Keegan Neal

EDUC 1300

Professor Johnson

26 March 2018

Career Exploration Research Assignment

The Finance career field is one of the fastest growing occupations in the Houston area. Financial Analysts are needed by all business around the world to be successful. Although the Financial Analyst may not be my desired career once I see how the day to day is like, my research reveals my eligibility for becoming a Financial Analyst because it fits my desired working conditions, my learning style and personality, and my knowledge of mathematics.

Financial Analysts are useful for creating investment choices and other decisions for businesses. All businesses and major corporations need a Financial Analyst to find the best use of their money. In an article by Christina Granville, she states that “a financial analyst researches macroeconomic and microeconomic conditions along with company fundamentals to make predictions about businesses, sectors and industries” (Granville, “Becoming a Financial Analyst”). In this career field I will need to be able to create financial models to accurately represent the future economic conditions.

As a Financial Analyst I will be working in offices where I will need to dress up in nice clothing like a suit and tie. I will have to work full time, spending more than forty hours a week working. Also, I will have to read new publications in order to stay up to date with the changing financial news. Depending on the company I work for, I may or may not have to travel to different companies to better assess the operations. Also in the article by Granville, she states that, “analysts also frequently attend conferences with colleagues who share the same specialty as they do” (Granville, “Becoming a Financial Analyst”).

Some good benefits of becoming a Financial Analyst include; rapid growth, higher compensation and opportunities to become a Chief Financial Officer. In a publication from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, it states, “employment of financial analysts is projected to grow 11 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Financial Analysts”). This shows that this career field is constantly growing and will be available for me to join when I graduate college. Also, in the same article by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, it states that, “the median pay is $81,760” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Financial Analysts”).

This career field fits my learning style because I am a social and visual person. Financial Analysts have to make PowerPoints and other graphs to help their peers visually see the statistics of a company. Also, Financial Analysts must have good communication skills because people will ask for help and other questions which I will have to answer. Another one of my best learning styles and personality types is that I am very observant and can give my full attention to whatever I am working on and I can retain information and accurately reproduce it when needed.

Financial Analyst is an interesting career for me because I enjoy working with money and managing it. I also enjoy creating spreadsheets to keep it organized. I like to dress up in a suit and this job will let me do that. Also, this career makes a lot of money starting out and I am hoping to make that much so I can help pay off my college debt. This career deals with investments and how to reduce risk associated with it and I find that an interesting field of study.

According to an article on the Occupational Outlook Handbook, it states that in this career field I will have to, “present oral or written reports on general economic trends, individual corporations, and entire industries” (Occupational Outlook Handbook, “Financial Analysts”). Some strengths that I have found from the Do What You Are would be that I am practical and realistic with good common sense, good knowledge of details important to people, flexibility and willingness to take calculated risks, and also have a strong sense of loyalty to my ideals and organization. Some of my potential weaknesses for this career may be my lack of assertiveness, I do not take criticism well and I have difficulty juggling multiple complex ideas at once. I am not very assertive because I do not like to be mean to people or appear as such. I do not take criticism well because I am an emotional person that always tries to please everyone even if I cannot. Also, I have to focus on one complex idea or project at a given time because I am a perfectionist and would rather give a task my full attention to detail than multiple tasks that turn out average. I always strive to do my best work possible.

In order for me to have the opportunity to get into this career, an article tells me that I will need to get my Bachelor’s degree in Finance or business, because no companies will look at my resume without at least a Bachelor’s degree. Also in that same article by Granville, It states that, “If you are not an MBA graduate student or an economics major as an undergraduate, you may want to consider studying for the Series 7 and Series 63 exams or participating in the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Program” (Granville, “Becoming a Financial Analyst”). I plan on graduating from the University of Houston with my Bachelors in Finance. This summer I intend on interning at Hess Corporation in their Finance Department.

I believe that this career choice is a good fit for me because I enjoy creating spreadsheets and working with math. It also fits my personality type and learning style. This career is a fit for me because; I enjoy wearing suits to work. There are job openings in downtown Houston which interests me because I have never been to downtown before. I hope to one day work my way up through the business world and become the Chief Financial Officer of a corporation and make a decent living to support my family.

Works Cited

“Financial Analysts – Occupational Outlook Handbook.” *Bureau of Labor Statistics*, [www.bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/financial-analysts.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/financial-analysts.htm). Accessed 28 March 2018.

Granville, Christina. “Becoming a Financial Analyst.” *Investopedia*, [www.investopedia.com/articles/financialcareers/06/financialanalyst.asp](http://www.investopedia.com/articles/financialcareers/06/financialanalyst.asp). Accessed 29 March 2018.

“Summary Report for: 13-2051.00 – Financial Analysts.” *ONET OnLine*, [www.onetonline.org/link/summary/13-2051.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/13-2051.00). Accessed 28 March 2018.