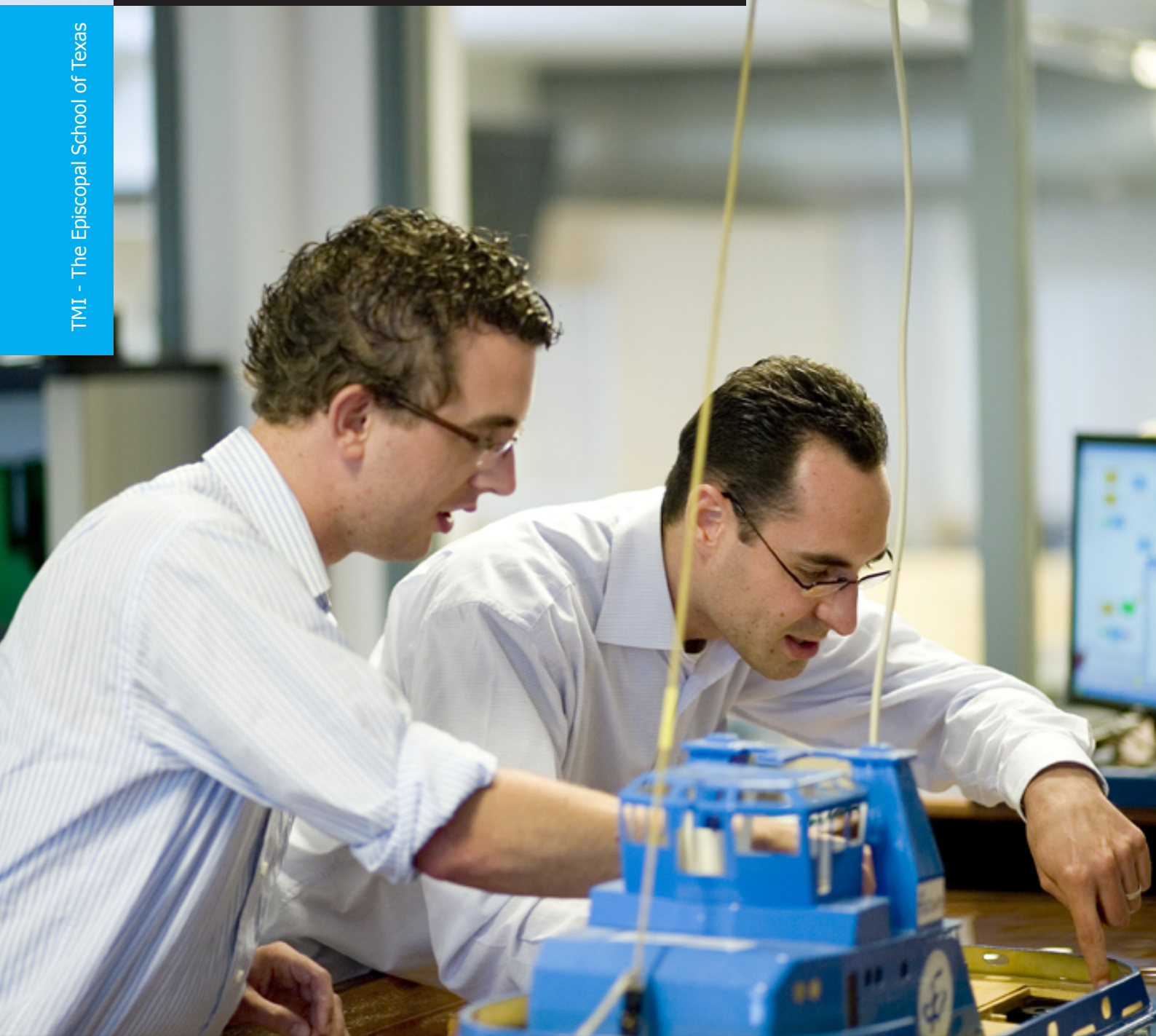


Paths of Life

A Field Guide to Choosing a Career

AP Language and Composition Class

TMI - The Episcopal School of Texas



TMI
The Episcopal School of Texas

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A Field Guide to Choosing a Career

by

2016's AP Language and Composition Class

at TMI - The Episcopal School of Texas,

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An electronic summary of this paper is available at <http://umer936.com/TMIPathsOfLife>.



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1

Introduction

What do you want to be when you grow older? Ever since we can remember, this question has been repeatedly pounded into our brains by our parents, teachers, and friends. Think back to those days in elementary school where activities such as "Bring Your Parents to School Day" abounded. Activities such as these were created by our schools, so that we could learn more about the potential careers that society would one day force us to choose. For some people, the answer to this question has always been very apparent. However, for the majority of us, this question is one of life's great mysteries. Now, as we get closer to graduating and begin to prepare for college, this dreadful day seems to loom right over the horizon. Juniors all over the world are quaking in fear knowing that the time for them to decide their futures has come. Okay, I admit that this may have been a bit of a stretch, but in all honesty people are genuinely nervous about what they are going to study in college and what they are going to do afterwards. Acknowledging this ever-growing problem, we decided to create a handy-dandy guide that will help you out in these life defining decisions. So sit back, relax, read, and go out into the world with a little less fear and a lot more confidence.

2

Acting

Actors tell stories using their voices, their expressions, and their body movements (Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor). Generally speaking, there are two different acting career paths: acting in theatre and acting in film. Actors in theatre will perform on a stage in front of a live audience, while actors in film will perform for a camera and have their scenes edited and replayed. For both acting paths, however, actors must audition for roles, research their characters, interpret scripts, listen attentively to their directors, and rehearse often (U.S. Department of Labor). In order to be successful, actors must be able to read well, speak well, convey emotion, memorize lines, and remain persistent and creative (U.S. Department of Labor). Actors face intense and vast competition for jobs, and they are rarely employed full

time (U.S. Department of Labor). Because of this, they often have to seek employment elsewhere in order to support themselves financially. Additionally, actors often have to travel for work and keep long, irregular hours, which may include working nights, weekends, or holidays (U.S. Department of Labor). Comparatively speaking, they don't earn much money for doing so. In 2015, the median hourly wage for actors was \$18.80, meaning 50% of working actors earned more and 50% earned less (U.S. Department of Labor). The lowest-paid 10% of working actors earned less than \$9.27 per hour, while the highest-paid 10% earned more than \$90.00 per hour (U.S. Department of Labor). However, many actors do what they do because they love to act and they feel deeply passionate about it. One cannot put a price on passion.

2.1. Top Colleges

Table 2.1: Undergraduate Colleges

Dream Schools				
University of California - Los Angeles	Total 4 year cost:	\$220,000	20 year ROI:	\$164,000
Pace University	Total 4 year cost:	\$220,000	20 year ROI:	\$424,000
Best Value Schools				
University of California - Berkeley	Total 4 year cost:	\$225,000	20 year ROI:	\$443,000
UT Austin	Total 4 year cost:	\$103,000	20 year ROI:	\$301,000

2.2. Degree Description

2.2.1. Undergraduate

Majors for actors can be specific to what he or she wants to do, or more broad. For example, a student studying to be an actor could simply major in acting, which would prove beneficial across the board. However, if that student had a par-

ticular interest, such as in musical theatre, he or she would want to major in musical theatre, possibly with a minor in dance. Many acting programs include training both for the stage and for film, but some are specific to a particular kind of performance, such as film studies or theatre arts. Regardless of their career path, actors will most likely need to take classes that involve acting,

studying and interpreting scripts, learning how to use their voice, learning how to move their bodies, and actual production-based classes. Any student aspiring to be an actor should not only look into acting and drama programs and classes at their school, but should also try to participate in as many extracurricular productions as possible, whether they're staged or filmed. What an actor chooses to major in does not matter nearly as much as the time they spend working on and auditioning for shows, gaining experience, building a resume, and making connections.

