

My Public Administration

Emergency Management was never the degree that I thought I wanted when I enrolled into UCF. Looking into the degree when I felt lost really made me realize that it was exactly what I wanted this entire time. Specifically, job security in the degree, project-based jobs, and the ability to be out in the field as opposed to sitting in an office all the time.

Of course, with this degree, the job of Emergency Manager becomes obvious. Specifically, the one that caught my eye was Emergency Management Specialist (Mitigation) by the Department of Homeland Security

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The position announcement was found on their website under careers, and I searched for Florida jobs, which led me to this one in Orlando. The skills that are outlined in the description are; Administrating the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)/Floodplain management pre and post disaster at local , state, federal or tribal level, developing, assessing and improving organizational policies, or leading teams, or managing programs, and, effectively communicating and implementing various floodplain management and flood insurance programs. The pay range is between \$89,000 and \$116,000. The location for this job is in Orlando, Florida. I would need to apply for this job by the 22nd of April 2019.

The job appealed to me in several ways. The first way is that it is a job specifically tied to my degree. This has always been important to me because one of my biggest fears going into college was that I wouldn't find a job in the field of my degree. So anytime that I see an occupation that is tied to my degree is always important to me. The second way is that the pay is enticing to say the least. The pay of 89,000 dollars is more than I ever imagined I would make in

a year. Maybe to some people, that isn't a large amount, but I come from a town with not a lot of wealth to go around so I'm impressed by that number. Another reason is the location, Orlando is my new home and I would love to stay here as much as I can. Anytime I can avoid the prospect of moving to a new place will always be a plus in my opinion. Another reason is that there is the ability to travel and work on site. I genuinely dislike being behind a desk all day. I have had a few jobs like that and none of them end with me being happy at the end of the day. The more the work changes the more I will joy in what I am doing. The final reason that this is a very good job for me is the job security. When I was young my mother got laid off from jobs because the companies that she worked for were downsizing or going out of business entirely. Fortunately, the government isn't going anywhere anytime soon. The Department of Homeland Security is not going anywhere anytime soon. That's important because the older I get in life, the less I'm going to be able to uproot my life and find a new job in a new place and restart. I want the confidence that I will have job when I wake up in the morning and I think that this job will provide that.

Two classes that would be useful for this job is the Emergency Management and Homeland Security class that I am taking next semester as well as the Professional Public Sector Writing class that I am taking this semester. The EMHS class will be useful because it is going to give me the overview that I need for the Emergency Management occupation. I think that I will find a better understanding in this class and it will be integral for my future education in this degree. The information in this class will give me a foundation that will be expanded in the next two years of my education which, in turn, will be expanded when I get my first job/internship. The Public Sector Writing class will also be very useful in this occupation. Whether I need to write reports, reviews, or do research, this class has been useful already in multiple classes that I

have taken at UCF and will continue to be useful throughout the next two years of my education. On top of that, the things that I have learned in that class have greatly expanded my knowledge on public sector writing to a point in which I am confident in my ability to write as a professional in many scenarios. These classes have already been useful to me as a student in the School of Public Administration and I know will continue to be useful for the rest of my career.

Two extra curricular activities that have helped me were my High School Rowing Team and my volunteer work that I did with the National Honor Society. To start, my High School Rowing Team taught me valuable things in leadership. There were times that it was obvious our team captain was not in the position to lead, whether it was due to incompetence or lack of focus. But he was also able to influence people's morale in the team of upwards of 20 rowers. This was not something that I could allow him to do incorrectly and while I didn't take the official role of captain, I did take a lot of his responsibility. While I didn't have the title, I was still respected for taking initiative and wanting more success than just staying with the norm. This taught me that even though I didn't have the title that garnered respect, my actions were what gave me the respect of my peers. I take this as I should be a force in any room I'm in no matter what position I am in. I also learned what it meant to be charitable with my work in the National Honor Society. I did several soup kitchens when I was in High School and I saw people with the most tragic lives who were just not given a fair shake in life. This always stuck with me in my life. It shook me to my core every time. I felt a sense of responsibility to help where I could with these people, whether it was something like giving them money for a meal, or something smaller like just listening to their story and caring about them always helped these people and made their day brighter. These are things I am proud of doing in my past that I know I will be major molds for me as a character in the future.

A life experience that has helped define who I am today was the death of my grandfather. My grandfather was an older man, a medic in WWII. He passed away at the age of 91 and even though he lived a full life, I was not ready for him to go. I don't think anyone is ready for loss, no one gets used to that. No matter how many people have passed away, people that were in your life that are no longer there is always painful. My grandfather suffered from Alzheimer's in his later years as well. It is one thing for them to pass away, but it was another thing all together that you see the deterioration of the man that you hold so much respect for. My grandfather saw me graduate from High School, but he didn't remember the next week. He saw me enter my first day of college, but couldn't remember that the next day. One day, it got to the point where he didn't recognize where he was or who I was. And that is the most painful thing that could happen to me. My own grandfather couldn't recognize me. That was a tough pill to swallow, it was even worse when we learned that it was genetic. That means I'm more likely to have the disease when I get older as well. To see what that disease put my grandfather through, and to know that I am going to experience the same thing gave me an anxiety that I thought I would never get over. But of course, with time, all wounds heal. Of course, I miss my grandfather but the pain dulled over time, I just had to be patient. But this experience taught me that loss is a part of life and no matter the outcome, I am strong enough to come out the other side. It also taught me that even though I know that the future might be bleak, it should not affect what how I live my life and how much fear I let into my life. My grandfather was a great role model in my life, but even after his death, he gave me life lessons that I thought I would never be taught.

