Week 13:

Occupational Stress and Wellness

Occupational wellness means that through your work, you gain personal satisfaction, find enrichment and meaning, build useful skills, and contribute to your community. It requires successful time management, stress reduction, and communication and negotiation. The following questions can help you discover more about what occupational wellness means to you and how to achieve it.

**Part A: Occupational Values**

In each of the following categories, put an **x** next to any item that is true for your job or life now and a **+** sign in front of any item that you would like to develop more.

**Career values:** In my occupation, I do (x); I would like to (+):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Create beauty | Help people **x** | Organize things **x +** |
| Create ideas **x +** | Improve society | Perform physical tasks |
| Experience variety | Make things **x** | Take responsibility  **+** |
| Follow directions **x** | Manage people **+** |

**Result values:** I have (x); I’d like to have more (+):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Adventure **+** | Independence **+** | Power **+** | Happiness **+** |
| Leisure time | Prestige | Comfort | Money **+** |
| Security **x +** | Fun **+** | Possessions | Structure **x** |

**Personal Qualities:** I am (x); I’d like to be more (+):

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Accepting **x** | Affectionate **x** | Ambitious **x** | Balanced **+** | Brave **+** |
| Calm **x** | Caring **x** | Compassionate | Competitive **x** | Confident **+** |
| Conscientious | Cooperative **x** | Courteous **x** | Creative **+** | Decisive **+** |
| Disciplined **x** | Efficient **+** | Enthusiastic **x** | Famous | Friendly **x** |
| Healthy **+** | Honest/Fair **x** | Intelligent **+** | Joyful **+** | Kind **x** |
| Loving **x** | Loyal **x** | Mature **x** | Organized **+** | Optimistic **x** |
| Poised | Prompt **+** | Self-accepting **x** | Sensitive | Strong **+** |
| Successful **+** | Trusting **x** | Understanding **x** | Warm | Wise **+** |

**Part B: Past and Current Jobs**

Please answer the following questions using full sentences.

1. Briefly describe your current occupation if you have one and any past jobs you’ve had. If you’ve never had a job, talk about your experience as a student.



I work at a school board in the IT department as a Critical Systems Analyst. My title does not encapsulate all that I do as one might think I just work on securing servers and making sure the services are up and running as much as possible. While this is true, my job, unfortunately, has a large front-facing part to it. Answering password reset requests, giving the same information to the same people dozens of times over because they can never remember, and making sure I answer every question directed at me with a smile no matter if they are being rude to me. What I enjoy is the other part of my job, the programming and cyber security side of it. It is more difficult in nature, but less tedious. There tends to be unique issues that have to be solved at every corner when implementing, developing, or integrating custom applications or vendor-developed services.

1. How well does your work align with your values? Is there a different kind of work that would fit better with your values?



I would say my work aligns with my values since in the realm of information technology, software engineering, and alike occupations, a lot of my values get automatically fulfilled. I can create things, organize my creations, think of innovative ideas, and at times feel creative. I have thought of other types of occupations such as sales as I believe I can be quite persuasive and believe I am a natural people person. The potential for travelling would follow my value of adventure and the money I could make in sales, probably technology sales, would also align with my value for money… as long as I was good at it.

1. Does your work make you feel good about yourself and why? If it doesn’t feel good sometimes, can you describe why?  
     
   When I facilitate an integration or create a program that will makes other’s work easier or allows for a service for all students to use, I feel accomplished which is a good feeling. I do like helping people in really any way, feeling appreciated at times does help me get through an otherwise less fun existence.   
     
   Sometimes, work doesn’t feel good. I do not feel like management provides me with enough information to effectively work on projects and keeps deadlines very ambiguous until one day the deadline is solidified very quickly and in the near future. The



**Goals**

1. What kind of lifestyle would you like to have? Describe your ideals in few areas such as home, clothing, food, family, friends, transportation, pets, technology, activities/hobbies, and/or travel.
2. Describe your dream job. (Be honest, don’t think about the salary, what others might think, or what job people may want you to have.)
3. If your goal were to please your family, what job would it be and why?

1. If your goal were to improve the world, what job would it be and why?
2. What are your future career plans or goals?