Peer Career Advising for Weitzman School of Design Students

The Opportunity
- Career Services Graduate Student/Postdoc team serves students in the Weitzman School of Design (800+ graduate students in pre-professional fields)
- For the last several years, we have been able to hire a Weitzman student as a work study
- Primary responsibilities had been around graphic design work related to the school
  - Marketing for the Design & Creative Career Fair
  - Design of career-related documents, such as the Design Resume Guide

The Challenge
- A great deal of interest from Design students in having resume and cover letter advice
- Career Services held weekly walk-in hours in Meyerson Hall which would often fill in minutes
- The volume of resume critiques was creating a backlog for other students we serve
- …and then COVID shut down campus

The Outcome
- The reimagining of how we could effectively provide resume reviews to Weitzman students
- We retooled the work study position to shift the focus from graphic design work to peer career advising
- Job description was shifted and was appealing to many applicants
- The student we hired spent the fall semester on some graphic design work, but also spent a lot of time shadowing staff members (virtually!) to learn the best practices of resume reviews
- During the spring semester, our PCA offered 12-18 20 minute sessions each week – over 200 resumes were reviewed!
- Appointments opened each Monday to assure there would not be a long wait
- Students reported a high level of satisfaction with the resume reviews
- She also had time to create this new Cover Letter Guide for Design Students

The Future
- Career Services will hire a work study in this role in the future
- Weekly resume reviews will continue – whether in-person or virtual
- Possibilities of teaming up with Weitzman to offer additional PCAs

Learn more about our 2020-2021 PCA here