Note to faculty: This is a starting point. Please adapt to your course context as you see fit. There are [bracketed] words and phrases that will need adjustment.

**Labor Market Insights Research Assignment: Connecting Career Competencies with your learning in [course prefix, course number, course title].**

**Purpose**:

While I would love for you all to major in [this field], I recognize that many of you have wildly varying ideas about what your professional life may look like after graduation and about which major is best suited to get you there. Part of my job is to help you think about what those career aspirations are or could be and about how this class can help you accomplish them. Every possible paying job (existing and yet to exist) out there in the world requires a set of core competencies for success. As you will soon see, most of these competencies are not synonymous with college majors. For example, you cannot earn a degree from WSU or anywhere in “oral communication” or “social perceptiveness” or “judgment and decision-making.” Yet these are several of the skills that employers repeatedly look for in new hires.

So, how does [course prefix, course number] help you recognize, develop, and communicate these skills to future employers? Let’s get started…

**Tasks** (in steps):

1. Go to <https://ascc.wsu.edu/labor-market-insights/>. This tool is offered by WSU’s Academic Success and Career Center and provides an easy way to explore thousands of possible future careers across a range of industries.
2. Use either the “find career data by selecting keywords” (if you already have an idea) or “filter for industry and occupation” (if you want to explore lots of options) to begin your search.

Once you find an occupation, **respond to some combination of the following questions using the table on page 3 to organize your responses**:

**Why does this occupation appeal to you?** Does it connect with your values? If so, which ones and how? Does it connect to a larger life goal? What is that goal and how does it connect to this occupation?

1. Now that you have identified an occupation, **review the core tasks, employment trends, education levels, technical skills, job titles**. Does anything stand out to you as surprising or expected? As examples, are you surprised to find that that occupation is expected to decline in demand over the next 10 years? Why is that surprising? Was the educational level attainment breakdown for that occupation about what you expected? Why or why not?
2. Next, focus on the “Core Competencies” section. **List the top 5 competencies and their definitions** (hover over the competency to reveal the definition).
3. Repeat steps 2-4 with at least 2 additional occupations.
4. Create a shorter list of competencies that showed up at least twice. Then explore the syllabus and assignment descriptions for this course. Do any components of **this course support your practice and growth with these competencies**? If so, how? If not, what adjustments could be made to the course so that it does support your growth with these competencies?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Occupation | Occupation 1 | Occupation 2 | Occupation 3 |  |
|  |  |  |
| Industry |  |  |  |
| Appeal: why? |  |  |  |
| Surprising or expected: why? |  |  |  |
| Core Competency 1 |  |  |  | List competencies that show up at least twice in this box. |
| Core Competency 2 |  |  |  |
| Core Competency 3 |  |  |  |
| Core Competency 4 |  |  |  |
| Core Competency 5 |  |  |  |
| How does this course support practice and growth with competencies that appear more than once? |