A close-up of a logo

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**Interest and Career Exploration Assignment**For support with implementation, contact us at [cdc@wcupa.edu](mailto:cdc@wcupa.edu) or 610-436-2501

The goal of this assignment is for students to identify and reflect on potential career pathways. This assignment could easily be adapted to different internal or external job fairs or networking events. Assignments are designed to be both plug-and-play and customizable, so they can be used as is, or modified to work for you and your students.

**Learning Outcomes [NACE Career Competencies]**

* Demonstrate a broader understanding of potential career paths. [Career and Self Development]
* Analyze and describe the degree of alignment of two career paths to your skills and interests. [Critical Thinking]
* Build skills in navigating at least two online career resources. [Technology]

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**Interest and Career Exploration**

**Assignment** **Overview**

Complete the career interest assessment (FOCUS 2) to identify different career paths and reflect on their match to your skills, interests, and values. The goal of this assignment is to grow your self-awareness and knowledge on potential career paths. There are three components to this assignment.

**Part 1: Complete Focus2 Assessment.**

Create an account using the website and passcode below.

* <https://www.focus2career.com/Portal/Login.cfm?SID=397>
* Passcode: wcucdc

Complete all 5 items under the Self-Assessment section. You can review results individually or click the COMBINE button and select all 5 assessments.

**Part 2: Submit Results**

To download and submit your summary of results in PDF format:

* Navigate to the main page of your FOCUS dashboard and scroll to the bottom
* Click VIEW YOUR REPORT under My Summary Report.
* Select all 5 items under Self Assessments and click Continue
* Click the PDF button to download a copy. Upload that document to D2L.

**Part 3:** **Reflection**

A brief essay (550-650 words), that reflects on two career paths you discovered from your FOCUS results. Prompts:

1. Of all the career paths you've discovered, which two paths are you most interested in learning more about at this time? Explain why each path grabbed your attention, and list 2 specific elements.
2. Identify two potential majors for each career path. Briefly indicate your interest in pursuing that type of academic program.
3. Of the two career paths you've researched in more depth, which one appears to be a better match for your interests? Explain.
4. For each of the selected career paths, name 3 skills that would be beneficial to master to be successful. Include a reflection on whether you have that skill or need to develop the skill.

**Learning Outcomes & Competencies**

* Demonstrate a broader understanding of potential career paths. [Career and Self Development]
* Analyze and describe the degree of alignment of two career paths to your skills and interests. [Critical Thinking]
* Build skills in navigating at least two online career resources. [Technology]

**Additional Resources for Completing the Assignment**

1. West Chester University [Program Index](https://catalog.wcupa.edu/general-information/index-course-prefix-guide/program-index/)
2. [What Can I Do With This Major](https://www.wcupa.edu/_services/careerDevelopment/undergraduate/discoverYourPath.aspx)
3. [ONET Occupational Outlook Handbook](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/)

**Grading Criteria:**

*FOCUS Completion and Submission:*

* 1 point for each self-assessment completed. **Points earned \_\_\_\_\_ out 5**

*Reflective Statement Grading Rubric:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Points** | **Comments** |
| **Pathway identification and evaluation** | 4 | Identifies two career paths of interest from FOCUS results, explains two specific elements about why they were selected |
| 3 | Identifies two career paths of interest from FOCUS results, provides one element only on why they were selected |
| 2 | Identifies one career path of interest from FOCUS results, explains one or two specific elements about why they were selected |
| 1 | Identifies one career path of interest from FOCUS results but no reflection on why it was selected |
| 0 | Did not identify any positions |
| **Major Identification** | 4 | Identifies two majors, describes interest level is pursuing this academic pathway |
| 3 | Identifies two majors, does not describe interest level is pursuing this academic pathway |
| 2 | Identifies 1 major, describes interest level is pursuing this academic pathway |
| 1 | Identifies 1 major, does not describe interest level is pursuing this academic pathway |
| 0 | Did not identify any majors |
| **Skill  Reflection** | 4 | Selected three appropriate skills for the position, clearly indicates if it’s a current skill or one that requires further development |
| 3 | Selected three appropriate skills for the position, does not indicate if it’s a current skill or one that requires further development |
| 2 | Selected one or two appropriate skills for the position, clearly indicates if it’s a current skill or one that requires further development |
| 1 | Selected one or two appropriate skills for the position, does not indicate if it’s a current skill or one that requires further development |
| 0 | Did not select any skills |
| **Depth of analysis and reflection** | 4 | Comprehensive research of options and reflection on gathered insights. |
| 3 | Reflects on each prompt but lacks an in-depth analysis. |
| 2 | Reflection is superficial or missing from certain prompts. |
| 1 | No reflection was provided, only listed information from results or research |
| 0 | Did not complete |
| **Clarity of Writing and Grammar** | 4 | Writing is clear and easy to follow; ideas are logically connected. Virtually no errors in spelling or grammar. |
| 3 | Minor issues in readability or coherence. Minimal errors in spelling or grammar. |
| 2 | Some unclear or disjointed sections and errors in spelling or grammar. |
| 1 | Writing lacks coherence. Frequent spelling or grammar errors that affect readability. |
| 0 | Writing is unclear and disorganized. - Structure hampers the understanding of ideas. |

* **Reflection Score: \_\_\_ / 20**

**Total: \_\_\_\_ out of 25**