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**Student Success Course/First-Year Seminar**

This Student Success Course/First-Year Seminar resource packet provides course coordinators and instructors with sample assignments aligned to learning outcomes that were developed by course coordinators from across the state. Learning outcomes and assignments were developed to support Guided Pathways work being done at NJ community colleges.

Summative assessments include academic and career planning projects and assignments that will assist students in developing effective study and learning strategies. Each summative assignment has formative assignments that will help students meet with success on the final product.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

You will develop a higher sense of self-efficacy by:

1. Identifying and utilizing strategies and resources that promote academic success, personal growth, and resilience.
2. Demonstrating critical thinking, information literacy, and technological skills.
3. Practicing interpersonal and leadership skills essential in a diverse, global society.
4. Reflecting on values, goals, decisions, and actions in relation to their impact on self and others.
5. Creating academic, career and financial plans.

**Summative Assignment: Academic and Career Planning Project**

* Formative Assignment: Career Information Worksheet
* Formative Assignment: Networking Plan
* Formative Assignment: Educational Map

**Summative Assignment: Academic and Career Planning Project**

**Link to Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5**

Choosing a career path is a big decision that takes much time and effort. Engaging in the career exploration process will help you make a good decision. Even if you have already decided on a career path, this assignment will help you learn more about the various options that exist within the career of interest. A template will be provided. The final project will be an 8-10-page paper (2-3 pages for each section below:

* **Self-Assessment:** Knowing about yourself is an important part of the career exploration process. After taking self-assessments, write a summary paper.
* **Career Information:** Gather information from a variety of sources such as websites, informational interviews, and social media on at least 3 career paths. Complete the Career Information Worksheets on each career and will then write a personal reflection summary, addressing how the career paths are or are not aligned to your values and interests. You’ll want to find out the following information on each career:
* Job description and job tasks
* Job outlook and Salary
* Work environment and Opportunities for Advancement
* Education and other requirements
* Factors that contribute to success in this field
* Informational Interview data or information gathered via Social Media/Twitter
* Must include citation/source and a paragraph explaining why you believe the sources are credible, noting any possible biases or limitations.
* **Career Networking Actions and Reflection:** One of the most important skills to develop when it comes to careers is networking and it is never too soon to start networking. You will develop a Networking Plan and then engage in at least 3 networking behaviors (i.e. meeting with a professional in the field, attending a professional meeting, etc.) and then write a summary of your experiences as well as a plan to continue developing your networking skills.
* **Educational and Financial Plan:** Choose one of the career paths and meet with an advisor to develop an educational and financial plan. The written plan should include:
  + Statement about why the selected major is aligned to your chosen career pathway.
  + An Educational Map of courses you need to take and when you plan to take these courses. Indicate how each course counts (general education, major, elective).
  + Transition plan. If you are planning to transfer, identify one or two transfer institutions. If you plan to go directly into the workforce, identify one or two jobs. Describe why these institutions or jobs will help you achieve your goal, noting how courses will transfer.
  + Financial plan. Determine cost of your education and the expected return on investment. Explain how you plan to pay for college. If you are planning to take out a loan, identify a repayment plan.

**Career Information Worksheet (Academic and Career Planning Project)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Information** | **Career Specific Information** | **Source of Information** |
| Job Title/Career |  |  |
| Job Description |  |  |
| Job Tasks |  |  |
| Salary |  |  |
| Job Outlook |  |  |
| Work Environment |  |  |
| Opportunities for Advancement |  |  |
| Education and other requirements |  |  |
| Factors that contribute to success in this field |  |  |

Personal Reaction/Reflection: After researching this career, how likely is it that you will want to further investigate this career option? Why?

**Networking Plan (Academic and Career Planning Project)**

**Goal:**

**Your Network**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Steps: What do you need to do?** | **Plan/Action: How and when will you do it?** | **Benefit/Result: What was the outcome of this action?** |
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Summary and Reflection:

**Educational Map (Academic and Career Planning Project)**

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| **Semester 1- Fall** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Course Title and Code* | **Credits** | **How does this course count?** | **Completed?** |
| *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code* | 3  3  3  3  3  **Total: 15** |  | * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

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| **Semester 2- Spring** |

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| *Course Title and Code* | **Credits** | **How does this course count?** | **Completed?** |
| *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code* | 3  3  3  3  3  **Total: 15** |  | * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

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| **Semester 3- Fall** |

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| *Course Title and Code* | **Credits** | **How does this course count?** | **Completed?** |
| *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code* | 3  3  3  3  3  **Total: 15** |  | * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

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| **Semester 4- Spring** |

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| *Course Title and Code* | **Credits** | **How does this course count?** | **Completed?** |
| *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code*  *Course Title and Code* | 3  3  3  3  3  **Total: 15** |  | * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Semester/Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |