



FACT SHEET

Choosing a Career



Students in high school and college often think that the best careers are the ones that pay you a lot of money. And sometimes they're right...and sometimes they're not!

When you're in high school, for example, becoming an engineer or a nurse sounds great, but if you don't have a talent for science and math or even like science and math, then your odds of actually becoming an engineer or nurse are slim to none.

Not long ago, an individual went to school to learn one occupation and then worked in that occupation until retirement. Research today, however, states that people nowadays change jobs 12-15 times over their lifetime.

It's more important now than ever before that you make certain that you have the fundamental knowledge base, learning skills, and tools needed to start you off successfully on the path to your option of having multiple career success.

Here are a few strategies to help get you started on choosing your future career (s):

1. First, determine what are your skills, talents, and passions—they are not necessarily the same.
2. Take occupational/personality assessments to help you determine your skills and abilities.
3. **Explore occupations** within your major and those tangentially related to it such as a thoracic surgeon and a physical therapist, both in the medical field, but each quite different from the other.
4. Of course, research the internet for career info, but don't make that your only search tool...seek advice from peers, family members, professional acquaintances, faculty, etc.

5. Visit with your [campus' career advisor](#) and ask about establishing a career portfolio, a collection of work associated items like resumes that address your potential as a working professional.
6. Develop a lifelong learning mindset—the on-going, rapidly changing growth of new technologies is an excellent example of the importance of having a lifelong learning perspective.
7. Arrange for informational interviews—speak to an accountant, lawyer, doctor, business manager, etc. and ask them the pros and cons of their professions.
8. Learn about potential [career workplace environments](#).
For example, if you are interested in medicine, seek summer employment in a hospital or if you want to own your own small business, seek part time employment in places like beauty shops, retail stores, legal firms, etc.
9. Seriously consider volunteer opportunities as a pathway for career exploration.

*And finally, become a believer and
"Do What You Love, and the Money will Follow!"*

