

Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity Exploration Essay

The research, scholarly, and creative activity competency means conducting a piece of work that is well-researched and informed on a specific topic. In this competency, the skills I will develop include information literacy, information synthesis, original research, and dissemination of results. Information literacy will teach skills to obtain and evaluate research from various sources with different perspectives. Information synthesis is how one processes their existing information with new information to conduct an argument or stance on a specific topic. Original research requires the research to be authentic and your own. Lastly, dissemination of results is when you will publicly share the results or outcomes of your research with others. These skills matter because it helps you conduct research that is not only reliable but also accurate and relevant.

In the past, I have had experiences that have helped me grow in this competency. In high school and college, I have written various research papers which emulate a process similar to the competency. I think that these research paper experiences I have had are helpful because they have prepared me for higher-level research in the future. I have conducted research in my personal and academic life while making big decisions, such as picking the right college and looking for a job and internship. A more extensive research experience I had was when I researched how to earn a debt-free degree. I read books and articles, researched scholarships, and spoke with academic advisors to become informed. This research ultimately led me to have my first year of college paid for, free and clear. Identifying the research I have done in the past is helpful in discovering my current understanding of this competency.

I identified a few possible experiences I could engage in for the development portion of the research, scholarly, and creative activity competency. The first experience that caught my

attention was the idea of submitting a fellowship application. The application process for these awards is very rigorous and takes six to twelve months to complete. The scholarships are also competitive, and applications must be well-prepared. A few business-related scholarships interested me, including Zonta International Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship, Truman Scholarship, and the Boren Award. Being a Presidential Scholar at MSU has been an experience that I believe will also prepare me to apply. Another development experience that I think could be a possibility would be participating in a faculty-led research team. I have had the experience to already meet some great business professors at MSU, and I believe that many of them would be willing to do research with a student if the subject interested them. I would mainly like to conduct a business-related research project related to my management or finance field when I am taking courses that are more related to these majors. Overall, I believe a fellowship application and faculty-led research would be great possibilities for me.

As for the application portion of the research, scholarly, and creative activity competency, I plan to take the Maverick Student Investment Fund (MSIF) course here at MSU. I was first introduced to this opportunity by the College of Business during an advising appointment. As a Finance Major, the Maverick Student Investment Fund was an option for an elective. I learned that in the MSIF, you would invest a large sum of money for the University Foundation. This real-world experience will provide me with knowledge of stocks and investing. I believe this experience is an appropriate choice for my development in the competency because it is related closely to my future career path and major. The experience will be extremely valuable to me, as I will be able to put forward my knowledge and apply what I've learned.

In conclusion, I believe it is important to evaluate my current position of understanding in the research, scholarly, and creative activity competency. My previous experiences engaging in

personal and academic research have set me up to succeed in this competency. I plan to continue to consider my possible development experiences of submitting a fellowship application and participating in a faculty-led research team. I am also eager to take the Maverick Student Investment Fund course as my application experience. I believe conducting research is an incredibly valuable skill to have as it will be an expectation in future careers and also be a presence in my personal life.