

Job Market Research & Analysis Assignment

Why job market research and analysis?

Students in introductory courses at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) conduct job market research and analysis early in their programs because the information they uncover can help shape their educational and career goals. It is a chance to learn sooner whether a certain field or job is a good match for your interests, skills, and the kind of life you envision for yourself.

In this particular course, you will research an occupation that falls within the social sciences. It is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the career opportunities that exist in the fields of human services, mental health, substance use disorder services, criminal justice, and education. You will explore a particular type of job that interests you, but also become familiar with other kinds of career opportunities that people with that kind of training and experience can pursue.

How do I choose a job to research?

- Select a job in the social sciences that you are already interested in pursuing. This is a great chance to deepen your understanding of that occupation.
- Ask your instructor for ideas. Many CCV instructors are practitioners in their fields with a deep understanding of the career opportunities available to students.
- Ask CCV's Career Services. You can email or chat with a career consultant, share your general interests and ask for suggestions you might explore.

What should my research include?

- Identify the job you are researching and the commonly-used titles for that type of position
- In addition to Vermont, identify another state where you would consider living and working. You will need to find and compare job market data for the two states.
- What are the typical duties and responsibilities of someone in this role?
- What are the different settings (i.e., educational institutions, businesses, non-profits, or governments) in which people with this job title may work?
- What level of education and type of degree(s) are typically required for this job?
- Are there career specific hiring requirements? Some careers require background checks, polygraphs, drug testing, or appearance standards.
- What types of professional certifications or licensure requirements exist for this job, and what kind of continuing education are professionals in this field required to do?
- What other occupations (besides this particular position) could someone pursue with these kinds of degrees, certifications, or licensure?
- What opportunities for advancement exist in this field? What kinds of additional credentials and experience do those opportunities require?
- What are the different salary ranges for this job and other related occupations in this field?
- Is this a rapidly growing field? What factors are contributing to the field's growth or decline?
- What are the job prospects for this position over the next 5-10 years? Will it be easy or hard to find this kind of work in the two states you selected?

What are the research requirements for this assignment?

Because APA citation guidelines are the professionally accepted guidelines for the social science and education fields, this assignment requires you to practice those skills.

This assignment will adhere to APA best practices:

- The final paper will be double-spaced with one-inch margins and a title page
- It will include a reference page that notes 3 external sources using APA format
- The body of your paper will include in-text citations using APA format

FINAL PRODUCT: Job Market Research & Analysis Assignment

You will write a 2-page paper that substantively addresses the following questions. Be sure to use details and examples in your written answers, cite the sources of your information, and proofread your writing before submitting it.

Educational & Career Pathways:

- What are the typical educational requirements for this work? What kinds of degrees, certifications, licensure, and/or other training make someone well-qualified to do this job?
- What opportunities for advancement exist in this field? What additional professional credentials and experience are necessary for advancement?
- What other jobs could you do with this kind of education and training? Do any of those other occupations or career pathways sound like a good match for you? Why or why not?

Job Outlook:

- Is this a rapidly growing field? What factors are contributing to the field's growth or decline?
- What are the job prospects in each of the two states you selected over the next 5-10 years? Did this match your expectations, or does it potentially change your plans in some way?
- What are the salary ranges for occupations in this field? Does this match your expectations and to what extent does it align with your personal financial goals?

Career Fit:

- What kinds of personal qualities and skills are important in this field? In what ways might this kind of job be a good match for you? In what ways might you be challenged?
- What does it look and feel like to do this job? To what extent would this position be a good match for the kinds of settings you prefer, the type of tasks you like to do, the level of interaction you like and how you like to spend your days?