

Your Name

My Major & Career Report

Date

Section One: "I Came"

1. Why have you selected your current major? Or, if you have not yet selected your major, which major is of most interest to you and why?

Two majors that interest me are Accounting and Finance. These majors will help me in my career of interest simply because they are closely related. Finance majors and accounting majors have an identical list of courses required and I have already begun taking courses that use information from both finance and accounting courses.

2. What is your career goal and how will the major that you listed translate into your career goal?

My career goal is to become a Forensic Accountant. Forensic Accountants investigate the books and find out where money has been allocated when money is missing, or if there has been fraudulent activity. Forensic Accountants typically solve the white collar crimes but also have the ability to assist in divorces by figuring out who gets what and how much. Law firms can hire Forensic Accountants as well as many accounting firms. There is a wide variety of paths you can take as a Forensic Accountant. It is rewarding but can be demanding like most rewarding careers. My accounting major will give me a broad foundation to understand how forensic accounting can be used to keep a business running successfully.

1. Identify two of your natural strengths and describe how each will help in accomplishing your career goals.

My attention to detail is one trait I feel pertains to accounting best because if one thing is off the rest will not make sense. My ability to learn new concepts quickly is a lifesaver for my relationship with accounting simply because there is an abundance of information related to accounting and you must be able to grasp the concepts quickly. I am very personable and I have a great personality. I believe this helps in the fact that I am always willing to meet new people and I just enjoy a friendly conversation. I can make friends with anybody and I always smile and look at the glass half full.

2. Identify two skills that you could improve upon to be more successful in accomplishing your career goals.

Managing stress is a major area that could always use some improvements. Stress is a very damaging condition that should never be taken lightly, hence the constant practice needed. I have been learning new ways every day to handle all stressful situations that may come up and understanding the triggers. Speaking in front of large groups is also an area I continue to work on. I tend to get nervous and talk a little quick or ramble instead of being straight to the point.

3. Identify two people in your personal or professional network and describe how each could assist you in accomplishing your career goals.

My mom is a major influence on my decision of accounting because I called her and spoke to her about it once I figured out what my major was going to be and she mentioned forensic accounting and I fell in love with the career and what it entailed. My fiancé is also a major influence because everything I do affects my family and I want to make sure I can provide for them as well as be there for them as much as possible.

Section Two: “I Saw”

1. Based on research on your major and career goals, list at least two job titles or occupations that interest you.

Accounting is what I am pursuing and have decided on this a few years ago. Two job titles that I am considering are Staff Accountant or Financial Analyst.

2. Describe three personality traits that employers hiring for those job titles would need to see in a resume.

An employer can gauge my personality traits by the items that I list on my resume. For example, for my career of choice, three personality characteristics that would make a competitive candidate would be: detail oriented, organized, and honest. By displaying examples from my work experience that demonstrate these characteristics, I would make myself a strong candidate to employers.

3. Describe three job characteristics that are important to me in a career, (e.g. salary, flexibility, travel, etc.).

One of the most important characteristics related to a career is stability. Having a family means a lot of responsibility and I need a career that I can count on. I know all careers are never a guarantee in terms of security, but accounting is a very solid major and something I just happen to be very interested in and enjoy. Another characteristic would be benefits. It is important to have great benefits in regards to healthcare, PTO, etc. If it affects my family, it is important.

For each occupation that you identified in the previous section (Section Two),

1. State the average salary.

Staff Accountants typically earn an average starting salary of \$38383 a year (“Entry-level”).

Financial Analyst will typically earn an average salary of \$57300 per year (Adams).

2. State the employment forecast in the next five to ten years.

Accounting should see an increase in 13% for the field for the next ten years. Financial Analysts are looking at a growth of about 16% (“Global”).

3. Name the regions of the country/world with the highest projected growth.

India, Mexico, and Asia are expected to have a slight growth. Also, Latin America, Brazil, and Middle Eastern countries are looking at a small growth between 2014 and 2019 (“Global”).

4. Identify five major employers associated with this career field.

The major employers associated with my career of interest are Ernst and Young, KPMG, PwC, Deloitte, and Grant Thornton.

Section Three: “I WILL Conquer”

1. Describe two specific courses offered at KSU that you can take to help you be successful in your career of choice.

Intermediate financial accounting and auditing is the most important class for my major because it is the base for all to come. Accounting information systems will also be a major contributor to my success because of how prominent information systems have become.

2. Identify the grade point average (GPA) needed to enter your targeted career field (if applicable).

The minimum GPA required to enter my field of choice is a 3.0.

3. Name and describe two student or professional organizations you could join to assist you in reaching your career goals.

A major organization would be Beta Alpha Psi. I am looking to join this, but I am trying to figure out how possible it will be for me in regards to time restraints. Another organization I am aware of is The Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP), which would truly enhance my ability to utilize the information systems, related to accounting and help me gain an edge in this field (“Association”).

4. Describe any extra training or education beyond a four-year degree needed for your targeted career field.

There are specific certifications that are highly respected in the accounting field which I will be looking to obtain as quickly as possible. These certifications include, but are not limited to, the CPA certification and the CFE (certified fraud examiner) certification.

5. Identify the types of career-related work experiences that could assist you in reaching your career goals (e.g. internships, cooperative education experiences, volunteer work, etc.).

Internships and Co-ops are great because they combine classroom material with the real world and assist students with the completion of our degree. The main difference between a Co-op and internship is the length. An internship typically last one semester and is closely related to the major, where a Co-op lasts for two semesters with the same company and is directly related to the major. KSU also has volunteer services which give us a great opportunity to network and meet new people while helping in the community.

6. List three websites that you could use in searching for a job in your field of choice.

Association of Certified Fraud Examiners:

<http://www.acfe.com/career-path-forensic-accountant.aspx>

American Board of Forensic Accounting:

http://www.acfei.com/forensic_certifications/crfa/,

The American Institute of CPAs:

<http://www.aicpa.org/Pages/default.aspx>

7. List three internships/co-ops/full-time jobs currently listed on the KSU job board, *OWL Link*, that interests you and explain why each one appeals to you.

An internship I have found on owl link is the staff accountant position for Pratt Industries USA. I believe this would be a great opportunity as it focuses on many aspects of accounting, including accounts payable, inventory, and daily reporting. A second posting I was interested in is the staff accountant-assurance services position available for Williams Benator and Libby LLP. This would be an excellent opportunity because it is in the audit field of accounting, which is where I would like to go. Finally, the accounting clerk position with Canal Partners Media is intriguing to me because you deal directly with the CFO and CEO of the company, giving me excellent exposure within my field.

1. Define a specific timeline for acquiring career-related work experience that will assist you in reaching your career goals.

My goal is to attend the accounting career fair on September 17 and gain an internship position through that starting the summer of 2015 or earlier if possible. Being that my plan is to graduate at the end of 2015, I would like to finish an internship by the end of the summer of 2015 allowing me to land a full time offer once my degree is finished, which should be within 5 months from the end of my internship. If I can land a full time offer before then, I would take that opportunity in a heartbeat, however, as far as I know, these firms recruit in the fall for the following summer and then offer full time positions upon graduation. Therefore, that is the path I am looking to take. Anything sooner would be a blessing, though.

Works Cited

Adams, Susan. "The College Majors with the Highest Starting Salaries." *Forbes*. Forbes, 19 Nov. 2014. Web. 13 June 2015.

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"Global Economic Outlook 2015 - Key Findings." *The Conference Board*. The Conference Board, Inc., 2015. Web. 11 June 2015.