



Austin Belcak ✓

@austinbelcak

Career advice I know at 31 that I wish I knew at 18:



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1. If the subjects you cover in school aren't exciting to you, find ways to get involved in things that are.

Take courses, read books on topics you love, find online communities, etc.

Don't be limited by a curriculum.

Go explore — that's how you figure out what you want to do!



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2. Get in the habit of having a side project.

Take something that genuinely interests you and find ways to apply it to the real world.

Start an Instagram page for your photography.

Create jewelry and sell it on Etsy.

These look AMAZING on resumes and can generate income!



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3. Reach out to anyone and everyone - aim BIG!

CEOs, entrepreneurs, alumni, etc.

Who inspires you?

Make a list and email one person on it every single day.

If they don't reply or say "no?"

You're in the same place you are right now.

If they do?

The sky is the limit.



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4. Understand that failure is part of the process.

Social media glorifies highlights.

But no successful person nailed it on the first try.

They all failed many, many times before.

The earlier you start testing, failing, & learning?

The faster you'll accelerate your career.



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5. Only take advice from people who already have what you want.

Parents, friends, and teachers have your best interests at heart.

But they typically won't understand your goals.

If you want to win, find people who have already achieved the specific goals you have for yourself.



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6. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

Need a job? Let people know.

Deserve a raise? Ask your manager.

Want a promotion? Tell the higher ups.

While results play a big role in success, they're not enough on their own.

You need to be vocal and advocate for what you want.



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7. Experience is worth more than money early on.

The more experience you get up front, the higher your earning potential down the road.

Optimize for learning in your 20s.

Optimize for salary in your 30s.

Optimize for assets in your 40s and beyond.



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8. Aim to be the most helpful person in the room.

Most people want to be the smartest person in the room.

That's not helping anyone.

The more you give to others, the more social capital you have in those relationships.

I've found that when I give freely, it comes back 10x.



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9. Work hard, but not at the expense of missing your life.

You need to work hard to win.

But "working hard" doesn't mean:

- Burning out
- Getting <5 hours / sleep
- Missing time with friends
- Etc.

You can always ramp up work.

You can't get back precious experiences.



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10. You are the CEO of your career and your life.

Work is a business transaction.

Sure, it's amazing to love what you do.

But don't let those feelings cloud the fact that companies will always do what's in their best interest.

You should feel empowered to do what's in yours.

Ready To Go Deeper?

I'm giving away my 5 most effective strategies for landing a job you love without applying online.

They're worth \$297+ but you can join 120,000+ job seekers to get them for free at:

CultivatedCulture.com/Newsletter

