

# ANALYSIS & SYNTHESIS

**Team: AK-47**

## Problem:

**Students struggle to meet the necessary requirements to succeed during and after their school experience; creating a network of “guesses” between higher education and students.**

The expert interviews were most revealing to Team AK-47 because they were made aware of the vast amount of resources aimed at ensuring student success and the many motivated professionals dedicated to improving those resources. Yet the team still needed to discover why students were having difficulty navigating the university, their chosen majors and ultimately, adequately preparing for graduation.



*“With the resources and care being exhibited to our class, purported to be available to all students, where was the problem originating and replicating? The resources and motivation behind those resources obviously existed so, where is the disconnect?”*

*- Dallen*

During the course of their student interviews they witnessed many of their fellow students struggling to understand the requirements for their degree, not knowing where to find answers. Frequently, students went so far as to guess what students to take.

It did not take the team long in their student interviews before patterns began revealing themselves and the team reached a critical insight: The problem, as they analyzed it, was not whether there were insufficient sources of advice and guidance within the University, rather for some reason many students were not successfully making solid connections with them.



*“Unconnected students lack self confidence and as a result feel ill-equipped for a future career.”*

*- Ann*

Moving into solution development, the team began asking a new series of questions that would ultimately lead them down the path toward solution development:

- What are the vital steps in the journey that empower some students and send others on a wild goose chase?
- How can we ensure that all students make a strong connection with the university’s resources?
- How can we develop a solution that will help all USU students leave Utah State University feeling skilled and competent in their chosen field?”