



REAFFIRM
2016-2017



HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION
A COMMISSION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

HLC Quality Initiative Project

“Exploring Learning and Career Preparation within the Undergraduate Major”

April 2015

The following recommendations were developed by over 40 faculty and staff in UNL’s 2014-2015 Quality Initiative Project. This project was designed to engage faculty and staff across all UNL colleges in conversations about how curriculum, advising and mentoring within each undergraduate major prepares students for academic & career success. This year’s group was charged with examining best practices and structures for integrating career exploration and development within undergraduates’ academic careers. Based on their research and extensive discussions, this year’s group recommends the following:

1. Develop consistent communication structures between department and college representatives & Career Services professionals about advising, curricular, and internship opportunities that include:
 - a) A university-wide committee that meets regularly to share best practices for career development, review post-graduation outcome data, and develop recommendations for university-wide expectations and policies around career development activities.
 - b) Department/major representatives who would serve as liaisons to Career Services.
2. Ensure all undergraduate majors/programs include 1) at least two curricular opportunities that focus on students’ career development and 2) a career reflection component in all ACE 10 courses.
3. Develop a centralized, university-wide database for capturing data on students’ internships. Departments would commit to 1) identify internship courses, 2) provide data on student participation in non-credit internships (e.g. work placements, type of work, etc.) and 3) articulate and maintain standard expectations for course-based internships.

4. Require all departments to submit and review career placement information (in collaboration with Career Services) via a template that would be annually updated and incorporated as a Bulletin tab for each major. Information would include job and graduate school placement, internships, transferable skills, and professional organizations.

5. Refine the university-wide graduating senior survey that collects post-graduation outcome data. Review the current survey and explore best practices for timing/delivery of the survey to maintain UNL's high response rate and to meet needs of colleges and departments.

6. Require Career Services to conduct follow-up post-graduation outcome surveys (5 years out) on specific cohorts of UNL graduates (i.e. 2010, 2013, etc.) to provide data on UNL graduates' success.