

Current Position Description and Information

Name: Azurii Collier

Title: Manager

Current Affiliation: Accenture

Highest Degree Obtained: Ph.D.

Field or sub-discipline (i.e., I/O Psychology, Neuroscience, Social, Clinical): Cognitive Neuroscience

1. Please provide us a short description of your current position, and the work you do on a daily basis. This will be made available to the attendees on a handout as part of the webinar resources (no more than 250 words is needed):

D r. Collier is a Management Consulting Manager in the Life Sciences Practice at Accenture where she consults clients mostly in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Her work includes both R&D and commercial, strategy and business processes. Prior to her career in consulting, she earned a Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience from Northwestern University and completed a NIH NRSA Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine utilizing neuroimaging methods to investigate cognitive processes (namely memory and problem solving). She is passionate about translational biomedical research and driving innovation. Currently, she manages the business process workstream for a global implementation of a solution to streamline regulatory submission processes for a mid size pharmaceutical company.

2. In your current job, are there other titles/roles for people doing similar work at other organization, universities, or companies? If so, what are those titles/roles?

Management Consulting is a broad term that can be applied to many industries ranging from the life sciences to education to technology. Roles related to management consulting may include components like project management, advisory, and strategist.

3. What skills and abilities did you learn in your training (i.e., graduate school, postdoctoral experience), do you find are most useful in your job/career?

Two main skills are most useful in management consulting- strategic thinking and communication. For example, clients rely on consultants to solve tough problems that they are often unable to solve on their own. As such, consultants are expected to quickly understand the problem, structure an approach to resolve the problem and importantly, to gain buy-in on the approach. Each of these activities require strategic and structure thinking as the challenges are often ambiguous and ever changing. Moreover, strong communication skills are absolutely necessary in consulting as each day requires constant emails and meetings. It is imperative to craft clear communications, capture key summaries and develop a communication strategy to meet the client need.

Career Pathway and Past Experiences

4. How did you get the job you are currently in? Please provide a brief history of your career path/journey. Our attendees are interested in knowing more about how one achieves a current position like yours, and what opportunities or experiences help open doors or create opportunities.

Once it became clearer that I was going to pursue an "alternative" career path, I began to engage in policy and business extracurricular activities including the APA Graduate Student Science Council and courses at the Kellogg School of Management. Within these experiences, I was able to build skills and importantly identify the key needs for each career path. Within those experience, I was able to find out what resonated more with my interest then I began to dig deeper into the business side of science. I mentored a start up company based in Chicago and attended biotechnology companies to further my skills, understand industry trends, and build my network in the industries that I wanted to work in.

5. If someone wanted to follow a similar career path to your own, how would you suggest going about it? Please offer specifics/examples whenever possible: (Example: Networking is key. You should join XXXX LinkedIn groups, go to XXXX Meetups and attend XXXX meetings)

Identify the relevant conference for your field and participate as often as possible. Make sure to attend the evening receptions, introduce yourself to others and share you career aspirations. The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) conference is a premier conference for academics, industrialist, financiers and many others engaged in the biotech industry. Identify other groups based on any identity group of interest in you. Often these group provide mentorship specific to navigating the industry and career paths for individuals in that respective identify group (i.e., Women in Biotech (WIB)).

6. Are there specific resources for open positions in your career field, and if so what are they?

Barbara Minto- The Pyramid Principle is a great book on the basics of structure thinking. This reference is considered a "must read" for those interested in consulting.