

Choosing The Right Career

Perhaps you're just entering the workforce or maybe you're just ready to change careers (for whatever reason). To be happy and satisfied in the work that you do, you need to take the time to plan your career out, something most people don't do. They take whatever job's available, in an industry they may or may not have an interest in. Or they train for a specialty, then down the road realize that this is not the work they want to be doing. So, before you start applying to any job position, it's in your best interest to plan out what type of career best suits you.

{mosimage}When planning out a career, you need to take into consideration a lot of things. Don't think of career planning as a single event you do once in your life. It's not. This is a lifelong process and one that may see you in several different occupations over your lifetime. Make the right career choice before switching jobs by using career aptitude tests and researching various vocations.

** How to go about selecting career choices **

1. Assess Yourself

Start by assessing yourself. You need to write down your interests, skills, aptitudes, preferred working environments, how you see your career growing, knowledge, disabilities, and values.

2. Explore Your Options

Then you need to explore your options. Start by researching various vocations and industries. Check the labor market - is there stiff competition for the careers that your interested in or are they growing industries? Do you need additional training to enter these career fields? How much knowledge and skills do you already have to perform this type of work? Where can you do this job (some are location specific)?

3. Narrow Down Your Career Choices

Narrow your options down to 2 or 3 possible careers and research them further. Can you find someone to job shadow for a day or two to get a feel for your possible career choices? It would help you to find out if you'd really like to work in that environment or not. Keep in mind, our imaginations can often make a career look more appealing than it really is. Talk to other people who work in the career fields you've picked to find out more information about the work that they do. Explore possible alternatives that are related to that vocation that might also be a suitable match.

4. Develop a Plan

Once you've finally narrowed it down to what you feel is a great career choice, develop a plan on entering that field. Write down the steps that you need to take in order to reach your chosen career. Research where you can get additional training, if needed (online courses, university, community college, trade school, etc.) Rewrite your resume so that it targets that career field. Develop a plan on how you are going to go about finding a job in that particular field and prepare yourself for job interviews.

** Exploring Career Aptitude Tests **

All of the above can be a bit daunting and difficult to do on your own. You may want to consider taking a career aptitude test to help you narrow down the best possible

occupations to begin your research. An aptitude test can help identify your inherent abilities in relation to numerical reasoning, mechanical reasoning, abstract reasoning, spatial relations, verbal reasoning, language usage and spelling. It wouldn't do you much good to go into a career as a political debater if your verbal reasoning and language usage is a low skill for you. For example, an aptitude test can tell you if you're lousy at clerical work (and here you've been working as a secretary these past 10 years - and hating it), but would make a great investigator because of your reasoning abilities and fine eye for details.

Another good test to take is an Occupational Interest test. This type of assessment identifies the type of career interests that you have and gives you a career profile best suited toward your interests and abilities. You may even want to consider a personality test as well, such as the Myers-Briggs test. A personality test can tell you a lot about your behavior and how it affects you in your daily life.

Getting to know yourself and what you want out of life, plus what your natural abilities are is one of the best ways to find the perfect career vocation for you. Don't just jump into another job. Plan your career carefully for a more satisfying and rewarding life.

Rose Smith, Operator of <http://www.Resume-Help-Online.com>
Courtesy of yongoo.com

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.