

# A Path Toward Holistic Growth

How Compass has Guided Abilene Christian University (ACU) Students and Faculty

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# OUR TEAM



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A wide-angle photograph of the Abilene Christian University building, a large, modern structure with a prominent arched entrance and a tall, slender tower. The building is set against a dramatic sky with soft, colorful clouds in shades of pink, orange, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, a lush green lawn is flanked by rows of mature, leafy trees. The overall scene is peaceful and well-maintained.

# ACU MISSION

The mission of Abilene Christian University is to  
educate students for Christian service and leadership  
throughout the world



# COMPETENCIES

- Grow Intellectually
- Grow Personally
- Grow Spiritually
- Grow Professionally
- Grow Culturally







# Roll Out

- Became known as “the Chapel App”
  - Disconnect between Roadmap and Suitable
  - Definition of holistic unsure
  - Faculty and Student resistance
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ACU Compass was created with great intentions, but...

- Poor communication of holistic purpose;
- Cross-campus collaboration needed;
- Faculty, staff, and staff are resistant to new platforms, work, and “trendy” programs.

# OVERVIEW





# BREAKOUT SESSION

At your tables, discuss the following:

What challenges has your university encountered regarding:

- Marketing?
- Implementation?
- Collaboration?
- Other?







Our goal? To Capture, Highlight,  
and Connect!



# CHALLENGES

## Academic Rigor

- Highlighting vs duplicating efforts
- Canvas integration resistance

## Competing platforms

- App fatigue; Software limitations
- Data silos; Mistrust of longevity

## Faculty/Staff Resistance

- Past burns
- Heavy loads





# COLLABORATION

It takes time and trust and we're working on that, but it's moments like this that keep us going:

**“It's not just about scanning QR codes. It's about becoming a better person.” - current student**





# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

..in Compass should allow students to:

1. be educated about their options
  2. gauge their experiences along the journey
  3. gain vocational formation insights throughout
- And our office should...
4. have one place to pull numbers.

**The ACU Center for Careers and Experiential Learning:**





# HIGH IMPACT PRACTICES

- Common Intellectual Experiences
- Eportfolios
- Internships
- Diversity/Global Learning
- Undergrad Research
- First Year Experience

**STRONGER AREAS**



**AREAS IN PROGRESS**



- Service Learning/Community Service
- Learning Communities
- Writing Intensive Courses
- Collaborative Assignments/Projects
- Capstone Courses



# STUDENT LIFE

- Allows students to see how they are engaging with campus, giving a digital scrapbook of experience
- Tells the big picture of a students growth, integrating “fun” with the learning outcomes of Student Life
- Provides data for our faculty/staff to see how/where students are engaging.





# FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

Faculty are resistant to change that adds to workload. They also are hesitant to jump on what they perceive as a trend.

## So what did we do?

1. Told our data story!
2. Used our faculty resources!







# TAKEAWAYS

- Experiential Learning allows for insight on student awareness, engagement, and others.
- Partnering with Student Life helps to bridge the gap between “fun” activities and holistic growth.
- Intentionally engaging with faculty helps increase our overall mission.





**CO  
BA** | **PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**



# SAMPLE: SCHOOL OF IT AND COMPUTING

## YEAR 1

### FALL - ITC 110

- Resume creation
- PathwayU
- Start portfolio
- Attend guest speaker event

### SPRING - DET 210/CS 130

- LinkedIn creation
- Work on soft skills
- Attend guest speaker event

### SUMMER

- Work

## YEAR 2

### FALL - DET 260/CS 332

- Apply to 1 internship
- Cover letter creation
- Attend guest speaker event

### SPRING - CS 230

- Schedule meeting with Jasmine
- Practice interviewing
- Attend guest speaker event

### SUMMER

- Work or partner with a nonprofit to practice skills

## YEAR 3

### FALL - CS 374

- Apply to 3 internships or show offer
- Update resume
- Attend guest speaker event

### SPRING - CS 375/DET 350

- Schedule meeting with Jasmine
- Attend mock interview session
- Attend guest speaker event

