

## Graduation

After years of hard work, both you and your student are about to graduate. It is true that the degree will have your student's name on it, but along the way you put forth long hours of work and sacrificed many things to help your student on their educational quest. In a way, this graduation is not only a time of celebration for your student, but for you as well.

Along with the celebratory feelings that come with graduation, feelings of anxiety may soon follow. This anxiety is not reserved only for students. Often parents share this feeling. "How will my student get a job?" "Has my student begun looking for a job?" "What can I do to help my student prepare for becoming part of the workforce?"

Before asking your student some of these questions, try to recall what it was like for you when you entered the workforce. Your student may be currently experiencing many of those same feelings. It is important to listen to your student during this time. They may already be anxious, and questioning them further could worsen their feelings.

If you are worried about your student entering the workforce, Aquinas offers many different options for students seeking help in the transition:

- Career Development Courses
- Resume Help
- Internship Opportunities
- Mock Interviewing
- Network Building Opportunities
- Career Fairs
- 1 to 1 Career Guidance
- Career Resource Library

A good resource for upperclassman thinking ahead to graduation is a career development course. CD 410 Entering World of Work is geared towards learning the soft skills of the workforce such as: dinner etiquette, email etiquette, proper introduction techniques, and proper business attire. These skills have value and may not have been learned while your student was in the classroom.

For students planning on attending graduate school, but need help with the process, career services offers CD 401 Graduate Work. This course covers selecting a graduate program that fits the student, what the application process entails, and tips on how to prepare for graduate school interviews.

If you or your student has any questions about the services offered by career services, please call (616) 632-2905.

Graduation. Is your student ready to for the next step?