2.2.2. Graduate

Many actors decide to get to work straight out of college, without going to graduate school. Doing so certainly has its benefits, particularly since the sooner one can find an agent and get into the business, the better. However, actors can find many benefits to pursuing an MFA (master of fine arts). Graduate school classes tend to involve the same subjects as undergraduate classes, but can be more specialized and more professional. Within those extra two or three years of study, actors can gain credibility, become more polished and professional, establish strong connections with those in the field and make new contacts, broaden their amount of experience, and strengthen their resume (Brian O'Neil, "7 Reasons Why an Actor Gets an MFA"). Additionally, according to former agent and current acting career coach, Brian O'Neil, "A number of top programs are tuition-free, or close to it, and some offer a living stipend as well. Many actors in MFA programs are actually spending less money on continued training than their peers who are studying elsewhere" ("7 Reasons Why an Actor Gets an MFA"). So, there can even be financial benefits to taking part in a graduate program. All in all, the benefits of graduate school really pertain to the connections, training, experience, and resume of the actor. If he or she can find an agent and relatively regular work shortly after college, it would make sense to avoid spending extra money on graduate school. However, those who have the opportunity and resources to go to a good graduate school program can benefit immensely from doing so.

2.3. Interview

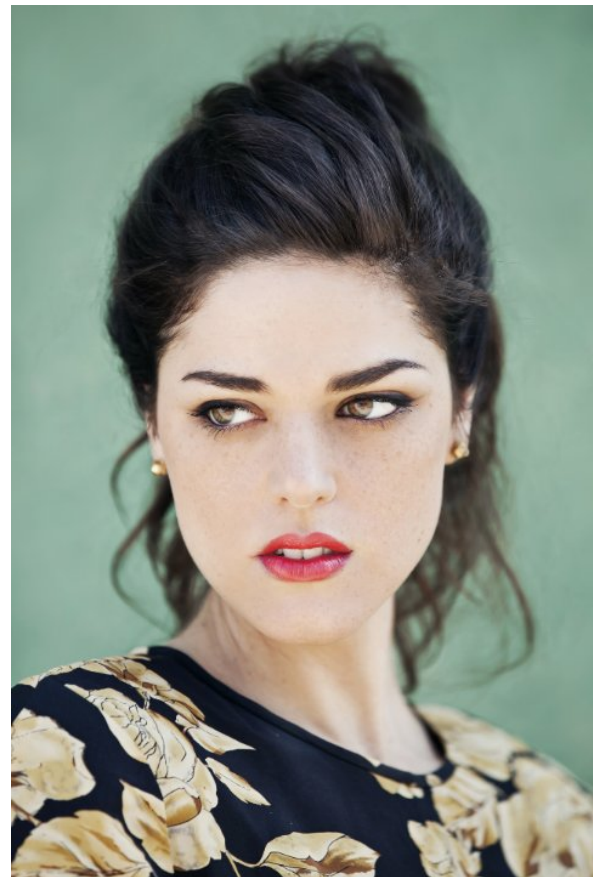


Figure 2.1: A movie actor (Portrait of Callie Hernandez)

Calista Hernandez did not know she wanted to be an actor at the age of 16, or 18, or even when she graduated from college. During her college years, she changed her major about every semester, moving from music composition to art, to interior design, to journalism, to advertising, and then back to journalism. She attended a few different schools, eventually graduating from UT with a major in photojournalism, but she still felt unsure of what she wanted to do with her life. For Calista, acting did not prove to be so much of a decision as it did a revelation. I recently had the opportunity to interview Calista about her decision to become an actor.

Calista does wish she could have gone to a drama school, and for a while, she felt embarrassed that she did not possess any sort of educational background in acting. However, she met some incredible teachers along the way, and ultimately, her life experiences taught her what she needed to learn. She learned how to take the various criticisms thrown at her. She learned how to accept that a lot of work opportunities depended on her luck. And she learned how to be both tough and vulnerable at the same time. When I asked

her what skills she felt were helpful to working actors, she advised,

"To be a working actor? Tough skin, luck, and confidence. To be a good working actor? All that and willingness... Trust yourself. Read a lot. Watch a lot of films. Have strong boundaries. Listen deeply. Keep going. Tell the truth. Trust your intuition. Go on a tangent- learn about everything that interests you... It's only your life, you might as well try, right?"

"I think with any creative endeavor, it's less of a choice and more of a knowing... I may not have known consciously when I "decided," but, in short, telling stories, tapping into a collective unconscious, digger deeper in your own unconscious self and the incessant feelings and understanding of the human heart. Connection. I hope this doesn't sound too pretentious! It's really got nothing to do with hours, money, travel, fame or any of that, for me. It's extremely personal. And it's extremely vulnerable. I love that."

2.4. Work-Life Balance

There's a lot more to the acting process than meets the eye. Firstly, those who cannot support themselves with their acting salary alone must also look for other work and hold another job. However, even for working actors, they cannot spend all their time doing what they're most passionate about. They have to tend to all of the other work that goes along with a career in acting, such as preparing for auditions, actually auditioning, seemingly endless traveling, studying and analyzing characters and scripts, not to mention all the time spent in hair and makeup and just waiting around in the trailer. Sometimes a whole day is spent just waiting. The time spent actually acting and shooting a scene is often outweighed by all

the extra work surrounding the acting. However, the most difficult part of acting does not involve any of these necessary extra tasks. For Calista, the most challenging aspect of an acting career is the sheer sense of isolation that comes with it. When describing her career, Calista explained,

"It's an incredibly lonely profession. I don't think people realize that... You go to a remote place, far away from anyone or anything you know... You get to see and meet 200 new faces which you'll work closely with for the next month or two or three. You go to work... Pressure and nerves sometimes get the best of you. Sometimes not. You may have a few days or even a week off in this remote town that you cannot leave. It takes finessing to find happiness in that."

One would probably assume that getting to meet 200 new people means tons of new friends to talk with, but the time spent working with these people only lasts a few months. Often, they're all in their own world or their own trailer. Actors have to work to entertain themselves, finding new things to do on their own in a place they've never been before. The sense of detachment and solitude can prove draining. When I asked Calista about the balance between work and life, she replied,

"It's difficult. I'm learning as I go that, although these two things are extraordinarily intertwined, they are also separate. It's tricky because each one informs the other. Your life and your person informs your work. Work informs your life and your person."

She's still searching for that healthy balance. However, many people spend their entire lives searching for such a balance. Few have it all figured out by age 29. At least Calista finds magic in what she does. She found what she needed to do, and she hasn't looked back.

3

Journalism

Who? What? When? Where? Why? These are the questions that journalists aim to answer. While the age of newspaper is fading away, the electronic age is quickly expanding. However, the lives of most journalists are not luxurious or expensive. Depending on the specific field, a typical day for a journalist might involve conducting interviews, writing and editing stories on a deadline, taking photos, working long hours, going to news conferences, and reporting in front of a camera ("Journalist Job Description"). To achieve these tasks, a journalist needs to be able to communicate well both in writing and in verbal conversation, to not buckle under pressure, and to cooperate in groups ("Journalist Job Description"). PayScale conducted a survey of 660 journalists, and the results show that the annual salaries ranged from \$24,151 to \$71,166 ("Journalist Salary (United States)"). Ad-

ditionally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics noted that 54,000 reporters, correspondents, and broadcast news analysts with bachelor degrees had a median pay of \$37,200 per year in 2014 ("Occupational Outlook Handbook"). The salary of a journalist is affected by the amount of time he or she has been working; on average, the longer a journalist works, the more money he or she will earn ("Journalist Salary"). To earn the most money, journalists should live in Washington, D.C., New York, San Francisco, San Diego, or Chicago ("Journalist Salary"). Monetarily, the most profitable position within journalism is the senior editor ("Sr. Editor Salary (United States)"). Most senior editors are females who have more than 10 years of experience, and they receive an average salary of \$62,000 per year ("Sr. Editor Salary").

