

Career Exploration Project

Perhaps you already know the field you want to pursue upon graduation from RCC or from a four-year institution. On the other hand, however, maybe you have not yet narrowed it down to a specific aspect of business.

The project will enable you to conduct preliminary research in regard to your future career and to enlighten you of the various possibilities that exist. Make this assignment as practical and realistic as you can. At some point you should do this research anyway to ensure that you are making the right decision when choosing your career.

This is a detailed project so use good time management strategies by working on it a little at a time throughout the semester.

Required Format for Submission

- Proofread your work carefully and spell check as submissions should not contain errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, mechanics, etc.
- Use the side headings I have provided (shown in red below); and in narrative form, below each heading answer the bullet points using a paragraph for each one but omitting the actual bullet.
- Use the bullet points as a guide; however, you can add additional relevant information too.
- Your submission should be a two- to three-page narrative (most likely three)
- Since research will be involved in this assignment, make sure you cite your references properly.

Part 1 – General Information About Chosen Career

Description of Industry

- What industry are you preparing for upon completion of either your associate's or bachelor's degree? For example, finance, law, marketing, management, entrepreneurship, sales, etc.
- What entry-level position would you be seeking within this field?

Job Outlook

- What is the outlook for positions in this industry?
- What is the projected growth?

Current Salary Trends in the Northeast

- What are the current salary trends in this region of the country for this position?
- Compare the salary with another region of the country where the difference is noticeable. What do you think accounts for the difference?

Education

- What educational level is required? What is preferred?
- Is additional education beyond a bachelor's degree necessary?
- Are there any certifications available in this field?

Experience

- Is any relevant work experience or training required?
- What personal qualities and skills are required?

Career Path and Opportunities for Advancement

What is the typical career path for this position? From an entry-level position, where does an employee go?

Work Environment

- What is the work environment like? (very open-ended question)
- Are there peak seasons? Slow seasons? Explain.

Companies in Industry

- List three companies in this industry that you would consider for possible employment.
- Why did you choose these three? What attracted you to them?
- Rank them in order with #1 being the company you would like to work for.

Part 2—Reflection

Think about the self-SWOT Analysis you completed in Module 1.

- Are your strengths and weaknesses compatible with the position you are seeking?
- Do opportunities exist in this field that are worth pursuing in light of the possible threats or obstacles that may get in your way?
- Considering the research just conducted and what you have learned, are you still interested in pursuing this career? Why or why not?

Suggested Resources:

Career Coach <https://sunyrockland.emsicc.com/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/home.htm>

<https://www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/Learn/research-industries.aspx>

<https://www.careerbuilder.com/insights>

<http://www.myplan.com/careers/>

<https://www.indeed.com/>

<https://www.glassdoor.com/index.htm>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/careers/exploring-careers-step-by-step>

<http://jobseekersguide.org/explore>

<https://www.themuse.com/tags/exploring-career-paths>

Plus any of your own