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Career Exploration

I am fortunate enough to have grown up with two working parents who have exemplified the importance of hard work and resilience in everything they do each day. This goes way beyond what they do in their actual careers; they have both been able to be highly successful business professionals while also being loving and attentive individuals. The way my parents have navigated their professional careers with their personal lives and the lives of their three children is something I have always admired and considered every time I evaluate what I want for my future job.

I want a job that is going to challenge me intellectually. I want to continue learning new things even when I am years into my career so I never feel like I am settling and I am continuing to grow as a learner. As someone who never wants to sit still, I thrive when my schedule is at its busiest and I always have some task ahead of me that I could be completing. Therefore, I want to be working a job that will foster the type of environment where each day has a new challenge and task to be completed so I am always stimulated and on the move.

In addition to a challenge, I want the job I work to be one that cultivates a motivating and supportive environment. Early into my career, I know that a lot of experience will still need to be gained that a traditional classroom or internship might not have been able to fully provide. Therefore, as I am still early into navigating the reins of a new job, I want to know that my

colleagues and supervisors are there to support me in this transition and learning process so I can perform at the highest level.

Lastly, as someone who is very close to their family, it is important to me that I have some flexibility in my work schedule. By this, I mean that I want to have vacation time so I am still able to travel with my family during the summer or for other small excursions. I would also be open to working remotely during these endeavors, so occasional remote work is something I am open to when searching for a particular job. I do think it is important to note that occasional remote work would not impact my job performance. I would approach any task with the same motivation and efficiency fully online as I would working in the office.

One possible career that I am interested in is working as a Commercial Lender. An entry-level position for this job would be a credit analyst, which is someone who accesses the creditworthiness of securities, individuals, or companies. Ultimately, I would like to end up holding the title of Senior Vice President in a company's commercial lending department. Another career I am interested in is being a Marketing Manager. Some entry-level positions for this career path include account coordinator or marketing specialist. I would like to eventually become the Head of Marketing for some department in a company with no particular department or company in mind at this time. A final job I am interested in is Consulting, with most entry-level positions requiring a bachelor's degree and then working in a specialized field of interest for a few years so experience in that particular industry is gained. Employers will be more attracted to people with knowledge of how companies operate in the specific industry they wish to work in, making it easier to eventually secure a higher position. Consulting is something I am still in the very early stages of exploring, so I am unsure of what I would like to do with this in the long run and even what industry I would like to work in.

Marketing Manager sounds like a career that possesses many of the "bullet-able" needs I would express to my employer. When reading about the daily responsibilities of a Marketing Manager, it sounds like a fast-paced career since it is described as a "reactive industry," so I could see myself flourishing in these conditions. While I think that any job could offer my "bullet-able" points if working for the right person and company, the unpredictable hours that the global aspects of marketing come with make these needs even more likely to be present (Dean). For me, these elements would not deteriorate from my work but serve as a motivator for me to perform at my peak.

Most Marketing Managers must start their day extremely early and end it relatively late to account global for time changes. Managers also seem to have a lot of meetings and phone calls throughout their day, whether that be with team members in the company or other individuals outside of the company aiding you on a potential project. For example, these meetings could include speaking with a production manager who works for a factory producing your upcoming product or with an advertising agency to discuss a new campaign proposal (Taylor). Again, as someone who likes to stay busy and communicate with people, this sounds like something very interesting and enjoyable for me to be doing on a daily basis. I also consider myself a strong leader so I am someone who could lead company team members with efficiency, organization, and support.

Marketing Managers must also find the time to respond to countless phone calls, emails, and research market trends during free periods of their busy days to make sure they are always aware of the latest trends. While I do like moving at a fast pace, I could see myself getting slightly stressed always having these small tasks to do in between bigger ones (Taylor). Ideally, I would like to use this time to prepare for the big meetings to make sure I am strongly

representing my company, but that is challenging to do if smaller parts of the job must be completed during that time. However, I do think that always having a full plate will force me to be very organized and make sure I am making the most efficient use of my time and producing my best work.

Due to the fact Marketing Managers have to manage a whole team, they do not have a lot of flexibility as managers are usually required to work with the team's timing only. If a team agrees to work for flexible timing, then they can revolve their team meeting around everyone's flexibility but with how large these teams can be, that is rarely the case (CareerGuide). This is something I would need to adjust to but I believe this is an essential transition for anyone entering the workforce and would be made easy if I really enjoyed the work I was doing and felt it was rewarding.

I still want to explore all three of the careers I am interested in, however, after reading about Marketing Managers, this seems like a job I would thrive in and one I am excited about exploring further. I enjoy that I would always be challenged with its fast-paced environment, work with a team that could motivate and support me, and be able to interact with multiple people on a daily basis. While flexibility would need to be sacrificed, it is a sacrifice I want to make in order to build my career. Regardless of what jobs I end up working, my parents will always be at the forefront of my mind and serve as the role models that guide me to be the best businesswoman and eventual parent I can possibly be.

Works Cited

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