

Gen-AI and Career Research Transcript

Presented by Dr. Bjorn Mercer, Department Chair in the School of Arts, Humanities, and Education

Hello and welcome to this informative video about career research using Copilot. My name is Dr. Bjorn Mercer, a Department Chair in the School of Arts, Humanities, and Education. The first thing we'll need is access to our Copilot. Here is my Copilot; your Copilot might look a little different. There is, of course, the interaction where you will enter your prompt.

For career research, we're talking about basic career research. Remember, when you interact with Copilot, a generative AI tool, you need some sort of context. Here, our prompt is career research. The task is telling Copilot what we're doing: career research. You always need context, especially if you want better outputs. If you want Copilot to give you better information, you need to provide context. For example, "I am an online college student. I am researching possible jobs for my future. I am X years old. I've worked as a [profession] for the last X number of years. I'm getting a bachelor's in [field]. I hope to change my career after I get my degree and retire from the army." For this context, we'll say that you're 35 years old, have worked as a track vehicle repairer in the army for the last 10 years, and are getting a bachelor's in healthcare administration. You're planning on getting your degree in three years. The question for Copilot is, "What are possible jobs I can get with my experience and degree?" Then, of course, you say thank you.

So here we have career research. Copilot starts working and gives you a response. It's great that you're planning ahead. With your background in the army and a degree in healthcare administration, you have a unique combination of skills. Copilot will say things like this all the time. It suggests possible jobs such as hospital administrator, medical manager, facilities manager, training manager, healthcare manager, operations manager, insurance manager, medical officer, healthcare consultant, and more. The reason it's suggesting managerial positions is that you already have ten years of experience; you're not a 22-year-old just starting out. If you were, Copilot would suggest different jobs.

To explore more, Copilot provides sources. You take this information, research the different types of jobs, and go to the suggested websites. Since using Copilot is always an iterative process, you can ask follow-up questions like, "What skills should I focus on developing?" "Can you suggest certifications?" and "What are salary ranges?" Remember, Copilot isn't always 100% correct, so you need to double-check the information it provides.

Let's look at another example. This time, you're 35, have been working in IT for 10 years, and are getting a bachelor's in cybersecurity. You want to change your career after retiring from the army, and you have three more years to go. Copilot suggests jobs like information security analyst, cybersecurity engineer, security architect, ethical hacker, digital forensics examiner, chief information security officer (which is a bit high), security consultant, cybersecurity manager, and incident responder. Again, these suggestions are based on your experience and degree.

Another example: you're 35, have been an infantryman in the army for the last 10 years, and are getting a bachelor's in business administration. Copilot suggests jobs like operations manager, project manager, human resources manager, logistics manager, business development manager, sales manager, consultant, financial analyst (which may require additional training), marketing manager, and training and development manager. These suggestions are based on your age and experience.

Copilot provides sources for further research. This initial career exploration helps point you in the right direction. Always talk to people who have the jobs you want; networking is extraordinarily important.

This video is about initial career exploration after getting a bachelor's degree. My name is Dr. Bjorn Mercer, and thanks for watching.