

## **Writing Assignment 5: Career Paths**

As an undergraduate, it may seem intimidating to think about what you want to do for a career. Perhaps you don't even know what your final major will be yet! While you do have time to consider and weigh your options, this time is not infinite. It pays to be proactive about considering your career options both because it will inform your future decisions and because it can give your current studies a more refined focus (and it can prompt you to seek out opportunities like undergraduate research positions or internships in industry). For this assignment you will outline two possible career tracks, starting where you are now (a freshman or sophomore/transfer student) and continuing to whatever "terminal" position you want to have (e.g., college professor, data scientist, senior engineer, etc.). I suggest you choose a traditional academic track as one of your choices, since the in-class lecture will provide a lot of information about that particular choice.

The requirements of the assignment are –

1. Choose two different career paths, starting as an undergraduate. I suggest one of them be an academic track. The other track can be for industry, for science policy, or a science support role (or something else I haven't listed).
2. Create a timeline of each stage of the career path. List basic information like how long it will take and what the main goal is.
3. For each career path write 400-500 words about your choice. Start with a couple of sentences explaining why this career track appeals to you. Next, start filling in details about how you will accomplish your goals. For example, what courses are you going to take as a junior or senior to prepare for what happens after you receive your bachelor's degree (e.g., grad school or your first industry job). What internships are you going to explore as an undergraduate or after graduation? What grad schools would you consider and why? (Something to think about yourself: about how much can you expect to make at each stage and how does this fit with your financial goals?)
4. Don't feel like you're committing yourself to one thing or another right now. These are just possible choices you have, and it pays to be educated and informed about them. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers when you are discussing your possible future. I will grade based on the level of detail you include for each career path and your thoughtfulness in your answers.
5. Make sure your writing totals at least 800-1000 words.

**DUE: Friday 11/14 by 5 pm**