

Scott Travis says (19:28:03):
Good evening. Tonight's chat will be with Dale Austin, Director of Career Services for Hope College. We will begin at 7:00 PM ET.

*** (19:31:52):Welcome to Parent Access , tom!
*** (19:44:41):Welcome to Parent Access , LARombach!
*** (19:46:15):Welcome to Parent Access , Darci!

LARombach says to (19:48:01):
Is there a call in number or will the audio also come via this Parent Access site?

Scott Travis says (19:48:37):
There is no audio with this chat. Guests are invited to submit questions at the bottom of the screen and Dale and I will answer with text and often links to further resources.

*** (19:48:50):Welcome to Parent Access , hartleroad!
*** (19:51:23):Welcome to Parent Access , holmanjill!
*** (19:56:17):Welcome to Parent Access , mary!
*** (19:56:37):Welcome to Parent Access , Michelle!
*** (19:57:07):Welcome to Parent Access , jean!

Scott Travis says (19:58:05):
Good evening and welcome to Parent Access. I am here with Dale Austin, Director of Career Services. Please feel free to ask any question you may have about career choice, internships, job search, etc.

*** (19:58:06):Welcome to Parent Access , axdol!
*** (19:58:08):Welcome to Parent Access , Gary!

Scott Travis says (19:58:19):
This is a moderated chat. When you submit a question, there will be a delay until it posts for the whole community. We will answer questions as fast as we can in the order they are received.

*** (19:59:11):Welcome to Parent Access , Barb!

tom dejonge says to (19:59:22):
Are students assigned a Career Services representative? Who is their advisor as they begin to position their classes toward their major and relevant internships?

*** (20:00:00):Welcome to Parent Access , Bob!
*** (20:00:45):Welcome to Parent Access , badgerfan!
*** (20:00:56):Welcome to Parent Access , jpetrasky!
*** (20:01:13):Welcome to Parent Access , sandrat!
*** (20:01:35):Welcome to Parent Access , megvanwyk!
*** (20:01:35):Welcome to Parent Access , Shelly!

Dale Austin says to (20:01:28):
Each student has an academic advisor, who is also their FYS instructor until they declare a major. Students are not assigned a representative, but may receive career assistance any time by calling our office at ext. 7350.

Michelle says to (20:01:37):
Are there things that a freshman can do now to prepare for grad school?

Gary says to (20:01:38):
What help does Career Services offer for each grade and when should students start to visit the career services center?

*** (20:01:41):Welcome to Parent Access , mmb!

Dale Austin says to (20:02:17):
Depending on the type of assistance desired, they may speak with various staff in our office.

*** (20:02:44):Welcome to Parent Access , Ferens!

tom says to (20:03:33):

Once a student has declared a major, who then becomes their advisor?

Scott Travis says (20:03:50):
Tom, they will be assigned a faculty member in the department that they decide to major in.

Dale Austin says to (20:04:06):

Michelle: Yes, good question. First, strong academic performance; second, explore research or related types of experience in their major, and some of our students have presented at national conferences their work.

*** (20:04:08):Welcome to Parent Access , login!
*** (20:05:23):Welcome to Parent Access , Heidi!

Scott Travis says (20:06:02):
Here is the link for the career plan by year: <http://www.hope.edu/student/career/resources/search.html>

*** (20:06:02):Welcome to Parent Access , Linda!

Dale Austin says to (20:06:04):

We have a section on our website that addresses key planning issues by year, and first year students are more than welcome to begin the planning process with our staff.

holmanjill says to (20:06:19):

Are there many companies that come to campus for interviews during a students senior year?

*** (20:07:26):Welcome to Parent Access , emgroot

Dale Austin says to (20:07:38):

We have a number of on and off campus recruiting programs; on campus recruiting over the last several years is down in numbers due to the economy in Michigan. Approximately 30 organizations visited campus last year.

