# The Power of Partnership: Redefining Graduate Student Success Through Collaborative Pathways

Global Access Network

# Upcoming Opportunities

▶ **2026 Global Impact MENA** Registration Open

March 25 - 27, Abu Dhabi

▶ **Unraveling COIL - The Benefits and Challenges of COIL/Virtual Exchange** Discussion

March 2026

▶ **2026 Global Impact North America** Call for Proposals Open

Deadline: March 23, 2026

▶ **2026 Global Impact North America** IMPACT Award Nominations Open

Deadline: April 23, 2026

da | Global Access Network

# Speakers

**Lurissa Brown**

Associate Director – Career Services

*Arizona State University*

Presenter

**Harold Ortiz**

Graduate Program Manager

*Arizona State University*

Presenter

da | Global Access Network

# Agenda

▶ **Welcome & Introductions**

▶ **Introduction and Context**

▶ **Key Motivations and Challenges for International Students**

▶ **Intersection of GPO and Career Services**

▶ **Building and Strengthening Relationships**

▶ **Closing Remarks**

da | Global Access Network

# Key Takeaways

▶ **Identify and pursue cross-departmental collaboration opportunities to enhance student support.**

▶ **Proactively manage student expectations starting from day one.**

▶ **Ensure messaging, timelines, and student support align with the real-world dynamics of the job search process for graduate students.**

da | Global Access Network

# Mentimeter



https://www.menti.com/al3qarewowkz

# Introduction & Context

This session helps educators and staff better understand and support today's students—especially international graduate students—as they work toward academic success and careers in the U.S.

We'll review Arizona State University's student demographics and engagement trends, including international student representation and career outcomes.

Using Graduate Student Programs (GPO) and Career Services frameworks, we'll explore how aligning these areas creates a more connected and effective approach to academic and career development.

Participants will gain practical strategies to help students balance academic, career, and social demands and support their overall success.

# Introduction & Context

Why do international students pursue graduate degrees in the U.S. and the challenges that come with studying abroad?

## Aspirational and Educational Rationale

diverse majors of study are available in the US, to potential caneer career opportunities in specific aress, ability to pursue one's professional dreams and a personal growth and fulfillment.

## Economic Rationale

international students see as a graduate degree as an investment.

## Experiential Rationale

Experiential Rationale – desire to develop a nuanced understanding of the world, acquire life skills, and achieve a level of independence that they felt could not in in their countries.

## Personal Change

Engagement with stylyizzs with U.S. culture can act as a catalyst for personal change, suggesting that immersion in a new cultural environment can influence an individual's identity.

## Economic Pressure

Challenges arise will relations to tuition, the cost of living. ohor other one pressures associated associated nin studying U.S. higher education.

## Barriers to Employment

Barriers to Employment – specifically tried to their search for work utilizing Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Occupational Practical Training (OPT) employment authorizations.

Reference: International Student Experiences of Seeking Employment in the U.S. Weiner, L., & Ghazarian, P. (2024).

da | Global Access Network

# Introduction & Context

**Master's / Specialized Master's Programs (in person / on-campus versions) at W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University**

- Full-time MBA (core classes mostly daytime on Tempe campus)
- Evening MBA (on the Tempe campus, some courses possibly online)
- Executive MBA (with periodic in-residence weekends)
- Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence in Business (MS-AIB)
- Master of Science in Economics (MS-ECON)
- Master of Science in Finance (MS-FIN)
- Master of Science in Information Systems Management (MS-ISM)
- Master of Science in Business Analytics (MS-BA) (in-person option)
- Master of Science in Entrepreneurship & Innovation (MS-EI)
- Master of Science in Supply Chain Management (MS-SCM)
- Master of Real Estate Development (MRED)
- Master of Taxation and Data Analytics (MTax)
- Master of Accountancy & Data Analytics (MACC)



