TWO SAMPLE CAREER PLANS:

EXAMPLE 1
After I graduate UMD in the spring of 2007, I would like a job in social services. I have interests in working with families and young people; thus, just as the field of social services is expansive, so are my interests. Therefore, the job that I pursue will be determined by both interest and the amount of experience I have; this is where the internship comes in. In addition, I will accept the position that is most appropriate for me as far as living arrangement, location, and financial circumstances. However, I do intend on going to either graduate school or law school at least two years after graduating college. I plan to use my time in the Social Services field to gain an understanding of the practical applications of my undergraduate degree and to prepare for graduate school entrance exams. The personality mosaic and the personal style inventory reinforced my prior self-perception. For the personality mosaic I scored highest on the investigative and social and the PSI categorized me as INFP. Both of the results conveyed that I like ideas, learning new things, analyzing, and thinking, but I am also empathetic and enjoy helping people. According to the PSI, I “seek to understand people and to help them fulfill their potential”. Thus, the results illustrate my interwoven interests in human services and further education.

I have prepared myself for my career goals by taking classes such as child development, marriages and families world-wide, social change and social policy, and women and justice, that enable me to have an educational background for social services. Also, I have prepared by volunteering; last year I volunteered for Project Homelessness Connect. Furthermore, my first internship choice at Renaissance Transitional Living Program through LSS, will give me experience as a case manager and experience with homeless youth. These preparatory measures will help me have the necessary experiences and education to get a job in Social Services working with the groups I am most interested in.

Some learning objectives I have for my internship include experience working with homeless youth, paper-work experience, knowledge of case management, problem solving, and the gratification of helping people.

EXAMPLE 2
Upon graduation next summer, I would like to get a job as a police officer or deputy in a medium-sized police department located in one of the eastern suburbs of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Having grown up in Stillwater, I am familiar with the area and I’m excited to move back there to begin this next chapter in my life. Ultimately, I hope to have a job in an investigative field, and I plan to apply for a job with the FBI after I gain some skills, knowledge and experience working as a police officer.

According to the Personal Style Inventory, I am classified as an ISFJ. I am organized, meticulous and give great attention to detail. Responsible and loyal are also adjectives used to describe an ISFJ. A special agent with the FBI must possess all of these qualities in order to successfully conduct an investigation. Failure to be organized and give attention to detail could result in clues being overlooked. The Personality Mosaic indicated that I have interests that lie in the Enterprising and Investigative fields. Generally these types of people are insightful, logical and persistent, and solve problems by thinking and analyzing. They typically use their skills in dealing with people and projects. Again, having interests and skills such as these will be extremely helpful in a career as a police officer or as a special agent because these jobs require an active mind and the ability to analyze situations as they arise.

To prepare myself for a career in the law enforcement field, I’m working towards a double major in criminology and psychology. I’ve taken courses such as Law and Society, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice, Restorative Justice, Victimology, Correctional Assessment and Intervention, Abnormal Psychology, and Social Psychology. These courses and others have helped lay the foundation for a successful career in law enforcement. In addition to college courses, my military background, including a tour in Iraq for over a year, helped me in my personal development. The Army helped instill discipline, a good work ethic, patience, tolerance, assertiveness, leadership skills, attention to detail, and the ability to work with people of wide-ranging backgrounds. My hope is that an internship with a police department will help me to further develop these skills, and give me insight into areas which I will need to improve in order to be a successful police officer.

In the 300 hours that I will be interning, I hope to learn enough about the job, as well as related jobs in the field, to be able to make an informed decision as to whether or not this is something I truly want to do. From the sounds of it, the agency that I plan to intern at will give me a feel for several jobs in the law enforcement field. I plan to learn as much as possible about each of these jobs and determine for myself if I have what it takes to be successful, and if not, what it is that I need to work on.