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Career Planning

Career planning is a major ongoing process. You can never begin planning too soon for a career. The career you eventually choose will affect the quality of your life.

One big step in career planning is to learn about various jobs. You can learn about jobs from many sources. One very good source for learning about jobs is described here.

The *Occupational Outlook Handbook* is a nationally recognized source of career information, designed to provide valuable assistance to individuals making decisions about their future work lives. Revised every two years, the *Handbook* describes what workers do on the job, working conditions, the training and education needed, earnings, and expected job prospects in a wide range of occupations. (United States Department of Labor)

This book describes thousands of jobs. Some of the jobs described are rock star, athlete, zookeeper, police officer, and reporter. In addition, the *Handbook* tells you where you can get more information about a career.

Self-Assessment

Another useful step in career planning is to do a self-assessment. This assessment reveals your values and interests. It gives you more choices and adds to your career options. Then you can feel sure that you are on the right career path. (University of Waterloo)

Values and Interests

Your values help you set your priorities in life. They show how important family, security, and wealth are to you. (Fulton-Calkins and Stulz 37) You should identify your values early in life. Then you can weigh those values when you choose a career. For example, if you like to spend weekends with your family, choose a career that does not require you to work weekends.

Interests are activities you like or subjects that appeal to you. By listing and studying your interests, you will be able to identify a desirable work setting. For example, your list may show that you like to work with things more than with people. Perhaps you like to work alone most of the time and work with others only once in a while. You may like to work outdoors rather than indoors.

Works Cited

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