3.1. Top Colleges

Table 3.1: Undergraduate Colleges

Dream Schools				
University of Southern California	Total 4 year cost:	\$278,844	20 year ROI:	\$465,156
Northwestern University	Total 4 year cost:	\$272,348	20 year ROI:	\$471,652
Best Value Schools				
American University	Total 4 year cost:	\$172,408	20 year ROI:	\$571,591
UT Austin	Total 4 year cost:	\$85,640	20 year ROI:	\$658,360

Table 3.2: Graduate Universities

Dream Schools				
Columbia University	Total 4 year cost:	\$122,242	20 year ROI:	\$233,758
University of California, Berkeley	Total 4 year cost:	\$74,203	20 year ROI:	\$281,797
Best Value Schools				
Arizona State University	Total 4 year cost:	\$53,472	20 year ROI:	\$302,472
UT Austin	Total 4 year cost:	\$22,324	20 year ROI:	\$333,676



Figure 3.1: Journalism in the olden days ("Typewriter")

3.2. Degree Description

3.2.1. Undergraduate

Journalism is unique because of the numerous degrees and subjects within it. According to the "Major and Career Search" on the College Board website, there are approximately 17 different sectors within the broad journalism topic, including broadcast, mass communications, scientific and technical communication, sports communication, photojournalism, and digital communications and multimedia. Jenna Goudreau, a writer at *Forbes*, said in an article that although many journalists are successful without journalism degrees, having a journalism degree would be helpful. She also recommended double majoring, earning a degree in journalism and a degree in a completely different subject (Goudreau). According to Justin Cox, who attended graduate school at Northwestern, having a graduate degree in journalism is the only way to have a job above entry level positions. However, graduate school is expensive, and journalists do not get paid very much compared to people in higher paying professions, such as doctors, who also have expensive educations but are able to pay off student loans easier (Cox).

3.3. Interview

In a recent interview, Chuck Miketinac, a local sportscaster, talked about his career as a journalist. He has been working at KABB, FOX San Antonio for 20 years. When he was in high school, he decided that because he loved sports and enjoyed writing, he would be a sports journalist. At that point, he did not know that he would end up being on TV. However, when he was in college, he did want to be on TV, and so he took classes based on that desire. While Miketinac was interning at KSAT, one of his friends that was leaving the job recommended that Miketinac be hired—and he was. When asked about his work-life balance, Miketinac said, "I'm sure I'd like to work less, but who doesn't want that?" Miketinac went on to say that he does not bring any work home. According to Miketinac, the most difficult aspect of his job is staying up-to-date so that he can constantly report. To conclude, he gave the following advice: "If you want to do this for a career, don't let anybody tell you that you can't do it. It's too hard, too competitive is a bunch of bull" (Miketinac).

3.4. Work-Life Balance

In a Poynter survey, 750 journalists answered questions about their jobs. Although most of these people reported high job satisfaction, almost 50%

of the participants have considered leaving their careers due to work-life balance issues, such as extensive work hours and the loss of vacation time (Geisler). However, less than half of the employees asked their supervisors for short-term improvements; of those who did ask, almost 75% received some aid (Geisler). More than 55% of the respondents told that their organizations demon-

strated at least some concern for the work-life balance of their employees (Geisler). 51.6% of the participants in the survey reported that their supervisors were unsupportive, while 48.4% said that they had supportive supervisors (Geisler). In addition, 61.8% of the responders answered that their jobs have a somewhat negative effect on their physical health (Geisler).

4

Engineering

Engineering is “the branch of science and technology concerned with the design, building, and use of engines, machines, and structures” (Lone Star College System). Being an engineer requires skills like creativity, being able to plan a project in regards to time and money, being good at understanding higher level math, and being able to use specialized tools and equipment (Snagajob). It is a very large field consisting of over ten specializations, which include everything from mechanical engineering to computer science. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2010, Computer Engineers’ median pay is \$98,810 per year while Agricultural Engineers’ median pay is \$71,090 per year (Best Value Schools). However, the disparity in specializations is even higher, with petroleum engineering’s median pay at \$114,080 per year.

In order to become an engineer, one must obtain at least one bachelor’s degree in an engineering field (Snagajob). However, some engineers get multiple bachelor’s degrees and others get master’s degrees (Snagajob). Personally, I am going into Electrical and Computer Engineering, though I love Mechanical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering as well. Thus, these are the 3 fields I will use for my information. Electrical and Computer Engineering consists of designing and creating technology for things like “the automobile, radio and television, computers, spacecraft, and the Internet” (“Electrical and Computer Engineering”). Mechanical Engineering, on the other hand, deals more with the physical aspects, like machinery and robotics (“Mechanical Engineering”).

4.1. Top Colleges

Table 4.1: Undergraduate Colleges

Dream Schools			
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Total 4 year cost:	\$232,000	20 year ROI: \$962,000
Stanford	Total 4 year cost:	\$240,000	20 year ROI: \$854,000
Best Value Schools			
UT Austin	Total 4 year cost:	\$86,000	20 year ROI: \$931,100
Georgia Tech	Total 4 year cost:	\$210,000	20 year ROI: \$756,000

Table 4.2: Graduate Universities

Dream Schools			
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Yearly cost:	\$46,000	20 year ROI: \$2,514,000
Stanford	Yearly cost:	\$48,720	20 year ROI: \$2,511,280
Best Value Schools			
UT Austin	Yearly cost:	\$9,564	20 year ROI: \$1,602,436
Georgia Tech	Yearly cost:	\$27,872	20 year ROI: \$1,584,128

4.2. Degree Description

4.2.1. Undergraduate

Many engineering students across different engineering fields take the same classes. All engineering fields are required to take Calculus and Physics. After those basic classes, it begins to differentiate. For example, in ECE, the student must take ECE, whereas a student in Aerospace must take Thermodynamics. Additionally, all students must take basic English and History classes, though many students test out of these classes through placement tests and AP exams ("Degree Plans and Requirements"). Most people do internships, either paid and unpaid, while in college. Many big name companies offer internships, including NASA, SpaceX, and Microsoft. Some students also begin working in startup companies, or new companies trying to make their way into the market.

4.2.2. Graduate

Not all engineers go to graduate school. Many choose to leave college after their bachelors degree and go straight to the industry. Meanwhile, others go to get either a masters or PhD. One thing to note is that most engineering students do not pay for graduate school. In fact, if the student is going for a PhD, it is extremely unlikely the student will pay anything in tuition ("Engineering Your Graduate School Experience"). This is because the school is funding the student for the research or teaching work that the student does. Eddie Machek, who is earning a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Akron and who will start a doctoral program in engineering at Georgia Tech this fall, explains the difference between the degrees this way: "At a bachelor's level you are going to go out and do what's been done. At the master's level you are going to be in charge of the people who are doing that stuff. In a Ph.D., that's a whole other thing because you are doing the new stuff. You are in a lab." Additionally, the value of getting masters or doctorate degrees depends on the sector of engineering one is going into. "Chemical engineering and biomedical engineering have more employment opportunities for Ph.D. students, she says. Civil engineering, on the other hand, has more employment openings outside academia for those with master's de-

grees than for those with doctorates." (Haynie) People in the Engineering world do research on all kinds of topics that affect society. Some examples of research studies include Smart Vehicle Tracking Algorithms, Emulating Correct by Construction Biological Organs, and Impacts of Large-Scale PV [PhotoVortic Solar Panels] integration into Distribution Grid ("Current Research Projects").

