

Title:

Career Planning

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Summary:

Whether you are about to graduate from college, or want to change jobs at a later point in life, career planning is a very important aspect of the process.

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Article Body:

Whether you are about to graduate from college, or want to change jobs at a later point in life, career planning is a very important aspect of the process. Before you actually start applying for positions, it is essential to be certain of the areas you would like to work in. The worst thing that could happen is not to take any steps in the career planning process, and end up in a job that you are unhappy with, or do not have the proper skill set for.

Career quizzes are often helpful in the career planning process. These are often a great first step when trying to determine what type of jobs you'd be best suited for. Many are available online, and address some of the following areas: identifying your skills and abilities; determining if you prefer working with people, data or things; or summarizing what workplace values are most important to you. By compiling all of this information, you'll usually get a general idea of what fields you should be seriously checking out. The quizzes often list suitable occupations based on your answers.

One avenue that would be best to explore is signing up for career counseling. There are many free services, mainly ones offered by the government, or at post-secondary institutions, that will get you started on your career planning journey. Career counselors are trained professionals that will be able to offer you advice and make realistic recommendations on what area you would be best suited to work in. They will look over your academic training, and often administer aptitude tests to see what careers you should be exploring.

Researching companies that you could picture yourself working for is another great step in the career planning process. Check out their websites for information, and to see what type of positions they may be hiring for. When

possible, try to set up a meeting with a member of the department you'd like to be a part of, so that you may ask them questions and find out about the day to day aspects of the company on a more intimate level. Check the newspapers and magazines to see if the company is mentioned at all, and see if the articles are favorable or not. Although this may seem very simple, it can be a valuable part of your career planning.

If you think you may need to go back to school in order to make a career change, obtaining a catalogue from a local post-secondary institution is a good way to kick start career planning. Look through what programs are offered, what skills are required to be accepted to programs of interest, and what type of a time commitment you'd be looking at in order to make this change. See if prior employment or life experience will work in your favor, and give you advanced standing into your selected programs. People often forget to check into educational requirements for certain careers, and may waste time and energy by skipping this step in the career planning process.

An often underrated aspect of career planning is talking with your friends and family. Discuss with them in detail what it is they do, and ask them to honestly tell you what they could picture you doing for a living. Who knows? They may see something that you've overlooked, and it could be the missing link to your career planning process.

Career planning is something that everyone is faced with at some point in their lives, and it should not be taken lightly, although you can have some fun with it. Most important of all is to be honest and realistic with yourself, and make sure you ultimately choose a path that will make you happy and keep you financially secure.