

INTERACTIVE SIMULATION EXERCISES FOR CAREER TRANSITIONS

**PERFORM A
REAL JOB TASK.
DISCOVER
YOUR CAREER FIT.**



THESE SIMULATIONS ARE REAL LIFE JOB TASKS

THE JOB SIMULATIONS ARE VETTED AND APPROVED
BY PHD PROFESSIONALS FOR ACCURACY



**SIMULATE A SUBSET
OF DAILY TASKS
THAT PHD
PROFESSIONALS SAY
THEY PERFORM**



**IDEAL FOR
CAREER
EXPLORATION**



**ARE DESIGNED TO
BE COMPLETED IN
LESS THAN 8 HRS**

USE IT IN CAREER ADVISING APPOINTMENTS

FOR A STUDENT OR SCHOLAR WHO:



1. Has read about journal editing, but still doesn't know what's involved in journal editing...

...a job sim could be a next step to understand what's really involved in a career pathway. Then schedule a follow-up appointment to discuss their self-reflection sheet.

2. Isn't sure they want to spend a semester taking a course on intellectual property...

...a job sim could help individuals identify tasks of interest and the skills they like to use, so they decide to pursue more time intensive experiential opportunities.

3. Has selected a career field of interest...

...a job sim could be used to build a skill set or prepare for an interview.

USE IT TO ENHANCE PEER GROUP INTERACTIONS

HERE ARE EXAMPLES FOR PEER GROUP ACTIVITIES USING THE JOB SIMULATIONS. EXAMPLES PROVIDED BY UCSF'S MIND, AN NIH BEST PROGRAM.

SUGGESTION: HAVE PARTICIPANTS COMPLETE THE JOB SIMULATION AND SELF-REFLECTION SHEET INDIVIDUALLY. THEN, MEET IN GROUPS BEFORE AND/OR AFTER CONDUCTING INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS.

GROUPS COULD MET OVER 2-3 WEEKS, WITH 3-7 PARTICIPANTS PER PEER GROUP.

1. Think-Pair-Share. After completing a task, partner up and share the aspects that were most interesting or challenging about the task. Other prompts: discuss what they learned about the career field that was surprising, or how it impacted their career decision making. Then share out to the bigger group.
2. Prepare with mock informational interviews and sharing strategies for connecting with professionals for informational interviews.
3. Graduate students and postdocs interested in trying a career-specific task could share resources via an email group. This works well for more complicated tasks such as business development or regulatory affairs.

USE IT FOR IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW A SIMULATION WAS INCORPORATED INTO A CAREER SKILLS EXPLORATION SERIES RUN BY A FACULTY MEMBER AT DUKE.

THIS SERIES WAS COMPRISED OF 6 SESSIONS WITH 12 PARTICIPANTS EACH WEEK.

A faculty member incorporated a Medical Writing Job simulation in his career exploration workshop series. Students were given time to read the simulation exercise and start the process in class.

Students were encouraged to send in their completed deliverables.

USE IT TO ENGAGE ALUMNI

THESE ARE THE STEPS THAT SHOW HOW JOB SIMULATIONS CAN BE USED IN AN ALUMNI-LED WORKSHOP. THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A "CAREER LAB", CREATED BY EMORY & GEORGIA TECH'S NIH BEST PROGRAM.

EACH PROGRAM WAS 2 HRS, AND HAD 20-30 PARTICIPANTS PER PROGRAM.

THE INTERSECT JOB SIMS COULD BE UTILIZED IN A SIMILAR WAY, AS A FLIPPED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY.

1. An alum, who is a medical science liaison (MSL), was invited to give a brief overview on the MSL field, skills needed to succeed, and the types of experiences to get you hired.
2. Participants got into groups and perform a task designed by the MSL. In this case, individuals looked up clinical abstracts and prepare a summary for a clinical or lay audience.
3. Group shared their summaries, and discussed the experiences and challenges of completing the task.
4. After the activity, the alum held a Q&A about the career field. This was the most engaging part of the session.

JOB SIM EXPERIENCE IN 4 STEPS



A job simulation is a brief exercise that simulates a subset of tasks involved in a career of interest. The sims in this workbook can be completed in approximately 3-8 hours.

View simulations at:
<https://gradcareers.wustl.edu/intersect/>

The experience is intended to help the student or postdoc TEST A WORKING IDENTITY and assess their interest and potential career fit.

After completing a job simulations, if they are still interested in a career field, they are encouraged to pursue additional experiential opportunities and skill building activities.

This experience is not intended to indicate the individual's ability to perform a task well. The exercise is designed for career exploration. We included sample deliverables as comparisons for format and level of detail; samples were not assessed by professionals.

SIMULATION USERS SAY TO GET THE MOST OUT OF A SIMULATION EXPERIENCE...



PERFORM THE INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW TO CONFIRM ASSUMPTIONS AND LEARN ABOUT THE WORK ENVIRONMENT



UTILIZE THE SMART GOALS CHECKLIST BECAUSE HAVING DEADLINES HELP TO MOTIVATE THEM TO COMPLETE THE TASKS

THE JOB SIMULATIONS ARE WERE USER TESTED AND UPDATED FROM USER FEEDBACK.

TIPS & GUIDELINES **FOR A SUCCESSFUL ADOPTION AT** **YOUR INSTITUTION**

**Encourage your simulation participants to conduct informational interviews. Students and postdocs stated in evaluations that talking with a professional organizational- or position-specific details.

CONSIDERATIONS & LIMITATIONS

So far, the tasks are just one example of many types of daily tasks performed by a professional. We aim to create more tasks in each career field.

The tasks may represent one certain type of organization. For example, the business development simulation was created from interviews of professionals in pharma companies. Start-up companies may have a different process.

WE AIM TO COVER THE MYIDP CATEGORIES
(THAT AREN'T RESEARCH-RELATED)

SO FAR WE HAVE DEVELOPED...

FREELANCE SCIENCE JOURNALISM

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

MEDICAL WRITING

SCIENCE POLICY & ADVOCACY

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

SCIENCE JOURNAL EDITING

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

SCIENCE EDUCATION & OUTREACH

CLINICAL RESEARCH COORDINATION

**Share your experiences with us.
Give us feedback on the project.**

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR INTEREST**

**CONTACT THI NGUYEN AT:
THI.NGUYEN@WUSTL.EDU**