4.3. Interview

I emailed Drew Crenwelge to describe how he got to be the Senior Test Director for the Falcon 9 rocket project at SpaceX. Early in high school, Mr. Crenwelge wanted to become a marine biologist. As he progressed through high school, he entertained the idea of becoming an architect before deciding that he would go into engineering. After taking Principles of Engineering I & II in his final years of high school, he was set on his mission to become an aerospace engineer, focusing on rocket propulsion. Mr. Crenwelge received his BS in Aerospace Engineering (Rocket Propulsion) in 2011, graduating with a mathematics minor as well. During his college years at Purdue University, he interned at NASA's Johnson Space Center and later applied to internships at Boeing, Blue Origin, NASA, and SpaceX. He took the SpaceX internship and became a Test Engineer Intern where he got firsthand experience in the field. 5 years later, he now works a 60 hour workweek, with high stress (Crenwelge). However, he loves his job. Drew Crenwelge gave me some tips for getting to where he is in life. Mr. Crenwelge says to study Mechanical or Aerospace Engineering at a college like TAMU, UT, Purdue, Stanford, or Baylor. He recommends taking computer science classes that teach Python and Matlab, as well as electrical engineering classes. Mr. Crenwelge also recommends interning during the summer at companies like SpaceX. He also says to take a leadership role in clubs and activities in high school and college.

4.4. Work-Life Balance

60 hour workweek seems fairly average; however, it is never boring. There is always work to be done and one will always feel behind. Though it is very high stress, people in the engineering industry love their jobs. They always love talking about the cool things they are working on.

5

Business Management

Not many people can deny that business makes the world go 'round. Everyone is either buying, selling, or producing goods to be sold. But the masterminds of this fast-paced world are the corporate managers and CEOs of major companies. These are the people who understand how to apply successful business techniques and strategies to enable any business to succeed in any industry ("Business Majors: The Basics"). Some of the skills necessary to successfully manage a business include the ability to plan, organize, make decisions, communicate, and lead in a variety of work

settings ("Business Majors: The Basics"). According to Payscale, the median salary for someone with a degree in business management is around \$62,500 ("Best Value Business Schools"). However, since the business world is full of busts and booms due to the economy, one can go from hitting it big and making millions and even billions to bankrupt with the snap of a finger. Luck, availability of resources, and networking play a major role in the success of anyone aspiring to enter into the world of business.

5.1. Top Colleges

Table 5.1: Undergraduate Colleges

Dream Schools				
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Total 6 year cost:	\$280,224	20 year ROI:	\$1,270,776
University of Pennsylvania	Total 6 year cost:	\$297,216	20 year ROI:	\$908,784
Best Value Schools				
SUNY Maritime College	Total 4 year cost:	\$126,000	20 year ROI:	\$945,000
Babson College	Total 4 year cost:	\$238,000	20 year ROI:	\$794,500

Table 5.2: Graduate Universities

Dream Schools				
Stanford	Yearly cost:	\$126,600	20 year ROI:	\$736,200
Harvard	Yearly cost:	\$139,186	20 year ROI:	\$751,558
Best Value Schools				
Brigham Young University	Yearly cost:	\$49,249	20 year ROI:	\$1,890,760
Indiana University	Yearly cost:	\$116,790	20 year ROI:	\$1,916,330

5.2. Degree Description

Business management is a field that offers unlimited opportunities for individuals with an in-

terest in business and technology who work well with all people and who have excellent communication skills ("Careers In Management"). To ob-

tain a Business Management Degree from most colleges, students must complete classes pertaining to human resources, negotiations, microeconomics, and data analysis (2015-2016 Undergraduate Business School Handbook). However, since there are a variety of careers associated with Business Management, colleges usually offer "tracks" ("Careers In Management"). These tracks help you obtain a degree in Business Management and allow students to specialize in a certain area. These tracks often include general management, entrepreneurial leadership, human resource management, nonprofit management, or Pre-Law (2015-2016 Undergraduate Business School Handbook). However, students need to keep in mind when choosing a track that the basic business management courses are still the same (2015-2016 Undergraduate). After these courses are completed, the required classes for each student will change based on the track that they choose (2015-2016 Undergraduate). Now, because internships are not usually required, it is strongly recommended that students seeking to obtain a degree in business management join a student organization such as: the Business Administration Society, Entrepreneurship Society, Society for Human Resource Management, or the Business Student Council ("Careers in Management"). In fact, some schools push for students to join these groups more often than they encourage students to intern, because of the connections that these groups offer and it aids a business management major because the student is forced to work with and interact with others with similar interests and more closely emulates the work setting of a manager than does an internship (Orsak). Furthermore, students that seek to obtain a Masters degree in Business Management would like to further develop their knowledge of the business world so just like anyone wishing to obtain a bachelors in Business Management, they would have to choose a track and take the required classes ("Careers in Management"). However, the student would not be responsible for the prerequisite classes required of undergraduates ("Careers in Management"). And although internships are not required, it is recommended that the student take full advantage of school-sponsored clubs and available internships ("Careers in Management").

5.3. Interview

I chose to interview two different people, one of which is currently running and managing his own business and one who is currently studying Business Management in college. Dale Crenwelge

attained his Masters of Business while attending Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. He is "presently self employed as President of fifteen different real estate ventures located in Texas, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina" (Crenwelge). He was previously employed as president of Crenwelge Commercial Consultants, Inc. and worked as project engineer with ConocoPhillips in Oklahoma. He has served on numerous school boards and currently serves on the board of Capital Farm Credit, Trustee of the Hill Country Memorial Hospital in Fredericksburg, and the Kendall County Centurions in Boerne (Crenwelge). When asked about the best part of his job, Mr Crenwelge stated that seeing his customers satisfied with his work was one of the most rewarding aspects of his job (Crenwelge). However, he also commented that it is equally rewarding to resolve the daily challenges and conflicts that arise among many of the people he supervises (Crenwelge). In closing, Mr. Crenwelge left me with this advice, "first, do something you enjoy and devote all of your energies to it; don't ever give up. And second, integrity is essential to success; so let everything you do be done with integrity" (Crenwelge). Sarah Orsak is a student at the University of Texas A&M in College Station, TX and is majoring in Business Management. Sarah states that one of her main reasons for wanting to attain a degree in business management "is because of the wide range of opportunities it provides for the future." She then continued to elaborate on how she believed that the degree would provide her with the ability to work at almost any company and would give her the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in starting her own business (Orsak). Although Sarah is not planning on obtaining work experience or participating in internships prior to her graduation, she says that she is apart of many different clubs on campus that relate to her major and that these clubs have given her a large network of people with similar interests to communicate and brainstorm with (Orsak). Sarah says that the best part about being a business management major at A&M is that you are only set up for success. She elaborates on the various help centers specific to the business school that provide "aid in everything from setting up a resume to interview skills, to absolutely anything that will be an asset once you enter the business world" (Orsak). Sarah's closing advice for any aspiring Business Management major is to "be flexible and don't be afraid to try new things, get involved into groups related to the part of business you currently plan on entering but don't be afraid to alter that path if you start to envision a different future for yourself" (Orsak). Although people who

major in business management tend to make more money, it comes at a price. People who pursue careers in Business Management often face around a 60-hour work week which is usually spent traveling. ("Management Majors Guide.") The difficulty of a career in the business world is echoed in both of the interviews previously mentioned. Mr. Crenwelge pointed out that the hardest part of his job was balancing his combination of a strong work ethic and long hours while maintaining a connection with his family (Crenwelge). Sarah's description of the large time commitment required to succeed in school reflects the type of work week she will face once she graduates (Orsak). Because Sarah is a varsity athlete at A&M, she says that

it is extremely hard to balance the heavy workload handed out by the school with her athletic training and still manage to have some sort of a social life (Orsak). However, both Sarah and Mr. Crenwelge emphasized the importance of planning for each day to make sure that all time is accounted for and none is wasted. Both also express that they feel most accomplished when they overcome challenges that seemed nearly impossible to solve upon first glance. In conclusion, if you are not the type of person that enjoys a challenge, then Business Management probably isn't the career for you. However, if you are someone who plans to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to their work, then I think you have found your calling.

