Job and Occupation Evaluation

Select your top three industries of interest from these examples:

- Advertising, marketing, journalism
- Architecture, design
- Agriculture, forestry, environment
- Arts, music
- Consumer, retail
- Education
- Energy, natural resources
- Engineering
- Entertainment, gaming
- Fashion, beauty
- Finance, accounting
- Food, beverage
- Government
- Healthcare
- Law, policy
- Law enforcement
- Manufacturing
- Nonprofit, social good
- Pharma, biotech
- Real estate
- Science, research
- Recruiting/HR
- Tech/IT/telecomms
- Travel, hospitality
- Transportation, logistics
- Other: ___________

Sample Industry or Job Function Evaluation Grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCCUPATION OR INDUSTRY</th>
<th>VALUE 1: High Salary</th>
<th>VALUE 2: Located in Northwest</th>
<th>VALUE 3: Creativity</th>
<th>PROS &amp; CONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Author</td>
<td>Could be a high salary when I’m established, but might be a while until I get published.</td>
<td>I can write and publish from anywhere.</td>
<td>Yes, very creative endeavor.</td>
<td>Not much opportunity to work with others in the creative process.</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Salaries not known to be high in K-12 schools, better for professors.</td>
<td>Yes, there are many schools.</td>
<td>Enjoy working with youth, creativity of creating lessons.</td>
<td>Upside of K-12 route is quicker, but lower salary. Professor route = Ph.D. and fewer openings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing Manager</td>
<td>Higher salary if I work for agency or corporation.</td>
<td>Yes, in bigger cities.</td>
<td>Yes, very creative and team environment.</td>
<td>Need on-the-job experience.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Build Your Own Industry or Job Function Evaluation Grid

<table>
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<th>OCCUPATION OR INDUSTRY</th>
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<th>VALUE 2:</th>
<th>VALUE 3:</th>
<th>PROS &amp; CONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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Informational Interviews and Job Shadowing

An **informational interview** is a conversation with a professional from your field who can give you insight into a company, position or career path. This can be an HR professional, a recent graduate working at a company or an OSU alumnus—anyone who can serve as a connector in your field. Consider reaching out to your professors, family, friends, professionals you have met and/or alumni. Most informational interviews last about 30 minutes.

**Job shadowing** is an unpaid opportunity to observe a professional in your field or position of interest. The time varies depending on availability and type of position—some shadows last an hour, others several days.

**Informational Interview Questions**

- How did you get started in this field?
- What do you enjoy most about your job?
- What are common entry-level positions in your field?
- What skills are needed to be successful in your role?
- How has the industry changed since you first began?
- What set of characteristics does your organization look for when hiring?
- What's it like to work at your company?
- What advice would you give a person aspiring to enter your field of work?
- What has been the biggest learning curve for you in this role?
- **Who else should I connect with at your company or at similar organizations?**

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Hello ______,

My name is ______ _______, and I am a Ph.D. student at Oregon State University in robotics studying locomotion. Dr. Darius Stevens gave me your contact information as an alum of the program currently working in similar areas in industry R&D.

I would be very grateful for an opportunity to introduce myself and ask you some questions about the field and how you got to where you are. The interview will take approximately 20-30 minutes of your time, and I am flexible to work around your schedule.

Please contact me by responding to this email or by calling me at 555-555-5555. Thank you so much for your time. I look forward to meeting you.

Respectfully,

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