da | Global Access Network

# Key Statistics and International

# ASU Student Demographics
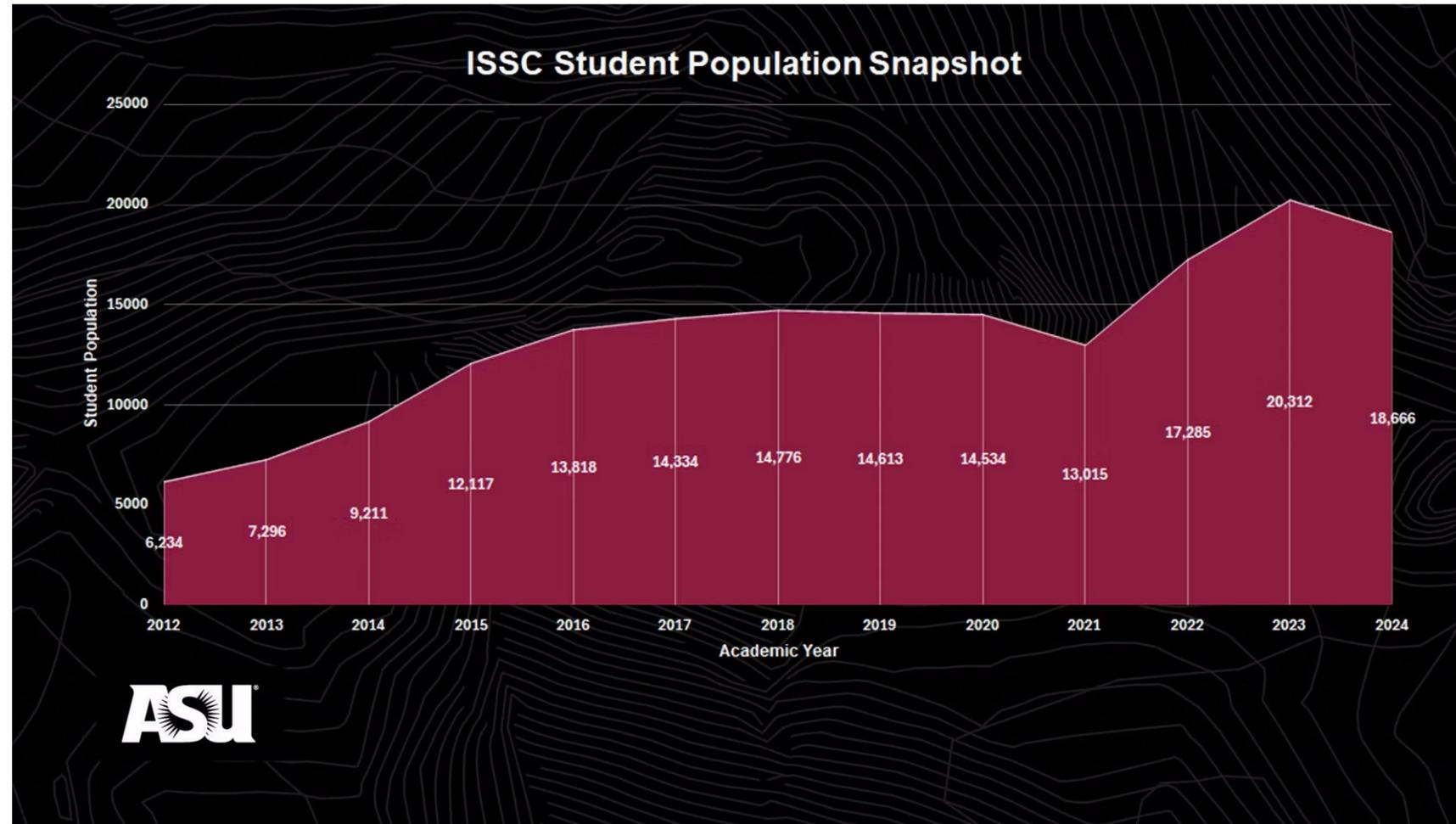
# Key Statistics and International ASU Student Demographics



W. P. Carey by the numbers

Data as of Aug. 15, 2025

**ASU W. P. Carey** School of Business
Arizona State University

| | |
|---|---|
| **25,434** W. P. Carey students | **130,000+** Alumni |
| **23,085** Undergraduate students | **1,625** Undergraduate honors students |
| **2,214** MBA and master's students | **2,104** International students |
| **130+** Doctoral students | **2,149** Transfer students |
| **8,813** Online students | **4,306** First-time first year students |

# Key Statistics and International ASU Student Demographic

As of Fall 2025, the W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University (ASU) enrolled a total of **2,214 graduate students**, comprising:

- **MBA Students**: 1,066
- **Specialized Master's Program Students**: 1,018
- **Doctoral Students**: 130

Of these, approximately **39%** were international students. **2,214 × 0.39 ≈ 863 international students**

**Gender Representation –** While exact figures for international students are not specified, the overall gender distribution at W. P. Carey is approximately:

- **Male:** 61%
- **Female:** 39%

**Age Distribution –** average age of graduate students at W. P. Carey is around **30.7 years**.

**Geographic Representation –** International students at W. P. Carey are represented from over **120 countries**. The international graduate student body at W. P. Carey is broadly distributed across various regions:

· **Asia**: Countries such as India, China, South Korea, and Taiwan contribute a significant portion of the international student population.

· **Europe**: Students from countries like Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.

· **Latin America**: Nations including Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia.

· **Africa**: Students from countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa.

· **Middle East**: Countries like the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

# Key Statistics and International ASU Student Demographic

**Graduate Student Demographics at W. P. Carey School of Business (Fall 2025)**

📊 <u>**Enrollment Overview**</u>

**Total Graduate Students**: 2,214

🎓 **MBA Students**: 1,066
📘 **Specialized Master's Programs**: 1,018
🔬 **Doctoral Students**: 130

🌍 **International Students**
• 39% of enrollment
• ≈ 863 students

👥 <u>**Student Demographics**</u>

⚧ **Gender Representation (Overall)**
• Male: 61%
• Female: 39%

🎂 **Average Age** (While exact figures for international students are not specified, the overall gender distribution at W. P. Carey is approximately):
• 30.7 years

🗺️ **Geographic Representation**
• Students from 120+ countries
• Asia, Europe, Latin America, Africa, Middle East

*W. P. Carey's graduate student body reflects strong international and global diversity.*



da | Global Access Network

# Key Statistics and International ASU Student Demographics

## Total Graduate Students: 2,214
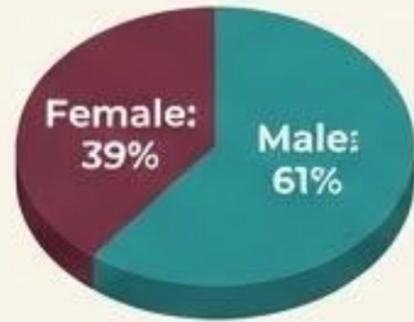
🏛 MBA: **1,066**   ⚙ Specialized Master's: **1,018**   🎓 Doctoral: **130**

🌐 **39%** International Students (approx. 863)

