



Fourth Work Term (APSC 410) – Career Planning Assignment

Objective

Having completed several co-op work terms by this point, you should have a clearer picture of where you see yourself after graduation compared to when you were embarking on your very first co-op work term. The summation of all of your experience to date has afforded you insight into aspects of careers that you might enjoy, as well as those that do not appeal to you. This assignment will allow you to reflect on your experience and ideate on potential career paths you wish to pursue for future co-op work terms or post-graduate employment.

Instructions

Answer each of the following questions (max. 200 words per answer, except question 1 which has a max. 400 words). Support your responses with examples, explanations and research as needed:

1. What is your desired career path post-graduation? Are there particular industries you are interested in or do you have a specific type of role in mind? What about the size of company? Does it align with your core values? Does this career path align with where you want to be in your career in 5-10 years?
2. What are your key strength and weaknesses (technical and/or non-technical)? How do these strengths and weaknesses influence how you navigate your workplace? How will this inform the type of job you will seek in the future?
3. Does the career path you are currently interested in offer a lot of room for personal challenge and skill development, as well as long-term career growth?
4. What is the job security in this career or industry like for the next 5-10 years? Are there any major economic factors that might adversely affect job prospects in this field?
5. How relevant are you to your desired career path/industry at this time? Are your skills and experience in line with what the market is seeking, or is there additional training, self-directed learning, professional development opportunities you can seek out that would give you a competitive edge?
6. What kind of autonomy and control do you want over your career and day-to-day work? Will this impact the type of company you explore working for?
7. Where are you willing to live? Think about the factors of an area that contribute to your personal long-term happiness such as access to outdoor areas, thriving nightlife, energetic culture, walkability or commute time, proximity to family, etc. Are the careers or industries you are interested in available in these type of areas?
8. What aspects of a potential career will contribute to your long-term job satisfaction, or in other words, what would make you happy to go in to work every day?
9. Have you completed the Gallup StrengthsFinder assessment* (optional)?
* Engineering Co-op is giving senior students a chance to complete the Gallup StrengthsFinder assessment for free. Email programassistant.engcoop@ubc.ca to receive your 14-alphanumeric StrengthsFinder code and further instructions to complete the assessment.
10. If you answered yes to the above question: What are your Top 5 strengths out of the 34 [CliftonStrengths themes](#)? Does your desired career allow you to utilize your Top 5 strengths? Explain.

Submission

Submit your completed assignment in Canvas on or before the deadline outlined in the Work Term Checklist (<https://coop.engineering.ubc.ca/current-students/undergraduate-checklist/>).



Grading

Your Career Planning Assignment will be assessed as follows:

Excellent	Articulate, interesting, and engaging responses that convey your unique career path to the reader in fully developed and easy to read answers; content is thoughtful, researched as needed, and thorough; free from any grammatical or spelling errors.
Good	Well-written answers speaking to your career path and self reflection; content is thoughtful and researched as needed; little to no grammatical or spelling errors.
Satisfactory	Answers may contain a few grammar or spelling errors. May not read well or engage the reader, but still communicates valuable insight into your career path; content could be more fully developed and researched more thoroughly.
Unsatisfactory	Multiple grammar or spelling errors; unclear or unreadable; responses are not full sentences. Little to no research demonstrated and responses are neither thoughtful nor thorough.