Scott Travis says (20:07:37):

Here is the link to the on-campus recruiting and job fair site: <http://www.hope.edu/student/career/calendars>

tom says to (20:07:49):

What department advises on various internships or semesters off-site?

mmb says to (20:08:16):

Are classes offered at Hope to prepare students for graduate school entrance exams?

Bob says to (20:08:17):

Are there ever any job fairs that will occur at Hope for Seniors before the school year is out?

Dale Austin says to (20:08:21):

Our office for internships, and the International Education office for semesters off site.

Scott Travis says (20:08:21):

Bob, see the previous link.

jean says to (20:08:41):

Is it advisable to attend grad school right away or do they want them to have work experience that might help them in their coursework at grad school. Our daughter is graduating with a social work major this spring.

tom says to (20:08:42):

Are the faculty members equipped to assist/advise the students with specific course selection for the Junior and Senior years?

*** (20:09:16):Welcome to Parent Access , dj!
*** (20:09:41):Welcome to Parent Access , Cheryl Barney!

jean says to (20:09:59):

What resources are there for searching for jobs outside of the Holland/Michigan area as we are from Minnesota or if she chooses to look for work in other states?

Dale Austin says to (20:10:11):

Many of our social work graduates go right on to grad school; part of it also depends on how clearly defined your daughter's goals are. My oldest daughter, a Hope grad, took a year off, and will be attending grad school in social work next fall.

*** (20:10:15):Welcome to Parent Access , Lisa!

Scott Travis says (20:10:15):

Tom, yes the advisors are equipped to do this. That is what they are there to help students do. Maura Reynolds is in charge of advising at Hope and she is very helpful on the topic as well.

Michelle says to (20:10:25):

How critical is their first semester of their freshman year as far as grades and grad school?

Heidi says to (20:11:15):

Is the student's advisor the best person to assist the student with determining when in their college career it would be best to consider study abroad?

Dale Austin says to (20:11:21):

Michelle, first semester is a big adjustment; if students can show clear improvement over the

time at Hope after their first year, that is key

Gary says to (20:11:34):
It looks like most of the intern positions on JobStop are unpaid, is it normal for interns to not get paid? how do you find a paid intern position?

tom says to (20:11:57):
By semesters off-site, I assume that not all of them are international (Chicago semester, for example). Who is the best contact to learn what off-site semesters exist within the US?

*** (20:12:22):Welcome to Parent Access , s.beauf

Scott Travis says (20:12:26):
Heidi, the advisor can certainly help. There are other resources in the International Education office. Here is a link: <http://www.hope.edu/beyondhope/index.html>

Scott Travis says (20:12:45):
There are also domestic programs with faculty reps on campus that can provide more information.

Ferens says to (20:12:59):
What should parents "not do" as their seniors are starting to apply for jobs?

emgroot says to (20:13:13):
internships: **should our daughter a junior apply for one in her major-psychology or in her career goal-occupational therapy. seems like on know hope job stop there are a lot of psych ones but none for occupational therapy**

Dale Austin says to (20:13:21):
Gary, it is clearly more common for them to be not paid; being paid in part depends on the field; computer science and engineering and some business internships are paid; working in the human services or non profit are typically never paid

Scott Travis says (20:13:27):
Ferens: Here is a great resource on how parents can (and can't help), http://www.hope.edu/student/career/resources/for_parents.html

*** (20:13:29):Welcome to Parent Access , jean!

megvanwyk says to (20:13:44):
How does the job market look for 2011 grads? Can you help them look for jobs in other parts of the country other than the Michigan area?

mmb says to (20:14:04):
Are classes offered at Hope to prepare students for graduate school entrance exams?

many says to (20:14:06):
If a student finds a paid internship that is out of town for 6 months, is there any way they would be able to still graduate in 4 years?

Scott Travis says (20:14:21):
mmb: There is a GRE prep program and we also have resources in the Career Services library.

Michelle says to (20:14:33):
Is your office involved with the summer research opportunities on campus?