Female: 39%   Male: 61%

🕐 Average Age: **30.7 years**



**Latin America**
Nations including Germany, France, Arwrica, Mexico, and Colombia.

**Asia**
Countries such as China, Sain Koorea

**Latin America**
Nations including Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia.

**Africa**
Students such nnriee can Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa.

**Middle East**
Countries like the United Arab Emirates Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

# Key Challenges for International Students

🌍 Cultural & Social Adjustment

🗣️ Language Barriers

🎓 Academic Challenges

💰 Financial Pressure

🛂 Visa & Legal Issues

🧠 Mental Health & Well-Being

🏠 Practical & Daily Life Issues

💼 Career & Employment Barriers

da | Global Access Network

# Key Motivations and Challenges for International Students

**Why do international students pursue graduate degrees in the U.S. and the challenges that come with studying abroad?**

## MOTIVATIONS

🎓 **Aspirational & Educational**
- Diverse majors
- Career opportunities
- Professional dreams
- Personal growth

💰 **Economic Rationale**
- Degree as long-term investment

🌍 **Experiential Rationale**
- Global perspective
- Life skills & independence

🧠 **Personal Change**
- Cultural immersion
- Identity development

## CHALLENGES

💸 **Economic Pressure**
- High tuition
- Cost of living
- Financial stress

💼 **Barriers to Employment**
- CPT & OPT restrictions
- Visa-related limitations
- Difficulty gaining experience



**Reference**: International Student Experiences of Seeking Employment in the U.S. Weiner, L., & Ghazarian, P. (2024).

da | Global Access Network

# GPO Key Challenges



**Graduate Program Operations**

Academic Challenges

Cultural & Communication Differences

Mental Health & Well-Being

Practical & Daily Life Issues

CPT/OPT Challenges

**Career Management**

# Intersection of Graduate Program Operations (GPO) and Career Services

- Explain GPO's role in providing a complete student experience while introducing resources to promote career growth.

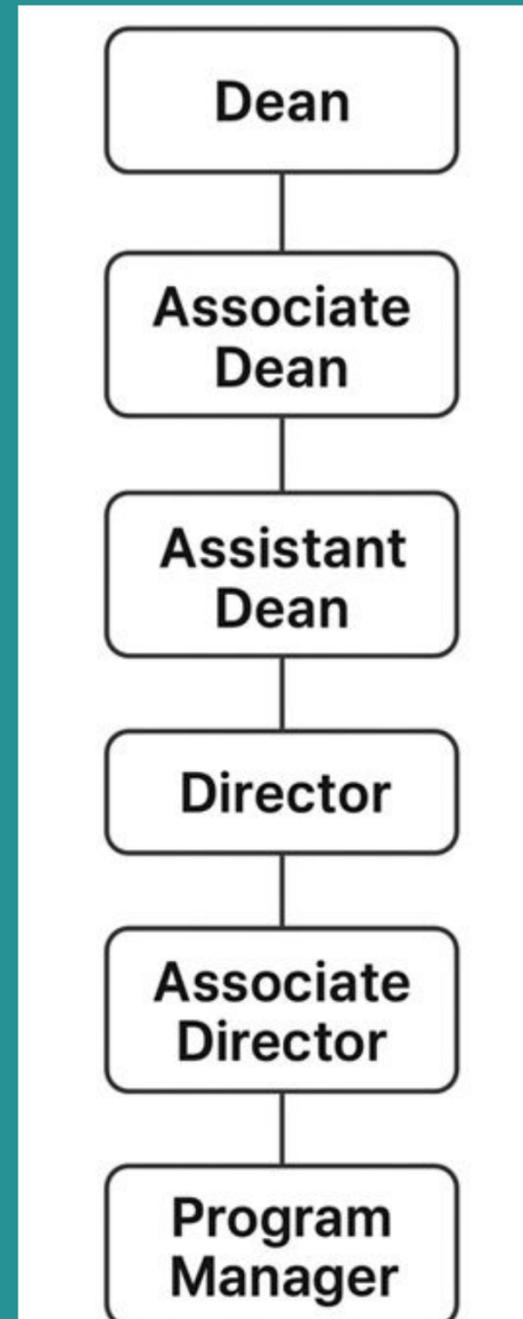- Explain Career Services role in supporting students' career development and model.

W. P. CAREY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

da | Global Access Network

# Mentimeter



https://www.menti.com/al3qarewowkz

# Graduate Student Programs (GPO) Model

Dean → top-level administrator at W. P. Carey School of Business.

Associate Dean → supports the Dean; oversees broad areas like academics, faculty, or student affairs.
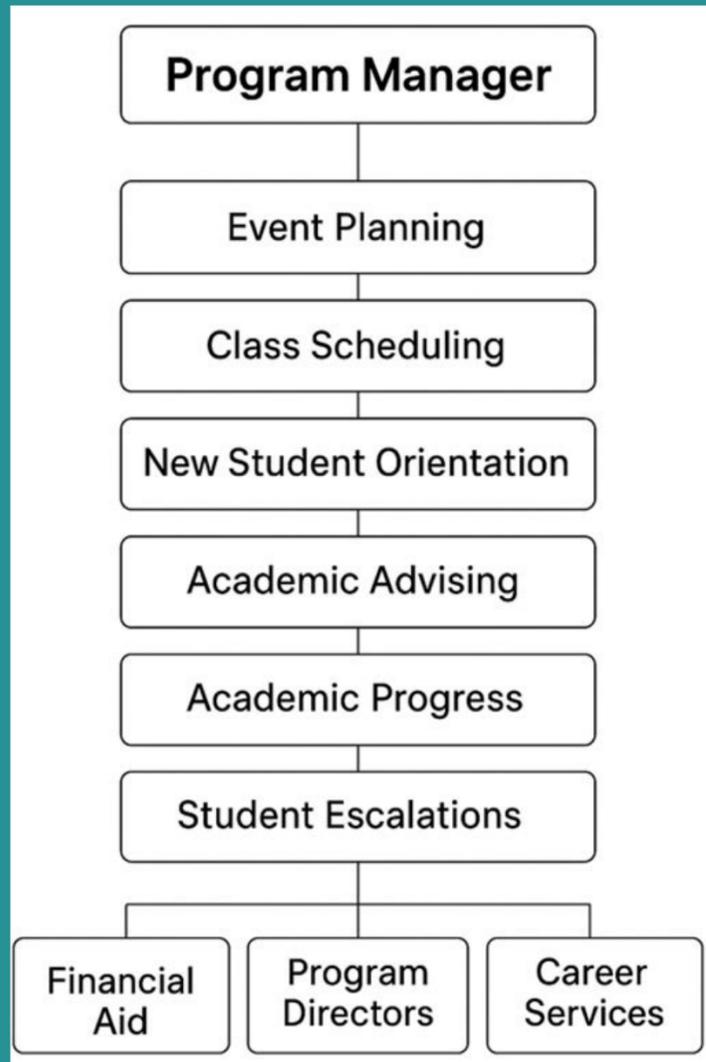
Assistant Dean → reports to Associate Dean; manages operational/administrative areas.