6

International Lawyer

International law is a specialized, interdisciplinary field of law that focuses on any and all cross-border issues, and the field covers a wide range of subspecialties (Smith-Barrow). Subspecialties can range from human rights to international business. The field is so diverse because of the various types of transactions that can occur between the U.S. and other countries (Smith-Barrow). Because international law is such a broad field, there are several career paths for international lawyers. These paths involve working in law firms, federal government, corporate counsel,

international organizations and non-profit groups (Smith-Barrow). International law not only requires the person to know the legal systems of the United States, but also other countries' judicial courts and the political and cultural influences of their respective courts (Smith-Barrow). Other skills required in this field are strong analytical ability, research, and writing skills. Also, learning foreign languages is highly recommended (Smith-Barrow). The average salary of an international lawyer is \$114,970 ("International Law Majors: Salary and Career Facts").

6.1. Top Colleges

Table 6.1: Undergraduate Colleges

Dream Schools				
Harvard	Total 4 year cost:	\$280,400	20 year ROI:	\$756,350
Princeton	Total 4 year cost:	\$235,860	20 year ROI:	\$800,000
Best Value Schools				
George Mason University	Total 4 year cost:	\$188,976	20 year ROI:	\$847,764
Arizona State University	Total 4 year cost:	\$178,536	20 year ROI:	\$858,204

Table 6.2: Graduate Universities

Dream Schools				
Yale	Total 3 year cost:	\$240,423	20 year ROI:	\$2,058,977
Harvard	Total 3 year cost:	\$265,800	20 year ROI:	\$2,033,600
Best Value Schools				
University of Alabama	Total 3 year cost:	\$170,688	20 year ROI:	\$2,128,712
UT Austin	Total 3 year cost:	\$163,800	20 year ROI:	\$2,135,600

6.2. Degree Description

6.2.1. International Studies

International Studies (IS) is an interdisciplinary major in which students accumulate foreign language skills, political and cultural knowledge, a foundational economics base, written and oral communications skills, and research skills ("International Studies: Careers"). In most International Studies degree programs, schools require students to learn a foreign language and participate in some form of study abroad program ("International Studies: Careers"). Because of their interdisciplinary base, International Studies majors develop a strong foundation for both business and law ("International Studies: Careers"). In the business world, IS majors are very useful because of the highly globalized market, and they have the ability to perform many tasks, such as global financial analysis, security analysts and financial advising. Similarly, IS majors are strong candidates for law school because of their diverse background. Students can also choose to work for international nonprofits, which work to provide services around the globe ("International Studies: Careers").

6.2.2. International Law

Due to the fact that the scope of international law is so large, students can take a variety of classes to achieve that J.D. (Smith-Barrow). For example, at UC-Berkeley, students can take the following classes: human rights and humanitarian law, international trade and international investment law (Smith-Barrow). Students choose which area they desire to specialize in. Several institutions recommend that students be fluent in at least one language other than English due to the international nature of this profession. Some languages that are very popular are Spanish, Russian, German, Mandarin, and Arabic (Smith-Barrow). When choosing a law school, *USNews* recommends students seek schools which help attendees locate internships and fellowships, have an international law journal (a student run publication that publish legal articles written by students and professional alike), and have a legal clinic where students can work on actual cases (Smith-Barrow).

6.3. Interview

Steven Freeland, who first was an investment banker for thirteen years and a then lawyer for

seven years, decided to become an academic. Due to his experience and knowledge of international transactions and multi-jurisdictional legal matters, International Law was the perfect fit (Freeland). In an interview with *Survive Law*, Freeland discusses the pros and cons of working for an international organization like the ICC. For instance, he considers the establishment of the ICC to be a step in the right direction toward true accountability (Freeland). However, a significant con comes at the result of the ICC being a bureaucratic organization, which can lead to frustrating situations (Freeland). When Freeman began discussing the study of the law, he recommended that students should take a wide range of courses because understanding the law is of the utmost importance. Then, once a strong foundation has been set, students can work more actively to become specialized in a particular field (Freeland). He also recommends that students should learn a language, and read the international sections of the newspaper everyday (Freeland).

6.4. Work-Life Balance

Typically, lawyers expect to work very long hours. Most law firms require at least 1,800 billable hours each year, which equals 36 billable hours per week ("How Much Do Associates Work?"). Depending on the size of the firm, associates can work between 50-100 hours per week. At smaller firms of 500 people or less, lawyers work as low as 50 hours a week, but in larger firms, they can work upwards of 100 hours ("How Much Do Associates Work?"). However, regardless of the size of the firm, lawyers have to put in a lot of work in the beginning of their careers, and will have to put in a lot of hours. Only when lawyers make partner at their firm can they begin to cut back on their hours. However, if you fail to make partner, you most likely have to cut ties with your current firm and start the process over again ("How Many Hours A Week Does A Lawyer Work?"). Additionally, government jobs are also available to lawyers, which only require a 40-hour per week commitment. However, the positions that require less of a time commitment also pay less than the positions at a large firm ("How Many Hours A Week Does A Lawyer Work?"). Perspective lawyers must assess their desires for the future, and must take into account their work ethic and desired lifestyle before they commit to being a lawyer.

7

Film Producer

Producers are in control of every aspect of a film's production, including putting together and approving the whole production team. They act as the leaders who create a productive and successful work environment for everyone involved in making a film. Producers must produce, manufacture, and distribute movies, and they're tasked with making sure their films are successful both during and after showings ("TV or Film Producer Job Information"; "Producer or Director"). An average day on the job involves moving around the working environment and making sure everything's running smoothly. Producers travel quite often during the work day, and must endure long car and plane

rides in order to create a film. Most working hours are long and irregular and are usually determined by how much work the film needs. There are many skills that are good to have as a producer. Producers need to be able to work well with others, motivating and communicating with them to get the project done. Having good communication and organizing skills also complement the job of a producer. According to Truity, "The median annual wage for producers and directors was \$71,350 in May 2012. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$32,080, and the top 10 percent earned more than \$187,200 in May 2012" (Truity). Most producers are self employed, so their salaries vary.

7.1. Top Colleges

Table 7.1: Undergraduate Colleges

Dream Schools				
University of Southern California	Total 4 year cost:	\$268,848	20 year ROI:	\$1,158,152
New York University	Total 4 year cost:	\$281,776	20 year ROI:	\$1,145,224
Best Value Schools				
UT Austin	Total 4 year cost:	\$105,384	20 year ROI:	\$1,321,616
American University	Total 4 year cost:	\$239,552	20 year ROI:	\$1,187,448

Table 7.2: Graduate Universities

Dream Schools				
American Film Institute	Total [] year cost:	\$76,273	20 year ROI:	\$1,350,727
Columbia University	Total [] year cost:	\$65,860	20 year ROI:	\$1,361,140
Best Value Schools				
University of California, Los Angeles	Total [] year cost:	\$60,744	20 year ROI:	\$1,366,256
San Francisco State University	Total [] year cost:	\$38,808	20 year ROI:	\$1,391,192

7.2. Degree Description

7.2.1. Undergraduate

The Bachelor of Arts program in film and video is for individuals who want to be involved in either cinematography, video editing, or media production. In the curriculum for a BA in film and video, students not only have hands on technical training with film but also study film theory. People who are pursuing a BA in film and video also work on audio production, scriptwriting, film editing, TV interpretation and motion picture production ("Bachelor of Arts (BA): Film and Video Production Degree Overview"). While earning their BA, students immerse themselves into learning about the film industry by working with other graduates on making films. Any student who is looking into becoming a producer should also look into the communication field. Taking classes in communications can help with marketing, advertising, and public relations. Besides taking a variety of classes that help achieve their BA, students should work on extra curricular activities that allow them to use their production skills. Students should work on filming their own videos and help in the production of plays or other theatrical productions.

