

Stanford EdCareers: Alumni Compass Exercise

NOTE: A completed compass exercise is required for EdCareers coaching appointments and will help us make the most of our 30-minute appointment together. Please upload your completed compass via [this google form](#) at least 48 hours before your appointment.

Creating Your Compass

A little time invested into thinking about how you intend to use your current situation to move your larger career goals forward can be incredibly valuable. The purpose of this exercise is to help you project a path towards your goals. This path will undoubtedly need to be altered, but having a pre-existing plan to alter will help you be more intentional about your choices and help you think through the consequences of your decisions. In no more than three pages, please address each of these areas:

Your Past Trajectory

In 3-5 lines outline the path that brings you here today. Complete sentences are not required.

Sample:

Chicago native>Stanford BA in International Relations, Honors in Ed> School Reform work in Chicago led to interest in evaluation and cost/benefit analysis>MPP at Harvard with evaluation coursework/internship at youth development org.>COO/Interim CEO at youth development organizations, while volunteering for Stanford admissions. Learned the importance of organizational management>MBA Admissions Board >POLIS & Joint MA/MBA Director where I married my passions for education and organizational management

Your Career Aspirations

In 2-5 paragraphs, outline your career aspirations. This can be as broad, narrow, or bifurcated, as it currently stands in your mind. If you have several careers that you aspire towards, then focus on the two that you feel will likely need to be accomplished first. Be thoughtful as to why these are your aspirations and what you are trying to accomplish in the larger landscape of education.

Your Goals for this Career Search

Given where you have been and what you hope to accomplish, what are the two to four goals you intend to accomplish within this career search? How can your any activities, conversations, internships, informational interviews, each strategically move one or more of these goals forward?

Feel free to use paragraphs, bullets, graphics, tables, to help you think through this exercise in a way that is most useful to you. In the end, however, you need to be able to clearly convey your career goals and how you hope to achieve them.