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My goal is to obtain a career where I can work with my hands and mind to solve problems. I have narrowed my choices down to two main options, Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Technologies. To obtain these goals, I must set a track. The Process of deciding to pursue a career as an Engineer was not an easy one, but that process has helped me define my career goal, be realistic about what I want , and plan thoughtfully about how to reach my goals.

To help me narrow down my choices, I used the Georgia Career Information System’s(GCIS) career cluster inventory and skills assessment as well as taking the DISC personality test. The GCIS assessments took my likes and dislikes of skills and hobbies and showed me the top career choices they thought I would like. Mechanical Engineering was not on this list, but I believe that is because it is a broad career and not a specific occupation. The DISC personality test gave me insight on my behavior and personality with such things as communication, decision making and natural limitations. I scored high in the “ S” and “ C” categories, meaning I am cautious, patient, analytical and contemplative. These traits will help me in my career because I will have to think critically, I may have to evaluate information, and I may be inspecting equipment, structures or materials.

Already knowing Computer-Aided Design (CAD), blueprint reading, and drafting gives me a step in the right direction. I only need a bachelor’s degree to start working, and I could get a master’s degree later if I chose to teach. In Georgia the starting salary for Mechanical Engineers is around $60, 000/year and the expected growth rate for employment is about 2. 1% . Having this information along with my desire to enter in this career field, I belive this is a realistic and achievable goal.

Most Mechanical Engineers need a bachelor’s degree for entry-level jobs. I will be getting my associates degree’s in general studies at Georgia Military College. And I am planning on getting my bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering at southern polytechnic state university. To help me financially through college, I am going to use the Montgomery GI bill for the first thirty-six months of school. If I use all thirty-six months of the Montgomery GI bill, the Post-911 GI bill will give me another eighteen months to use. I am also going to use the HOPE and Pell grants to help me with tuition.

The GCIS’s assessments were helpful in showing me many career and occupational options. It also gave me an overview of what I could expect being a mechanical engineer. With the DISC test showing me my personality and behaviors, I know I will be a good fit in this career. I am glad that I did this project because it gave me a better understanding of what I will need to achieve my goal and put me on the path to a brighter future.