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Four Examples of Career Plans

CAREER PLAN EXAMPLE 1

Looking ahead at what is coming in the next month makes reality sink in. It feels like I just started college a couple of months ago and looking for a career is years away. Looking at the questions in the book makes me realize what type of career I am truly interested in. The many questions of money dwell in everyone's minds from time to time. After graduating from UMD I will probably have around \$7,000 worth of college loans to pay back. I am interested in staying in Minnesota for a couple of years to get started and take some time off from schooling. In general, we all want to have lots of money, live in a nice home and drive a nice car or two. For me a nice comfortable place is all I am in need of after graduation. I have a nice reliable car that my dad is helping me pay for. So, transportation is not a concern I have.

Working with others is something I enjoy doing. I enjoy talking and solving problems in group settings. In general, I like to know what is going to happen each day, but I also enjoy excitement. A little bit of both would be the ideal job for me. Depending on what the weather is like is if I want to be indoors or outdoors. If it were nice and sunny I would prefer to be outside enjoying the rays. When it comes to supervision, I prefer an atmosphere where there is not a lot of control and supervision. I am the type of person who likes to get the instructions and then be left by myself or with a group to do the assignment or task. Someday down the road if the situation arises I wouldn't mind taking on the job of supervisor or executive.

Work related travel would not bother me. I like to travel and explore new places. Weekly travel may become overwhelming, but traveling every other week or something like that would be fine with me. Job security is very important to me. Once I found the job that I feel is perfect for me I would like to know that I am not living day by day. I don't always want to be looking for a different job. Also I would like a job that would offer advancements and/or transfer opportunities. I don't want to be stuck in a dead end job with no chances of rising to a higher level. After graduating and taking time off to explore new options, my plans are to either go to Law School or Graduate School. So regarding the question about getting more education to be qualified for a position, more education for me is always an option.

My writing skills are not at an excellent level, but I do feel with more use and practice they will become better. I feel comfortable with using a computer and doing library research. I am always ready for learning something new and challenging. I feel I communicate and work well with others. I am comfortable around people who come from a background different from my own. I like to meet and talk with new people. When it comes to getting things done, I have to problem meeting a deadline. If circumstances arise in which I need to get things done under pressure I can complete the tasks. I work best when I have specific instructions and no doubt in my mind of what is expected from me.

CAREER PLAN EXAMPLE 2

Upon graduation I wish to begin a career in social services. I'm not exactly sure which aspect I would like to go into, but I have the most interest in children and families. I would like to better the outcome for children who are receiving anything less than their basic needs. Within the next five years I wish to find a position in this area that I have the most passion about. After that time I hope to have found a position in the area and begun work helping those who need it. Also, I hope to learn from my experiences along the way. For example, where my strengths and weaknesses are.

Based on the personality inventories and personal interest results, I feel that I am on the right track. According to the personality style inventory-scoring sheet, I am introverted, intuitive, feeling, and judging. This means that I work with ideas, am careful of generalizations, and think before acting. I am open and well understood, see possibilities, and work with the complicated. I consider others feelings and understand needs and values. Also, I decide, plan, order, and make quick decisions. According to the personality mosaic, I am investigative, artistic, and social. Meaning I explore and understand things and events, value creative ideas and am sensitive, and help, teach, counsel, and serve others. I feel that all of these aspects of the two tests reflect me as a person, and I feel that they are excellent skills to have in a social services profession. How is one to help others if they don't understand needs and values, consider feelings, or generalizes about people and situations?

To prepare myself for the career field, I have taken many courses that will guide me. I have taken many psychology courses in an effort to understand problems that people may have and where these problems may stem from. I have taken communications classes to help relate to the people that I will work with. I have taken a counseling class to help me help others understand their feelings and see solutions to their problems. Finally, I have taken courses in human diversity, American Indian studies, and women's studies to broaden my horizons beyond the white middle class values and beliefs that I grew up with. I hope that my internship placement will allow me to test the skills that I have learned. It will give me a chance to learn which skill will work and which skills won't. It will give me a chance to discover which skills I am naturally good at and which skills I will have to work on. Also, it will give me a chance to learn which additional skills I will need to acquire. I believe that my internship placement will give me a chance to learn to turn the weaknesses of my personality into strengths, such as a misunderstanding of the external, inattention to detail, loss of logic, over acceptance of others, and stubbornness. By knowing my weaknesses and learning when they are evident, I can learn to compensate for them.

CAREER PLAN EXAMPLE 3

The entry level position that I would like to attain upon graduation from college would be in a medium to large sized police department, or a job in a federal law enforcement agency such as the ATF or the US Marshall's. If I don't get a job in a federal agency, I would like to work in a police department in the cities or Duluth. I am also planning on applying to the FBI as soon as I gain my three years of work experience that they require.

