

Confused About Your Career Path? – 16 Steps to Find the Right Career

By Casey Slide at <http://www.moneycrashers.com/confused-find-right-career-path/>

I had a difficult time choosing a career path in college, and when people heard that **I** didn't know what I wanted to do for a living, they would give me advice. Some would say, "What would you do if you didn't have to worry about money? Turn that into your career." Others would say, "Pursue a career where you can make the most money from the least amount of work." While both of these statements have value, there is a more thorough way to choose a career based on your passions, values, and abilities. If you're confused about which career path to follow, consider these 16 tips to help you find the solution to your career choice.

Take Action

1. Consider Your Hobbies

Before you do anything, *consider*, think about, what your hobbies are and write them down. Also consider why you enjoy these hobbies. If you like to bake, for example, perhaps the reason is because you like to create, and a creative career like wedding cake design would be a good fit for you. Or if you enjoy running, maybe it's because you like challenging yourself and working hard to achieve a goal. A career that demands and rewards hard work with pay raises, promotions, or commissions could be one to consider.



2. Visit a Career Resource Center

When I was in college, there was a huge career resource center on campus. **It** was similar to a library with tons of books and *periodicals* (magazines) and was lined with computers. A student could research almost any career imaginable. The Library is another place to go also.

3. Speak to an Academic Advisor

Speak with an Academic Advisor and get advice from them. You can also talk with your Peer Advisor.

4. Take a Test

An Academic Advisor may suggest you take a test to help figure out what your areas of interests are. A popular test is the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, but there are others as well. If you look for tests online, be careful. Some tests cost money and may not be completely reliable.

5. Interview Professionals

If you are interested in several great careers, interview people already working in those careers. Call someone you already know in an area that interests you or call local businesses and ask to

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Pictures taken from <http://www.wikihow.com/Decide-on-a-Career-Field>

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do a quick phone interview. Most people are happy to discuss their day-to-day activities with a willing listener. If you don't know someone in that career, maybe a professor or friend can refer you to someone.

6. Shadow Someone

When you conduct your phone interview, ask if you can *shadow*, or follow someone for a day. That will give you a clear idea of what their day is like and what responsibilities they have. In my previous job, I often observed hospital employees to provide operational improvement ideas. During my years with the hospital, I learned there were many jobs I would like to do and many jobs I wouldn't. If I hadn't observed the employees, I would never have known this.



7. Get an Internship

If you've shadowed someone for a day or more and still like the position, get an internship or summer job. This will give you work experience and could open the door to a future job. If your education qualifies you for a lot of different jobs (e.g. a business degree), an internship may allow you to evaluate what kind of job you would like and develop skills that could be required in a future job as well.

8. Volunteer

If you are not positive you want to do an internship of several months, consider volunteering. You'll still learn about the job, but can easily leave it if you decide it's not for you.

9. Get a Broad Education

If you are a student who can't decide what to major in, try for a broad education instead of guessing at something specific. If later you decide on a career path, you can specialize in it then. For example, if you like science, but don't know which area you want to pour your heart and soul into, don't major in something like Cell Biology. One thing that led me to my Industrial Engineering major was that it covered a range of topics like math, business, and even sales.

10. Take a Class

While taking a class in chemistry may not tell you what it is like to be a chemist, you will find out whether or not you enjoy the subject. If you think you may be interested in a particular area, sign up for a class to find out for sure.

11. Go to a Networking Group

Many social groups may benefit you in your career hunt. Check out a career networking group and talk to people about careers they are interested in and why. Or attend meetings that focus on particular careers, such as a group for future doctors. Just make sure you are allowed to attend the meeting if you are not a member

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Have the Right Mindset

12. Don't Be Afraid

If you really want to find the best career for you, don't be afraid to make phone calls and follow someone around for a day. Or make the phone calls and follow someone around in spite of your fear. You may miss out on a great career opportunity if you don't.

