

Career Research Assignment

Objective

To explore a career path of interest including the education and preparation required.

Learning Goals

1. Articulate their values, interests, skills, and goals
2. Identify experiences available to explore interests and skills (job shadowing, student organizations, volunteer work, introductory classes, etc.)
3. Craft flexible, short-term career goals that can be adapted as the student's situation changes
4. Utilize a variety of resources to research potential career fields and academic majors

Resources

[Choosing a Career Path in 9 Steps](#)

[Researching Careers: Career Research Checklist](#)

Directions

Research and write about a career path that appeals to you using the prompts below. Compose a 750-word essay that addresses the five sections outlined below. You must include a reference list with at least five sources.

Section One

Detail the educational preparation necessary for your path:

- Which undergraduate major will you select as part of your preparation?
- Describe any admissions requirements for this major (GPA, prerequisite courses, etc.).
- After reviewing the CMU Bulletin, describe the types of courses you should take within this major.
- Is graduate study required to enter this field? If so, what program will you pursue?

Section Two

Identify and describe two occupations you could pursue with this major:

- What are the typical job tasks (hint: look at current job postings)?
- What types of employers hire in this field (hint: use [Handshake](#) or What Can I Do with this Major?)?
- Common work settings (hours, environment, level of interaction with people, etc.)
- Job outlook (hint: use O*NET - www.onetonline.com)
- Average salary (hint: use Bureau of Labor Statistics - www.bls.gov)



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Section Three

Explain how the information from sections one and two align with your skills and interests:

- Interests
- Personality
- Skills ([Skills Assessment](#) pdf)
- Values

Section Four

Describe the career readiness competencies required for this career path:

- List two career readiness competencies you will need to develop for this career (hint: see [NACE Career Readiness Competencies](#) pdf)
- How can you use your coursework to develop these two competencies?
- What type of experiential education (internships, service-learning, student organizations, part-time jobs, etc.) will help you develop these two competencies and how?

Section Five

Create an action plan using SMART goals to outline what you need to do in order to reach your career goal:

- Academic: Describe in detail the next steps you need to take academically to achieve your goals. For example, do you need to meet with a particular advisor? What major-specific courses will you register for next semester? Is there a minimum GPA you must achieve or maintain? Do you need to register for summer courses?
- Experiential: Describe in detail the next steps you need to take in order to gain experience to achieve your goals. For example, do you need to apply for a leadership position by a certain date? Do you need to attend an event by a certain date? Do you need to work for a promotion at your current job? What can you do to secure a promotion?
- Conclusion: Write an overall reflection on your journey of exploring a major and career. You can include your feelings, your experiences, your hope for the future, etc.



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