

## COLLEGE COUNSELING TRANSCRIPT

I'M ALVIN ALVAREZ, AND I'M THE COORDINATOR OF THE COLLEGE COUNSELING PROGRAM. COLLEGE COUNSELING IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING FIELDS I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH. OUR STUDENTS ARE BASICALLY COUNSELORS IN HIGHER EDUCATION SETTINGS, FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES. THEY WORK IN EVERYTHING AS DIVERSE AS ACADEMIC ADVISING, WORKING IN CAREER COUNSELING, WORKING WITH WOMEN'S CENTERS, LGBT CENTERS, RES LIFE CENTERS. A WHOLE RANGE OF DIFFERENT THINGS.

WELL, DO YOU HAVE TO BE LICENSED IN ORDER TO BE A COLLEGE COUNSELOR?

NO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE LICENSED TO BE A COLLEGE COUNSELOR. BUT MOST OF THE JOBS HAPPENING NOW IN HIGHER EDUCATION ARE HAPPENING -- ARE REQUIRING PEOPLE TO HAVE A MASTER'S IN COUNSELING OR HIGHER ED AND THAT'S SUFFICIENT.

CAN I WORK AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA?

YOU SURE CAN. OUR DEGREE IS VERY PORTABLE. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE LEFT THE AREA TO WORK IN MASSACHUSETTS, NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, HAWAII, OREGON, AND THEY HAVE BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL WHERE THEY ARE WORKING.

WHAT'S THE DAY-TO-DAY LIFE FOR SOMEBODY LIKE IN COLLEGE COUNSELING?

IT'S A LITTLE BIT OF DIFFERENT THAN, SAY, AN M.F.T. OR SOMEBODY WHO FOCUSES SOLELY ON THERAPY. THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO REALLY SUCCEEDS IN THIS FIELD IS SOMEBODY WHO ENJOYS VARIETY. OUR STUDENTS WILL SPEND TIME WORKING ONE-ON-ONE WITH AN INDIVIDUAL IN ADVISING-TYPE SETTINGS.

ALSO THEY WILL SPEND A LOT OF TIME GOING OUT AND DOING PRESENTATIONS THROUGH HIGH SCHOOLS, ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES. DOING OUTREACH TO KIND OF SELL THE VALUE OF EDUCATION OR THE VALUE OF THEIR SERVICES.

AND OUR STUDENTS ARE ALSO DO A LOT OF WORKSHOPS ON VARIOUS TOPICS FROM COLLEGE SUCCESS SKILLS; LEARNING TO NEGOTIATE THE

COLLEGE ENVIRONMENT, THE WHOLE RANGE OF THINGS.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A JOB THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO DO A LITTLE TEACHING, A LITTLE COMMUNITY OUTREACH, SOME COUNSELING AND ADVISING, WORKING ONE-ON-ONE WITH PEOPLE AS WELL AS IN GROUPS, THEN THAT'S THE KIND OF STUDENTS WE TYPICALLY ATTRACT.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A POTENTIAL STUDENT?

I AM LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY -- GOOD QUESTION. BOTTOM LINE, WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR IS PASSION. THIS JOB ISN'T ABOUT FAME. IT'S CERTAINLY NOT ABOUT FORTUNE. BUT WHAT GETS MY STUDENTS THROUGH THE END OF THE DAY TO SUCCEED ONE-ON-ONE WITH STUDENTS IS PASSION AND COMMITMENT. SOMEBODY WHO REALLY FEELS WHAT THEY ARE DOING HAS MEANING AND IT MAKES SENSE TO THEM WHEN THEY GET UP IN THE MORNING. I THINK THAT'S THE THING THAT HELPS YOU KEEP THE FLAME ALIVE.

WHAT'S THE JOB OUTLOOK LIKE FOR COLLEGE COUNSELORS?

