

Resources for Industry Exploration

This month's Career Conversation Corner topic is *Finding Your Place in Public Health*. This week we will take a look at how to use labor market data and information to explore different career paths, including job titles, job descriptions, salary ranges, and locations. There are a number of different databases and websites available that you can use as resources to explore these details and obtain a more comprehensive picture of what occupation may be best suited for you. Two great examples we will look at this week are ONet Online and Salary.com. For each resource, we will look at how to navigate them and what information they offer.

ONetOnline:

[ONetOnline](#) is a fantastic tool that allows you to search for occupations and read descriptions of them. The "find occupations" search tool allows you to filter jobs by industry, job outlook, job family, field, and level of experience needed. The "advanced search" option allows you to dig deeper and filter occupations by what skills are needed. This will allow you to use the knowledge that you may have gained through using the self-assessment skill we discussed earlier this month, and see what jobs are available based on the skills you have and the skills you would like to gain. Lastly, ONet Online's Crosswalk option allows you to view all of this information in one place for a wide range of occupations. Searching a specific title using this option will provide you with a description of typical tasks involved in the day-to-day activities of this career, soft and hard skills typically required, work environment, education and years of experience needed, related occupations, and salary trends.

ONetOnline is a great resource for students who are beginning or transitioning careers to explore their options in detail. A good search strategy might be to use the "find occupations" options first to get a better idea of your options. Next, after you have found some job titles that are of your interest, you can use the "advanced search" option to see how your skills match with these options and what skills you might still need to build to pursue roles of interest.

Other great career exploration resources you can utilize include [The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook](#), which provides descriptions of job titles, work environments, how to pursue specific job titles, average pay, the job outlook, and recommends similar occupations.

[Salary.com](#)

[Salary.com](#) is another great resource available to you that can be used to understand salaries associated with possible career paths. This website offers information geared specifically towards salary ranges for specific job titles available in your geographic area or another location you may be thinking of moving to, and will help you calculate your anticipated salary based on your education, experience, and performance levels. This website is a great tool to use not only to explore career options, but to keep you informed in salary negotiation meetings once you receive a job offer.

Begin your search by entering a job title and specific location if you are limiting your job search to one region. Filtering the information by location is helpful as salaries can vary widely by state, and across rural, suburban, or urban environments. For example, a health policy analyst working in Manhattan is likely to take home a higher salary than someone with the same title working in upstate NY. Once you search this information, like “medical policy analyst”, for example, you will then be able to view a curve that shows you the salary range for this position in the location you searched. The lower end of the curve will give you an estimate of what you might expect to earn as an entry level employee or from a smaller, less resourced organization. The higher end of the curve will show you what you can potentially earn as you become more experienced in this area of work.

After seeing this curve, you have the option to search deeper and investigate how much employees with your level of experience, education, and performance level make on average. Additionally, you can compare the salaries of different career paths, view what benefits are typically offered in these areas of work, search related career opportunities, and view job openings.

Some other great salary exploration websites you can use include [Glassdoor.com](#), [PayScale.com](#), [Indeed Salary](#), and [BLS.gov/OOH](#). When browsing through these tools, keep in mind that some websites do not provide the option to filter salaries by location. For these instances, it is important to keep in mind how salaries in the geographic area you are interested in working in compare to national averages (salaries in New York City tend to be higher than the national average).

Interested in discussing how to use online tools to explore careers with a Career Coach?

Schedule a 1:1 Career Coaching appointment with the Office of Career Services. [Book an appointment online now!](#)