

Group to sponsor career workshop

By Lori Sullivan

The Task Force on Career Advising is offering a mini-workshop for social sciences majors Tuesday.

Millie Katz, co-chairperson for the workshop, said the task force was formed by College of Arts and Sciences faculty members to assist students in learning what they can do to prepare for careers. Katz, coordinator for experiential education, said students have too narrow a view of what they can do with their education. Liberal arts majors have a wide variety of career options, she said.

The workshop will feature a panel of eight UNL social science graduates who are professionals in the Lincoln or Omaha area. The panelists will speak about the courses they took, extra-curricular activities that helped them, internships and part-time jobs that were valuable to them, and what they would do if given the chance to attend college again.

Students will be given ideas about how to articulate the skills they have, and where to take those skills to find employment, Katz said.

The general decline in the economy, plus budgetary cuts by the Reagan administration, have affected the job outlook for social sciences majors, according to Katz. She said the New Federalism may adversely affect social programs, but the states will "pick up the slack."

"Unfortunately, sometimes we have to go down before we come up, but people will still demand social programs, and the need for qualified people will still be there," she said.

"Social science majors should supplement their education with some technical skills," Katz said. "If you take a liberal arts background and add some technical skills to it, you have a very good outlook for employment."

David Brinkerhoff, UNL assistant professor of sociology, said career opportunities in social sciences are more extensive than most students realize.

"I believe that a good fundamental liberal arts education is very marketable," Brinkerhoff said. Students need to associate the skills they are developing with the

potential job market, he said.

"Employers look for a student that can come to them and say, 'I've got good analytical skills, good decision-making skills, good problem-solving skills, and I communicate well with people.' Employers are going to be interested in those students, and there are going to be jobs for them," Brinkerhoff said.

The United States may be in a period of what Brinkerhoff calls the "lag effect of the over-educated American," where many people are in a field with no specific goals. Students should define what career they are interested in, assess their abilities and work on weaknesses by taking appropriate classes, Brinkerhoff said.

He compared education with shopping for an expensive item. "You should carefully select, by shopping around, the courses which will benefit you the most, Brinkerhoff said.

Kim Nore, assistant adviser of arts and sciences, said more than ever students are asking, "What can I do with my degree?"

The workshop, Nore said, will give social science majors direction, and look at job options.

The workshop will be in the Nebraska Union. The morning session is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., and the afternoon session is from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.




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