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Senior Seminar

Employment Goals
One of the purposes of a college education is to provide increased career opportunities. As someone at the end of my undergraduate education, I am now preparing to enter the workforce and put my acquired knowledge to use. When deciding which companies to contact or which job offers to take there are many factors that need to be considered. I will have my own core values that are major considerations, preferences about working conditions, and employment goals that will influence my decisions.

When choosing a job there are certain values that I will use to weigh the quality of different positions. These values are wealth, health, and justice. These values can be used to compare the relative desirability of jobs and companies. Wealth is of primary concern when considering a position. A job that is lacking in other areas but has much greater compensation will still be an attractive choice. Enough money will override most other concerns, because I am willing to work in such a job for a short time, build up savings, and then find another job that has I would be happier with. Similarly, a job with insufficient pay will likely disqualify it, regardless of its other qualities. A job that won’t pay enough to meet my needs or doesn’t offer enough money for the work that would be required would not compare favorably with other positions. Health is also a large concern in job choice. An unsafe work environment might disqualify and otherwise attractive job. Any job in an industrial setting will have some small degree of risk, but a company with a poor safety record will likely be passed over. Justice is another concern when considering job offers. A company that is known for its tendency to behave in an unscrupulous or illegal manner will not be an attractive choice. If the company doesn’t deal fairly with clients or competitors, it is not likely to treat its employees fairly either. Such a job is also
likely to put its employees in ethical quandaries. I don’t want to be put into a position where I would have to choose between keeping my job and breaking the law.

Aside from major values, there are also preferences about work environment that will have some small influence on my decision. Location, formality, travel and training are factors that I will consider. The location of the position is a minor concern. While I have no strong preferences, I would prefer to move north to a place with cooler weather. The formality of the company is also an influence. I would prefer a more relaxed work environment with a casual dress code and flexible hours, but a lack of these would not count too strongly against a job. I also have preferences about travel. I would prefer a job that does not require a great deal of travel. While I’m willing to relocate to the job, I don’t really want to be traveling from place to place once I am working there. The availability of training is also of interest. The computer science field is always changing, and it is necessary to continue training in order to keep up and ensure that my skills are still viable in the workplace. A job that offers training will be more attractive than a similar job that doesn’t.

My employment goals will also have an influence on my decision. There are multiple fields and types of employment that are available to someone with a computer science degree. I am seeking a full time software development position. I am looking for job openings in companies that fit with my values and preferences and who are seeking applicants with skills similar to mine.

These values, preferences, and goals will assist the decisions that I will make. These factors will make it easier to weigh my options and make it easier to decide which job openings to apply for and which offer to accept.