

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - Certified Student Career Coach Program

Q1: What is the required text for the program, and is it available in Kindle or audio format?

Rest assured, there are no additional costs for required texts. All readings will be provided in PDF format, free of charge. The material will include coaching-type business case articles, peer-reviewed journal articles, self-reflection activities, and a research book (my book). You can choose readings based on your interests, and all materials will be accessible in PDF format.

Q2: What deliverables are required for certification?

Completion of approximately 20-30 hours, which consists of:

- Weekly video lectures
- Weekly forums and discussions
- Weekly reflection assignments
- A required capstone project

In addition, there are significant readings, articles from books, videos, publications, and scholarly works including podcasts and reports from reputable organizations such as Genius Within, JP Morgan Chase, DEI Disability Index, Inside Higher Ed, MIT Sloan Management Review, NCDA, Insider Intelligence, American Corporate Partners, Harvard Business Review, Centurion Military Alliance, Feds Hire Vets, Federal Defense, Career One Stop, U.S. Department of Labor, Hire Heroes, Deloitte, NACE, and more.

Course Outline

Week 1:

- **Forum Discussion:** Case Study
- **Reflection Assignment:** Vocational Theory Proficiency, Data Analysis, Labor Market, Coaching Style
- **Exercise Options:** Jung Type, High 5, REBEL, RIASECT, Enneagram
- **Sample Topics:** Career Theories, Krumboltz, Social Cognitive, etc.

Week 2:

- **Forum Discussion:** Case Study
- **Reflection Assignment:** Career Plan, Career Strategy Across Demographics
- **Exercise Options:** Goal Setting Focus Group, Communication Techniques, Demographic Profile Analysis
- **Sample Topics:** Veterans, Future of Workforce, Gen Z, LGBT, Neurodiversity, Genius, Skills

Week 3:

- **Forum Discussion:** Case Study

- **Reflection Assignment:** Strategies & Techniques to Overcome Barriers, Challenges Students Face, Ethical Considerations
- **Exercise Assignment:** Individual Advocacy Plan, Ethical Dilemma Analysis, Barrier Identification, Role-Play
- **Sample Topics:** Social Capital, Mindset, Parents, Ethics, Cultural Capital

Week 4:

- **Forum Discussion:** Case Study
- **Reflection Assignment:** Coaching Strengths, Areas for Improvement, Useful Resources
- **Exercise Assignment:** Digital Proficiency Showcase, AI-Enhanced Resume and Interview Prep, Collaborative Career Office Projects
- **Sample Topics:** AI, Chat GPT, Virtual Reality, Start-Up Kit

Final Project: Capstone

The capstone project is the culmination of your Student Career Coaching program journey. This transformative assignment lets you synthesize your learning and self-discovery into a personal coaching framework. The goal is to enhance your self-awareness and articulate a unique coaching philosophy that aligns with your vision and addresses the diverse needs of your future clients. Through this process, you will be empowered to impact the career development journeys of those you coach.

Q3: Will sessions be recorded, and can I access them if I miss a session?

Yes, all classes will be recorded using Zoom and uploaded to the portal. You can review the sessions at your convenience, whether you attend live or watch the replay.

Q4: What support and accessibility options are available?

Accessibility is a priority. If you need accommodations, please email me at NataschaSaunders@gmail.com. Having been diagnosed with a learning disability myself, I understand the importance of accommodating individual needs. I am committed to providing a supportive learning environment and am readily accessible throughout the program. 'Office Hours' will be available for additional support.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

I am committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. If you require accommodations, please email me at NataschaSaunders@gmail.com. I have personal experience with a learning disability and have successfully coached clients and taught adults with various learning needs.

Your success in this program is my #1 priority.

Q5: Is there any cost associated with the suggested optional texts?

While I may suggest some favorite texts, they are optional to purchase and will not be required for exams or homework assignments.

Q6: When will the online portal be populated with course content?

The online portal is targeted to be populated with course content by Sunday, January 28, ahead of our start on Thursday, February 1st. No advance work is required.

Q7: How can I approach my employer to fund this program as part of my professional development?

Approaching your employer for professional development support can be a strategic step. Here's a sample email template to initiate the conversation:

Sample Email Draft:

Subject: Proposal for Professional Development Investment - Certified Student Career Coach Program

Dear [Supervisor's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my enthusiasm about an upcoming professional development opportunity that aligns seamlessly with my role and responsibilities at [Your Company/Organization Name].

I have come across the Certified Student Career Coach Program, which offers comprehensive training in career coaching and leadership development. Given the increasing focus on talent development and mentorship within our organization, I believe this program will not only enhance my skills but also contribute significantly to our team's success.

The program, led by Dr. Natascha F. Saunders, comes highly recommended, and I am confident that the insights gained will directly impact our approach to employee career development and advancement.