Scott Travis says (20:14:58):
Michelle: Summer research varies by department. it is best for students to talk to faculty if they are interested in research over the summer.

*** (20:15:05):Welcome to Parent Access , ddf!

tom says to (20:15:18):
Is it possible for a parent and student to, together, meet with the student's academic advisor once the student has elected a major and an advisor has been assigned?

Dale Austin says to (20:15:19):
Megan, better than last year, although still not rosey in Michigan; yes, we are happy to assist students in seeking work in other parts of the country; please have them call our office and schedule an appt. with me

jean says to (20:15:24):
What resources are there for searching for jobs outside of the Holland/Michigan area as we are from Minnesota or if she chooses to look for work in other states?

tom says to (20:15:47):
By semesters off-site, I assume that not all of them are international (Chicago semester, for example). Who is the best contact to learn what off-site semesters exist within the US?

Heidi says to (20:15:50):
What summer jobs or opportunities are advised for a student studying to teach special education . . . to enhance their opportunity to stand out when seeking a job when graduating?

*** (20:16:17):Welcome to Parent Access , Lori J!

Scott Travis says (20:16:52):
Tom, there are a variety of off-campus domestic programs. Both the Career Services office and the Registrars office would be great resources for your son or daughter. The most popular programs are in Chicago, DC, New York and Philadelphia.

Dale Austin says to (20:17:15):
Jean, we have a number of helpful online resources, as well as many alumni who have offered to be contacts as students transition from Hope to work; have your son or daughter schedule a meeting with Sarah McCoy in our office

Lisa says to (20:17:18):
Is the GRE prep program something students do outside of class or is it a course they sign up for?

holmanjill says to (20:17:31):
Does it matter to a potential employer if an internship was paid or not?

Bob says to (20:17:56):
HOW OFTEN DO SENIORS WHO DO THE CHICAGO SEMESTER LAND A JOB FROM THEIR INTERNSHIP? IS THIS COMMON?

Dale Austin says to (20:18:00):
holmanjill, Typically not

Dale Austin says to (20:18:39):
Bob, Yes, this does happen, and it depends on how well the intern has performed and if the organization is in a position to hire

emgroot says to (20:18:43):
internships: **should our daughter a junior apply for one in her major-psychology or in her career goal-occupational therapy. seems like on know hope job stop there are a lot of psych ones but none for occupational therapy**

tom says to (20:18:56):
Can a parent contact Maura Reynolds for advice as well as a student?

Scott Travis says (20:19:29):
Tom, for many reasons I advise that the student contact Maura or an advisor for help. However, Maura is great working with parents and answers questions quite often.

Michelle says to (20:19:37):
Scott: **Concerning research positions...how can I find out how much housing would cost over the summer and what the research position's schedule would be? My need to know this information is, obviously, more critical than my son's!**

Dale Austin says to (20:20:06):
emgroot, ideally, in OT, she can schedule a meeting with Sara DeVries in our office to explore possible OT options; if this option does not work, she can pursue something in psych

many says to (20:20:11):
If a student finds a paid internship that is out of town for 6 months, is there any way they would be able to still graduate in 4 years?

tom says to (20:20:40):
My son is likely going to declare Art as his major. He is not intending to be an art teacher. Desires marketing/design career. Who can he meet with to ensure that his major and the courses he takes his last two years are aligned with that?

Dale Austin says to (20:21:07):
Mary, Depends on their course of study, how many credits they came in with; they would want to touch base with their advisor

holmanjill says to (20:21:40):
Does Hope have a program where seniors can connect with Hope alumni that majored in their field to get advice in their job search?

Heidi says to (20:21:51):
What summer jobs or opportunities are advised for a student studying to teach special education . . . to enhance their opportunity to stand out when seeking a job when graduating?

Lisa says to (20:22:04):
Is the GRE prep program something students do outside of class or is it a course they

sign up for?

Scott Travis says (20:22:18):
Lisa, it is outside of class.

