

LEARNING GOAL SAMPLE:

Goal 1.) Career Exploration: Discover my preferences between directly educating students (i.e. teacher) vs. education reform through policy change/advocacy.

- This is currently a big question for me. I know that education is where I want to ultimately end up but I'm not sure what type of position is a better fit for me.

(Strategies)

1. Investigate different kinds of jobs within the field of education and compare administrative work, classroom work, and policy work.
 - a. Conduct 3 informational interviews at my work site with people currently in the field about their career experiences, their skills set, and their own feelings about how they are making a difference.
2. Learn how education policy functions at a national level as compared to at the state level.
 - a. Conduct research and conversations that will help me understand how these areas differ and where the greatest changes are possible: if they happen from within government policy, funding, or from within schools or districts.
3. Through my internship I will be exposed to a variety of different educational policy resources. I will be spending some of my evenings taking advantage of my access to those resources to grow my understanding of the work being done and the issues that are currently most pressing within policy. This will serve as a litmus test to see if I can identify a specific niche area within educational policy on which to base future career research.

Goal 2.) Academic Learning: Apply sociological theory, education theory and psychology to figure out how students learn best in the classroom.

- My courses have provided me with a solid foundation but I'm excited to engage with educators and students regarding their experiences with various forms of learning

(Strategies)

1. Through my own teaching experience, I will examine what methods seem to resonate with students most and I will keep notes on how my lessons are being received. I will also be keeping notes on how difficult each lesson was to prepare so I can make a toolkit that provides me with direct feedback about the success and efficiency of my preparation.
2. Look at schools in different communities and how their approaches to education are different and similar.
3. Speak with students and teachers about how success is measured. Are test scores indicative of learning? Do test scores create an incentive to work harder?
4. Use the knowledge I've learned in the classroom to see what approaches, curricula, and academic environment seem to work best for students of different ages across different settings.