
Hit the Road:

Explore the Possibilities



Overview & Application

2008-2009

Sponsored by
the Messiah College Career Center

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Overview of the Program

The Messiah College Career Center is sponsoring \$450* grants to be awarded to three teams of Messiah College students who wish to explore their vocation through a road trip this summer. We view this as an exploration opportunity intended to provide insight and wisdom into your career planning and decision-making. It's an opportunity to talk with individuals in fields that interest you. Please review the application carefully. Contact Dwayne Keiffer, Assistant Director of Career Development (DKeiffer@messiah.edu / 691.6016) if you have questions.

**The Career Center reserves the right to evaluate the final grant amount based on trip details, such as extensiveness of territory traveled.*

Program Objectives

- a) To explore career paths of interest through conducting information interviews with experts in those respective fields.
- b) To expand awareness of career options related to personal strengths and interests.
- c) To gain information related to maximizing one's time at Messiah in a way that will prepare him or her for the workplace or graduate school.
- d) To become aware of what core strengths (skills, qualifications, experiences) are critical to succeeding in the individual's field(s) of interest, from an employer's perspective.
- d) To have increased confidence regarding career planning and decision-making.
- e) To see, firsthand, how faith and vocation intersect.
- f) To encourage other students on campus to learn from the teams' experiences through watching edited video footage of the interviews and time on the road.

Rules of the Road

1. The road trips will occur somewhere between the completion of final exams and June 7, 2009 and last at least one week (exact dates to be determined by the participants in conjunction with the Career Center).
2. Selected teams must attend a mandatory training session which will cover information on networking and cold-calling, setting up and conducting interviews, professional etiquette, budgeting, and trip logistics.
3. Teams must conduct a minimum of 3 information interviews with individuals about their career paths. Each team will be responsible for scheduling their interviews. Assistance for identifying contacts is available from the Career Center if needed.
4. All interviews must be videotaped, with the signed permission of the interviewees. The Career Center reserves the right to use this footage for educational purposes.

5. Teams will be responsible for arranging overnight accommodations. If your team is interested in staying with Messiah alumni throughout the trip, please discuss this with your Career Center contact as soon as possible.
6. Teams will commit to maintaining a blog located on the Career Center's website. Blog entries will serve as a place to record reflections of the trip.
7. Upon completion of the trip, the team will meet and debrief with Career Center staff.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Each team will consist of at least 3 students and no more than 5 members.
2. Each applicant must be a student at Messiah College.
3. Each applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
4. Teams are responsible for supplying their own means of transportation throughout the trip.
5. If your team is selected, each team member must agree to sign Messiah College waivers and release agreements for the road trip.
6. Each team must be willing to share a copy of the video footage of their experiences with the Career Center for educational purposes.

Application Process

All applications are due to the Career Center by **February 27, 2009**. The Career Center staff will evaluate the applications and select teams to advance to the second round which involves an interview with the Career Center staff. Teams will be evaluated based on team cohesion, the thoroughness of the application, and most importantly, how the team's goals for the trip relate to their career planning and decision-making.

Time Line

Feb. 27	Written applications are due in the Career Center by 5:00 p.m.
Mar. 23	Teams advancing to the interview round will be contacted to set up an interview with Career Center staff.
Apr. 2	The winning teams will be announced!
Mid-Apr.	A mandatory training session will be held for all selected teams.
May 13 - June 7	Teams will "hit the road!" Exact dates will be determined by each team.

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TEAM APPLICATION

Take the time to put together a committed and compatible team of at least three members and no more than five members. Please only submit one application per team.

Part I: Team Information

TEAM NAME: _____

1. Name: _____

Address: _____

Home #: _____

Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Major/Minor: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

2. Name: _____

Address: _____

Home #: _____

Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Major: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

3. Name: _____

Address: _____

Home #: _____

Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Major: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

4. Name: _____
Address: _____
Home #: _____
Cell #: _____
Email: _____
Major: _____
Expected Graduation Date: _____

5. Name: _____
Address: _____
Home #: _____
Cell #: _____
Email: _____
Major: _____
Expected Graduation Date: _____

Part II: Interview Prospects

On a separate piece of paper, each applicant must list three people whom (if you are selected) you plan to contact to request an interview and why. You may list people you are interested in talking to by name OR by profession (i.e., investment banker, child psychologist, photojournalist, etc.). The Career Center staff are available to help you identify specific people who are doing the types of things that interest you. However, please make every attempt to be as specific as possible in this section. The individuals you put on your list should be people who have piqued your interest because of something you know about their role, their personal journey and/or a cause they support. Please don't pick people just because you or someone you know already has a connection to them. We also discourage teams from interviewing family members. This is an opportunity to speak with experts in your field that you may not have otherwise had a chance to do! Challenge yourselves to think outside the box; step out of your comfort zone and identify people who will help you do that. Remember, the Career Center is here to assist you in this process.

Part III: Short Answer Questions

Please type your answers to the following questions on an attached sheet(s) of paper. NOTE: Each applicant must answer each question.

1. What are your reasons for wanting to participate in this program? What are your objectives? What do you hope to gain as a result of the experience?
2. How do you see this opportunity impacting your career planning and decision making?
3. Give us at least three questions you would like to ask the people you interview if your team is selected.