13. Be Open

Just because you (or your parents) have always wanted (you) to be a doctor or engineer that doesn't mean there isn't a job out there that would be better for you. Therefore keep an open mind. People develop and change and maybe what you thought would be a good career 4 years ago isn't the best choice now.

14. Remember Your Values

If you would like to be involved with your family, you will not want a career that requires a lot of travel. Take a look at your priorities and understand how or if they'll be affected by the careers you consider. If a possible career will not allow you to live the way you want, check it off your list.

15. Don't Settle

If you have been searching hard and continue to be confused, don't give up or reduce your goals. That said, most of us have to work, and you may need to push through a job you hate for a while. If that's the case, find parts of your current job that you enjoy. See if you can move into positions that allow you to work more in those areas, or develop skills to transfer to a new job. Also discipline yourself to responsibly use free time to follow the steps above. We're happiest when we achieve our full potential. Even if it takes many years to find a *satisfying* -giving a feeling of happiness or pleasure- career, it's better late than never.

16. Switch Careers

If you make a wrong choice, you are not stuck. You can change career paths at any time. Besides, it's normal to have several careers throughout a lifetime. Plus, many creative people are making independent careers out of their hobbies, education, and past work experience by starting a business.

Final Word

You need to realize that the more effort you put into your search for the right career, the more successful you will be. Work hard and put in a lot of time and effort because change like this is usually challenging, but often rewarding.

Do you have any other ideas on finding your perfect career?



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Pictures taken from <http://www.wikihow.com/Decide-on-a-Career-Field>

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Short Answer Questions: *Put the correct answer in the blank in seven words or less.*

1. How many tips does the author give for choosing a career? _____
2. According to the author before you do anything what should you think about?

3. Where can a student go to research almost any career imaginable? _____
4. What is a popular test that an academic advisor may suggest? _____
5. What may allow you to evaluate what kind of job you would like and develop skills that might be required in a future job? _____
6. If you are not positive you want to do an internship of several months, what can you do instead? _____
7. If a possible career will not allow you to live the way you want, what should you do?

8. According to the author we are happiest when we _____.
9. On what website can this article be found? _____

True, False, Not Given: *Type T for True, F for False and NG for not given in the blanks below.*

1. _____ The authors name is Casey Slide.
2. _____ The library is a good place to go to do research on careers.
3. _____ You should not go to your peer advisor to discuss career choices.
4. _____ Most people want to talk about their day-to-day activities to someone willing to listen.
5. _____ The author was a hospital consultant.
6. _____ You may miss out on a great career opportunity if you are too afraid to shadow someone.
7. _____ People should keep an open mind when deciding on a career.
8. _____ If you can't find a career you should just give up.
9. _____ if you make a wrong career choice you are stuck.
10. _____ Change is usually challenging but rewarding.

Vocabulary in Context: *Write the meaning of the word as given in the story*

1. **consider** (tip one) _____
2. **periodicals** (tip two) _____
3. **shadow** (tip six) _____
4. **satisfying** (tip fifteen) _____

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Pronoun Reference: *In the blank write what the pronoun refers to.*

1. I (introduction) _____
2. It (tip 2) _____
3. It (tip 8) _____
4. You (tip 9) _____

Dictionary Definition: *Look at how the underlined word is used in the sentence in Tip 14 then pick the best definition. Put the number for the correct definition in the blank*

_____ Take a look at your priorities and understand how or if they'll be affected by the careers you consider.

pri-or-i-ty

praɪ'ɔːrɪti, - Spelled [prahy-awr-i-tee]

noun, plural pri-or-i-ties for 2–4.

1. the state or quality of being earlier in time, occurrence, etc.
2. the right to precede others in order, rank, privilege, etc.; precedence.
3. the right to take precedence in obtaining certain supplies, services, facilities, etc., especially during a shortage.
4. something given special attention.

adjective

5. highest or higher in importance, rank, privilege, etc.: *a priority task.*

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/priorities?s=t>