

Assignment #3: Job Market/Graduate School Research and Analysis

For this assignment, you are to conduct research into one or more job fields or programs of study you would like to pursue in the future and track your findings in a double-sided journal. Use the fillable table on the next couple of pages.

If you are interested in investigating jobs, use the Vault website (<http://www.jmu.edu/cap/vault/index.shtml>) available through JMU's Career and Academic Planning or another online source you prefer to conduct preliminary research on career fields and to learn about the outlook for different careers. Then, search for job postings on JMU Handshake or any online job search resource. Make sure you are considering entry level jobs and not only the dream jobs you may need to work toward.

Take notes on at least **three** job postings that interest you, noting minimum qualifications and responsibilities, salary (if available) and location on the left side of your journal page. On the right side, note how your coursework in the program (and/or your second major program) has prepared you for such a position, how your skills fit the position, and/or how the position will help fulfill your short term and long term career goals.

If you are interested in investigating graduate programs, use Peterson's Guide (<https://www.petersons.com/graduate-schools.aspx>) to research potential graduate programs and schools. Note acceptance rates, demographics, deadlines, costs, and types of degrees offered.

Visit the websites for three programs. On the left side of the journal, take notes on the requirements for acceptance, courses offered, thesis options, and available assistantships. On the right side, jot down notes regarding your qualifications, course interests, etc. Also note how your program of study in WRTC has prepared you for such graduate work, how the graduate program will help you reach your long-term goals, and how you might contribute to the goals or workings of the program.

Not only should the work you do for this assignment help you plan for the next step after graduation, but it should generate material for cover letters, personal statements, and more.

Graduate Program Journal

What career field or area are you considering?

I am considering pursuing advanced education in a media related field. I am unsure of my exact focus yet, but I plan on figuring out what I enjoy by working in the field for a few years before going forward with an advanced degree. I currently have a job with Deloitte after graduation, and I plan on working with them for a few years and then enrolling in their grad school program that will cover my tuition. Because this will be a consulting job, I will move around a lot and try a lot of different job titles, and hopefully find one that I really like and am then able to focus on and move forward with.

How will a graduate degree help you achieve your professional goals?

A graduate program will allow me to specialize, which I chose not to do in undergrad. I will be able to really study and focus in on a more narrow topic. This will also allow me to move into higher level positions within my career that require an advanced degree. Although many professional goals mean moving away from day-to-day production and into a more managerial role, I would still like a graduate degree where I could learn more in depth about media production and not just about management.

<p>University: Georgetown University Title of program: Master of Arts Type of degree: Communication, Culture, and Technology Location: Washington DC Cost: \$2,065/ Credit Hour. 39 Required. Admission Requirements (include tests, gpa, application materials):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 recommendations• Statement of Purpose• Resume/CV• Academic Writing Sample• Supplementary Form• University Transcripts• GRE• Video Statement (optional) <p>Opportunities for assistantships or fellowships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gnovis Fellowship	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video statement allows you to add a personal touch to your application.• You can sit in on classes before applying.• The program is interdisciplinary, and only 2 courses are required. The rest are electives.• Average Undergraduate GPA: 3.41• Average GRE Scores of enrolled students: Verbal: 155 Quantitative: 158 Analytical Writing: 4 <p>They are really concerned with academic writing, so having a WRTC background would be a huge plus not only in applying but also throughout the program. This would be a more PR style track rather than something more art focused. Writing would be a big part of my life if I were to take a job involving PR and WRTC would provide a solid foundation</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNDLS Fellowship 	<p>that would put me far beyond my other peers.</p> <p>This could be a big asset to my long-term goals if I wanted to move away from day-to-day production and into a more managerial position in my career. These classes would prepare me to manage other workers and see things from the big picture rather than just whatever assignments are given to me.</p>
<p>University: George Washington University Title of program: Graduate Certificate Type of degree: Digital Marketing & Communications Location: Washington DC Cost: \$1,765 / Credit Hour Admission Requirements (include tests, gpa, application materials):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resume • Essay • Reference • Transcripts <p>Opportunities for assistantships or fellowships: N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 12 credits required. • Curriculum is more production oriented than research or thesis. Emphasis on web and digital content. • Interdisciplinary field. • Friday & Saturday classes, very much geared towards working professionals. <p>WRTC will definitely help me be prepared for this sort of graduate program because of the emphasis on multimodal communication. Digital Marketing and Communications is really about understanding every facet of the message you are communicating, and I think WRTC teaches its students very well to see every route for communication, whether it be images, text, audio, or design.</p> <p>This program is a certificate program, so it may not propel me as far as a masters program might, but I think the benefits for my career would be great. This program is the one that seems most related to my career goals and truly interests me. This would help me understand the business side of digital marketing in addition the creative/production side.</p>
<p>University: American University Title of program: Masters of Arts Type of degree: Games and Interactive Media Location: Washington DC Cost: \$1,708 / Credit Hour Admission Requirements (include tests, gpa, application materials):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You don't need any real background in coding or game design to apply. The program is actually a lot more broad than just game design too, it's about interactive media in general and there are lots of electives.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of Purpose • Resume • Transcript • 2 Letters of Recommendation • Portfolio <p>Opportunities for assistantships or fellowships: Collaboration with government agencies for grant-funded projects.</p> <p>Limited number of assistantships are awarded based on merit and need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be MA, MFA, or Certificate program. • GRE is not required. <p>This program is not perfectly aligned with my career goals, but I found it to be really interesting and seemed accessible based off of my undergraduate work. This would be a good track for me to take if I wanted to try something new that was production based and really narrow my scope of focus. In addition to teaching me a lot about interactivity, this program focuses on creative leadership, and is something that I could still apply to most creative jobs later in my career.</p> <p>Although this course isn't as writing intensive, I think that the creative thinking processes I have learned in this major are exactly the type that this program is looking for. For example, in Computers and Writing I learned about design thinking, which would be a perfect thing to apply in a game based environment.</p>
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