7.2.2. Graduate

While getting a Master's Degree in film and video isn't discouraged, it isn't necessary. Most famous film producers don't possess a Master's Degree in film and video. The important things for a career in film and video production are internships. Getting your artistic name out into the film industry is far more important than getting another degree. Taking the initiative of getting internships inside and outside of college will lead to better opportunities for jobs. Most production companies don't hire based off of what school you went to or how many degrees you have, but rather by what you have created in terms of film and video. Having an internship in college is strongly encouraged. For example, if you were to go to school at UT in Austin, Texas, there would be an internship opportunity to work at a production company called Rooster Teeth. There are many different internship opportunities throughout the country, and most colleges set you up with the best internships for you.

7.3. Interview

In Steve Prigge's book *Movie Moguls Speak*, he asked sixteen different film producers, "What do you do as a producer?" Prigge's goal was to try and understand the different roles that a producer plays in the making of a movie. As Prigge continued with his interviews, he saw that all of the pro-

ducers agreed that producers don't get the recognition they deserve. Prigge asked Dino De Laurentiis about his role as a producer. Laurentiis is an Italian film producer who has worked on such movies as *King Kong*, *La Strada* and *Barbarella*. He was one of the first film producers who brought Italian cinema to light. Laurentiis states,

"The most exciting part for me is the creative side of producing. The producer is, in reality, the soul of the movie. The producer is the one who chooses the script. He chooses the screenwriter. He chooses the director, the cast." (Laurentiis)

Prigge also asked producer Lauren Shuler Donner. Donner has worked on such films as the *X-Men* movies, *Deadpool*, and *You've Got Mail*. Donner specializes in movies for younger audiences and family audiences. Donner states,

"I am there to solve problems... come up with an idea to make the film funnier or go faster. At the end of the shoot, I get involved in the cutting room and with the editing, music and video effects, marketing, and distribution. To be successful, you have to wear many hats" (Donner).

The common theme throughout the interviews is that producers are fundamental to the making of a film. Producers need to be able to do a multitude of jobs and be able to work with different groups of people.

7.4. Work-Life Balance

Almost always producers are on call for their clients or directors. They are constantly checking their phone email to make sure that the movie isn't falling apart. Being a producer also means a lot of traveling. It's hard for a producer to stay in one place at a time, and most producers complain about spending most of their time in airports or cars. In an interview by Susie Schnall, film producer Ria Ruthsatz explains how she handles work and home life balance. Ruthsatz states, "I get really into my work, and can have a really hard time 'clocking out.' I'll sit down to quickly review a budget proposal at 5pm and look up to realize that it's 2 am!" (Ruthsatz) Ruthsatz goes on to say that as time went on she learned how to better balance her time. Ruthsatz states,

"In the early days, I was always connected. I wanted to answer whenever

the client called, emailed, or texted—day or night. I’ve since learned to designate some time as just plain “off.” I was worried it would impact our business, but in fact it’s allowed me to stay fresh and be more creative and engaged when I am working!”

As for most jobs in the arts, producers feel this need to always be creating and working. With this

need, producers need to be able to find a distinction between work life and home life. Most producers are better when they set strict guidelines about when clients and directors can get a hold of them so they aren’t always on call. While the job is incredibly busy and there will be countless late nights, most producers make their own hours and are able to work with other companies to create a work/life balance that works for them.

8

Industrial and Organizational Psychology

Industrial and Organizational Psychology is the scientific study of human behavior in the workplace in order to improve work-life balance and efficiency using psychological theories. I-O's spend their time working for businesses, studying the workplace, and ensuring that the employees are as happy, healthy, and efficient as possible through consultation. I-O's find themselves working one on one with employees, in research groups, and with the CEOs (Jack Kelle). However, they will never find themselves working alone. I-Os do a lot of research, but not in isolation. It is often done out in the work field. I-O's must get a feel for the leaders they are working with by in-

teracting with the leader's employees in order to make an accurate analysis. Job analysis of the employees is extremely important as well as an ability to coach the employees (Parr). I-O's are considered one of the most stable occupations out of the psychology occupations. Businesses have been known to hire psychologists right out of school. The mean income is \$151,135 (calculated by averaging the highest and lowest income). The lowest that an I-O can make a year is \$52,270, while the highest is \$250,000 and above ("Occupational Employment and Wages: 19-3032 Industrial-Organizational Psychology").

8.1. Top Colleges

Table 8.1: Undergraduate Colleges

Dream Schools				
Harvard	Total 4 year cost:	\$276,000	20 year ROI:	\$2,746,700
Pennsylvania State University	Total 4 year cost:	\$186,908	20 year ROI:	\$2,835,792
Best Value Schools				
University of Wisconsin	Total 4 year cost:	\$100,764	20 year ROI:	\$2,921,936
University of California, Berkeley	Total 4 year cost:	\$142,968	20 year ROI:	\$1,879,732

Table 8.2: Graduate Universities

Dream Schools				
University of Minnesota	Total 6 year cost:	\$118,830	20 year ROI:	\$2,903,870
Michigan State	Total 6 year cost:	\$118,830	20 year ROI:	\$2,903,870
Best Value Schools				
Bowling Green State University	Total 6 year cost:	\$108,174	20 year ROI:	\$2,914,526
University of Southern Florida	Total 6 year cost:	\$103,950	20 year ROI:	\$2,918,750

8.2. Degree Description

8.2.1. Undergraduate

Courses in sociology, statistics, political science, science, math, research methods, business, and psychology are crucial, if not important, for I-O psychologists ("Organizational Psychology Degrees: What You'll Study"). Sociology studies the organizations of societies, which includes the causes for the changes within society and the relationships within them ("Sociology Graduate Programs & Sociology Grad Schools"). Statistics deals with the interpretations and classifications of data. In political science, you will analyze the science of dealing with political institutions of government ("Statistics Graduate Programs & Data Analytics Graduate Programs"). Business Psychology is the study and practice of improving the work-life relationship. It is also beneficial to take a course in Organizational Management ("Business Psychologist: Career Info, Job Duties, and Requirements"). There is no required internship for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, however, it is beneficial.

8.2.2. Graduate

Business psychologists research to study people, workplaces, and organizations. The end goal is to identify what creates the best work-life relationship ("Business Psychologist"). The graduate program of Organizational Development studies, researches, and theorizes organizational change and performance. As a degree, Organizational Leadership allows I-Os to determine how efficient a company can be by identifying the goals of the company and the structural problems they may have ("Organizational Leadership Graduate Programs & Organizational Leadership Graduate Schools").

8.3. Interview

Rachel Zoe worked as a Personnel Research Psychologist for the GS 12-13 services in San Antonio for the Air Force. During her time as an Industrial and Organizational Psychologist, Zoe was able to travel the world and visit many places, including Australia. She majored in psychology and considers herself as moderately successful in the field. When I asked her what her overall work-life balance was for her job, she said,

"I did not work too long of hours and I have a family of four so I am still able to manage that. My managing skills from my job can still sometimes bleed into my home-life" (Zoe).

I then asked her to describe a day in her shoes as

an I-O;

"Daily duties include making decisions to benefit the company's health. Designing plans is also a large part of my job. I design strategies for my company to have a high success rate and create leaders. I also work with a team of managers to analyze data of the company, create employee surveys, and create goal-setting plans" (Zoe).

She then explained what her overall experiences with grad and undergrad school,

"At the time when I was in undergrad school, college was completely different. I ended up majoring in psychology and was able to do well in my field. My leadership skills really came in handy" (Zoe).

