

Career Research Assignment

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

Directions: Research and write about a career path that appeals to you using the prompts below. You must include reference list at the end of the paper, listing the sources you used (use at least five).

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.)
Hint: use the Major Guides, Catalog, or Departmental Website to gather this information.
- After reviewing UTK catalog, describe the types of classes 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:

- Typical job tasks (hint: look at current job postings)
- Types of employers who 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 (Occupational Outlook Handbook)
- Average salary (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Section three: Explain how the information from paragraphs one and two fit **you**:

- Interests (Strong Interest Inventory)
- Personality (MBTI)
- Skills (Skills Inventory)
- Values (Values Checklist)

Section four: Career-ready **competencies**:

- List two of the career-ready competencies you will need to develop for this career
- How can you use your classwork to develop these two competencies?
- What type of experiential education (student org, internship, part-time job, etc.) will help you develop these two competencies and why?

Section five: Create an **Action Plan** using the class session on SMART goals. This is *your* plan based on what *you* need to do, which means this action plan can be academic or experiential (or both if needed):

- **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 classes will you register for next semester? Is there a certain GPA you must achieve or maintain? Do you need to attend summer school?
- **Experiential:** Describe in detail the next steps you need to take to gain experience to achieve your goals. For example, do you need to apply for a leadership position by a certain date? Or attend *The Men's Project* student organization meeting scheduled for (date)? Maybe you don't have time for on-campus activities, so you need to work for a promotion at your current job. If so, what specifically do you need to do?
- **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.