

## Career Research Assignment Worksheet

1. Student Name:  
Christina Moore

2. Job Description:  
The main focus of user experience (UX) design is understanding the priorities of the user in order to create a successful product. UX designers play a key role in making the product or service not only usable and accessible, but also enjoyable for the user.

UX designers have a number of responsibilities during the design process, including, but not limited to identifying target user groups and evaluating their needs, producing storyboards and prototypes to describe the product during every stage of development, performing tests on user interface elements to find out why a site does or does not work, and providing guidance as part of a development team to test the effectiveness of the final product. Attention to detail is key in this field during all parts of the process.

Although many companies utilize UX designers for different types of product development, this position is most often associated with digital design for apps and websites.

Source: <https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/topics/ux-design>

3. Salary:  
According to [payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=UX_Designer/Salary), the salary range for a UX designer working in the United States is between \$51,000 and \$109,000, with the average salary at \$74,917.

Source: [https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=UX\\_Designer/Salary](https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=UX_Designer/Salary)

4. Working Conditions:  
Most of the work that UX designers do depends on computers, so they usually work in offices, studios, and now during the post-pandemic era, at home by connecting with their team through Google Meets or Zoom. Remote work allows for hours to be less traditional, as UX designers can connect with anyone around the globe at any time. Some UX designers work overtime, and it can occasionally be a stressful job when dealing with tight deadlines.

Source: <https://www.quora.com/How-many-hours-do-you-work-as-a-UX-designer-and-is-it-a-stressful-job>

5. Education Requirements:  
According to [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/careers/what-does-a-ux-designer-do), while some UX designer positions require a bachelor's degree, other candidates can obtain their position with a combination of work experience in computer design and UX certifications.

Source: <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/careers/what-does-a-ux-designer-do>

6. What classes would be helpful for success in this field?

According to [geteducated.com](http://geteducated.com), some common courses for UX designers are:

- Computer science
- Graphic design
- Visual design
- Web programming
- Information architecture
- UI design

The complete course curriculum for DCCC's Interactive Multimedia Certificate Program will also be helpful in addition to this class, including computer science, game art/animation, multimedia graphics/design, web page design, and audio/video production.

*Sources:*

<https://www.geteducated.com/career-center/how-to-become-a-ux-designer/>

<https://catalog.dccc.edu/academic-programs/programs-study/interactive-multimedia-certificate/#curriculumtext>

7. Job Outlook:

UX design is a growing and continuously changing field, increasing the need for UX designers. The job outlook is positive, with a predicted 8% growth rate over the next few years.

*Source:* <https://www.springboard.com/blog/design/types-of-ux-jobs/#:~:text=The%20US%20Bureau%20of%20Labour,designers%20earning%20more%20than%20%24109%2C000>

8. Overall Pros and Cons:

Pros

- The field is relatively new and continues to grow
- The ability to interact with many members of an implementation team on a variety of projects
- No day at work is the same, which keeps things interesting
- Great salary range

Cons

- Potential for long hours (50-60 hours a week) working under deadline-driven, stressful conditions
- Accepting negative user feedback, especially during a project time crunch, can be stressful and overwhelming
- If you have difficulty constantly collaborating with coworkers, this career could be very unpleasant

9. Advancement Opportunities:

A UX designer can work up to a UX manager or UX director position, all the way up to VP of user experience. Essentially, you can go from being a part of the UX design team to managing every aspect of that team.

Source: <https://www.thinkful.com/blog/ux-designer-career-path/>

9. Why would this job fit me?

I do think this career would be a good fit for me. My overall work experience as a project coordinator and administrator, along with the classes I'm currently taking, are going in the direction of UX design.

I also know a few UX designers that I shadow at work on occasion and seeing their work firsthand has increased my interest in the field.

I love the idea of having an unpredictable day every workday, and the experience of working with all different types of professionals to implement a new product would be great.