### SUMMER

- Internship

## YEAR 4

### FALL

- Secure employment
- Schedule meeting with Jasmine
- Attend guest speaker event
- Attend etiquette dinner

### SPRING

- Attend etiquette dinner

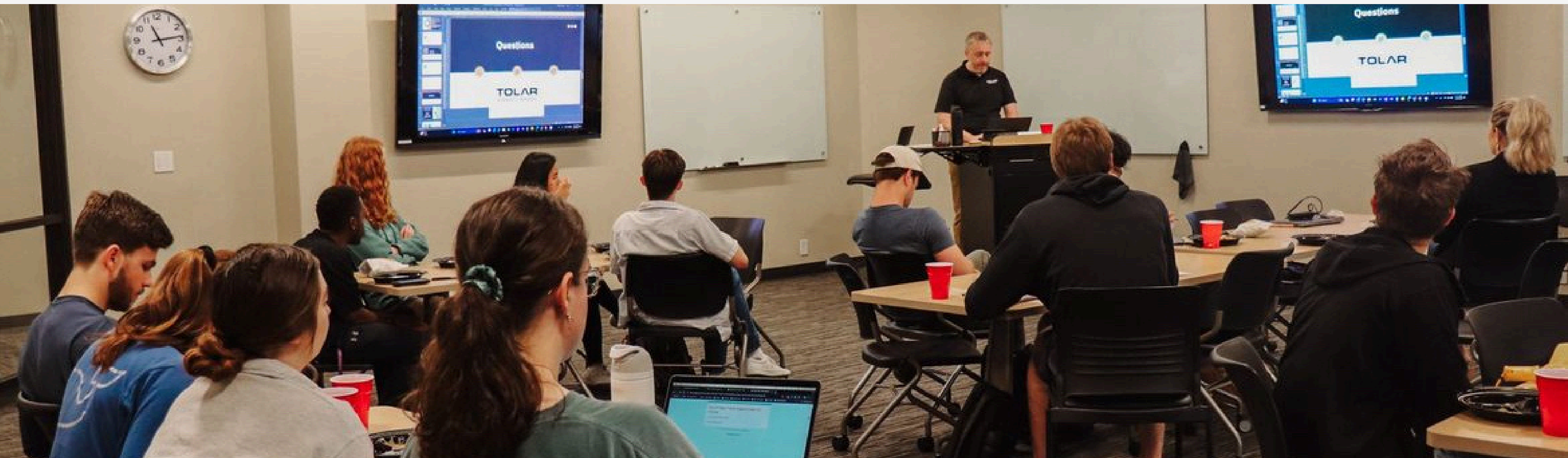
### SUMMER

- Start career!



# STUDENT FEEDBACK

“I’m incredibly thankful that this was made an official assignment for COBA. Building a resume can be a challenge (especially when you have no idea what you’re doing), but getting the chance to learn about it in class and learn about SkillsFirst actually helped me make one. Thank you!” - current student



# Professional Development Snapshot

## Summer & Fall 2023 Semester Outcomes Report

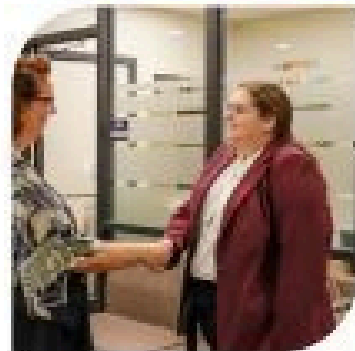
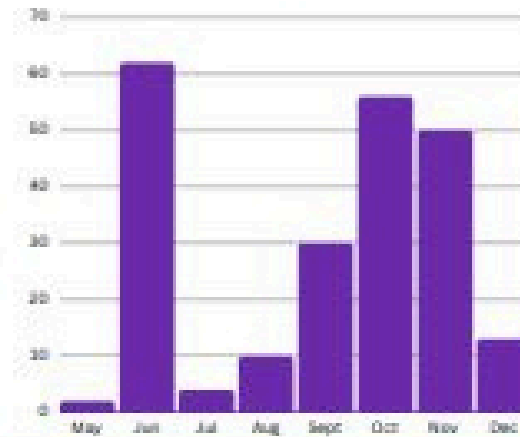
MAY 15 - DECEMBER 15



