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BUS 233: Business ePortfolio

Career Exploration

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I have many desires for my future career. Firstly, I would like a career in a field that is constantly changing and growing, and in turn will allow me to grow as a person. I am a lifelong learner, and having a career that is non-monotonous will allow me not only to be excited about going to work every day, but also to continue to acquire new knowledge throughout my career. Secondly, I would like a career that allows me the ability to work closely with others and to form strong relationships, both with peers and clients. Along with this, I would like a positive and supportive work environment. I like to spend my time around and learning from others, and I would much rather have a career rooted in collaboration where I am part of a team than one where I am working alone. Finally, I would like a career in which I can take pride in the work I am doing. Particularly, I would like one in which I am able to help others, as this is something that has been very important to me throughout my life so far. If I am able to feel good about the work I am doing, I will live a much more fulfilling life.

The first career track I am interested in is dentistry. I think I am specifically leaning towards specializing in orthodontics, but I am interested in all types of dentistry and I will make a definitive decision about specialization in the future. For this career path, I will attend dental school after college and then complete a residency for either general dentistry or a specialty. I will then practice as a dentist for the rest of my career

and potentially own my own dental practice. This career path is most realistic for me to follow because I will begin attending dental school at the University of Pennsylvania this summer. However, in the case that I were not going to be a dentist, I might be interested in medical device sales, as this would combine my interests in the medical field with business. For this career path, I would begin as an entry-level sales representative, and could progress to a manager or director of sales position in the long run. I also might be interested in becoming a financial analyst for a hospital, once again combining my interests in the medical field with business. For this career path, I would likely need to obtain an MBA, and then begin as an entry-level financial analyst, and work my way up to a senior financial analyst in the long run.

A career in dentistry perfectly matches my needs and desires. Dentistry is an ever-evolving art and science, and in order to stay on top of new developments and procedures, I plan to attend conferences and continuing education courses. I am also fascinated by cutting-edge dental technologies, and will continue to learn about and implement new devices and technology in my practice whenever possible in order to provide my patients with the best, most up-to-date care. Every patient is different, and I will have to work to create a unique treatment plan for each one, meaning my days will not be repetitive or boring. Additionally, dentistry is a field which provides an abundance of human interaction daily. It is so important to have a strong team of dentists, dental assistants, and dental hygienists who all work together to achieve exceptional patient care. I also will be forming relationships with patients, for whom I will seek to provide quality treatment and a comfortable environment. I want my future patients to leave each visit feeling satisfied with not only the treatment that they

received, but also the way that I, and the rest of my dental team, interacted with them. Finally, dentistry is a career in which I will not only be helping people every day by treating them in my office, but I will also have countless opportunities to give back to my community. I plan to work with underserved populations, especially children, to provide free and reduced-cost dental care. I would like to consistently volunteer as a dentist at events and even coordinate my own events through national initiatives that work to improve the oral health of large numbers of underserved and special needs children. The vast numbers of children suffering from inadequate dental care is a pressing issue in society, and being able to help to solve this problem—and eventually mentor future dental students to do so—would allow me to take immense pride in my career.

From high school until now, I have spent hundreds of hours shadowing general dentists, orthodontists, pediatric dentists, and oral surgeons, in addition to working part-time as a dental assistant. This has given me incredible insight into the day-to-day responsibilities of a dentist in various dental specialties, and I am certain that this is the right career for me. Typically, a dentist will start their day by meeting with their dental team and going over the different procedures that patients will be coming in for that day, so that the dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants are all on the same page about what to prepare for and set up. As patients arrive, the receptionist or dental assistants will check them in and get them ready, and then the dentist will greet the patient and treat them based on what they need. The dentist will continue to treat patients throughout the day. After each patient, the dentist will write notes in their chart about what procedures have been performed. At the end of the day, the dentist will make sure that everything is in order before leaving the office. This is a more general

overview, as each day can look very different depending on what procedures are performed and what equipment is needed. Thinking about the day-to-day life of a dentist makes me very excited for my future, as it provides me with everything that I am looking for in a career.