



Exploring Yourself

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Questioning yourself about your areas of interest is the most critical step in beginning the career development process. Career satisfaction depends on more than the monetary benefits of being employed. Becoming a successful professional also encompasses your job fulfillment through your wants and needs in regards to job responsibilities, work environment, location and many other factors. Asking yourself the following questions will help you identify some of your goals for your future career.

- What do I like to do?
 - What are my favorite free-time activities?
 - What do I like the most about my major?
 - What is my ideal work environment? (Do I want to work in a small business, large company, for a government agency, for a non-profit organization, other?)
 - Do I prefer a desk job, an outdoors job or a combination?
 - Do I have a geographic preference?
 - Do I want to work with people, data or things?
 - Do I prefer to work by myself or with others?
 - Do I want to follow directions or direct others?
 - Do I prefer to be self-guided or closely supervised?
 - Do I prefer projects or regular routines?
 - Do I want to do mental work or physical work?
 - What are 3-5 occupations I would consider after college and why does each of these occupations interest me?
 - Who has a job I would like to have, what do they do and why is it appealing to me?
 - What are my strongest or most useful skills?
 - What are other skills/traits I have that could help me in my job?
 - What are skills/traits others tell me I have?
 - What skills/traits would I like to develop or improve?
- What type of compensation is most important to me? (How do salary, benefits, job security, advancement opportunities, continuing education or professional development opportunities, and creative authority rank in order of importance?)
 - What kinds of working conditions do I want?
 - Do I want to work as part of a team or by myself?
 - Do I want a nine-to-five job or one in which I can set my own hours?
 - Do I thrive in a high-stress atmosphere, or would I prefer something a bit more laid-back?
 - Do I want an office position or one that involves travel?
 - Do I want to stay in a particular city long-term, or do I want to relocate?
 - What kinds of benefits do I want, and what salary range do I desire?
 - Do I want a set salary, or would I prefer to work on commission?
 - What would I most like to be doing in my job?
 - For whom would I most like to work?
 - Are there skills I'd like to attain in order to move toward my final goal?
 - Career-wise, where do I want to be in five years? In ten years?