227 one-on-one coaching appointments provided for professional development support :

- Resume review and creation
- Career exploration
- Internship Search
- Job search
- Interview preparation

### Student Coaching Appointments



Key Indicator	Activity	Outcome
Employer Meetings	Organized in person and virtual meetings with employers	43 total
Class Inserts & Student Organizations	Presented in and coordinated guest speakers for classes and student organizations	12 total
Career Readiness & Employer Hiring Events	Planned and hosted events that equipped and connected students to internship and job opportunities	8 total

### Snapshot of New Employer Connections Fostered



Data Collection  
+  
Identifying willing  
partners



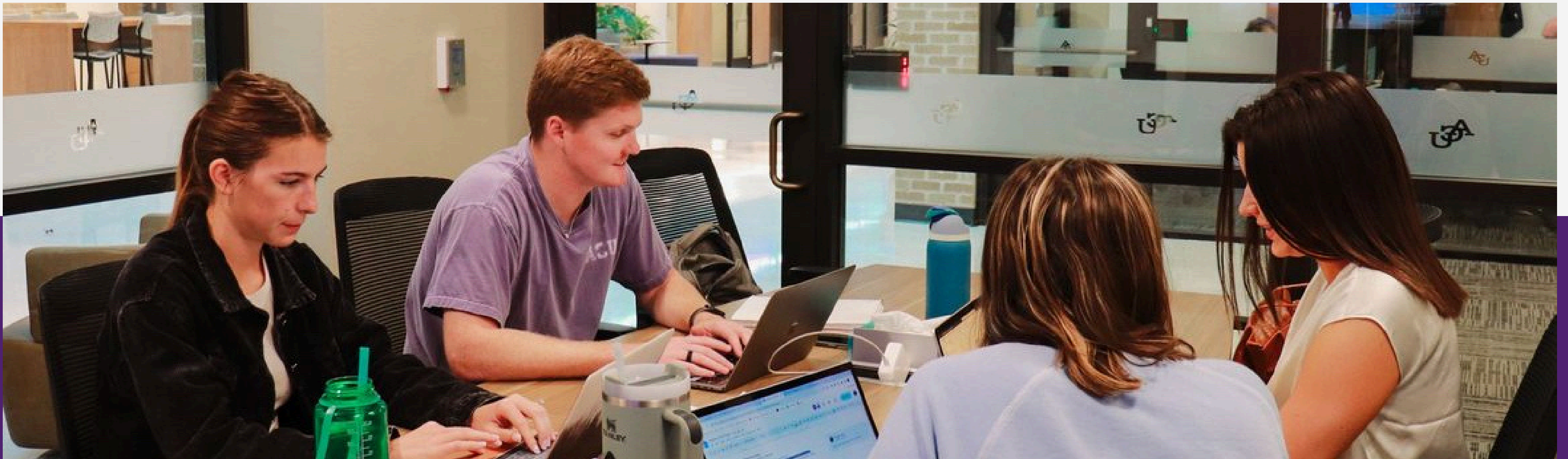
# SUITABLE IN THE CLASSROOM

- Industry expert reflections
- Peer to peer mentorship
- Internship reflections
- Professional document creation
- Mock interviews
- Nonprofit consulting



# 40%

Students in classes integrated with Suitable were completing 40% more professional development activities during their academic career.





# 83%

Overall, 83% of business & technology students engaged in COBA Compass during their 2023-2024 academic year.





# TAKEAWAYS

- Faculty partnership increases a students' likelihood to engage within and even beyond the classroom.
- Students that are prepared professionally launch into fulfilling careers post-graduation.



# BREAKOUT SESSION

At your tables, discuss the following questions:

- What are some possible solutions your school could potentially utilize?
- Is anything shared today a possibility for your campus or has it stemmed some new ideas for what may be possible?



# ANY QUESTIONS?







**Suitable  
Insider  
Competition  
QR Code**