Director → reports to Assistant Dean; leads specific departments or programs.

Associate Director → assists Director with program, staff or department management.

Program Manager → manages daily operations of a graduate program, reporting to the Associate Director.



Dean
Associate Dean
Assistant Dean
Director
Associate Director
Program Manager

da | Global Access Network

# Graduate Programs Operation (GPO) Model

| Program Manager |
|---|

- Event Planning
- Class Scheduling
- New Student Orientation
- Academic Advising
- Academic Progress
- Student Escalations
  - Financial Aid
  - Program Directors
  - Career Services

**Event Planning→ new student orientation, quarterly meals, social events, volunteer opportunities, graduation celebration.**
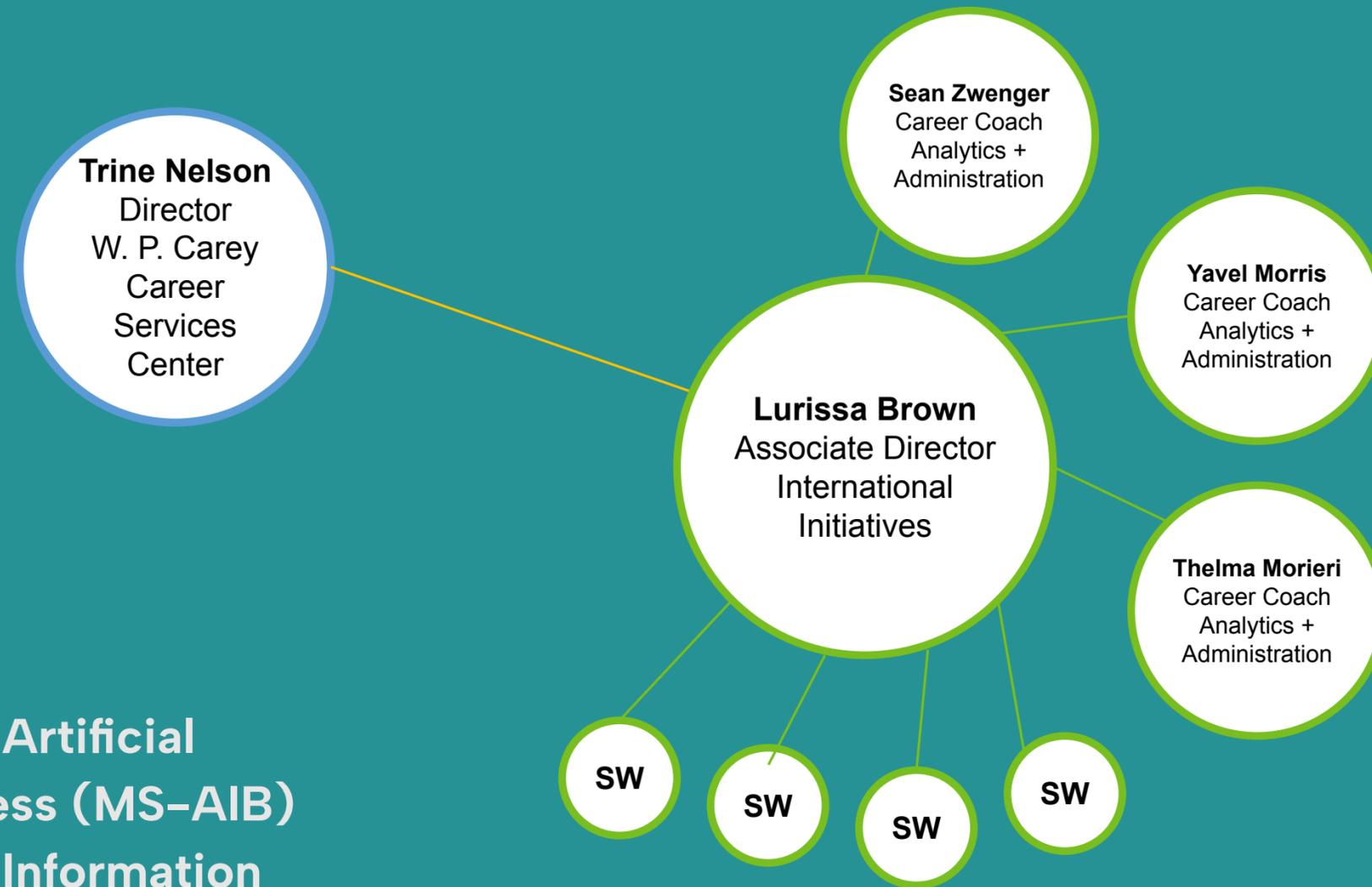
**Class scheduling → registration for each semester**

