



Olivia Siebert

Wanting a Career as an Army Officer?

“Joining the US Army is the career that will set me up for success in the future. I have been interested in choosing this career path for myself because it is an honorable job that allows me to serve people and will educate me to grow as a leader. The UNCC Army ROTC program has opened me up to opportunities that will help me work towards commissioning as an Army officer. Completing college with the curriculum surrounding my specific major along with the ROTC curriculum is a part of the process of being able to commission as an officer.

There are many benefits that you can receive from being a commissioned Army officer such as opportunity to serve your country, ensured employment after graduation, career and salary, provided healthcare, different career opportunities because there are many fields to work and help with repaying college loans. Being an Army officer will provide a career after college which is hard to come across for many college graduates. I will have the opportunity to gain skills and life experiences that civilian work may not be able to give me. People considering joining an Army ROTC program in college should give it a chance because it can open doors to leadership and team ethics. I find it important to serve the country and I believe there is no better path to do so.”

Additional information to reference:

BASIC PAY CHART FOR ACTIVE DUTY OFFICERS*

This pay scale reflects Basic Pay only and does not include allowances, allowances and other benefits. Learn about TOTAL ACTIVE COMPENSATION.

| Rank | <3 Years Experience | 4 Years Experience | 5 Years Experience |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Second Lieutenant (O2) | \$38,343.00 | \$40,342.00 | \$42,342.00 |
| First Lieutenant (O3) | \$49,082.00 | \$50,778.00 | \$52,003.00 |
| Captain (O4) | \$55,018.00 | \$56,098.00 | \$57,003.00 |
| Major (O5) | \$58,024.00 | \$59,678.00 | \$60,003.00 |

*Based on 2019 pay tables.

Image from: <https://www.goarmy.com/benefits/money/basic-pay-active-duty-soldiers.html>



Matthew Charny

Medical Device Sales Representative

“Really to me, this career is involving the sales and marketing field, selling products directly relating to the medical industry with biomedical and laser technology. The preparation for this career is not too extensive as you do not need any previous medical school history, but you do need to obtain a 4-year bachelor’s degree. Most sales representatives obtain a Master of Business Administration while still being involved in the medical/health field. Being involved in the medical sales field can usher in many opportunities/benefits. These benefits include flexibility, salary, autonomy and room for advancement.

First benefit that this career field brings is the Flexibility. The ability that many professionals in this field can pick and work their own hours/schedule. By not having to work nine to five, that was one major factor that drew my attention to this career field. Second, benefit involving this field is the money/salary that is possible to obtain in a year working as a medical sales representative. Third key benefit for me is the Autonomy. The fact that you will not have to interact with your boss or being in his office every single day is a major contribution toward my decision of wanting to pursue a career. Last key benefit, is the room for advancement that is career field offers. There is always room to grow if you can successfully sell your products.

Lastly, what this field means to me is simply an excellent opportunity for me to work on improving my interpersonal skills while continuing to build the sales attitude and desire it takes to be successful. I believe this field can benefit someone because that is a small percentage of what the field is. Selling medical equipment that other people need, that can keep a person alive. That is one of the most significant parts of this role.”

Additional Information to Reference:

<https://www.medreps.com/medical-sales-careers/top-5-things-to-love-about-medical-sales-jobs>



Catherine Furr

The Journey to be a Child Life Specialist

“Child Life Specialists are pediatric health care professionals who work with children and families in hospital and other settings to help them cope with hospitalizations and illnesses. I always knew that I wanted to work in a hospital setting, but I didn’t want to be a doctor or a nurse. I also knew that I wanted a career that would be rewarding. Child Life is that career for me. In order to become a Child Life Specialist, there are some academic requirements.

First, you must obtain a bachelor’s Degree, which can be in several different majors. Some of the majors available at UNCC are Child and Family Development, and Psychology with a minor in child development, but there are several additional majors that correlate to child development. In addition, earning your degree, there is also a 600-hour, unpaid internship requirement, alongside a certification exam. Although the requirements may seem demanding, in the end, you get the pleasure of making a positive change in someone’s life, as well as making on average \$51,000 a year to support yourself financially!”

Additional Information to Reference:

www.childlife.org



Vanessa Pittman

Becoming a High School Guidance

“A guidance counselor is a certified counselor who provides academic, career and personal support to high school students. I never imagined I would want to go back to high school, but here I am working towards it! The exception is this time, my role in the school will look a lot different. My high school guidance counselor supported me in all my endeavors, and I thought it would be phenomenal if I could do the same for a student someday. My heart is in the career, and once I got to college, I knew it was time to research how to get myself into the position.

Very simply put, to become a high school guidance counselor may look different depending on the state you are in. In North Carolina, the steps are to earn a bachelor’s degree, earn a master’s degree, complete the praxis exam, gain internship experience and finally, apply for a certified counselor licensure. On average, high school guidance counselors make around \$50,000 and have benefits such as a student loan forgiveness program and state employee benefits!

I’ve not always been certain about what career I have wanted, but I’ve always had a longing to work with teenagers. As I matured through my teenage years, I experienced some of the hardships that come along with becoming an adult. I hope someday I can be the person to sit down with an overwhelmed student and remind them to take it one step at a time. Life has SO much to offer, especially in high school, and I want every student to have access to such positive opportunities.”

Additional information to reference:

<https://www.teachercertificationdegrees.com/careers/school-counselor/>)



Molly Unrath

Not Sure What Career to Explore

“College-prep curriculum can leave some people lost as to what options are really open after high school. Before finding a job or degree you want to pursue, it’s a great idea to get to know yourself first to see where you fit best. Self-assessment and career exploration can help you move forward with confidence that you found a good fit! There are a few sites that can help you gauge your personality and some career and personality clusters that you may fit into:

- [Holland Code Career Test](#)
- [Career Cluster Survey](#)
- [Predictive Index](#)
- [16 Personalities](#) (my personal favorite)

There are also so many different careers, many that no one really talk about. Here are some great resources on finding more information on one job or exploring new jobs you’ve never heard of before.

- [Career One Stop](#)
- [O*NET](#)

Deciding on a career in high school can sometimes be difficult, but I hope the resources that were provided will give you the information that you need.”