Why work? Answering this question is the heart of how we serve students in the Calling and Career Office at Taylor University. God’s Word has a lot to say about work, and we don’t have to go very far—it is right at the very beginning of the story in the Book of Genesis. Work existed before the fall... It is a good idea from a good God.

Work is all too often presented to us with the image of a ladder. We start our careers at the bottom and with each grueling step we keep going up and to the right and eventually if we work hard enough there will be a bountiful retirement at the end... up and to the right. I think God has a different idea. Work was always intended to be a collaborative endeavor, a means for us to know Him and know one another. One way to think of this is that our work is more like building tables than ladders.

The mission of the Calling and Career Office (CCO) is to connect students to people and experiences that guide them in discerning a faithful response to God’s call. The fulfillment of our mission is guided by our four core values: Imagination, Risk, Collaboration and Truth. These values serve as aspirations in our shared work and reminders of what we seek to accomplish with the students entrusted to our care. The 2019 Taylor University Alumni Survey revealed that the CCO received its highest satisfaction rating in the history of this important assessment. The satisfaction rate has increased twenty-one percentage points overall since 2012, including a ten percentage point increase in the last three years! As I reflect on the mission and values that lead each annual report, I’m deeply grateful for the positive feedback we are hearing from alumni who benefitted from the work of our team.

The CCO is responsible for collecting the first destination data for the University. The data in this report captures the experiences of our 2019 graduates within the first six months after graduation. While there are many reasons Taylor graduates have success in finding work after graduation, we maintain that the increased student engagement with the CCO is one key factor in that success.

So... Instead of building ladders let’s build tables: not focused on getting ahead of others but getting to know others. Approaching work as an opportunity to know God and others better establishing the kind of relationships that will be a part of an eternal kingdom. After all, the value of our work is not in what we make but in what it makes of us.

All the best,

Jeff Aupperle, PhD
Director of Calling and Career &
The Promising Ventures Program
jeffry_aupperle@taylor.edu
765.998.4553 Office
THE CALLING AND CAREER OFFICE EXISTS TO CONNECT STUDENTS TO PEOPLE AND EXPERIENCES THAT GUIDE THEM IN DISCERNING A FAITHFUL RESPONSE TO GOD’S CALL.
Jeff Aupperle has been the Director of the CCO for the last 4 years. Jeff works diligently to connect students with people and resources to answer God's call on their lives. If he is not working at his standing desk with the lights dimmed, Jeff can be found sitting at a high top table, Americano in hand, engaged in meaningful conversation about one of the many books he just finished reading.

Amber started as Assistant Director in 2017 and has been making the CCO brighter ever since. She is passionate about helping students discover their God-given gifts to engage with the world around them. Outside of the CCO, Amber can be found writing a paper for MAHE, driving her kids around, or drinking coffee with her husband on the porch. She is most likely to bring up Aldi in casual conversation.

A 16-year CCO staff member, Kim’s roles in the CCO include full time office manager and part time free-lance photographer. Kim coordinates events, logistics, and outside relationships, ensuring each interaction with our office is pleasant and meaningful. Nothing gets done around here without Kim McGary.

As a first-year graduate assistant in the CCO, Taylor regularly meets with undergraduate students and interns, assisting in preparing them for the next steps after college. She is friendly and passionate. When not in her office meeting with students, Taylor can be found running around Upland, reading, or whipping up a mean latte at the Jumping Bean.
Most likely to win MVP in intramurals

Jon

Most likely to work at a standing desk

Aiden

Most likely to actually work during office hours

Taylor

Most likely to ruin a group picture

Kendall

Most likely to also work at The Jumping Bean

Sara

Most likely to rule the world

Erin

CCO INTER
MOST LIKELY TO OWN A CANDLE BUSINESS

MOST LIKELY TO TURN EVERYTHING INTO A SONG

MOST LIKELY TO BEAT YOU AT SPIKEBALL

MOST LIKELY TO USE ALL THE OFFICE K-CUPS

MOST LIKELY TO SAY “WHAT’S UP FAMILY”

MOST LIKELY TO TURN EVERYTHING INTO A SONG

MOST LIKELY TO MAKE THE COMM. DEPARTMENT PROUD

MOST LIKELY TO OWN A CANDLE BUSINESS

MOST LIKELY TO SPEND THE MORNING AT THE BARN
Truth is not easily defined. It is a nebulous, wispy concept. It is not the means to an end, but rather the means and the end. It is in the process and it is the process. A necessary companion to truth is patience. The process of grounding our convictions in truth is the deliberate, meditative work of digging in deep and uprooting all of the untruths speaking lies into our lives and in their place planting the sovereign Truth of God rooted in Scripture.

Whether as current students, prospective students, faculty, staff, or alumni, we have all stood or will stand at the foot of some difficult task. But we don’t have to face it alone. When we come together in conversation, in community, we allow others into our lives with the confidence that contested knowledge is better than untried intelligence. We believe in the principle that the composite idea is greater than any solitary one. That a cord of three strands is not easily broken.
Most of us connect risk to the fear of failure – the possibility of not achieving what we set out to do. The concept of failure incites a fear greater than the joy of success. However, risk doesn’t have to be this scary. It’s true that—with some level of correlation—as risk increases so do the consequences of our failure. It’s also true that failure is inevitable, but failure is a faithful teacher. Risk is not something to be avoided but to be confronted with proper preparation.

Imagination is a crucial piece to problem-solving. When we ignore our imagination, we are limiting our ability to process information and work through difficult situations. We are denying ourselves full access to the human experience. So dream big. Have ideas. Welcome the seemingly impossible, the absurd, the utterly ridiculous into your life and give it the subtle opportunity of consideration. Rarely does God work in the easily predictable.
CLASS OF 2019 FIRST DESTINATION DATA

NOTABLE GRAD SCHOOLS:
- Baylor University
- Chicago Kent College of Law
- Indiana University School of Medicine
- Marquette University
- Michigan State University
- Ohio State University
- Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- University of Georgia
- University of Notre Dame
- Washington University School of Medicine

NOTABLE COMPANIES:
- Boeing
- Chick-fil-A Corporate
- Cummins
- Edward Jones
- Elanco
- Eli Lilly
- Ernst & Young
- FBI
- KPMG
- Walt Disney
The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) requires institutions to collect data on career outcomes for 65% of each graduating class. At Taylor, we collected career outcomes data from 87% of our 2019 graduates. (399/456 graduates)

The Full-Time Employment Rate measures the percentage of graduates who obtain full-time employment within six months of graduation. The NACE national average is 59%. The Full-Time Employment Rate for the Taylor University Class of 2019 was 74%.

The NACE National Average for an institutional Career Outcome Rate, comprised of all forms of employment and continuing education, is 85.7%. The Taylor University Class of 2019 achieved a 98.5% Career Outcomes Rate.