***CAREER EXPLORATION ASSIGNMENT***

# of total assigned points

**Assignment learning goals:**

* 1. Student will demonstrate a broader understanding of potential career paths emerging from a major.
  2. Student will analyze and describe the degree of alignment of two career paths to personal skills, interests, and values.
  3. Student will build skills in navigating at least three online career resources and document their use.

Using provided resources as a guide, **1)** students will identify 10 career paths which could potentially exist from a degree. **2)** Submit a list of the 10 identified career paths as well as a short essay comparing and contrasting two of the paths in relation to the student’s interests, skills, and values. (Please cite resources used).

**Resources for student use:**

To answer questions of the assignment, use the Career Development Center (CDC) resources below.

[Career Development Center Website](https://mankato.mnsu.edu/university-life/career-development-center/student-and-alumni-career-resources/career-exploration/career-assessments/focus-assessment/)

* Register for the online Focus Career Assessment: registration information can be found [here](https://mankato.mnsu.edu/university-life/career-development-center/student-and-alumni-career-resources/career-exploration/career-assessments/focus-assessment/).
* Utilize What Can I Do with This Major: must be accessed from the [main CDC webpage](https://mankato.mnsu.edu/university-life/career-development-center/) under “Featured Resources.”

[Job Search Handbook](https://mankato.mnsu.edu/university-life/career-development-center/job-search-handbook/)

* Go to page 3 – Will you be career ready?
  + Read the skills, talents and strengths (pg 3) and rank your current level of each skill (pg 4).
* Go to page 5 – The Story of You
  + Complete the Story of You activity.
* Go to page 6 – Self-Inventory
  + Fill out the Self-Inventory worksheet.
* Go to page 9 – List of Career Pathways
  + Read the List of Career Pathways identified by symbol > under each Career Cluster heading.
    - Which of these Career Pathways (or Career Clusters) seem to fit for you?
    - Each of these career pathways has identified knowledge and skills validated by industries.

[Handshake](https://mavjobs.joinhandshake.com/)

* Using Handshake’s job search function, search for jobs by selected major.
  + Click “All Filters” and scroll down until you find the “Major” filter.
* MNSU automatically creates a Handshake account for all students when they register for classes for the first time at the University. Students can login with their [starID@go.minnstate.edu](mailto:starID@go.minnstate.edu) and StarID password.

**Essay Prompts**

1. Of all the career paths you have discovered, which **two** paths are you most interested in learning more about at this time?

2. What are the major similarities and differences in these two career paths?

3. Of the two career paths you have researched in more depth, which one appears to be a better match for your **interests**? Explain.

4. Of the two career paths you have researched in more depth, which one appears to be a better match for your **skills**? Explain.

5. Of the two career paths you have researched in more depth, which one appears to be a better match for your **talents?** Explain.