

# What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

The world is more complicated than ever, and the world of employment is full of almost unlimited options. This question remains popular as one of the first few questions a kid is asked regarding their interests. As one gets older, both their perception and surroundings change the answer to that question vividly.

From a very young age, I have always wanted to be in a STEM field whether it be through mechanics or the endless world of big data. Diving into my past, I am originally an international student who moved to the states from a third-world country - India. From my perspective, moving here presented me with unfathomable opportunities to hone my skills and work hard not just for myself, but for my parents that worked hard to get me to the position I am in today. Now, this changed my perception of what I wanted to do in the future.

I didn't think of management as a potential career option until I discovered a tool called Illinois High School 2 Career, which is an interactive career exploration tool that helps students make informed decisions about life after high school. It was after this that I decided to volunteer at a nearby facility called the People's Resource Center, through which I was able to gain insightful experience from a management role. It was through this that I started growing compassion for management, but I knew one thing for sure: I really loved engineering and that there was no way I could do both of these things simultaneously, or so I thought .....

Coming into college as a freshman presented a lot of opportunities to me through registered student organizations, peers, and mentors, who guided me through and enhanced my college experience so far. This helped me narrow down my exact field/specialty within my major, and led me to peak my interest in the field of management through a minor in Hoeft. I first heard about it through my mentor, Zack Plumley, who graduated from the minor. Doing more research into the minor, I realized that it was exactly what I was looking for because of the nature of the duality of focus it fulfills i.e. technology and management. Not knowing exactly how the minor is structured and what I stand to gain from the classes, I decided to take the Hoefft T&M seminar class to learn more about the minor, and I believe this was just what I needed to be absolutely sure what I wanted to do in the rest of my college experience.

Throughout my college experience, there was nothing that got me more excited than going to class every Friday and wondering who will be sharing their story during the class period. Not only did I gain a lot of insight into the perspective fields, but I got to network with a lot of people whether that be peers or guest speakers. The multitude of speakers with different backgrounds and roles made the class incredibly intriguing yet educative at the same time. I was also given the chance to attend the networking workshop, where I gained invaluable insight through Patricia Cook on how to leave a positive lasting impression on recruiters. I also had the chance to talk to Karin from Synchrony after the Hallene lecture and Mark from Caterpillar after class, who both gave me great insight on the thought process of highly qualified recruiters.

Lastly, I would like to thank Samantha Koon, Sree Laxmi, and the TAs for making the class very memorable and perceptive.