

Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences

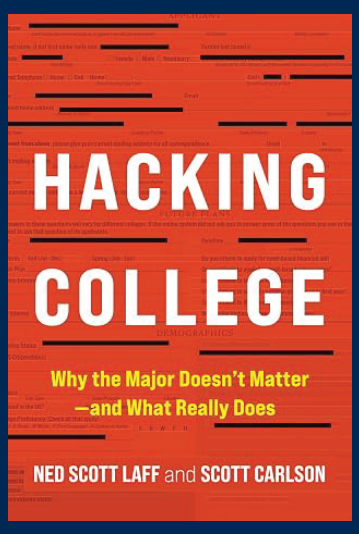
DEAN'S DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Ned Laff & Scott Carlson

Discussing their book ***Hacking College: Why the Major Doesn't Matter – and What Really Does***

Ned Scott Laff, Ph.D. spent 35 years working in academic affairs at a range of public and private institutions on curriculum development and student success. He has a special interest in the role mentoring plays in helping students design and integrate their educational, professional, and personal goals into a successful undergraduate education. **Scott Carlson** is a senior writer for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, where he has covered the financial sustainability of higher education institutions, the relevance of the curriculum, the impact of college on low income populations, and the path from college to career among other topics.

College is a complex, high stakes game, but Laff and Carlson argue that students can learn how to win it. Their book, ***Hacking College: Why the Major Doesn't Matter and What Really Does***, offers college advisors, faculty, and staff in student and academic affairs a groundbreaking guide to rethinking higher education so that students can succeed in an increasingly complex world. Drawing from extensive research and real student experiences, this essential book exposes the hidden challenges and bureaucratic traps that undermine student success, from convoluted transfer processes to a single minded emphasis on majors.



Fri, Nov. 20, 2026
10:05 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.
Pozycki Auditorium, Rm 115

Event is free and open to the public.
Copies of Laff and Carlson's book will be available for purchase.

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY