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Project B: Individual Paper

 I am considering going into the field of investment banking. Investment banking involves “capital financing for a range of customers in global and local businesses” (Lamb). People who work in this field give advice to clients and assist them in raising capital. Investment banking is not a new field. In the 18th and 19th centuries, it started with the merchant-banking model. It has been around for a long time since JP Morgan and National City Bank influenced the market and firms became involved with investment banks. Investment banking is a field that I want to further explore in college.

 The field of investment banking has already seen much change from technology. Internet technology allows for many transactions to occur nationally and in global markets. There is now strong IT support that helps ensure that the information is in real time and correct, which was not possible years ago. Investment banking has become more effortless and efficient because of the risk management systems and numerous trading platforms that have been created (“Impact of Information Technology”). In addition, excel spreadsheets and graphs, word documents, and PowerPoints have made it easier to form financial reports and manage information for clients. Technological advancements have already had an impact on investment banking.

 Investment banking is expected to change a lot in the next 10-30 years due to the emergence of new technologies. Artificial intelligence is expected to impact the financial industry. Banks can use artificial intelligence to have simple algorithms do data entry, risk evaluation, and loan form processing. Furthermore, robotic process automation can create reports and allow banks to reduce human error. In the future, it is expected that AI and automation will act “as the “robo-advisor” for both consumer and business applications” in investment banking (Morgan).

 The field of investment banking will clearly change due to many new technologies. Augmented and virtual reality are also expected to impact investment banking. These technologies can be used for data visualization. They can make it easier to understand information and find trends in data. Also, in a virtual environment there is no limit to the amount of information that people can see at once. AR and VR can even provide an easier way for people in investment banking to collaborate. Furthermore, Blockchain is another technology that is expected to change this field. Blockchain can act as a middleman and solution for fraud reduction, payments, and loan processing (Morgan). Blockchain has the ability to save so much money for banks. Investment banking is expected to be impacted greatly by these new technologies.

 There are challenges that will arise with these changes. New technology will remove jobs in this field. For example, artificial intelligence and automation could take over jobs, especially repetitive single-function ones, that humans would have done in the past (Giorgetti). People will no longer be needed for data collection and processing. There was a report that “robots could wipe out 1.3 million Wall Street jobs in the next 10 years” (Akhtar). People in the field of investment banking will clearly face challenges due to technology.

There are some new jobs that will be created due to these technological changes. An opportunity for people in the field of investment banking will be to program the systems. For example, there will be jobs for customizing artificial intelligence to complete financial tasks. In addition, more jobs based on critical thinking and leadership will arise because machines will not be able to take on those responsibilities (Giorgetti). Technology will have the potential to add some new jobs in investment banking.

Recent graduates in investment banking are expected to have skills they haven’t had in the past. High-level client service and sales skills will be necessary for future jobs in this field (Brewer). Robots will not have soft skills including communication and listening, therefore recent graduates with these abilities will be more valuable. Moreover, students now are expected to have technological skills such as being proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word, and PowerPoint, which were not always needed in the past. Also, flexibility and the ability to meet changing demands is expected for recent graduates, since investment banking is a fast-paced field that will be constantly evolving due to technological advancements. With new technology, recent graduates must have skills that were not needed before.

As a student in the next 4 years, I will take steps to better prepare for these changes. I need to acquire soft skills such as critical thinking and communication. I can get some of these skills in MMC. I can take the Professional Development project group, which will help me with my interviewing and communication skills and the Public Speaking project group, where I can learn how to effectively convey information. Also, I can join other MMC project groups that focus on specific programs such as WordPress or Adobe Creative Apps that will give me technical skills and a competitive edge when applying for jobs. Furthermore, in the next 4 years I will apply for an officer position in a student organization in order to build my leadership skills and take on more responsibility. I will apply for internships, which will not only give me experience working in investment banking and learning leading-edge technologies such as Blockchain and AI, but also it will help me figure out the type of work I enjoy doing. I will be accountable as a student in the next 4 years and follow my plan to prepare for these changes.

Some of the research I did on investment banking surprised me. I already was aware that investment banking has been around for a long time. I did not fully realize the amount of new technologies that will impact this field in the next 10-30 years, though. This research did not change my opinion about investment banking because I expected it to be a field that rapidly changes. In addition, I knew there would be a lot of competition and especially with AI and automation removing some jobs, there will continue to be more and I will have to find ways to stand out. Overall my research of investment banking has helped me better understand the career field I want to explore and prepared me for the steps I need to take in the next 4 years.

Works Cited

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