**New Student Orientation → create Canvas course with pre-work before 1st day of class.**

**Academic Advising → meet with students to review any academic concerns/challenges**

**Academic Progress → review progress towards degree completion, develop strategies to overcome academic probation**

**Student Escalations → work in collaboration with other departments to provide solutions for student escalations**

da | Global Access Network

# Career Services Model



- **Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence in Business (MS–AIB)**
- **Master of Science in Information Systems Management (MS–ISM)**
- **Master of Science in Business Analytics (MS–BA)**

**Trine Nelson**
Director
W. P. Carey
Career
Services
Center

**Sean Zwenger**
Career Coach
Analytics +
Administration

**Yavel Morris**
Career Coach
Analytics +
Administration

**Lurissa Brown**
Associate Director
International
Initiatives

**Thelma Morieri**
Career Coach
Analytics +
Administration

SW    SW    SW    SW

*SW = Student Worker

# Career Services Framework

# How Students Engage with our Career Office

**Self-directed touchpoints**

- Workshops
- Career Fairs
- Company prep
- Drop-In sessions
- 1:1 coaching appts

**Mandatory touchpoints**

- Orientation sessions
- SMP Classes

**On-demand utilization**

- Website engagement
- Editorial content
- Resource utilization

**Outcome: Partnership**

da | Global Access Network

# Career Services Key Challenges

**Graduate
Program Operations**

**Career
Management**

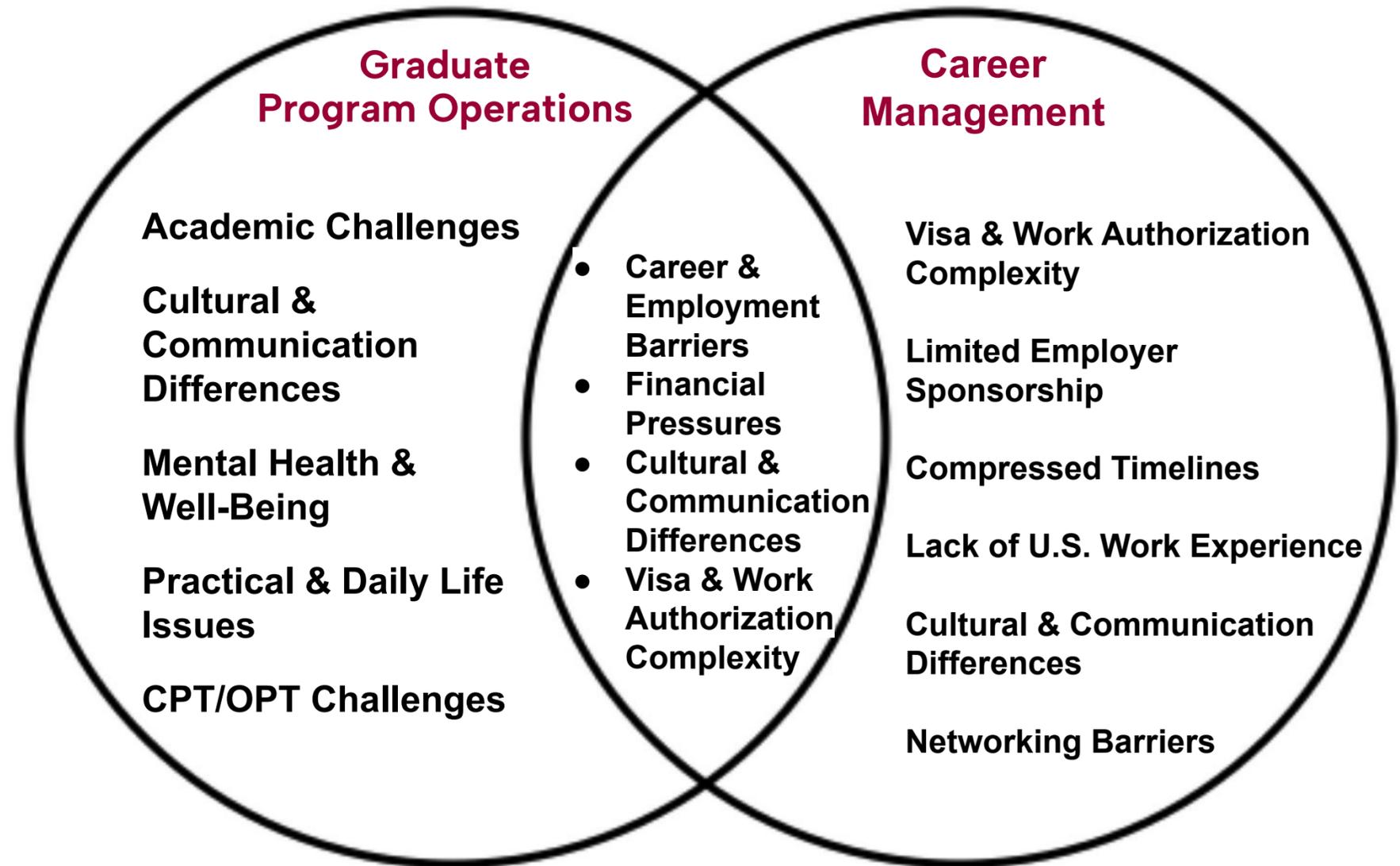Visa & Work Authorization
Complexity

Limited Employer
Sponsorship

Compressed Timelines

Lack of U.S. Work Experience

Cultural & Communication
Differences

Networking Barriers

da | Global
Access
Network

# Key Challenges Intersection between GPO and Career Services



**Graduate Program Operations**

Academic Challenges

Cultural & Communication Differences

Mental Health & Well-Being

Practical & Daily Life Issues

CPT/OPT Challenges

- Career & Employment Barriers
- Financial Pressures
- Cultural & Communication Differences
- Visa & Work Authorization Complexity

