

Eastern Michigan U - DivComm | Career Corner Podcast - Episode 3

[MUSIC PLAYING]

This is Eastern Michigan University's *Career Corner*. Here are your hosts, Brad Minton and Logann Dolan.

Welcome back to the *Career Corner* podcast. This is Brad Minton, career coach in the University Advising and Career Development Center. And here with me again is my co-host and fellow career coach, Logann Dolan. How are you doing, Logann?

I'm doing really well, Brad. Thank you for asking. And I think it's important to be checking in with each other and taking care of ourselves during this time. Can you agree with that?

Absolutely, it is so important right now. Self care is one of those things that we all have to be mindful of. Being a therapist in my past career, I understand and appreciate that very much.

Yeah, and as Kaelyn said last week, it's super important now, more than ever, with everything going on. But I'm super excited to be back and getting into our third episode today.

And we're excited to take on this next episode in our series, From Class to Career-Ready through COVID-19. And here today with us is Art Michalski, an academic advisor with us in the University Advising and Career Development Center. And he's going to help clear up a few of the common questions that are coming up from our incoming students for these new semesters in the fall and summer.

So thank you so much for joining us today, Art. To jump right into things, I would have to imagine that during this time, it's pretty challenging to address some concerns for our students as they continue to evolve. Would you agree with that?

I definitely would agree with that. And throughout all my years in higher education, I've learned in many various positions that there are students, and they're always going to have a different set of needs and obstacles to overcome. And with the COVID-19 pandemic, it's just created a new dynamic and new challenges that I've never seen. And we're just adjusting and trying to assist students along the way the best we can.

And we really, really appreciate your work in doing that, and with you being on the front lines with working with students, day in and day out, that adaptation part is so important. So there are a couple of good best practices that come up in thinking about placement examinations and transcripts for

new students coming in. And that was one of the things that we wanted to touch on today, so can you tell us about those mandatory steps the students need to take? And what are those best practices?

Sure. When it comes to the new students that are incoming for summer or for fall semester, one of the first critical mandatory steps that I usually try to touch base with students on is about retaking their placement exam. Sometimes they'll get their scores based on their ACT exam or another exam, and their math score will not be as high as they would have thought. Or they're taking a much higher class in high school right now. So if students are interested in retaking the placement exam or taking it for the first time, they can reach out to our math placement office, speak with Elaine Richards, and also contact them via phone at 734-487-4474 to learn more about the availability of testing.

Now, when it comes to transcripts, that's also a very important piece of the puzzle. I meet with students daily that are having transcripts sent in, whether it's through a community college, another university, or whether it's AP or not. And this alters the way we help advise students as well. A lot of times they'll have three AP exams or five courses that are still outstanding, and that makes things sometimes a little more challenging to advise students about.

So we try to recommend that they have all transcripts sent in as soon as the semesters are done or as soon as they receive their AP scores as well. It's important because it helps provide the most accurate picture for us advisors to what existing transfer credit will be coming in and then concise and correct recommendations for classes in summer and fall.

Now, another common area students may be finding difficult is really knowing what classes to register for, how to register for them, and really, how to keep track of those requirements. So Art, can you tell us a little bit about how students can go about overcoming this challenge in tracking those?

Sure. Probably one of the best ways to track your career progress or track your degree progress is running one of our degree audits through our U.achieve system. There's a lot of helpful resources and tools on the EMU website that students can take a look at to run an audit of their own, to help best get the best interpretation of how many credits they have left, and that sort of thing. If you do need help with interpretation of the audit-- you don't understand certain things-- I would definitely reach out to our office, the UACDC, or other college advising offices to understand more.

The biggest obstacles in registration I'm seeing currently at the moment are for natural science courses. A lot of these classes have a four-credit lecture and a zero-credit lab. Now, in that situation, a student must register for both the lecture and the lab in order to avoid any sort of errors when

they're registering their schedule and stuff.

Also, there's going to be additional classes that are in what are known as second admit programs, so programs in the college of business or the college of engineering or health and human services, that may need some sort of special permission to be given an override and put into the course. So if they do run into a situation like that, the students are suggested to speak with one of the college advisors in order to inquire more about the course and to receive an override when it's necessary for the student.

Thank you, Art, so much for sharing those. And with that being said, could you provide us with a few pieces of advice for our new incoming freshmen or transfer students?

So this new dynamic has created new environments for students, staff, and faculty at EMU, so pretty much everybody. And so the best thing I can say is that we're all learning this together right now. For students, I would take the time to learn about the policies at EMU, understand program requirements. If you're in a special admit program, you might want to learn more about the different classes that you need take, GPA requirements, and then any sort of testing that the student might need as well, too.

If there are any questions after reading that information-- there's still some things that are seem a little confusing or need some questions answered-- our office is always here to assist students in navigating the rigors of the first year and beyond. So if you have a question, don't hesitate to contact our offices, and feel free to let us know. We're available for appointments, and we are available via virtual appointment, via phone.

So we just want to make sure that you have all your questions answered because going into the first year or first semester at a new university is challenging, and we understand that. We want to make sure that you have the most clear picture going into it so you don't run into any problems later on.

Absolutely. Thank you so much, Art, for those valuable pieces of advice. And I think the crux of the matter here is there's no shortage of resources. It is so important to do your checks and balances, so keep checking in consistently with an academic advisor. They're here consistently for you in a virtual format. They can meet with you anytime. Please stay on top of them.

And lastly, we want to remind you that if you're starting out your journey here at EMU and are still struggling with your direction, you're not alone. Our amazing career coaches can help meet with you anytime to help you explore your interests, your values, your skills, and your personality, and help you

get clear on your path.

That is absolutely right. And although we're unable to offer face-to-face appointments, we want you know we're still here, and we're prepared to help you with career exploration, but just in a virtual format. So for those who are interested in making an appointment with either a career coach or one of our academic advisors, the links to access and schedule those appointments are actually on our website and can be found at emich.edu/UACDC.

So that closes us out for today. Thank you again, Art, for being here and providing that very, very detailed overview of some of these best practices that our new students need to be looking out for.

Stay tuned for next week where we're actually going to be diving into how to navigate this changing job market. And we're going to get a recruiter's perspective when we interview Cara Newby from Yeo & Yeo CPA & Business Consultants. So stay safe, stay healthy, and remember--

We're here for you, and we support your goals.

[MUSIC PLAYING]