Choosing a Career Path

One of the most important decisions you will make is your choice of a career. This decision is important because our world is constantly changing. The jobs of the future will require more education and training than ever before. The better prepared you are, the greater your chances for success.

To choose a career that fits your goals, dreams, and expectations you will need to ask yourself: What kind of career have I always wanted? Why?

Find out what it is you love to do, and then find out what kind of jobs and careers are available in that area of interest.

Envision Your Ideal Job

1. Describe below your ideal job. Do not rule out any options because you think it is impossible or impractical to achieve them. (Although we cannot all be professional basketball players, we can discover why we want to be professional athletes.)

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Now list the characteristics of your ideal job that make it appealing to you. For example, if your ideal job is in advertising, think about what it is about that kind of work that appeals most to you. Be very specific.

   Ask yourself the following questions:

   ✓ What activities make me feel good about myself?
   ✓ What gets me excited?
   ✓ What did I want to be when I was young? Why did this interest me?
   ✓ Which interests have stayed with me for a long time?
   ✓ Which activities make me feel confident?
Activity (continued)

Now you’re ready to start thinking about two to three possible career paths. Research the demand for these careers over a period of five to ten years and list them below.

___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

Activity  Think of two or three different career paths that interest you. Call the Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, or your state employment department to research the future of these careers. These agencies regularly analyze all types of careers and predict their future existence and the demand for them in years to come. Share your information with the class. ▼