Career Exploration Analysis

Many of my personal values revolve around freedom and independence. I thoroughly enjoy being able to have a lot of flexibility and choice in order to complete a task. This could be flexibility in work hours, planning, execution and whether or not I collaborate with others. Generally, I also like to be very organized with my work space and when completing assignments or tasks. I believe my values align well with my current goals in that relate to the business sector, especially in the fields of accounting and finance, where I plan to go in life.

My goal is to work at a company that allows a lot of individualistic freedom in their work if people so choose, but also give the opportunity to collaborate if needed. The financial field definitely has many places and positions with this type of doctrine, but strays farther as one starts working with bigger clients such as major businesses or corporations. While positions in this career path can have a lot of flexibility, they also have some more specific processes that relate directly to the actual work of the job, such as purely number crunching in accounting. This may limit some freedom to do tasks in multiple different manners; however, the trade off is that it makes organization much easier to maintain. Better organization allows one to track their work better, especially when having multiple tasks or clients at hand. It allows one to also be able to go back and reference similar situations as well, finding ways to correctly and efficiently problem solve.

Following the assessment, I looked at the two jobs of being an accountant as well as a financial analyst/advisor. These two jobs were strong matches and are quite mainstream in my explored career field. Both had well-off average wages of $80,000+ in Washington, with many
positions making six figures. Job opportunities are also growing well as the economy rebounds and starts growing again. The Seattle area also requires a lot of accountants and financial analysts as it is a large population with many major businesses and corporations present. The best way to break into the field seems to be internships or mentorships at financial firms or branches of companies, which is one key idea I took away and will likely be my first step into the field once I have attended a fair amount of business classes at UW. Another key takeaway is that these positions have many different forms and classifications, each sharing many aspects, but also have their distinguishable differences. This will mean that I will likely have to look at them throughout my schooling and see which positions would be a better fit than others in my career path. Also, one will likely have to get certification to become an accountant or analyst, which will likely mean I will go to graduate school to get a Master’s for my specific field of business. At UW, I will try to meet with people who have gone through the business program and get advice about how I should navigate my career path. Also while in Seattle, I will also likely look for internships at local companies once I have chosen my degree options.