

CAREER EXPLORATION ASSIGNMENT – Faculty Instructions

Using provided online resources, each student identifies 10 career paths which could potentially exist for their selected field of study. Students are expected to submit a list of the 10 identified career paths as well as a two-page essay comparing two of the paths in relation to their interests, skills, and values (citing resources used).

NOTE: For an optional assignment add-on, have students complete the Occupational Research Worksheet and use this to fill out their My Career Interests section in Handshake. This will allow the platform to suggest relevant opportunities and events for each student.

Assignment learning goals:

1. Demonstrate a broader understanding of potential career paths emerging from their selected field of study.
2. Analyze and describe the degree of alignment of two career paths to their own skills, interests, and values.
3. Build skills in navigating at least three online career resources and document their use.

Resources for student use:

- What Can I Do With This Major? - <https://www.uml.edu/whatcanido>
- FOCUS[®] 2 CAREER - <https://www.uml.edu/focus2>
- Labor Market Insights tool powered by Lightcast - <https://career.uml.edu/channels/explore-your-interests/>
- Handshake (Using Job Search function; search for jobs by selected major) - <https://uml.joinhandshake.com>

Essay prompts:

1. Of the career paths you've discovered, which **two** paths are you most interested in learning more about at this time?
2. What are the major similarities and differences in these two career paths?
3. Of the two career paths you've researched in more depth, which one appears to be a better match for your **interests**? Explain.
4. Of the two career paths you've researched in more depth, which one appears to be a better match for your **skills**? Explain.
5. Of the two career paths you've researched in more depth, which one appears to be a better match for your **values** (what you find most important in life)? Explain.

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