To make the most of this opportunity, I am seeking your support to cover the program fees as part of our ongoing commitment to professional growth. The benefits of this investment will extend beyond my personal development, positively influencing our team's ability to guide and support employees/students / alumni / community effectively.

Here is a breakdown of the estimated costs:

Program Fee: [Insert Cost]

Duration: 4 weeks

Expected Outcomes: [List specific outcomes relevant to your job]

I believe this investment is a strategic move for our team, and I am more than willing to discuss how the learnings can be shared and applied within our organization upon completion of the program.

Thank you for considering my request, and I look forward to the possibility of contributing even more effectively to our team's success with the enhanced skills gained through this program.

Best regards,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Position]

[Your Contact Information]

Thank each of you for considering joining the Certified Student Career Coach Program. I look forward to the opportunity of working together to ensure your success!

Best regards,

Dr. Natascha F. Saunders

Have more questions? If so, email: NataschaSaunders@gmail.com

Q8: Question: What do I gain from this program? Will it be beneficial to me?

Thank you for considering our Certified Student Career Coach Program. We support this program, its curriculum, and the vibrant community it fosters. Drawing from my experience coaching in diverse sectors and serving students globally, we've crafted a foundational program comprising four modules.

While this isn't an exhaustive deep dive, it's a concentrated four-week introductory journey designed to address the foundational needs of coaching students.

To determine if this program aligns with your goals, consider creating a mini-rubric:

1. Course Description Resonance:
 - Review the course description – does it resonate with your coaching aspirations and objectives?
2. Weekly Subject Matter:
 - Examine each week's subject matter – can you benefit from expanding your knowledge in these specific areas?
3. Curriculum Integration:
 - Assess your ability to integrate the curriculum into your coaching practice – does it align with your coaching philosophy?
4. Community Building:
 - Are you seeking to build a community and connect with like-minded individuals focused on student coaching?
5. Personalized Measuring Tool:
 - Utilize points 1-4 and any additional criteria important to you as a personalized measuring tool.

Extra: Watch Natascha's video as she talks through what is covered in each module:

https://youtu.be/csTkRf-MeTk?si=uaRhUSUC_E2T5Fyb

Remember, this program is a focused and foundational step towards enhancing your skills in coaching students. It's about what aligns best with your professional development journey. Feel free to reach out if you have more specific questions or need further clarification.

Q9: I live overseas, outside the United States, would this focus mostly on the United States?

While I am based in the United States, my extensive experience as a former Goodwill Ambassador to Gambia and my service to students from over 100+ countries provide me with a unique perspective on the intricacies and needs of students globally. It's important to note that my viewpoint is U.S.- based, yet the program is designed to be inclusive and offer insights that transcend countries.

Here are some additional considerations:

Global Relevance:

A portion of the content transcends geographic boundaries. Concepts like understanding vocational theories and certain personality traits, challenges, and strategies can be universally applicable.

Global Career Perspectives:

Many students reaching out for coaching aspire to work, intern, and study globally. I have coached students pursuing roles in international organizations such as the World Bank, the United Nations, many organizations with international office locations, and non-profits, including those in very rural areas. Our perspective in this foundational course broadens to acknowledge diverse student backgrounds and career goals across the world.

U.S. Opportunities

We have seen a rise in students from various countries seeking opportunities in the United States. Statista reports that 1,057,188 international students were studying in the U.S. in 2022/23. Regardless of your location, chances are you'll encounter students aspiring to study or work in the U.S., and this program provides insights into their expectations.

International Students

I'm thankful to have experience coaching and teaching international students and grasp the intricacies of navigating careers between their home countries and the U.S. As a consultant and facilitator for organizations in 142 countries, I am grateful to bring a wealth of global perspectives. With over 10 years of teaching at Northeastern University, Global Pathway Program (ranked #1 Most International Students, US Student and Exchange Visitor Program 2020), as well as currently working at Harvard Kennedy School of Government with a diverse and thriving international student community – I am committed to serving coaches who serve ALL students.

Exploration of Global Career Nuances

While this program does not delve deeply into complex topics like H1B, OPT/CPT, and Visas, it acknowledges these opportunities. Peer collaboration offers the chance to explore these nuances further.

Global Network

Our Professional Association of Resume Writers & Career Coaches (PARW/CC) includes members from various countries, reflecting a growing global presence.

Hands-on Learning & Adaptability

The program encourages hands-on learning where your expertise contributes. If discussions or data are U.S.-centric, you're encouraged to proactively explore and contribute insights from your country. The program aims to empower you to adapt coaching practices to your specific context, making them relevant and impactful in your region.

Remember, this is a foundational 4-week program fostering a collaborative learning environment, and your active participation ensures the curriculum becomes a tailored and enriching experience, irrespective of your location.