

MYTHS & FACTS

Myth #1: The Office of Career Services “finds jobs” for students.

FACT: Each student must take personal responsibility for the success of his or her job search. However, students who take the greatest advantage of the services, guidance, and resources available to them at the Office of Career Services significantly enhance their chances of success. Only you can do the work that is necessary, and only you can manage the time involved in the process, but we can and do provide valuable assistance as you go through the job search.

Myth #2: Very few students get jobs through the Office of Career Services.

FACT: This is difficult to quantify. In addressing this myth, it is important to distinguish between students who obtain their jobs as a direct result of on-campus interviewing—which is just one of our many services—and those who ultimately get their jobs as a result of other services. On-campus interviewing can be a very effective strategy for students interested in such fields as sales, accounting, banking, retailing, and consulting, for example. On the other hand, students who are interested in more competitive fields like advertising, public relations, journalism, social services, the arts, and human resources, will generally find our other services more beneficial since most employers in these fields do not actively engage in on-campus recruiting, either at Miami or elsewhere. Students interested in these fields will find our career advising services and educational programs especially helpful—particularly when they also use our Career Resource Center and Internet sites. In the final analysis, students who manage their time conscientiously, and who take full advantage of all the services we offer, are those who tend to be most successful in the job search.

Myth #3: The Office of Career Services can’t help students who aren’t interested in jobs in business.

FACT: We provide a variety of direct services, educational programs, and resource materials to help students, regardless of their academic program or career interests. While it is true that the on-campus recruiting process may be more beneficial to some students than to others—depending either upon their individual qualifications or the economic realities of their chosen career field—all of our support services and resource materials are available to all students. We can help you develop a job-search plan and then help you to identify appropriate resources to make connections with prospective employers. “Business” generally provides the greatest number of jobs for our graduates, but it is just one of several areas that we can help you tap into.

Myth #4: If I don’t have the “right” major or GPA, I can’t get on an interview schedule.

FACT: Depending upon prevailing economic forces and supply-and-demand considerations, some majors will always be in greater demand than others. The key is to take advantage of as many on-campus interviews as reasonably possible and to make direct contact with employers in whom you are particularly interested if you are not initially eligible to sign up on their schedule. Our information sheet on “Making On-Campus Interviewing Work for You” will be especially helpful to you in capitalizing on the large number of employers who recruit at Miami each year. Be sure to pick up a copy and use it in conjunction with your other job-search efforts. And, most of all, don’t limit yourself to on-campus interviewing alone.

Myth #5: I can wait to register with the Office of Career Services until after winter break because on-campus recruiting does not really begin until spring semester.

FACT: Registering with the Office of Career Services by the fall semester deadline preceding your graduation accomplishes two objectives: (1) you will be eligible to take advantage of all on-campus interviews for which you may be qualified; and (2) you will be included in our online “Candidate Database.” Many employers use this database to set up “closed” interview schedules and to identify candidates for direct consideration as positions develop throughout the year. Students who have registered previously as intern candidates should update their registration before the fall semester deadline of their senior year. On-campus recruiting begins in early October and extends through April each year. Contrary to widely held belief, an increasing number of employers actively recruit spring graduates during the fall semester. Interviews for teacher candidates are typically concentrated in March and April, but it is important that all students register in the fall, regardless of major. Don’t miss the boat by registering late.

Myth #6: If the Office of Career Services invited more types of employers to campus, they would come.

FACT: The Office of Career Services administers one of the largest on-campus recruiting programs in the country. This is a credit to the quality of our students and academic programs and reflective of the high level of professional service provided by the Office of Career Services. Approximately one-third of the employers who recruit on-campus have operations or facilities in the southwestern Ohio area, another one-third elsewhere in Ohio, and the remaining one-third outside of Ohio, from New York to California and Minnesota to Florida. Good as our students and services are, however, on-campus recruiting always involves an economic decision for employers. If traveling to Oxford, Ohio, in search of new talent makes good economic sense, they do it. If not, they don’t. That’s why, in addition to promoting on-campus recruiting, we also actively encourage employers to take advantage of less costly, but often equally effective services, such as our Candidate Database. This is also why we can boast an employer base not only of the 300+ employers who visit Oxford every year, but also of the many additional employers who take advantage of our other services.

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