My code of ethics for this position is as follows;

1. Never abuse your power
2. Always respect the employees that help you
3. The citizen's safety is priority

4. Always plan for the future
5. Always pursue perfection

Out of all of these rules, I think that #1 will always be the most important. In the Public Sector, our democracy only works if the people in important positions keep to only doing the jobs in those important positions. That is why I will always make it my duty to keep the integrity of our government as priority #1. #2 is also important because the respect of your employees only works if you respect them in turn. #3 in simple terms just shows that my job, at the end of the day, is to keep the citizens under my jurisdiction safe from all things that could cause them harm. If I fail to do that, well I won't be in that job for long. #4 means more than just my own future, predict what will be needed with new challenges that come with an ever-changing world. #5 is exactly what it seems like, make sure that nothing I do or plan can have error. Make sure every step of the process is exactly what is needed and as efficient as possible.

Three stakeholders that are in my life are my parents, my high school rowing coach, and my sister. My parents are a stakeholder in my life for fairly obvious reasons. They raised me to who I am today, taught me right from wrong, and have always been there for me in my time of need. There hasn't been a problem in my life where I felt as though I couldn't go to my parents and ask for advice. The amount of money and time that they have invested in my life is just proof that they are truly stakeholders in my life. Next, my high school rowing coach is also a stakeholder in my life. When I first joined high school, I was lost. I was fairly lazy, I didn't know what I wanted, and I thought fairly low of myself. When I joined the rowing team on a whim, I was immediately shown how to be disciplined in anything I do and to give my best effort in anything I do.

One thing that he always told me that has stuck with me to this day is that motivation only gets a person so far, after a while what gets people to their goal is discipline. That has resonated with me so much in my life because I always find that when I lose motivation, the only thing that will keep me going is the fact that I have been disciplined to not give up on a goal. This is why he is a stakeholder in my life, because he gave me a new outlook on the way I need to live my life. Finally, my sister is also a stakeholder in my life. My sister is three years older than me and throughout my childhood, she and I competed in many things. She is probably the reason I have such a competitive personality and how I strive to be a better version of myself every day. She was the first one to finish college in my family and I am here now to be sure that she isn't the only one that has that success. That is why she is a stakeholder in my life, because she taught me to compete with others.

Strength and Weaknesses

Strength #1	Great Problem Solver	This entire occupation is about problem solving, the fact that I am able to excel in that sort of environment means I'll be a great asset
Strength #2	Able to Think Critically	Critical Thinking is necessary for a job like this. If I couldn't solve the problems that would be presented in front of me, I wouldn't be able to be successful at this job.
Strength #3	Very Observant	Observation is going to help me with understanding what unique challenges that somewhere might face that would stop them from being able to use standard procedures.

Weakness #1	Difficult to Think About Big Concepts	This could be an issue in that if I can't see how all the processes work together to make a solid plan against a type of disaster, then I will find issues in this job
Weakness #2	Sometimes Difficult to Focus	If I can't focus on the task at hand, then I'll never be able to work at the best of my ability. This could lead to many things going wrong whether in the field or somewhere else.
Weakness #3	Known to be Risk Takers	Risk taking is not a good idea when lives of people are involved. If I want to take risks with my work, then I'm sure my employers will be more than happy finding someone else that doesn't do that.

STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE GRADUATION

Action #	Description of Action	Steps to be Taken	Date Actions Will be Completed
Action #1	Complete internship before graduation	#1. Complete required classes to register for internship #2. Request internship #3. Give best effort and prioritize the internship	04/2021
Action #2	Understand more about Emergency Management	Take every opportunity I can to learn more about this field (whether its meetings with other emergency managers, or talks with professors)	04/2021

Action #3	Complete FEMA training	Complete the classes that provide FEMA training before graduation	04/2021
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With these specific actions, the only way a stakeholder could help me is if they could give me more insight into Emergency Management. Unless a new stakeholder in my life comes along, I don't believe that they could help me in this process.

Overall, I believe that I can be well suited for this job of Emergency Manager. I have quite a bit of learning to go through before I can actually achieve the goal that I have set out in front of me, but with the help of the resources that I have at my disposal and the stakeholders in my life, I believe that I can achieve this goal through grit and determination. The question at the end of the day will not be if I can do it, but when will I do it.

Work Cited

Emergency Management Specialist (Mitigation). (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/530671100>