Dale Austin says to (20:22:45):
Heidi, summer camp roles with campers with special needs would be a very good experience

hartleroad says to (20:23:27):
Does the student's advisor review all of this information with them? It's great that you are sharing all of this info with us, but the students should receive the same message.

Michelle says to (20:24:28):
Scott: Concerning research positions...how can I find out how much housing would cost over the summer and what the research position's schedule would be? My need to know this information is, obviously, more critical than my son's!

Scott Travis says (20:24:56):
Michelle, the positions tend to be well paid and there is reasonable prices housing in the summer. Some research programs may come with housing. For a schedule and details, it is best to get that information from the faculty member or department.

holmanjill says to (20:25:15):
Does Hope have a program where seniors can connect with Hope alumni that majored in their field to get advice in their job search?

Dale Austin says to (20:25:33):
hartleroad, students meet with their advisor each semester and we communicate with advisors our resources; we also do programs in the residence halls, dining halls, and send emails to students communicating our services

Michelle says to (20:25:33):
Thanks Scott!

Scott Travis says (20:25:50):
Holmanjill: Yes! We have a Career Resource Network that students can use to network, have informational interviews, etc.

Lisa says to (20:26:25):
I read in a local paper that at the start of their senior year students should start sending out letters to prospective employers and begin to establish contact. Do you agree and, if you do agree, is that true for teaching positions, too?

Dale Austin says to (20:26:39):
holmanjill, your son or daughter can connect with Sarah McCoy in our office

Michelle says to (20:27:08):
Thanks Scott!

*** (20:27:17):Welcome to Parent Access , s.bear!

s.bear says to (20:27:28):
Do freshmen have many opportunities for summer research or mainly upperclassmen?

Dale Austin says to (20:27:53):
Lisa, for some types of opportunities, yes; for teaching in Christian schools, December and January are good times to start; for public schools a month later

Scott Travis says (20:27:58):
s.bear: They do have opportunities. The best thing for them to do is to identify themselves early to the faculty that work with summer research.

megvanwyk says to (20:28:17):
My son is getting a BS in engineering. Most engineers I've talked to say they don't need a masters to do their job. Knowing that, is it a benefit to get a masters to make oneself more competitive in this job market? Or will it just make him more exclusive?

Scott Travis says (20:28:52):
Great questions! We are almost caught up.

s.bear says to (20:29:14):
Do you help those struggling with majors figure out what they want to do?

Dale Austin says to (20:29:53):
megvanwyk, he should go on if he is clear on his goals and how his grad degree will help him accomplish his goals; the demands of grad school are such that he would want to be sure he is ready to pursue; there are good opportunities for BS level engineers

Scott Travis says (20:30:05):
S.bear: Yes. It is a team effort. Advisors help with this and there are many resources in the Career Services office. Often, it is up to the student to take the initiative to seek out this help.

** (20:31:06):Welcome to Parent Access , teresa!

Dale Austin says to (20:31:39):
s.bear our office has a range of assessments, including the Strong Interest Inventory, StrengthsFinder, MBTI, and a Skills and Values Card Sort, plus hundreds of books on career topics

holmanjill says to (20:31:43):
Does the career center offer to do practice interviews with the students?

Dale Austin says to (20:32:31):
holmanjill, Yes, for pre-med, teaching, social work, business, in all areas, we do hundreds a year, and they are taped

emgroot says to (20:32:47):
internships again: how long before a semester should a student start meeting with someone at career services? especially for some unusual ones like o.t.?

*** (20:33:10):Welcome to Parent Access , danpater!

Dale Austin says to (20:34:08):
emgroot, as earlier as possible, two to three months typically

jean says to (20:34:17):
Is Americorp or Teach America a good way to get experience? Any disadvantages to either program?

Dale Austin says to (20:35:07):
Jean, they are both great programs; another one is Lutheran Volunteer Corps, and another is the New York City Teaching Fellows Program

Linda Snyder says to (20:35:45):
Do you recommend that a student go directly into grad school after graduation, or is it beneficial to work a year or two then apply to grad school. And if a student does this can they still connect with Hope for help.

