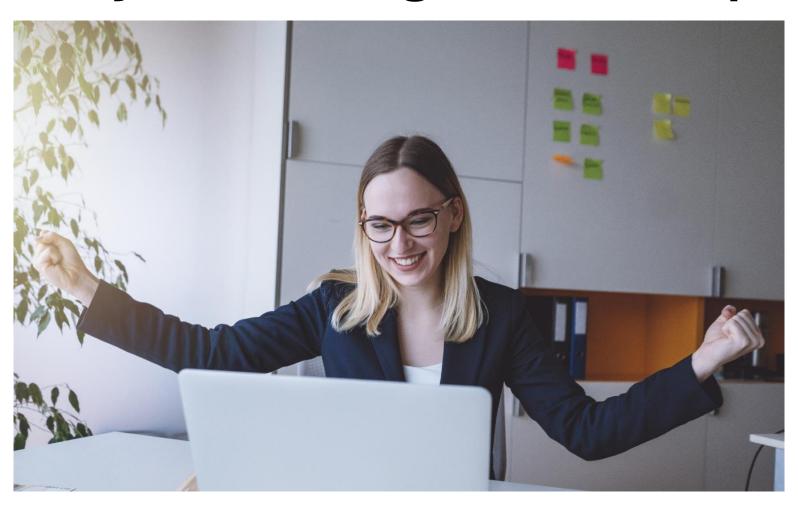# Part 2: Exploring Career Options

Aligning values and interests to find your career match

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Why Career Alignment is Important

- Choosing a career that aligns with your personal values and interests is crucial for job satisfaction and fulfillment.

- Making intentional career choices can lead to increased job satisfaction, personal fulfillment, and a sense of purpose.

- Feeling fulfilled in your career can help to reduce stress and promote better mental health and increase overall happiness.

Researching Industries and Roles

Step 1: Narrow Down an Industry

- Healthcare

- Technology

- Arts and Entertainment

- Trades

- Education

- Military

- Business

- Entrepreneurship

- Social Work

Step 2: Narrow Down a Role

Each industry has a variety of roles available that require different skills and experiences. It is important to research these roles to determine if they align with your career goals and to help you understand the qualifications and skills necessary for these positions.

Researching Industries and Roles

Step 2: Narrow Down a Role

•**Healthcare:** Patient care, medical research, and health administration.

•**Technology:** Software development, cybersecurity, and IT support.

•**Arts and Entertainment:** Design, music, and performance.

•**Trades:** Cosmetologist, chef/ culinary arts, technician.

•**Education:** Teaching, administration, and support roles.

•**Military:** Combat roles, logistics, and technical support.

•**Business:** Management, finance, marketing, and human resources.

•**Entrepreneurship:** Starting and managing your own business.

•**Social Work:** Counseling, advocacy, and support.

Education Pathways

Step 3: What's needed to get the role

College (Bachelor's and Master's Degrees)

Trade School

Skill-based Learning

Education Pathways

College (Bachelor's and Master's Degrees)

Pros

Cons

Education Pathways

College (Bachelor's and Master's Degrees)

Pros

- Broad knowledge
- Networking opportunities
- Higher earning potential
- Access to extracurricular activities and resources
- Development of critical thinking, soft skills, and social skills

Cons

- Cost (High Potential for Debt)
- Time commitment
- Uncertain return on investment for some degrees
- Opportunity cost of real world pra

Examples: Doctor, Engineer, Teacher, Scientist, Manager, Psychologist, Analyst

Education Pathways

Trade School

Pros

Cons

Education Pathways

Trade School

Pros

- Hands-on experience and direct skills
- Shorter duration
- High demand for skilled trades
- Lower cost than college
- Some networking opportunities and resources
- Direct pathway to employment in specific roles

Cons

- Education more limited in scope compared to college
- May require additional certifications or licenses
- Potentially lower earning potential

Examples: Electrician, Welder, Chef, Automotive Technician, Cosmetologist, EMT, Medical Assistant

Education Pathways

Skill-based Learning

Cons

Education Pathways

Skill-based Learning

Pros

- Flexibility to go at your own pace
- Specific skills tailored to industry needs, much choose wisely
- Most affordable
- Tailor your learning and development to what you're interested in

Cons

- Holds less recognition compared to trade school
- Must choose the right resources
- Self-motivation required
- May need a portfolio or certification to prove skills
- Almost no networking opportunities
- Harder to find a job in tougher job markets

Examples: Freelance Writer, Digital Marketer, Developer, Data Entry, Video Editor, Online Tutor

Factors in Career Selection

Hard skills vs. soft skills

- Hard skills: Medical, nail design, graphic design, ect.
- Soft skills: Teamwork, compassion, adaptability, problem solving, resilience.

Values

- Work-life balance
- Desire to help others
- Innovation and creativity

Interests

- Daily Engagement: The ability to find joy and purpose in your work.
- Sustained Motivation: How passion fuels perseverance and growth in your career.
- Continuing Education: More willing to pursue additional training or education to improve their skills.

Activity Examples

Industry: Military

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.

Roles:

- Combat Roles: Infantry, Special Forces, Artillery.
- Support Roles: Logistics, Intelligence Analyst, Human Resources Specialist.
- Technical Roles: Cybersecurity Specialist, Aircraft Mechanic, Medical Corpsman

Industry: Child Development

Focus: Supporting children's growth and development in various settings.

Roles:

- Childhood Educator: Teaches and nurtures children in preschool settings.
- Child Development Specialist: Assesses and supports developmental milestones.
- Child Psychologist: Focuses on mental and emotional health.

Industry: Social Work

Areas of Practice: Child Welfare, Healthcare, Mental Health, School Social Work.

Roles:

- Clinical Social Worker: Provides therapy and counseling.
- School Social Worker: Supports students' emotional and social well-being.
- Child Welfare Specialist: Works to protect children and support families.
- Healthcare Social Worker: Assists patients in navigating healthcare systems.

Industry: Entrepreneurship in Beauty Services

Focus: Providing personal care and beauty services.

Roles:

- Nail Technician: Specializes in nail care, manicures, and pedicures.
- Beautician/Esthetician: Provides skincare, makeup, and beauty treatments.
- Salon Owner: Manages and operates a beauty salon or spa.
- Freelance Makeup Artist: Offers services for events like weddings and photoshoots.