Career

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What we did

- We contacted over 50 professionals in the field and asked them to complete a survey about their career experiences!

- 36 responses were organized into Professional Career Profiles: a one page document with charts and a quick glance into that person’s career

- Students (n=46) read at least three of these Professional Career Profiles online, and then completed a computer-generated survey where they rated how helpful they found this information to be
Student Demographics

- Students from the SDS 3340 Career Development class completed the survey

- Most students were seniors, all were undergraduate

![Bar chart showing student demographics by major. The majors listed are: Exploratory, Criminology, Economics, Sociology, History, Theatre, Sports Management, Religion, Hospitality Management, Finance, Environmental Studies, Athletic Training. The chart shows the number of students in each major, with Exploratory having the highest number.]
Students indicate that they use the **internet** to research careers AND they find it helpful.

- **I have done research on careers that interest me:**
  - Strongly Agree: 15
  - Agree: 27
  - Disagree: 1
  - Strongly Disagree: 2

- **I find the Internet helpful with exploring career information:**
  - Strongly Agree: 29
  - Agree: 15
  - Disagree: 0
  - Strongly Disagree: 1

- **I am searching for additional Internet resources that will help me learn about careers:**
  - Strongly Agree: 16
  - Agree: 23
  - Disagree: 5
  - Strongly Disagree: 1
Student Ratings of the Professional Career Profiles

- I would like to read additional Professional Career Profiles about careers I am interested in
- I learned something new from reading the Professional Career Profiles
- My career questions can be answered by reading Professional Career Profiles
- I feel that the Professional Career Profiles are an unreliable source of information
- Reading the Professional Career Profiles had an impact on the career I might choose to pursue
- The Professional Career Profiles provided information that is difficult to find anywhere else
Student Ratings of the Professional Career Profiles

- **Students indicated that:**
  - They would like to read additional professional profiles
  - They learned something new from reading the profiles
  - And they felt their career questions could be answered

- **Students disagreed that:**
  - The professional profiles are an UNRELIABLE source of information
    - *They were not simply agreeing with each statement!*

- **Students were mixed on:**
  - Whether the profiles had an impact on their career
  - If the information is difficult to find anywhere else
Would you use a database with hundreds of Career Profiles?

- 87% indicated that they would definitely or probably use this database
- There were NO students who would NOT use this database
Why or Why Not?

**Yes**
- Information is succinct, cleanly organized, and simply put!
- Nothing is more honest than an anonymous source
- Personal perspectives of people currently in the field
- Mentions both positives and negatives of the career

**Maybe**
- I already know what I want to do
- Information may become outdated
“It creates an easily accessed tool where everyone can explore all the careers they are interested in with real life in depth descriptions without the hassle of searching through the internet”

“Clearly everyone is different, but it's always nice to get an input from someone actually doing the job.”

“It gives you a first hand perspective of what the job is actually like. It also includes some of the downfalls to the job, which is helpful”

“Nothing is more honest than an anonymous source. And who better to know the demands of a career than someone who's in it?”

“This is great! It goes into detail about different things we students want to know about some of these jobs that we don't have direct access to.”

“While it may not be impossible to find this information elsewhere, it is difficult to find it so cleanly organized and simply put.”

“I would love to look into more opportunities”
Which aspects of the Professional Career Profiles did you find most helpful?

- Daily tasks and duties: 39
- The positive aspects of the careers: 37
- The negative aspects of the careers: 36
- Ratings of career satisfaction: 27
- Value ratings: 25
- Professionals' suggestions for students: 24
- Motivation to choose the career path: 24
- Whether they would choose their career: 23

*Almost all students indicated that most of the aspects were helpful!
Further Questions Students Would Like to Ask Professionals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th># of Students Interested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work-Life Balance</td>
<td>How is the balance between work and your social life?</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Training</td>
<td>How difficult was the education process?</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expectations vs. Reality</td>
<td>Was it worth it to take this career path? Any regrets?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason for Career Choice</td>
<td>What inspired you to take this career path?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Path</td>
<td>What are the steps you took to get where you are at today?</td>
<td>3</td>
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Overall, do you think the Professional Career Profiles can be a useful tool for students seeking career information?

**Student Quotes**

- “It can help students decide if this is the career they want.”
- “Because it helps answers questions about careers that students want to know.”
- “Hard to get this kind of personal information short of interviewing someone”
- “Informative for people who don’t know anything about careers”
- “It opens peoples eyes to careers that are out there they may be interested in and not known about”
- “These profiles should, in theory, be unbiased…and provide information that databases don’t”
- “Thanks for the stimulating task!”

EVERY student found the profiles to be a useful tool in seeking career information!!