

Career Exploration Paper

Considering my future and all of the choices that I have is very exciting. I believe that it is extremely necessary to consider what I want out of my career? What does it all take and can I handle that? And most importantly, is that truly what I want to do with my life? I am hoping that the answers that I have not yet found may be found, or at least more clear after this paper.

What do I want out of my career? This is a question that I have not ever put too much thought into. For me, it was always obvious what track and career type I wanted one day, but what do I want from that career? That is a different story. My number one “want” out of my future career is flexibility. I mean flexibility in a multitude of ways- but not in the way that I mean I do not want to work many long, hard hours. By flexibility I may mean, being able to choose my own hours or be able to work from home if need be. Family is extremely important to me and what I want in my future, so having a career that allows me the flexibility to work around my home schedule would be amazing. Secondly, I would want to be working somewhere with a very positive atmosphere. That is very important to me because I am not one for office drama, and would love to be part of a team that is like family- this may be possible to find in a smaller business. Thirdly, I would love to find a job at the entry level that has lots of opportunity for growth. As someone who would like to own a business one day, this is key to finding a successful career.

There are a few career tracks that may align with my past experience as well as the education that I am currently gaining here at Muhlenberg College. The number one track that comes to mind for me is being a Dance Studio owner. To gain this expert position I would need to begin at a studio as potentially a dance teacher as well as an office assistant. Eventually after multiple years working in the office gaining insight into the business end of the studio, I may be

able to gain the position of an Assistant Director, who sits right below the owner and operator of the studio. This is the last step before hopefully being able to take over the business, many years later, or whenever the owner feels I am ready.

Another potential career track that I am interested in is being a full-time dance teacher as well as choreographer. As I am in the education field of the Dance Major here at Muhlenberg and have danced for 18 years, I will be able to enter this job field as a dance teacher, entry level, upon graduating from Muhlenberg. Over the years of being in this job position, it is expected that I may be able to teach more classes, especially of the higher level and age range. In this job position it is also possible that I can be promoted up to an Assistant Director, because the job heavily has to do with the dance side of the business as well.

Lastly, a career track that I have never personally taken but fits the agenda of my experience is a daycare teacher/owner. This job would be extremely fitting for me like the others because I love working with kids and have much experience doing so as a dance teacher already, it is what I love so much about teaching dance now. This job would also be a great opportunity to own a business and use the business end of my double major here at Muhlenberg. An entry level position in this field would be a daycare assistant, moving to a teacher, and eventually over the span of many years, potentially an owner/operator of the daycare.

Of all of these careers, the one that seems to fit the mold of my dreams as well as “wants” out of a career is definitely a Dance Studio Owner. This has been my dream job for many years and there are a multitude of reasons for this. This career checks off all three of my “wants” flexibility, community (assuming that I am able to work at a studio local to where I live as I do now), and lastly, the opportunity for growth. I feel as though the possibilities are endless with

this career, even upon reaching the highest position, the owner and operator, there are still opportunities such as opening a second location and expanding the business.

A typical “day in the life” of a Dance Studio Owner would have many responsibilities beginning early in the morning to possibly 9:00 or 10:00 pm at night. My day of work would start around 8:00-8:30 am where I would pay any bills, do payroll or any type of other paperwork of such. This job can either be conducted from my home or from my office at the studio, from there I would go into the office, if not there already, and handle any paperwork, phone calls, or online business that must be handled through our online programming. These tasks could include adding/dropping students from classes on our online program, calling parents back who may have called off hours, and ordering supplies such as costumes, shoes, and studio attire.

All of this work would come to an end around 2:00 or 3:00 pm. At this time, office assistants and some staff may be beginning to show up for the day. The last thing that I will do before they come in is make a to-do list for my office assistants if there are specific tasks needed to be done, as well as make sure each studio is clean and ready for my teachers. From there I would have the flexibility to overlook and help my office with anything as the night goes on, but also be able to go home and do more paperwork from home. Because I choose my hours, the typical day would end around 5:00 or 6:00 pm, depending on how busy the studio is, but I can be there until closing if needed which is usually 9:00 pm. The only aspect of this job that is not so ideal is that the hours are not your typical 9-5, sometimes you are not needed only 2:00 or 3:00 in the afternoon and then work until 10:00 pm helping in the office. For me, this is not ideal because I would prefer working earlier in the morning than later at night. Because I would be the owner and operator in this situation, however, I would do all I can to make my hours work best with my home schedule.

I know this estimated schedule to be true because I grew up dancing at a dance studio that my Great Aunt owned, and so I was able to watch her and all that she did to keep the studio running, she has given me much insight into this job position as well over the past years. I also am now getting one-on-one experience with office work and these types of tasks in a dance studio through my internship with a local dance studio in Easton, PA, and can see that all of these tasks are often handled by the studio owner/ my site supervisor.

I do truly feel that being a Dance Studio Owner and Operator fits both my wants and needs in a future career. It allows me the flexibility that I would like to have in choosing my own hours and responsibilities, as well as gives me the space to grow a very successful business. Having grown up in this atmosphere I do feel that I know what all that it takes to be in this position as I know it is a very hardworking and dedicated job. I love the sense of community that dance studios bring and I only hope that I can make these goals become a reality in my future as I seek this job upon graduation and years to come.