

# Career Report

The most common reason for continuing your education is to acquire skills and knowledge for a specific career. However, when we choose a career, we are often influenced by Hollywood, the media, and word of mouth on the specifics of what that career field is all about!

For this assignment, you will research **ONE** career field. You may already know the specific career that you would like to pursue; but if you don't, you should use one of the results from your Interest Inventory assignment.

In addition to learning more about your career choice, this assignment will help you to learn basic researching skills. The following worksheet presents a list of questions that you will have to answer using research from the Internet, library, and other sources, such as personal interviews with professionals in the specific field.

The following links are great places to start for this assignment:

<https://tidewater.emsicc.com/> - Emsi Career Coach - On this site, you can browse careers by name to find out how much education you might need, and the salaries of each position. Additionally you can browse TCC's academic programs.

<http://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/home.htm> - Occupational Outlook Handbook - While this website is somewhat difficult to navigate, there is a lot of information to be found on the future of each career field.

<http://www.vacareerview.org/> - Virginia Career View – While this website is geared towards younger children in search of career paths, it may be worth a look as a starting place for research.

<http://libguides.tcc.edu/LibraryPage/> - This is the TCC library homepage, which includes a quick search bar for easy researching. You can also ask a librarian for help in your research. You should bookmark this page for easy access for future courses.

<http://www.tcc.edu/academics/catalog/> - This is the TCC Course Catalog, which will give you information about majors and programs of study.

## Citing References

Some of the questions below have a space to list your references. This space is included because the information required to answer some of the questions has to come from somewhere other than your own thoughts and opinions.

You may use the Internet, hard copy materials, and personal interviews with professionals in the field as your resources. To cite your reference, **make sure to list the URL, the author of the material, or the person's name and place of work that you interviewed.**

Remember the lesson on plagiarism and make sure to list all of the references you used to answer the question. Even your course catalog is considered a resource that should be cited for this type of assignment. For every reference space shown, you should list at least **ONE** reference.

# Career Report Worksheet

**Title of Career Field:** Software Engineer

## 1. Describe the career including the typical duties and responsibilities.

A software engineer is generally responsible for building any type of software. This could be anything from a mobile game to a piece of robotics firmware to an ecommerce website. This means that the typical duties of a software engineer center around a core skill of problem solving along with a good understanding of data structures and algorithms. They will generally have to work collaboratively and have a good ability to design systems/applications.

### References:

- <https://www.springboard.com/blog/software-engineering/software-engineer-job-description/>
- [https://www.splunk.com/en\\_us/blog/learn/software-engineer-role-responsibilities.html](https://www.splunk.com/en_us/blog/learn/software-engineer-role-responsibilities.html)

## 2. What are the educational requirements to be successful in this career field?

There are many paths to becoming a professional software engineer. Some of the more common paths are getting a bachelor's degree, associate's degree, or studying in a STEM program. There are no hard educational requirements to become a software engineer like there may be for becoming a medical professional.

### References:

- <https://www.snhu.edu/about-us/newsroom/stem/how-to-become-a-software-engineer>

## 3. What is the pay/salary and job outlook for this career field?

The general range for a software engineer is a pretty wide range that is impacted by locale. The lower end of the yearly salary is \$63K with the higher end being \$205K. The average salary falls around \$148K. As far as the outlook goes, it is very promising with the proliferation of technology in our everyday lives and the ever increasing dependency on computers.

### References:

- <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Software-Engineer-Salary>
- <https://www.springboard.com/blog/software-engineering/software-engineer-job-description/>

## 4. What are some advantages/disadvantages for working in this career field?

There are just as many advantages as there are disadvantages working as a software engineer. High

demand, high potential for growth and high pay are all some of the top rated advantages. Health concerns from prolonged sitting, higher stress due to deadlines, and a constantly changing technology landscape as some of the top rated disadvantages.

#### References:

- <https://www.knowledgehut.com/blog/web-development/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-software-engineer>

#### **5. How does this career field match your interests and personality?**

It matches because I have always been a very logical person. I have always tinkered with everything with an interest in better understanding how things work.

#### **6. What is your major or program of study at TCC? If you have not selected a major/program of study or are a dual enrollment student, read through the course catalog and list the majors you think would best help you succeed in this career field.**

Associates of Science in computer science.

#### **How does your listed major/program of study at TCC prepare you for this career?**

Creates a basis of understanding of core computer science concepts like data structures and algorithms. As well as, teaching communication and research skills and time management.

#### **7. Identify all the steps needed to go from where you are right now at TCC to the first day at the job in the career field listed. Be as specific as possible when listing steps. Steps may include transferring to another institution, but should still include steps to entering the career field/starting the job.**

1. Determine end educational goal, i.e. bachelor's or associate's degree
2. Determine which institution you would like to gain that degree from
3. Understand which classes are transferable from TCC to that institution.
4. While working through school,
  - a. start building a portfolio of work
  - b. find paid internships or a entry level position
  - c. build relationships and a network of contacts (speak with professors and students)
5. Graduate
6. Build a resume
7. Visit job fairs
8. Apply for jobs
9. Interview
10. Profit

**After completing your research, what have you learned about your chosen career? Is it still the right one for you? Did you learn anything interesting that you hadn't known before? Use the**

**space below to reflect on this assignment.**

*Your summary should be at least one paragraph demonstrating your reflection on this activity and how you may or may not apply what you have learned in your future career preparation. There is no limit to how much you want to write.*

I didn't really learn anything new as I just had to do much of this research to find a new job this past month. And after 15 years working as a software engineer, I do think that this career is still the one I want to keep working in. I have always found it interesting how wide the software engineering career is. This makes it hard sometimes to discern salary ranges.