89%	4.00
В	70–79%	3.00
С	60–69%	2.00
D	50–59%	1.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject areas.	

^{*}One day during the semester all students will be required to attend class dressed in appropriate workplace attire.

^{**}As well, in order to receive a grade of 15 percent, students must complete **all** components/elements of this simulated (mock) Interview process.

EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES	6	OAD103
Course Name		Code No.
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/ clinical placement or non-graded subject areas.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

Course Outline Amendments:

The professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Retention of Course Outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Prior Learning Assessment:

Students who wish to apply for advance credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain an Application for Advance Credit from the program coordinator (or the course coordinator regarding a general education transfer request) or academic assistant. Students will be required to provide an unofficial transcript and course outline related to the course in question. Please refer to the Student Academic Calendar of Events for the deadline date by which application must be made for advance standing.

Credit for prior learning will also be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES	7	OAD103
Course Name		Code No.

Disability Services:

If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your professor and/or the Disability Services office. Visit Room E1101 or call Extension 2703 so that support services can be arranged for you.

Communication:

The College considers **WebCT/LMS** as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of the **Learning Management System** communication tool.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of "academic dishonesty" in *Student Code of Conduct*. A professor/instructor may assign a sanction as defined below, or make recommendations to the Academic Chair for disposition of the matter. The professor/instructor may (i) issue a verbal reprimand, (ii) make an assignment of a lower grade with explanation, (iii) require additional academic assignments and issue a lower grade upon completion to the maximum grade "C", (iv) make an automatic assignment of a failing grade, (v) recommend to the Chair dismissal from the course with the assignment of a failing grade. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Student Portal:

The Sault College portal allows you to view all your student information in one place. **mysaultcollege** gives you personalized access to online resources seven days a week from your home or school computer. Single log-in access allows you to see your personal and financial information, timetable, grades, records of achievement, unofficial transcript, and outstanding obligations, in addition to announcements, news, academic calendar of events, class cancellations, your learning management system (LMS), and much more. Go to https://my.saultcollege.ca.

EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES	8	OAD103
 Course Name	-	Code No.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom:

Students who wish to use electronic devices in the classroom will seek permission of the faculty member before proceeding to record instruction. With the exception of issues related to accommodations of disability, the decision to approve or refuse the request is the responsibility of the faculty member. Recorded classroom instruction will be used only for personal use and will not be used for any other purpose. Recorded classroom instruction will be destroyed at the end of the course. To ensure this, the student is required to return all copies of recorded material to the faculty member by the last day of class in the semester. Where the use of an electronic device has been approved, the student agrees that materials recorded are for his/her use only, are not for distribution, and are the sole property of the College.

Attendance:

Sault College is committed to student success. There is a direct correlation between academic performance and class attendance; therefore, for the benefit of all its constituents, all students are encouraged to attend all of their scheduled learning and evaluation sessions. This implies arriving on time and remaining for the duration of the scheduled session.

Tuition Default:

Students who have defaulted on the payment of tuition (tuition has not been paid in full, payments were not deferred or payment plan not honoured) as of the first week of June will be removed from placement and clinical activities. This may result in loss of mandatory hours or incomplete course work. Sault College will not be responsible for incomplete hours or outcomes that are not achieved or any other academic requirement not met as of the result of tuition default. Students are encouraged to communicate with Financial Services with regard to the status of their tuition prior to this deadline to ensure that their financial status does not interfere with academic progress.

Students are expected to demonstrate respect for others in the class. Classroom disturbances will be dealt with through an escalating procedure as follows:

- Verbal warning
- E-mail notification
- Meeting with the dean

EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES	9	OAD103
Course Name		Code No.

It is expected that 100 percent of classroom work will be completed and submitted on time in preparation for the simulated interviews. A late assignment will be accepted if submitted within **72 hours** of the due date and time. Twenty-five percent will be deducted from late/incomplete assignments automatically. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a zero grade for the assignment.

Producing accurate work is fundamental to this course. Marks will be deducted for inaccuracies.

All work must be labeled with the student's name and the project information. All work must be submitted in a labeled folder.

Regular attendance is expected to ensure course information is communicated to all students. In-class observation of student work and guidance by the professor aids student success. Lectures will not be repeated in subsequent classes. Guest speakers are invited to discuss employment-related topics; attendance is imperative.

It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the course outline and department manual. Students are expected to check college e-mail twice daily as a minimum.