**Career Management**

Visa & Work Authorization Complexity

Limited Employer Sponsorship

Compressed Timelines

Lack of U.S. Work Experience

Cultural & Communication Differences

Networking Barriers

da | Global Access Network

# Building Relationships

## 🔍 Identify & Understand

- Map key stakeholders (faculty, employers, alumni, ops staff, ISSC, leadership)

- Understand each stakeholder's goals, pressures, and success metrics

- Learn their timelines (academic calendar)

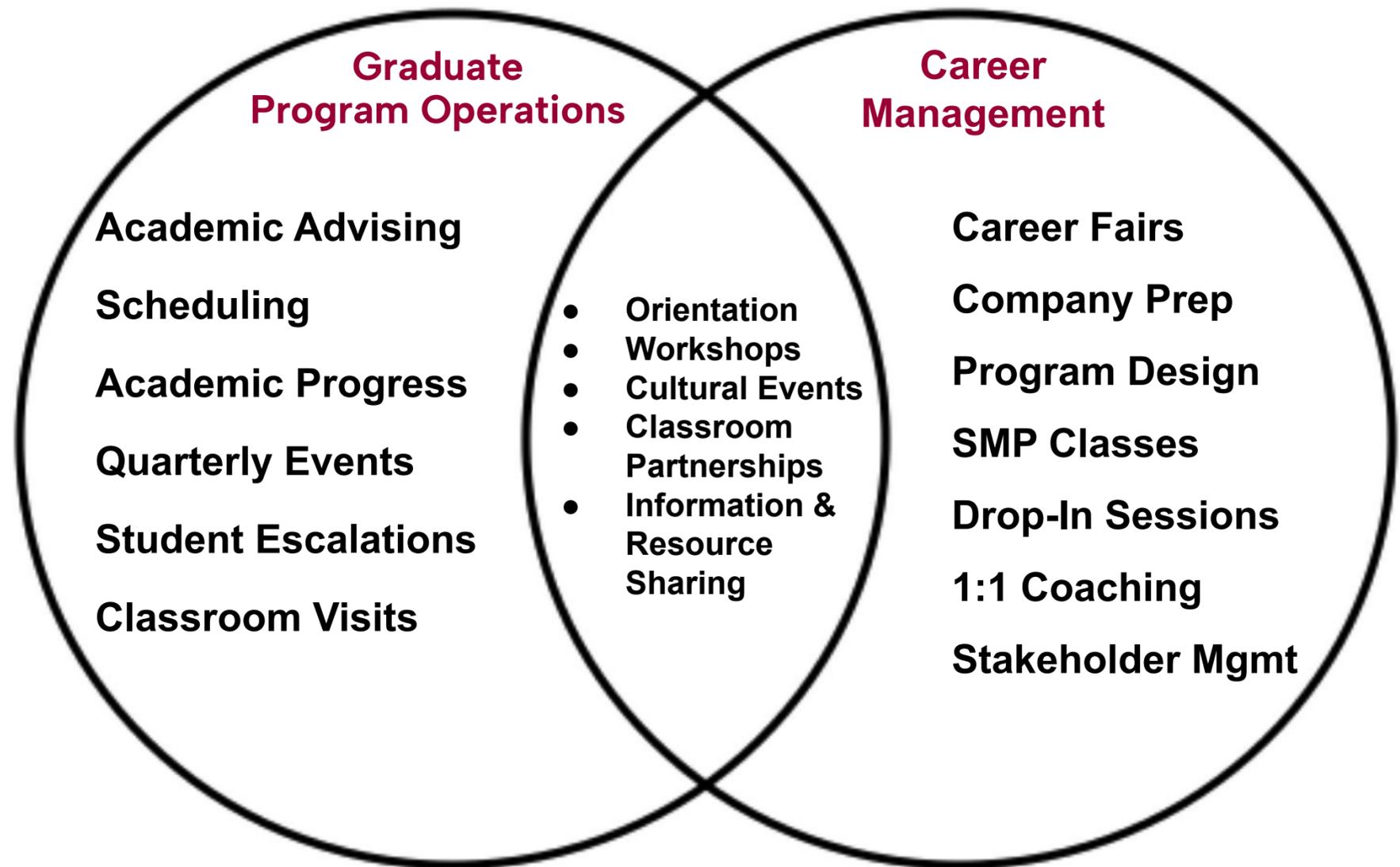- Identify shared objectives and points of alignment

## 🤝 Initiate & Build Trust

- Schedule intentional 1:1 meetings (not just transactional check-ins)

- Ask strategic questions before presenting requests

- Listen for pain points and opportunities to add value

- Follow through consistently on commitments

- Communicate clearly and proactively

## 📊 Demonstrate Value

- Share relevant data and outcomes (placement rates, engagement numbers, student impact)

- Connect your work to institutional priorities

- Highlight stakeholder contributions publicly when appropriate

- Bring solutions, not just problems

da | Global Access Network

# Intersection of GPO and Career Services: Collaboration for Student Services

## Graduate Program Operations

Academic Advising

Scheduling

Academic Progress

Quarterly Events

Student Escalations

Classroom Visits

- Orientation
- Workshops
- Cultural Events
- Classroom Partnerships
- Information & Resource Sharing

