

**Priorities/Goals Alignment**

**Point of the Assignment:** To ensure that your priorities and goals are taking you in the same direction.

Often students will start off with a sincere desire to pursue an educational goal, but will find it difficult to stay on track with their pursuits because the choices (even small ones) they make in their everyday lives distract them from giving education the time, money and sacrifices it needs in order to succeed. Therefore, in this assignment, you are going to take the time to consider whether or not your everyday choices are leading you towards your education/career goals or away from them.

At this point in your life, what is your highest educational goal you want to pursue?

- A. Short Term vocational training (less than 1 year full time)
- B. Associates degree (2 years full time)
- C. Bachelor’s degree (4 years full time)
- D. Master’s degree (6-7 years full time)
- E. Doctorate degree (8-10 years fulltime)

1. Are you: 1) Willing and/or 2) able to pursue your educational goals full-time for the whole time?

Yes / No

2. If not, how much of that time must be spent pursuing goals part-time? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Realistically speaking, how long do you anticipate it will take for you to finish that goal? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are you willing to sacrifice the following for this much time?

- Money** (*cost of education: tuition, books, expenses*) Yes / No
  - Financial comfort** (*sacrifice a good-paying job to go school*) Yes / No
  - Material comfort** (*sacrifice “the good life” to go school*) Yes / No
  - Emotional comfort** (*sacrifice an exciting/interesting job to go school*) Yes / No
  - Time spent with family/loved ones** (*including starting or expanding a family*) Yes / No
  - Social Life** (*including your romantic life and “work/life balance”*) Yes / No
  - Freedom** (*including relaxing and leisure time*) Yes / No
  - Ability to “Live in the moment”** (*Including changing plans/delaying planning at all*) Yes / No
- Total Number of questions answered: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5. If have more than **one** “No” answer to the above eight questions, then **your goals and your priorities are not in alignment. Therefore, your goals will not be achieved.**

How many “No” responses did you mark for #4? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Go back to your “Priorities” assignment and identify what number you gave to school: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Remember, according to that assignment, if you ranked school less than #3, then you will likely not finish your educational goals.)*

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7. According to **both** #5 and #6, is school among your top three priorities in your life? **Yes / No**

If yes, that is good.

**If no, then your goals and your priorities are not in alignment**, and therefore your goals will likely not be achieved.

According to #7, are your goals and priorities in alignment? Yes / No

If yes, good job and you may proceed with pursuing your goals.

If “No” then you need to rethink your goals and priorities and make a decision to do one of two things:

- 1) Reassess your priorities and be willing to sacrifice more to achieve your goals
- 2) Reassess your goals to fit in with your priorities

With this in mind, what are you going to change? Goals / Priorities

8. How are you going to make sure your goals and priorities will take you in the same direction?

**Revised Goals:**

Now that you have made sure your goals and priorities are in alignment, has this caused you to reconsider your educational goals? **Yes / No**

Now, ask yourself again: What is your highest educational goal you want to pursue?

- F. Short Term vocational training (less than 1 year full time)
- G. Associates degree (2 years full time)
- H. Bachelor’s degree (4 years full time)
- I. Master’s degree (6-7 years full time)
- J. Doctorate degree (8-10 years fulltime)

**Test your understanding:**

**What is the main point of this assignment?**

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**Why were you expected to do this exercise?**

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**What type of person would need to do this exercise?**

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**How well do you fit the profile of the person for whom this assignment was created?**

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**Reflection:** *(Write down your response after completing this assignment.)*

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