Scott Travis says (20:36:15):
Thanks for sharing Ferens.

tom says to (20:36:52):
What is the deadline for a student declaring his major?

Dale Austin says to (20:37:04):
Linda, depends on the field; in business, it is critical to have several years of work experience first; other fields, it may be more helpful to go right on; I would be happy to speak with your son or daughter about it

Scott Travis says (20:37:13):
Tom, no later than second semester sophomore year.

*** (20:38:02):Welcome to Parent Access , Kathy Johnson!

holmanjill says to (20:39:33):
So many companies only allow you to apply for jobs online nowadays. Is there a trick to getting your foot in the door for an interview?

jean jackson4562 says to (20:39:38):
Regarding the graduating in 4 years, our daughter did a May term class, is doing an internship her whole senior year on her days she doesn't have classes and is graduating in 4 years with an unrelated major and minor.

Dale Austin says to (20:40:20):
holmanjill, Yes, that is true; the key is contacts, and we are happy to work with students to assist them in connecting with our alum

tom says to (20:40:21):
Once a Major is declared, is it up to the student to schedule the meetings with his/her academic advisor or are there scheduled meetings?

teresa says to (20:41:03):
So what should a Sophomore do right now if they have not declared a major yet?

Dale Austin says to (20:41:06):
Tom, yes, student initiative is key.

Dale Austin says to (20:41:42):

teresa, they can speak with their advisor, as well as schedule a time to meet with Trudi in our office

tom says to (20:42:51):
Regarding getting a foot in the door for teaching assignments, as a current Christian school Superintendent, the most important thing a candidate can do is to personally introduce one's self to the building principal and get known through subbing.

Dale Austin says to (20:43:24):
Thanks for this good insight Tom.

teresa says to (20:43:26):
What exactly does Trudi do? Do you have a career advisor that can help them decide where their talents lie?

Dale Austin says to (20:44:30):
Teresa, she is our career counselor, and will discuss interests and goals, academic strengths, and determine if any assessments may be helpful in clarifying a choice of major

Scott Travis says (20:44:31):
Here are some related links on choosing a major: <http://www.hope.edu/student/career/clusters/majors.html>, <http://www.hope.edu/student/career/resources/assessments/self.html>

teresa says to (20:45:44):
Great- Thank-you very much. I will pass this on to my son.

Scott Travis says (20:45:49):
Are there any questions we missed or additional questions you have?

jean jackson4562 says to (20:46:20):
ONE THING OUR DAUGHTER HAS DONE FOR A SUMMER JOB IS A PARAPROFESSIONAL FOR SUMMER SCHOOL WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO A JOB WITHING THE DISTRICT OR TEACHING, BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL CARE.

tom says to (20:46:20):
I think I am all set for now!

holmajill says to (20:46:32):
No more questions. Thanks for your help.

Scott Travis says (20:47:13):
A log of this chat will be available to download later this week at www.hope.edu/parents/access.

tom says to (20:47:53):
Thanks to all. And thanks for your patience as we work together to advise our kids.

Lisa says to (20:47:58):
Thanks so much for holding these chats. They are the best and much appreciated!

*** (20:48:00):Welcome to Parent Access , kman!

Scott Travis says (20:48:07):
Thanks Tom and Lisa!

Scott Travis says (20:48:19):
Thanks for joining us tonight! Our next chat will be Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 7:00 PM ET with Richard Frost, Dean of Students, and John Jobson, Director of Residential Life and Housing.

Linda Snyder says to (20:48:57):
Thankyou so much

Scott Travis says (20:49:06):
If you are interested in learning about study abroad, we will be chatting with Amy Otis, Director of International Education on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 7:00 PM ET.

Scott Travis says (20:49:17):
You can learn more about resources and services available to you as a Hope parent at www.hope.edu/parents