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Reedy ISM I

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The Paths of Consulting

Assessment 2 - Research

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Topic: The Paths of Consulting

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Assessment:

With ongoing research, the term "Management Consultant" has proven to be a broad classification that in truth encompasses a very diverse range of specializations and opportunities in consulting. My research has made me aware of the various paths in

management consulting that peak my interest and that I can pursue through a consistent course of action.

I have previously been narrow minded in my understanding of management consulting, and believed that one must be involved in only business, information technology, or finance if wanting to become a management consultant. Although knowledge of business and finance are necessary, a management consultant can be involved in a wide range of subjects such as marketing consulting, environmental consulting, and human resources consulting. One specification in consulting that intrigued me was operations consulting, which encompassed my interest of cost management. An operations consultant is tasked mainly with outsourcing, process management, supply chain management, and gaining assets. This means that the operations consultant for example must calculate the least expensive option for a company that is attempting to establish a building in a new location, or a business that is seeking to reduce costs in the production and distribution of an item.

Another consulting career path that is more specialized and garnered my attention was strategy consulting, due to its key role in a company's future success. Strategy consultants are entrusted with creating a long term vision, purchasing new assets or discontinuing certain aspects of a company, and deciding where and when to distribute resources, which are all decisions that can have big ramifications if all the factors are not properly accounted for. Becoming a strategy consultant would require me to be a decisive individual that is able to collect all the necessary information about a company that will influence its future well-being and success. This discovery has changed my perception that management

consultants are not the most important facet of a company, and shown me that if I become a high level strategy consultant, I can be involved in deciding the future of a company.

There is also a consulting specialization that strays slightly from the business field and enters the subject of environmental sciences. Environmental consulting is a field that is growing rapidly due to increased environmental safety measures, and also because of many companies investing in a green initiative. This field interests me because there growing competition for a career in management consulting, and because environmental consulting is a relatively small specialization, I can become one of the first people to be in this field, and therefore I will be of high demand among companies that must follow the trend of environmental awareness.

Through my continuing research I have discovered that management consulting has a broad spectrum of specializations that express my interests, which include operations consulting, strategy consulting, and environmental consulting. These three specializations are seemingly my preferred career path and I intend on finding out if they are a good fit for me by contacting professionals in this field and continuing my research on the work environment and career tasks of these fields.