According to the General Occupational Themes, I have a strong interest in investigative and social aspects and some interest in enterprising. The investigative and social parts will definitely be of help in law enforcement. The investigative area will help in solving cases, and the social part will be useful in working with different people and listening to their complaints and their side of the story. According to the personal style inventory, I am an INFP (introversion, intuition, feeling, perceiving). The I, F, and the P are all qualities that are helpful for a career in law enforcement.

I have been preparing for a career in law enforcement by double majoring in criminology and sociology and getting my minor in psychology. I have taken many courses that are related to my potential field, like law enforcement administration, law enforcement and society, delinquency and juvenile justice, correctional continuum, deviance, research methods, sociology of rape, social psychology, law and society, social stratification, sociology of criminal law, abnormal psychology, developmental psychology, and psychology of food abuse. I am also planning on taking psychology of drug abuse, sociology of gangs, correctional agency administration, Victimology, criminal investigation, criminal evidence and procedures, and Minnesota statutes and traffic laws. I have also attended a Minnesota Corrections Association training seminar, which had classes that are applicable in the law enforcement world as well as corrections. I have spent time watching court proceedings this past summer because I have a friend who is a judge. This past summer I took a handgun safety and familiarization class, and I have been shooting a few more times to get used to firing different kinds of handguns. My internship will give me a wide range of experience of police operations. I will most likely get to see every area in the police department, as well as working with city council and the people of the community. I will gain experiences working with all sorts of different people, which will be a great deal of help when I graduate and get a job.

I would have this internship help me grow in several areas, knowledge, skills, and personal development. I would like to know more about policing and how the police environment operates. I want to learn how police officers act in different settings with different types of people. I want to learn the training that the officers go through, both before they become an officer, and during the course of their occupation.

I would like to see what kind of skills I may need to learn to become a good officer. I would also like to become more self-confident in interacting with different people. I hope that I will not be intimidated by working with police and many people in authority, and if I am intimidated that I would learn how to not be intimidated. I would also like to make sure that I could remain calm and function normally in various stressful situations.

CAREER PLAN EXAMPLE 4

During the process of taking the Internship Preparation class, I have been able to do a lot of thinking of where I want to start out my career and where I want it to end up down the road. I have also been thinking of going back to school and working on more of the Psychology realm of Criminology and hope to pursue a career with that in the future. After graduating college I would like to find an entry-level position hopefully at the treatment center that I will do my internship at. I want to work with juvenile offenders in a treatment facility. If I am unable to obtain an entry-level position at the treatment center that I have my internship at, I will be looking at other facilities around St. Louis County. If I can't find something in juvenile treatment, I would like to look for something in probation. After finding an entry-level position, I would like to go back to school and work on my Psychology degree and hope to move up with that education. While going back to school, I will be looking for opportunities for advancement whether the advancement is within the facility that I will be currently working at or another one.

From the personality tests that we were given at the beginning of the semester, I believe that juvenile work is the best route for me to take. This is something that I am looking forward to getting into as my career is concerned. I found when taking the Personal Style Inventory Test that I was an ESFJ, which stands for extroversion, sensing, feeling and judging. When you put all of these together I am someone who is warm-hearted, talkative and conscientious. My main interests are in things that directly and visibly affect people's lives. This is how I see myself. People that I know see me as a caring person, thinking about others first and making sure that they are making the best choices for their future. The other test that we took was the General Occupational Theme. I found after taking this test that I was more of a social worker. This means that my interests are people, teamwork, human welfare and community service. I love to work with people and help people so with looking at both of the tests that we took, they tend to show that I am headed down the right path with the occupation that I am looking for at this time.

I have been preparing myself for the past three years at college for my career by taking classes that pertain to my field of work. I have taken classes such as Deviance to understand the reasons why people commit crimes as well as Sociological Theory which helped me understand all of the theories that are behind some of the aspects of criminology. Within the next six months I will be taking classes such as Victimology, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice, Corrections Continuum, and Sociology of Gangs, which will all help me, prepare for my future with juvenile treatment. The internship that I am currently seeking will help me bring all of the aspects that I have learned in college and let me put them into work. This will help me pull everything together and see how things are played out in the real world.

What I want to get out of the internship is a positive learning experience not only for myself but for those around me as well. I want to come out of it being confident in what I am about to embark on down the road and feel that with the things that I have learned in college and the internship, I will be prepared. I want to learn more about why juveniles are committing crimes and to see if they understand the consequences of their actions. There will still be things that I will need to learn, but that will come with time in the field.