**Spiritual Discernment and Vocational Counseling Paper Instructions**

Directions: The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize you with the various views of vocational decision making and the will of God that are advocated in Christian circles today and to encourage you to examine your own view and how it may influence your counseling. To complete this paper, download the article “Discerning Spiritual Discernment: Assessing Current Approaches for Understanding God’s Will” by Dennis Horton, which is found in Module/Week 2.

Dividing your paper in the headings below, write an 8–10-page, APA-formatted paper that includes an abstract and reference page. Be sure to include at least 3 resources other than the above article to support your position and assertions. Your paper may be written in first person. Save your paper in a MS Word format as: Your last name\_first initial\_position\_ paper (Example: Doe\_J\_position\_paper).

Your paper is due by the end of Module/Week 2. Please note that there are multiple SafeAssign submission links for this assignment: three are *Draft* submission links, which allow you to check your paper for plagiarism, and one is the *Final* submission link, which will be graded by your instructor*.* You will have to submit this paper *at least two times*. First, submit it through the link titled “Spiritual Discernment and Vocational Counseling Paper *Draft 1*.” Click on that same link to ensure that your paper has a similarity index less than 10%. If you achieve less than 10% in your first submission, you may simply submit your paper through the *Final* link without using the other *Draft* links. If, however, your similarity index is greater than 10%, you must re-work your assignment and resubmit through the other *Draft* links, up to three times using the separate links. (Please note that each link can only be used one time.) After the third attempt (should you need to use all three), you will be required to submit the paper through the *Final* link. **Any paper submitted through the *Final* link with a similarity index greater than 10% will receive a 0 for the assignment.** For more information on SafeAssign and directions go to the Blackboard 9 tutorials found on you Blackboard homepage.

1. Personal Position

* Using the survey found at the end of the article, which decision-making factors are “very important” to you when making career decisions?
* Based on these factors, which approach to spiritual discernment, as described by Horton, are you most likely to follow? Why?

1. Past & Present Influences

* What past and present factors could have influenced your approach to spiritual discernment? Be sure to include family, spiritual heritage and religious background, present religious beliefs, past experiences.

1. Practical Application

A client comes to you for counseling. She states she is a Christian, in her third year of undergraduate school. She states she is struggling to choose a major because, “I am afraid that it may not be God’s will.”

* What steps will you take to help her navigate this impasse? Why?
* How might your personal position influence how you address this client’s concerns?