## Career Management

Career Fairs

Company Prep

Program Design

SMP Classes

Drop-In Sessions

1:1 Coaching

Stakeholder Mgmt

da | Global Access Network

# Strengthening Relationships

✅ Check In Regularly

💬 Show Appreciation

👂 Listen First

🤝 Align and Collaborate

📊 Share Impact

🧠 Invite Early Input

🙌 Support Their Work

✉️ Communicate Consistently

🎯 Create Together

🔁 Follow Up

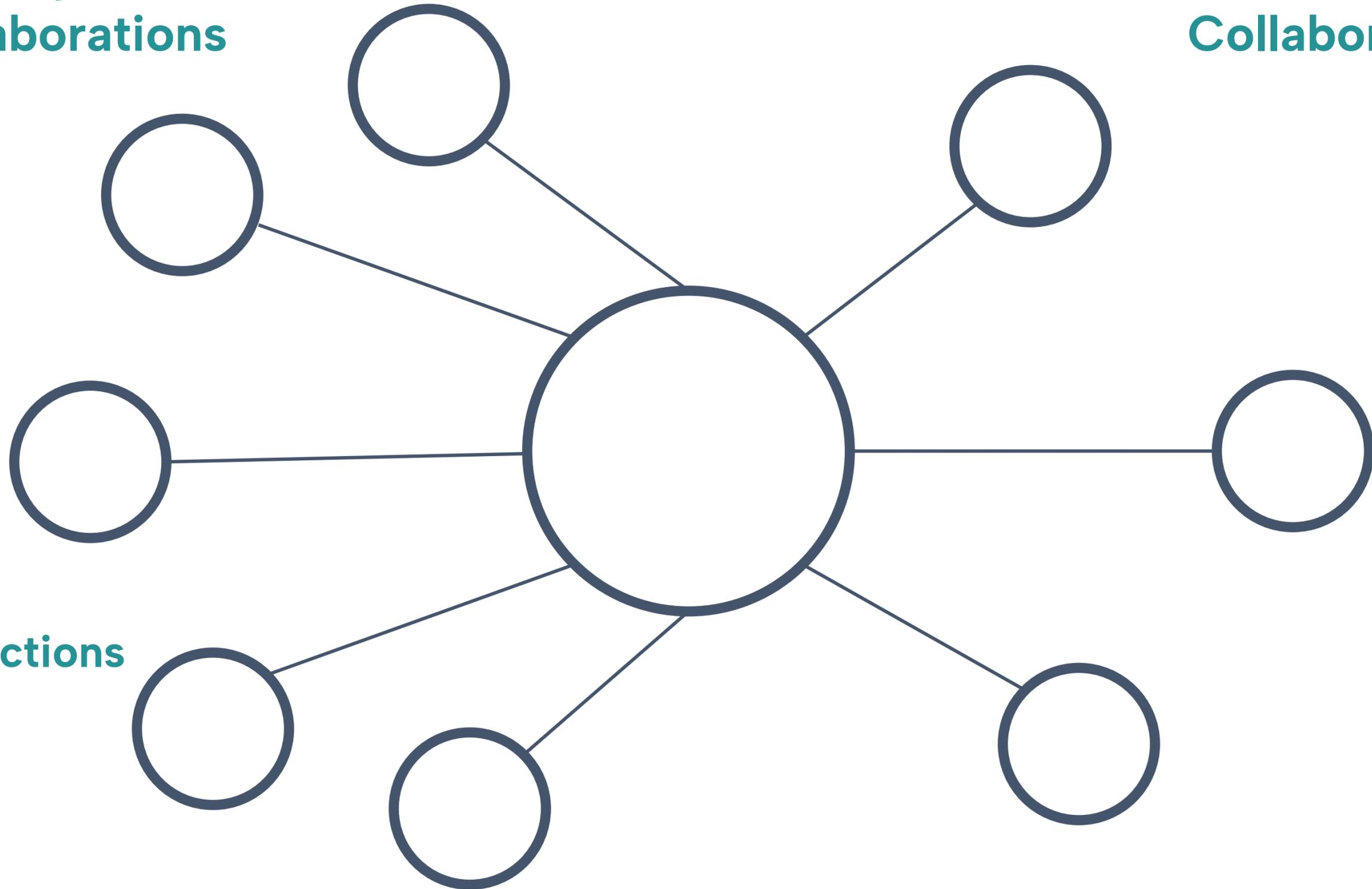🌐 Connect Others

💡 Seek Feedback

da | Global Access Network

# Supplemental Worksheet

- **Activity**: Strengthening Collaboration for International Student Success

- **Objective**: Identify existing collaborations, uncover gaps, and develop practical strategies to strengthen support for international students across departments.

# Instruction 1:

1. In the circle at the center of your page, write **"Our Office."**

2. On the sides of the page labeled **"Existing Collaborations,"** write in the circles the names of individuals, offices, stakeholders, or departments you currently work with to support international students.

