

Work-Based Learning & Placement

Work-based Learning and Placement (WBLP) staff has been working collaboratively with faculty and employers to provide Gaston College students hands-on work experience and graduates employment opportunities.

For the past several years, WBLP Staff has implemented targeted activities and events based on feedback from the academic divisions. The WBLP office hosted on-campus recruiting events, coordinated and presented career readiness workshops, and provided

individual assistance to students and graduates on creating marketable resumes and preparing for interviews. Staff has partnered with the Business and Information Technology Division, Engineering and Industrial Technologies Division, and the Health and Human Services Division to offer annual career events for students. Though targeted career events have been successful and well attended, we have heard from many employers who miss the college's annual career/job fair. We are excited to announce that we are going to host a campus-

wide Career/ Job Fair for Gaston College students and graduates in spring 2017. Look for a save the date email soon!

The Career/Job Fair will provide students and graduates an opportunity to meet and network with local employers who are hiring. Students/ graduates will be encouraged to dress in appropriate attire and bring numerous copies of a current resume. If you have suggestions on employers to invite, please contact **Sheila Forgione** at 704.922.2424.



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Need Work Experience?



Visit the Work-based Learning and Placement Office in Lena Sue Beam Partnership Building Room 135.

Students who participate in a Work-based Learning experience are pre-screened by staff and must meet academic requirements. In addition, applicants must have a basic foundation in their field of study – at least 12 credit hours of their major/core courses completed – so that they can meet employers' expectations.

- ▶ **1 Credit Hour** = 160 hours/semester (10-19 hours/week)
- ▶ **2 Credit Hours** = 320 hours/semester (20+ hours/week)
- ▶ **3 Credit Hours** = 480 hours/semester (30+ hours/week)

Employers set the standard for the quality of work and determine whether the position will be paid or unpaid. Students must meet the employer standards as well as the academic requirements of the college.

Student Success Story

My experience at Gaston College was extremely successful. During my time there, I had a full time job and three children between the ages of one and fifteen. I thought it would be a struggle, but with all the services offered and the exceptional instruction from professors, it turned out to be a gratifying and painless journey. I graduated with high honors (GPA 3.86) and an Associate's Degree in Applied Science with concentration in Human Service Technology. During my time at Gaston College, I was offered remarkable instructors in class and through web based courses. I have had ample training for the Human Service field during core class time. The in-class work and training prepared me for my co-op experience as well as for my career today.

During WBL, a student is able to put to use what is learned in the classroom as well as appreciate all the hard work they put in. Students gain more knowledge by being out

in the field and having a mentor, supervisor, etc. to make positive and negative recommendations to the student for their future career path. The hands-on experience helps to recognize areas students are and are not comfortable in. It gives students the opportunity to figure out what is needed for them to become comfortable in certain situations as well as which populations would be the best fit for them. With WBL, the student is able to work with diverse populations that will assist in the students' future career decisions.

I have to say, Gaston College and the co-op program has more than prepared me for the career I am in today. Gaston College has given me the knowledge and tools I utilize on a daily basis in my current position as a Human Service provider.

Sherry L. Curry, Community Outreach & Affairs Manager with Cherryville Area Ministries

Looking for a Job?

Visit www.collegecentral.com/gastoncollege to find the most updated job openings.



Employer Feedback

Goodwill



Industries of the Southern Piedmont

The **Goodwill Job Connection** values our partnership with the Gaston College Work-based Learning and Placement Program. We work together with the interns by helping them achieve their education goals. The students get first-hand experience serving the community in various roles, to include the opportunity to work closely with the clients. They learn to interview the client and make appropriate referrals for the services offered at Goodwill, as well as making community referrals as needed. In the past, they have successfully conducted client presentations in preparation for job interviews. The presentation includes a PowerPoint

as well as a syllabus. The students learn the importance of intervention into the lives of those less fortunate.