After receiving insight on her undergraduate and graduate experience, I asked her what the most rewarding thing was about her job? She stated that

"Although my job can affect my psyche and I sometimes end the day beyond fatigued, it is worth it. Watching people and businesses transform before my own eyes is the most rewarding thing. Seeing people open up and let their true selves out is the most rewarding" (Zoe).

I questioned what she would warn someone of before they enter the field of psychology and she said,

"What would you warn someone of before they enter psychology? If you want to study psychology, get ready to commit. You must be extremely patient and ready for challenging cases. Be ready to not be rewarded for every single little thing you do. Your patients will improve—the majority, if not all, but you have to be patient and make sure to remember that even if you feel like the bad guy, you are not" (Zoe).

8.4. Work-Life Balance

Psychologists in this career often set their own hours. Psychologists in private practice create their own hours, but they often can find themselves working evening or weekend shifts if they are employed by a healthcare center. Those working in clinics, government facilities, industries, or

schools will work according to the standard business hours. (“Industrial-Organizational Psychologists: Overall Kind of Work”).

9

Curator

Curating could be described in a very simplistic manner: the organization of time and space between selected works in a museum. However, there is so much more depth and meaning in the curating process- much more than just new works and organization. A curator not only has the benefit of gathering new works, but also receives the pleasure of discovering the method of communication between the art in the given space of an exhibition with the ultimate goal of translating that hidden language to the audience. Curators are given this ultimate power of communication and emotion without having to say a word. Curators have the responsibility of communicating an artist's works of deep emotional investment to the audience and ultimately hoping for the audience to feel transformed after an exhibition. As Carson Chan, recent graduate from Princeton, stated, "Make sure your exhibition requires your audience's physical presence; for everything else there's the Internet." ("15 Curators to Watch in 2015", Sayej) In this technological age, curators have to face the global Internet. Anyone can see a painting or work of art after 15 seconds of searching; therefore, curators have to create an impact on the audience so that it becomes clear that the digital picture will not suffice.

Museum curators oversee museum collections by managing the acquisition, preservation, and display of museum artifacts ("Art History, Criticism, and Conservation College Degree Programs"). Curators are often required to take record of and preserve works, as well as supervise staff. Public relations, education, and marketing are often included in the job, causing curators to require a variety of skills. Curators are responsible for creating innovative and interesting exhibitions to appeal to the public, taking part in each aspect of the construction. From outlining and assembling works, to figuring out the art of space and juxtaposition on the display wall, a curator is there every step of the way. Curators usually work in a museum, gallery, or historical site. They will often have to negotiate for collections as well as advertise to the public ("Art History, Criticism, and Conservation College Degree Programs"). A bachelor's degree is the minimum education requirement for museum curators, though a master's degree and/or work experience gives job applicants an edge. A PhD is necessary for some higher-level positions. Museum curators are estimated to make around \$50,000 annually ("Art History, Criticism, and Conservation College Degree Programs").

9.1. Top Colleges

Table 9.1: Undergraduate Colleges

Dream Schools				
Oxford University	Total 3 year cost:	\$76,000	20 year ROI:	\$923,500
Courtauld Institute of Art	Total 3 year cost:	\$73,500	20 year ROI:	\$923,500
Best Value Schools				
University of Edinburgh	Total 5 year cost:	\$157,500	20 year ROI:	\$842,500
University of Amsterdam	Total 3 year cost:	\$6,771	20 year ROI:	\$993,229

Table 9.2: Graduate Universities

Dream Schools				
School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Total 3 year cost:	\$85,320	20 year ROI:	\$914,680
Courtauld Institute of Art	Total 9 month cost:	\$11,880	20 year ROI:	\$988,120
Best Value Schools				
Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti Milano	Total 2 year cost:	\$13,760	20 year ROI:	\$986,240
University of Edinburgh	Total 2 year cost:	\$12,900	20 year ROI:	\$987,100

9.2. Degree Description

In order to become a curator, a degree in art history is highly recommended. Art history provides a background of what curators will be working with and will allow the curator to understand the importance of the work he or she is dealing with in exhibitions or collections. Art history is the study of humanity through various works of art (KhanAcademy). Art History focuses on the questions of why and how, within a specific culture and historical context, specific masterpieces can communicate such strong emotions to the audience. Through studying previous works of art, the student is presented with an unparalleled world view and a massive amount of cultural understanding that wouldn't be obtained otherwise. The materials studied in art history are expanding- along with the traditional works of art such as sculptures, paintings, sketches, and buildings, now new art forms such as film are studied as well, which gives an exciting future for the study of art history (Myroad).

Most of the undergraduate and graduate programs I have selected are abroad, which varies from the American system of education in a couple ways. In the UK and Europe, universities do not require you to take classes that do not obtain to your major (which has its own pros and cons). Therefore, most of my classes required to get a bachelors in art history are completed in three years instead of four. The curriculums selected in my universities above all require a language study, despite how many languages you already speak, and at least a semester abroad in order to graduate. An important aspect to keep in mind when looking at art history degrees is to see which schools offer a certificate of museology in the bachelors degree, which allows you to work in museums. Some schools have requirements that other schools do not have. For example, at the University of Amsterdam, you are required to obtain some type of teaching position in your third year. In general, the curriculum remains pretty similar. The first year typically covers a broad range of art history. The first year deals with the major themes and lectures are a majority of your classes. In the second year, the curriculum becomes more special-

ized and really dives into the details of art periods. The second year focuses on the student's critical analyzation and various approaches to looking at art. In the second semester of the second year, the student chooses two more in-depth classes. In the third and final year, the student chooses two more specialized classes. These are at a more advanced level than second year and prepare students for further study or research. By the end of the third year, the student should get an internship or a sort of work experience relevant to history and/or art in some fashion.

Since curatorial positions often require graduate degrees and highly encourage PhDs, most students intending to become curators continue their education. A unique program I have listed under my undergraduate programs is the Fine Arts Masters program at University of Edinburgh. As described on their website,

"The Fine Art MA is a five-year degree during which you study both History of Art and Art practice. In Art you are given a broad base in your first year – which includes the study of painting, sculpture, photography, and intermedia – before you go on to focus your work on a particular specialism" ("Fine Art- MA", University of Edinburgh).

This program would allow me to get my masters and bachelors all in one program while residing in one of the art heritage centers of the world. In the graduate programs, such as the last two years in the Edinburgh fine arts program, students start to specialize in a specific area of art, such as impressionism, medieval, modern, etc. Usually the language chosen to study is relevant to the art period, and if the student's previous language was not relevant to the art period the student is specializing in, the graduate program guides your language studies. For example, if a student was to specialize in French impressionism, he or she would study French. Art curator students have the choice to earn a graduate degree in museum studies, which deals with museum management and conservation. The masters programs I have chosen vary between each curriculum on require-

ments, but they all require some type of museum work experience, which they help you find.

9.3. Interview

Recent Art History major, Female. Studied at Washington University in St. Louis; Bachelors in Design and Architecture and second Major in Art History. Aspiring curator; applying to Courtauld Institute for Masters program and eventually PhD. Gabby graduated in May 2015.

Asked best tips she could give to aspiring curators, she replied with many answers.

"Don't rush into your graduate schools. Really at this time in age, all professors want you to work between your undergraduate and masters. Art History and curating is complicated because they want to be selective. You should really specialize in one area, for me, I'm doing modern and contemporary art. Masters is specific field with a 1 on 1 setting. You can be a perfect 4.0 resume student, but if you're coming straight from undergrad, you won't get what you're looking for because schools want you to get experience before you specialize."

"From this point, a masters is helpful across the board, but having a PhD is what differentiates academic perspectives. If you want to work in a Museum as a Curator, you basically need your PhD."

"Languages are super helpful, language study.. You really have to show proficiency in at least two languages. German is big in modern studies, Italian for any antiquity, and impressionist is most definitely French. Languages corresponds immensely."