3. As you complete your diagram, reflect on the international students you serve or interact with. Which offices, departments, or individuals do you collaborate with most closely to help them succeed?
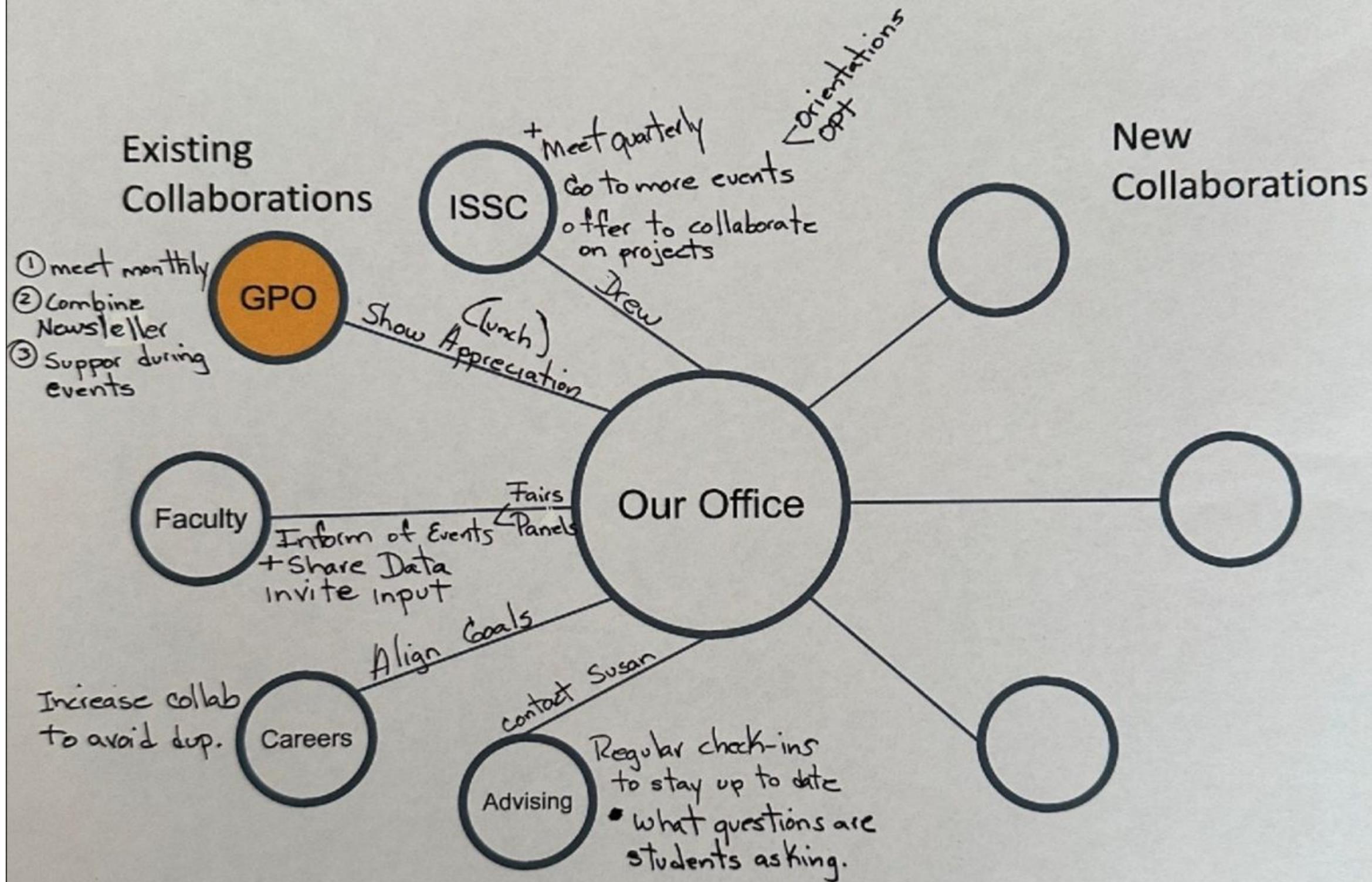
# Instruction 2:

1.  Identify which collaborations could be improved, feel disconnected, or could be better by highlighting the circles.

# Instruction 3:

1. Write specific ideas or actions that could help improve those collaborations moving forward.?

2. How could you improve communication or coordination?

# Instruction 4:

1. **Introduce Yourself:**
   Share your name, university, department, and a few words about how you interact with or support international students in your role.

2. **Current Collaborations:**
   Discuss which offices or departments you currently collaborate with to support international students.

3. **Reflect on Collaboration Opportunities:**
   Share which collaborations could be strengthened or improved and why.

4. **Brainstorm Solutions:**
   Exchange specific ideas or actions that could help enhance collaboration and strengthen partnerships moving forward.

5. **Capture New Ideas:**
   As you listen to others, write down new collaboration ideas from your peers on the *"New Collaboration"* side of the page.

# Instruction 4:

1.  On the side of the page labeled **"New Collaborations,"** write in the circles the names of at least two new individuals, offices, stakeholders, or departments you could partner with, collaborate with, or involve in supporting international students.

2.  Think about **new partnership opportunities** that could strengthen international student success.

3.  Consider collaborations that address **academic, career, and social needs**.

4.  Identify **one immediate action** your office can take to begin building or strengthening these collaborations.

# Instruction 6: Share with the Group

1. **New Collaborations:**

   Share who are some new partners or offices you could collaborate with to enhance support for international students?

1. **Action:**

   Share what's **one immediate action** your office can take to begin building or strengthening these collaborations.

# Stay in Touch

**Lurissa Brown**

Associate Director – Career Services

*Arizona State University*

lurissa.brown@asu.edu

www.linkedin.com/in/lurissabrown

**Harold Ortiz**

Graduate Program Manager

*Arizona State University*

harold.ortiz@asu.edu

www.linkedin.com/in/haroldortiz74/

# Stay in Touch

**daglobal.org**

*Website*

**@DA Global Access Network**

*LinkedIn*

**members@daglobal.org**

*Email*

# Questions?

**da** | Global Access Network