

Southern Adventist University
School of Social Work and Family Studies

Professional Development Plan

By

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Assessment of Career Potential

At this moment in time I am not working but I am attending graduate school in order to obtain my masters in social work. Although there are many different avenues one can pursue in the social work field I find that advocating is the one that interest me the most at this point. I'm still new to the whole field of social work so I'm not really familiar with all the different positions involved in advocating so I would have to say I would like to be an independent consultant.

Development Goals

After taking the skills assessment I found several skills that I would like to target for strengthening which include written communication and technology among the most important. Although there were other areas which also needed improvement these two stood out to me for the simple fact that in today's society nothing can be accomplished if you don't understand technology and have good writing skills. Other areas for concern that I would also like to work on would be planning and product and services offerings. Although the first two are of major importance in any career field you try and enter the latter two are also very important in advocating for change. Upon completion of the assessment I also found other area of concern but these are the ones that are of major importance and I need the most training on.

Planned Activity & Timing

With regards to my technology and writing downfalls I have already taken steps to improve these to some degree. In order to strengthen my writing skills and my technology skills I have entered grad school. Prior to coming to graduate school I had little to no experience using computers which made completing homework assignment twice as hard as I was learning not just the new material from class but also how to use computers. After many hours of trial and

error along with several questions to the professors I have come a long way from where I started however there is still a lot to be learned. I have also improved my writing skills somewhat but once again I still have a long way to go. My plan to strengthen the skills mentioned is to continue to stay in school and learn from others that have more knowledge than I do on these skills. Working on our group projects also helps me strengthen these skills due to the fact that they must be demonstrated in order to complete your group project. I hope that by May 2012, when I graduate I will be much more proficient in these skills listed.

Actual Results with Completion Dates

When taking the assessment I scored a 2.0 on the technology section and a 2.0 on the written skills section. Although these may seem low at this time I am confident that once I graduate these scores will increase greatly. Prior to coming to school I would put my scores at 1.0 or even lower. In the two other sections I wanted to strengthen which were planning and product and services offerings, my scores were also quite low. In planning I once again scored a 2.0 and product and services offerings I scored even lower at a 1.0. Once again while these are low now they are a vast improvement over what they would have been a year ago. Prior to taking our research class and conducting our first group assignment last year I had little or no knowledge about planning and had never even heard of product and services offerings. Our project last year taught me a lot about explaining major organization alliances and partnerships as we had to work with other major universities to gain the information needed for our project.

Future Development Goals

Within the next five to ten years I want to hopefully finish Graduate school and then attend law school. Although graduate school has been somewhat difficult for me, law school will be much easier as I will be within my element and know a vast amount about what will be

taught and what is expected before graduation. But I'm sure that the skills mentioned earlier will also play a big part in continuing my education and I feel so much more comfortable now that I have a grasp on the technology aspect and will not be going into law school with having no experience with Microsoft word or PowerPoint. And along with my new found knowledge on the topic comes a sense empowerment that makes me believe that I can accomplish anything I need to.