When asked what she thinks of the value of an art history degree in today's society, Esquivel responded with:

"In my opinion, I think contemporary artists occupy one of the most important positions in society- the power to inform and challenge simultaneously. Most contemporary artists today are highly educated- politicians, economists. They have this incredible responsibility to change perceptions- I think that the liberal arts have so

much power. You understand how past events sculpted our society we live in. Art is so overwhelmingly powerful because it's not very functional and it's not a necessary survival but somehow art has survived through time while other material have passed. Art production has happened since the beginning of time and art is one of the only things that has lasted so long without being directly needed for survival, which is something just so interesting to me. Human progression requires constant learning, you should always continue to learn and art is definitely a way to do so. Whenever I leave a exhibition, I feel like i have learned a lot, which is one of the multiple reasons that I value my degree in art history."

9.4. Work-Life Balance

Curators can expect daily hours from 7 a.m to 5 p.m, but in the beginning career prospects, curatorial assistants can expect various unexpected hours (usually when the museum is closed for the night). The first 5 years of finishing your education are usually occupied with the various tasks of an assistant curator and school, since most aspiring curators obtain their PhD. Duties include assisting with loan agreement forms for the temporary exhibitions; collecting images for publications; overseeing interns, volunteers, and researchers; along with coordinating access to artifacts with scholars and academics who need access for research projects. A few begin to write copy for educational and promotional literature ("Curator"). Generally after 10 years, a number of professionals have achieved the status of curator or senior curator. These people are involved in planning the museum's exhibition program, curating exhibitions, writing catalog essays, staffing, budgeting, trading items with other museums, and piecing collections together for display. Curators direct any internal museum research on pieces and invite academics to join in the study. The newest responsibility that curators have is working with the president and chairman of the museum to direct all fundraising efforts. Political skills are crucial for this position. Many curators teach at local schools, publish research, and review academic articles for publication. The hours are long, but satisfaction has never been higher. Ten-year curators face a strong future in this competitive and demanding field ("Curator").

10

JD-MBA

A JD-MBA degree is a joint degree that offers college students the opportunity to graduate with a master's degree in both business and law. Before this degree existed, many college students who wanted to have degrees in both law and business had to attend college for about 9 years. However, this is not the case anymore. Thanks to this new program, students are now able to graduate in about 7-8 years (including undergraduate). This accelerated course provides immense help to students attending prestigious colleges, such as Harvard or Yale, because it saves them an immense amount of time and money. Also, they will be able to begin work earlier, and this is very important because many of these students have enormous student loans that they must pay. Some universities, such as Columbia and Yale, offer 3-year accelerated programs that allow a student to jump into the working world as quick as possible (O'Connor). A JD-MBA degree is very helpful for students who not only desire to go into the business world, but also want a backup job in case their business goes south. Being a lawyer helps

out with your career safety a lot. Potential careers with this degree range from Hedge-fund manager, stock broker, CEO/CFO, lawyer, attorney, judge, partner in firm, and many more jobs. Honestly, a JD-MBA graduate has the ability to hold any position within either the business or law sector. In other words, you can feel pretty confident that you will be making serious money just years after you graduate. Let's say that upon graduating, you are offered a job at a terrible law firm. This law firm is going to pay you \$90,000 per year (which is extremely low), and you will have this set salary for twenty years (this is practically the worst scenario possible). Within the first 12 years, your net earnings will be over a million dollars; however, we all know that there will be expenses so we can reduce this number to somewhere around half a million dollars. Either way, after 12 years of working in the worst possible conditions for this field, you are halfway there to being a millionaire. So, as you can see, the ROI for this degree is immense, even if one finds him or herself in this terrible situation.

10.1. Top Colleges

Table 10.1: Graduate Universities

Dream Schools				
Yale	Total 4 year cost:	\$255,056	20 year ROI:	\$2,974,944
Stanford	Total 4 year cost:	\$255,056	20 year ROI:	\$2,974,944
Best Value Schools				
UT Austin	Total 4 year cost:	\$39,320	20 year ROI:	\$3,160,680
University of Alabama	Total 4 year cost:	\$60,000	20 year ROI:	\$3,140,000

10.2. Degree Description

Graduates with JD-MBA degrees often times find much more success in the businesses world than other people in their university. Starting salaries for JD-MBA graduates are extremely high, with many graduates having a first year salary starting at an average of \$160,000. Also, most companies give JD-MBA graduates bonuses upon signing with them, usually these bonuses start at \$20,000. However, it is important to note that many financial or legal firms require graduates to have at least one year of working experience before they will be given a contract such as the one above. Also, many students will intern at companies before they graduate, and many times if the company likes the student, they will offer him or her a contract that offers to pay one year of their college tuition/expenses along with a huge starting salary and a bonus (Abraham). Another thing that is great for JD-MBA graduates is that they are almost always promoted to positions of power before their other co-workers, and this is because almost all of them have not only extensive business knowledge, but also a profound understanding of law. Much like the basic economic principle of supply and demand, JD-MBA graduates are rare, and because of this their value to companies rises exponentially each year. Due to this, companies and corporations fight to try and sign the best JD-MBA graduates each year. Graduates who have JD-MBA degrees often times find great success in the work world. They have great flexibility when it comes to choosing careers. These graduates can change their career with ease, ranging anywhere from lawyers to financial traders, or vice-versa. A testimony to this success is represented in the following statistic: "In fact, of Fortune 500 CEO's, 46 hold JDs" (O'Connor). When it comes to getting bonuses, partnership, or raises, JD-MBA graduates seem to excel due to their great understanding of how the business works, along with their profound knowledge of the laws that hold the business in place.

10.3. Interview

So my interview involves a former college student and a website that helps students apply to college, and the name of this website is *Accepted*. *Ac-*

cepted interviewed a former student who attained a JD-MBA degree at Wharton University. This student's name is Craig Carter. Carter is an African-American student who received great grades at Wharton, so he was interviewed in the interest of seeing how he was coping with the difficulty of the JD-MBA degree. Throughout this interview, Carter makes it clear that he has more than enough time to do other activities such as hang out with friends or be active in school-clubs (Carter). Carter also really emphasized on his appreciation for the immense amount of networking that he made at Wharton. He also makes it clear to us that the transition between business and law is very interesting, but that he personally took a much deeper liking to business (Carter). This is something that is fascinating because he demonstrates the fact that eventually each student will tend to enjoy one subject more than the other. Carter then goes on to explain how this degree, along with his school, has helped him attain an internship at the exclusive JP Morgan group in New York (Carter). This functions as a testimony to the exclusive opportunities that a JD-MBA degree can provide for its attainers. Overall, Carter lets the reader know that he is very happy with his degree, and he can't wait to jump into the business world.

10.4. Work-Life Balance

Students who do study JD-MBA degrees often struggle during their education because switching from very hard law to very hard math is tricky for many students. Because of this struggle, many students often times are unhappy while they are studying. However, upon graduation, a large number of these students are contracted by powerful firms that richly recompense them for their work, so if a person is willing to stick it out for three years, then ultimately this degree will be more than worth it. Once the students graduate, the majority will join exclusive law firms or join some sort of financial investment association. Here, they will work long hours, and they will have very busy schedules. However, they will be making money, and as they rise in the company, their work days become shorter but more action packed. One must really like what he or she will be doing, or else this career can be very stressful and unfulfilling.

11

Conclusion

Congratulations, you made it to the end! Hopefully you feel a lot less worried about choosing your college and major. Now that you've finished reading, there is just one thing left for you to do: make a decision. Find that one thing that you think will really make you happy, and go out and get it. Don't be afraid to take a chance, and if you end up hating your decision, there are always many methods of improving or changing this commitment. The important part is that you confidently take this step in life. Hockey Hall of Famer, Wayne Gretzky, sums up this message with his famed quote that states, "You miss 100% of the shots that you don't take." So now go out and make your choice.

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