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Professor Collins

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Everyone who attends college or university has one very similar goal going into it. That goal is to receive an education and use that education and the skills learned throughout those four years to receive a job upon graduation. For myself, that goal is no different. I hope to use the education I receive at Muhlenberg to hopefully someday get a job in a field that I am interested in. Although that field may be different for everybody, the common goal of gaining a livelihood and a way of life is still a central idea.

For me personally, there are a few main desires I have when it comes to my job one day. The first desire is for me to be doing something that I can either enjoy or find some sort of happiness in. Nowadays, the majority of people dread going to work because they have to wake up every morning and do something they don't enjoy. I want my situation to be different. I think that when you are doing something you enjoy, not only do you do better work, but you also rub off on the people around you which can cause them to do better work as well. The second thing I would hope to have in a job is positive relationships with my colleagues and bosses. By positive relationships, I mean going up to my boss and being able to engage in an open conversation with him or her. I don't want to work for someone who I'm not able to talk to comfortably. With my coworkers, I hope to have friendships. I believe that having friends is one of the most important things in life because they are people who you enjoy being around, and in the workplace they are people who you can bounce ideas off of. In my opinion, being able to go to work every day and

see people you like, would make the day a whole lot more productive and fun. The final thing I want to have out of my job one day is financial stability. For myself, an above-average wage is extremely important because I want to be able to provide a good life for my family and children. I hope to be able to take vacations and do fun things, and a well-paying wage will allow me to do so.

When I graduate college, I hope to get a job somewhere in the finance field. There is a lot of money in finance, and a well-paying job is something I want to have. There are a lot of different finance-related jobs though, so I will have to look into the specifics. For now though one of my options is to work as a financial analyst. If I were to do this, I would be collecting and analyzing data to help investors make good decisions. I could work for a large organization like a bank, but I would prefer to work in a smaller private equity firm. That way, I would have a real identity within the company as opposed to just being another name on a list. I'd probably have to start somewhere big, but private equity would be the end goal. Another option would be to work as a financial advisor. With this job, I would be providing guidance to clients in order to achieve their short and long-term financial goals. I could potentially be helping them with how to structure their investments, or by preparing a plan to help pay for that client's college plan for their children. Similarly to the analyst job, as an advisor, I'd probably be working somewhere like a bank, mutual fund company, or an insurance company. Still, though, the end goal would be somewhere where I am known as a person and not just a name. My third option would be to work as an accountant or a financial manager for a sports team. Although I'm not entirely sure what a job like this would entail, I think that it would be very enjoyable for me since I love sports. This is a job where I would possibly start at a minor league level, and then move up to a

professional one. For example, In the MLB I could work for a minor league affiliate before working for the major leagues. Either way though, I believe that I would greatly enjoy this job.

Out of all the career paths above, the one that I think aligns with my desires the best is to work as a financial analyst at a private equity firm. There would undoubtedly be sacrifices I would have to make though. Just starting out, I would be working extremely long hours that consist of a lot of hard work. I know this because my brother currently works in private equity and there are nights when he gets home extremely late. I also know that as I gain more experience and seniority within my workplace I will be able to have more flexible hours. Flexible hours are one of my desires, and I know that with time in this job, I will be able to achieve that. This is also a job where I will be surrounded by other like-minded individuals in an office setting. I believe that this work style would allow me to make friends and generate positive relationships with my coworkers. Finally, this is a job that will pay the bills and allow me to have an above-average lifestyle. Being able to provide vacations and other fun experiences for my family is something that is very important to me, and by working as a financial analyst, I should be able to do that.

If I were to get a job as a financial analyst someday, my day would consist of a variety of things. To start, I would probably have to wake up at around 5:30 A.M. and I would first check the news to see if there have been releases related to my team's coverage universe. At around 7:00 A.M. I would arrive at the office and attend any meetings in order for me to gain a better knowledge of the company and its network. From then until around 12:00, I would most likely be gathering relevant data, updating comparison spreadsheets and financial models, and reading the news and industry publications. After that, I would have lunch with my colleagues, and then I would go right back to work doing the same stuff as I was in the morning. At around 10:00 I

would leave the office, and then prepare to do the same thing the next day. As a junior analyst, a lot of what I will be doing is all grunt work. This is ok with me though, as I will have to work my way up the ladder. The only issue I could foresee is the repetitiveness. If I am doing the same thing day in and day out, it could get boring. Being in an office setting would help with that though because I would be constantly surrounded by coworkers to keep things interesting.

No matter what job I end up working one day, I hope that it is something that makes me happy. I hope that my hard work pays off and that I am surrounded by people whose company I enjoy. I believe that by working as a financial analyst, I can achieve these things while also paying a wage that allows me to live a comfortable life.

Team, The Investopedia. “A Day in the Life of a Financial Analyst.” *Investopedia*, Investopedia, 6 Apr. 2022.