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Career Exploration

Trying to pick a career path is very stressful and difficult. How am I supposed to know what I want to do with the rest of my life at the age of 20? On a positive note, I have some sort of idea what field I want to go into. I'm a double major in finance and business administration so that narrows down the jobs slightly, but there are so many different jobs in these fields.

Some of the characteristics that I desire in a job are: a flexible schedule, work that requires some problem solving and interaction with people. I would look for a job with a flexible time schedule so I can have time for other things in my life, like spending time with my friends and family, or if any emergency arises. This would also help me manage my work-life balance very well. The other element I'd want in a profession is one that requires a level of thinking and problem solving. One thing I find about myself is when I'm not challenged in something, academically or in sports, I tend to not do my best or give my best effort. For example, if I'm given an easy assignment for a class, I'll finish it in a couple of minutes and not even look it over. If I'm playing a weaker team in basketball, I don't play to the best of my ability, and play down to my opponents level. I'm a very competitive person in anything I do in life, but if I'm not challenged I don't have much enthusiasm or pride in my work. Having a job that requires me to really think hard and create a real challenge would keep me sharp and on my toes. Lastly, I'd need

a career that has me interacting with people. My whole life I've always been a people person and love interacting with people. I don't want to be one of those people that sit behind a desk and a computer all day in their office. I want to be able to work and collaborate with a team of co-workers or clients face to face in person. I've always loved working with others whether it's in school or on the basketball court. Working with people makes challenging tasks easier and more fun because you're both sharing the same task at hand.

Some career tracks I'd be interested in are: a stockbroker, consulting and a financial analyst. A stockbroker is a financial professional who executes orders in the stock market for their client (Scott,2021). As a stockbroker, the position I'd enter would be an entry level stockbroker and I'd eventually work my way up to being a brokerage supervisor. A brokerage supervisor oversees a team of brokers in a firm. Another career I see myself doing is consulting. A consultant is someone who advises clients or a business on financial matters and decisions. I would enter this career as an associate consultant and later down the road become a senior management consultant. A senior management consultant is someone who oversees and provides advice to executive level consultants or the management team. I would also love to be a financial analyst. I would probably enter this occupation as a low tier entry level financial analyst with only a few clients. This would change with some years of experience and I'd become a senior analyst in a company. A senior analyst examines data and uses their data to make decisions about investment portfolios.

The job I'd want most out of my top three most interesting career tracks would be a consultant. This would align with my desires and wants such as a flexible

work schedule, an intellectual challenge, and a job that requires confrontation with other people. As a consultant, for the most part, you're able to make your own work schedule. This would allow me to have a great work life balance. I'm able to control when and where I work as a consultant, and if I ever need to work from home, I have that option as well. With the development of Zoom and remote learning I'd be able to work from home if I ever had any conflicts and couldn't make it into the office. The great thing about consulting is that it's intellectually stimulating. This may sound like a con to most people, but this is a pro on my end. I always enjoy a challenge and if I can do this my whole life that'd be a perfect fit. Consultants are always problem solving for their clients or businesses in order to provide them with the best financial solutions and get them on the right track. Consultants are always creating different solutions and trying to predict which ones are going to be the best for their consumer at hand, whether it's for a singular person or a company. The other perk of doing consulting is that it requires a lot of interaction with clients. Most consultants have 10-20 clients so I'd be able to meet a lot of different people. I would love to travel around the world and meet with different clients and develop a relationship with them. I find it's easier to work with someone when you get to know them personally. This career would be a perfect fit for me for the main reason of not having to sit behind a desk all day and start typing away on a computer behind closed doors. Instead, I rather be out and about doing a more hands on approach with my work.

A typical day in the life of a consultant would be waking up early in the morning to maybe take a flight or drive to meet with a client. If this client lives far away I'd have to wake up very early, so that could be seen as a problem. I'm not really a morning person,

but that's something I could always work on by setting an alarm every morning and practicing getting up that early to get my body used to it. When I'm meeting with my client I would map out a financial plan for him or her. This could be advice on financial goals, investments and gathering financial data from the client (Kamat, 2020). I would do a great job in this part of the job because I love communicating with other people and developing a relationship with them. Sometimes these meetings aren't for only one individual client. I could also be showing this information to a bunch of people in an organization with a presentation. This is something I've always struggled with throughout my life. I always get very nervous when doing public speaking, especially in front of a large audience. My face turns bright red, I start to talk very fast and stutter a lot. This is something I've gotten slightly better at since coming to Muhlenberg. We do a lot of presentations here, so the more I do it, the better I'll become. After doing these meetings with clients I'd take them out to lunch to further develop my relationship with him or her. Then I'd go back to my office to continue working on the job. This could be having a business meeting with my co workers or making calls with my clients to create some time to meet. I would also look to plan what I'm going to do next week. Then I'd go out to dinner with some of my co workers and work on some team building which is crucial in businesses. Finally I'd go back home and get ready to do it all over again tomorrow. Consultants have flexible hours, but some days could be very long hours which sounds like a problem, but I'm always up for a challenge.

Works Cited

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