IT VARIES. OVERALL, THOUGH, IT'S EXCELLENT. WHY I SAY IT, IT VARIES IS I THINK WE ARE IN A UNIQUE ECONOMIC PINCH AT THE TIME. IN THE SHORT-TERM, I AM SOMEWHAT CONCERNED. IN THE NEAR TERM, AS WELL AS THE LONG-TERM, THE JOB OUTLOOK IS EXCELLENT AND THE REASONS FOR THIS ARE TWO-FOLD. TWO THINGS HAPPENING NATIONALLY. NATIONALLY THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS GOING INTO HIGHER EDUCATION IS INCREASING AND IN CALIFORNIA ALONE, THE GROWTH IS 30 TO 40%. YOU COMPARE THAT NATIONALLY, WHERE THE GROWTH IS 1 TO 5%, YOU CAN SEE WHERE CALIFORNIA IS GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF STUDENTS COME IN THE SYSTEM. WHAT YOU COUPLE WITH THAT THEN, IS YOU HAVE A LOT OF COLLEGE COUNSELORS, PEOPLE WITHIN STUDENT AFFAIRS WHO ARE RETIRING, FACULTY AS WELL AS STAFF. SO THOSE JOBS NEED TO BE REPLACED AND REPLACED PARTICULARLY BECAUSE MORE STUDENTS ARE GOING TO BE COMING IN. I THINK WHAT WE ARE SEEING RIGHT NOW IS BASICALLY A REFLECTION OF A WEAK ECONOMY, BUT I THINK ONCE THAT TURNS OVER AND WE GET TO A BETTER PLACE THAN THAT, THERE WILL BE LOTS OF JOBS AVAILABLE.

WHAT IS A TYPICALLY STARTING SALARY FOR COLLEGE COUNSELOR?

ANYWHERE RIGHT NOW FROM ABOUT 40- LOW 50S IS FAIRLY TYPICAL. IT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING AT. IN FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS, A LOT OF OUR STUDENTS HIT THAT RANGE QUICKLY. PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES TYPICALLY START OFF DOING PART-TIME COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORK IN DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES COLLEGES, WHERE THE SALARY THERE IS ANYWHERE FROM A LOW OF \$25 AN HOUR TO A HIGH OF ABOUT \$60 PER HOUR. THAT VARIES DEPENDING ON THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT YOU'RE LOOKING AT.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER SPECIALIZATIONS THAT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY VALUABLE FOR ME OR EMPHASES THAT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY FOR ME IF I WAS INTERESTED IN BECOMING A COLLEGE COUNSELOR?

YEAH, PROBABLY TWO THAT I WOULD REALLY CONSIDER. ACTUALLY, NO, MORE THAN THAT. I THINK THE CAREER COUNSELING IS A TYPICAL COMBINATION MANY OF OUR STUDENTS HAVE. THAT GIVES THEM A LITTLE BIT MORE DEPTH IN CAREER COUNSELING. I ALSO THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE M. F. T. AS WELL AS THE SCHOOL COUNSELING SPECIALIZATIONS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY STRATEGIC FOR STUDENTS. THE SCHOOL COUNSELING DEGREE

PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT ALLOWS YOU TO BRANCH OUT INTO THE K-12 SECTION. WITH A P. P. S., YOU CAN ALSO WORK IN K-12. THAT I THINK WOULD BE STRATEGICALLY HELPFUL.

WITH AN M. F. T., IT ALLOWS YOU TO OPEN UP AND WORK IN A THERAPY SETTING, PERHAPS OPEN UP YOUR OWN PRIVATE PRACTICE. I THINK THOSE TWO COMBINATIONS IN PARTICULAR, ARE VERY USEFUL. THEY ARE DIFFICULT IN TERMS OF IT DOES ADD COURSE REQUIREMENTS, CONSIDERABLE COURSE REQUIREMENTS, BUT IN TERMS OF JOB VIABILITY, I THINK IT'S SMART.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT COLLEGE COUNSELING?

I THINK IT'S A WONDERFUL FIELD. I'VE BEEN AFFILIATED WITH STUDENT AFFAIRS EVER SINCE I WAS IN COLLEGE. AND IT'S A TYPE OF FIELD THAT YOU CAN THROW YOUR HEART INTO. AND IT'S PROBABLY THE MOST REWARDING THING I'VE OF DONE. IT'S NICE TO BE ON A CAMPUS WHERE YOU KNOW THAT THE MISSION OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS SOMETHING OTHER PEOPLE CARE ABOUT AND COLLEGE COUNSELING PEOPLE ARE ROWING IN THE SAME DIRECTION, WHICH IS TO HELP STUDENTS. THAT'S AN EASY SELL.

IT'S AN EASY THING TO INVEST YOURSELF INTO. I WOULD INVITE  
YOU ALL TO CONSIDER IT.

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