



MAPPING THE FUTURE

STUDENTS EXPLORE CAREER AVENUES VIA COMPUTER

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Many of our students experience a metamorphosis (even our older students!) as they progress through their college years. This transition occurs as students discover new areas of interest and skill.

To help students identify their personal interests, values, goals, and skills, Counseling, Advisement and Placement Services (CAPS) provides a program called SIGI Plus (System of Interactive Guidance and Information). Blending SIGI Plus with my classroom efforts has brought rave reviews from students while helping me achieve my teaching objectives.

Part of the curriculum of BA 208, Business Communication, is studying cover letters, resumes, and interviewing techniques. But it is often difficult for students to complete these job-search tools without first assessing career and job ex-

pectations. One way for students to gather this information is through SIGI Plus. This program asks difficult career planning questions while providing career information such as income potential, education requirements, and industry outlooks for the next decade. Students can learn a great deal about many careers or focus on two or three alternatives recommended for them. If they are uncertain about the results SIGI Plus generates, they can discuss these results with a counselor. For additional information, students can research topics of interest in the CAPS library.

Once students are aware of their career options, they can then develop the necessary job-seeking tools. The benefits of incorporating this service are tremendous. They find potential areas of employment or reinforcement for their existing career plans. For the instructor, the quality of the cover letters and resumes significantly improves while students' interview tapes show more thoughtful and prepared answers. By integrating SIGI Plus into the classroom, everyone wins!

