4-1 Journal: Career Choice and Artifact Update

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|  | Possible Points: **15**  To complete this assignment, compose responses to the following two-part prompt:  Throughout the Computer Science program, you have learned valuable skills with career options in mind. As you near the culmination of this program, it is time to reflect on your career choice and set your future direction.   * Trace the development of your career choice and plans for the future from your assignment into the Computer Science program until now. * Write a journal entry that answers the following four questions and then complete the Status Checkpoints Table:   Part One:   1. Have you changed your career plans? If so, what prompted this change? If not, why have you remained with your original plan?   I’m not exactly sure what my career plan is yet, but I have some ideas about potential areas I might work in. After I graduate, I plan to seek guidance to help me decide. One area I’m considering is security. I used to have mixed feelings about security roles, but now I see how important they are. Sometimes you have to "read the room" and assess situations carefully. It can be challenging, but when everything aligns, it feels like using both parts of my brain in a balanced way. It’s hard to explain exactly how I do it, but I’m learning.  I’ve also thought about manufacturing or working for a defense company because safety is crucial in these fields. Threats from abroad and the need for reliable manufacturing systems—like those supporting fast transportation—are important. Good manufacturing involves thinking carefully about safety, even for simple things, to prevent accidents caused by mistakes or misuse. This focus on safety makes me feel like I could contribute in a meaningful way.   1. How has your thinking about your career evolved?   At first, I was unsure what I wanted to do and felt nervous about sharing my real interests due to anxiety. Sometimes I overthink situations or feel overwhelmed by awareness, but I’ve learned that grounding myself in questions like, “What’s the point of this work?” helps bring clarity. For example, software could be used to help people better understand emotions, recognize patterns of behavior, or even support mental health tools. That kind of purpose matters to me.  I’ve also realized that the way we interact with media has a big effect on how we view others and ourselves. For instance, there are still many stereotypes in entertainment — like the idea that people always need to be happy, or “perfect” all the time. One example is the “constantly smiling princess” image, which can create pressure to always appear calm or cheerful. These kinds of messages affect people of all genders, shaping expectations in subtle ways. I’ve started to think more critically about these things and how tech could support healthier perceptions and more thoughtful behavior.   1. Have you completed any research about your choice of career? How has this impacted your thinking? Have you thought about seeking an advanced degree or certification after earning your undergraduate degree?   I haven’t done formal research yet, but I’ve had conversations with people, including my parents, about what comes next. My current plan is to take some time after graduation to refine the skills I’ve developed — kind of like practicing internship-level work — and focus on polishing my portfolio and resume. I’d also like to explore different areas, possibly through small projects, to figure out what fits best for me.  I’m especially interested in remote jobs so I can have more flexibility. I think taking a bit of time to regroup and improve the work I’ve already done will help me apply more confidently to jobs. I’m open to further training or certifications if they support the kind of work I want to do, but right now, I’m focusing on building real experience and getting a better sense of my strengths.   1. Which course outcomes have you achieved so far, and which ones remain?   So far, I feel I’ve made strong progress in these outcomes:   * **Software engineering and design**: I’ve worked on organizing project structures, managing libraries like GLM and GLEW, and improving file referencing in Visual Studio. * **Algorithms and data structures**: I’ve applied vector math and matrix logic in my graphics projects, especially for 3D camera positioning and movement.   I still have room to grow in:   * **Database design and integration**: I’ve submitted an artifact, but the enhancement work is still ahead. * **Security mindset**: I’ve thought deeply about security in terms of behavior and system design, but I haven’t had a chance to build a project that directly demonstrates this yet. * **Professional communication**: I’m improving in explaining my process and reflecting on project challenges, which is something I plan to continue developing through these final assignments.   Part Two:  Provide an update to your instructor on your progress with each category of artifacts for the ePortfolio:   * Software design and engineering * Algorithms and data structures * Databases   Use the following Status Checkpoints table to document your progress in each of your three category enhancements. Complete the table with a report on each category, including its status and some details. For instance, if you are working on the initial enhancement for your work in the databases category, you would briefly note which enhancements you have completed and which are still to come in that cell of the table. Also, note any trouble spots or places where you may need help. A sample exemplar can be found in the Reading and Resources section of the course.  **Status Checkpoints for All Categories**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Checkpoint** | **Software Design and Engineering** | **Algorithms and Data Structures** | **Databases** | | **Name of Artifact Used** | Final 3D Graphics Project | Same 3D Graphics Project (Camera/GLM work) | To be selected | | **Status of Initial Enhancement** | Attempted to clean up file structure, organize external libraries | Attempted to integrate and use GLM vector math and matrices | Planning stage | | **Submission Status** | Initial version complete enhancement attempts ongoing | Enhancement attempted but GLM vector math and matrices | Uploaded to Brightspace | | **Status of Final Enhancement** | Still resolving integration (GLM + project folder references) | Will return to fix GLM recognition issue | Pending selection and enhancement | | **Uploaded to ePortfolio** | Not yet uploaded | Not yet uploaded | Not applicable yet | | **Status of Finalized ePortfolio** | Still in development | Still in development | Still in developement |   **Optional Feedback**  Post links to any of the artifacts you are currently polishing for instructor feedback. Mention specific aspects or elements of the artifact that you would like feedback on.  Submit your assignment here. Make sure you’ve included all the required elements by reviewing the [guidelines and rubric.](https://learn.snhu.edu/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=1918391&type=content&rcode=snhu-2952572) |

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**Assessment**

**Rubrics**

* [CS 499 Journal Rubric](javascript:void(0);)

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