The Goodwill Job Connection tries to cover a variety of tasks and duties so that the interns are able to get a good feel for how the Human Services career works in the community. We are hopeful that the time spent at Goodwill has been a rewarding and valuable experience that will make an impact in the intern's life so they will continue to pursue the career that they have chosen.

Rebecca Woods, Career Specialist II

GC Alumni & Employer



Jac B, Inc. has utilized Gaston College's Work-Based Learning program to help with our part-time staffing needs. The staff that supports the program was tremendously helpful, and the program for uploading open positions is very easy to use. Getting strong talent in this industry is essential for success and can often be hard to achieve. Having teacher recommendations of the students involved in the program helped ensure our confidence in the quality of the placed staff.

Many times employers only look for the most seasoned candidates to cut on training time. However, what we have found is that most Work-Based Learning students are eager to get up to speed quickly and do what is necessary to make the company's investment worthwhile. **Holly Dimmitt**, President of Jac B, Inc.

The Work-based Learning and Placement Office would like to personally thank employers who have worked with Gaston College students this year in mentoring them and providing great hands-on experience for them.

Did you know?

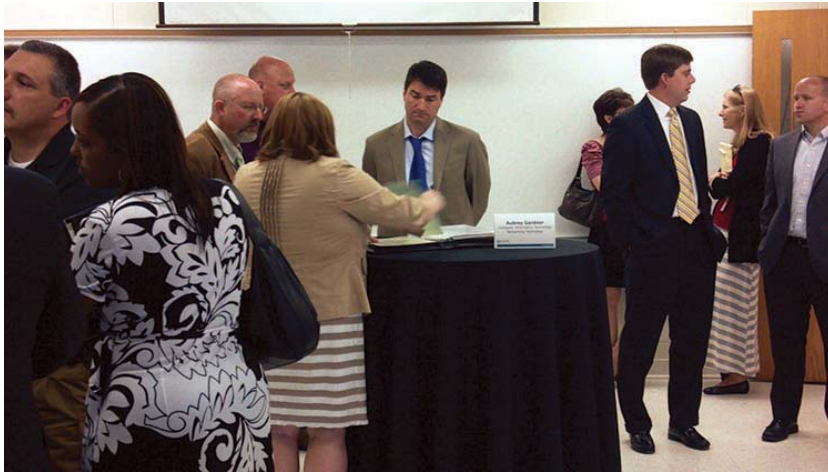


Top 10 Majors sought by local employers who have posted jobs at Gaston College since August 2016

1. Electronics Engineering Technology
2. Early Childhood Education
3. Veterinary Medical Technology
4. Electrical Systems Technology
5. Mechatronics Engineering Technology
6. Human Services Technology
7. Business Administration
8. Mechanical Engineering Technology
9. Industrial Systems Technology
10. Paralegal Technology

2015-16 Initiatives

- Facilitated 9 recruiting events
- Met with 23 employers to discuss Work-Based Learning opportunities and employment opportunities
- Implemented Faculty Coordinator Orientation to review expectations and due dates
- Offered 20 career workshops on all campuses
- Over 150 students have participated in Work-Based Learning experiences Fall 2015 through Summer 2016
- Over 650 jobs have been posted on College Central Network



First Annual Career Portfolio Showcase



Health Care Career Expo

A+ on Your Next Interview!

Gaston College Human Resources Development Program



Essential Skills on How to Sell Yourself in a Job Interview in 45 Seconds or Less.

Become comfortable presenting and selling yourself with confidence.

NO CHARGE for these classes if you:

- Are unemployed
- Have been notified of a pending lay-off
- Are working and eligible for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit
- Are working and earn wages at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines

If you do not meet the above guidelines the cost is \$129.

CLASSES: Wednesdays
8:00am - 10:00am & 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
No Appointment Necessary

For more information call
Gaston College's Continuing Education
Department at **704.922.6546**.



Dallas Campus
201 Highway 321 South
Dallas, NC 28034
704.922.6200
704.922.2323 (f)

For more information contact
Joy Morrow at 704.922.6360
or morrow.joy@gaston.edu