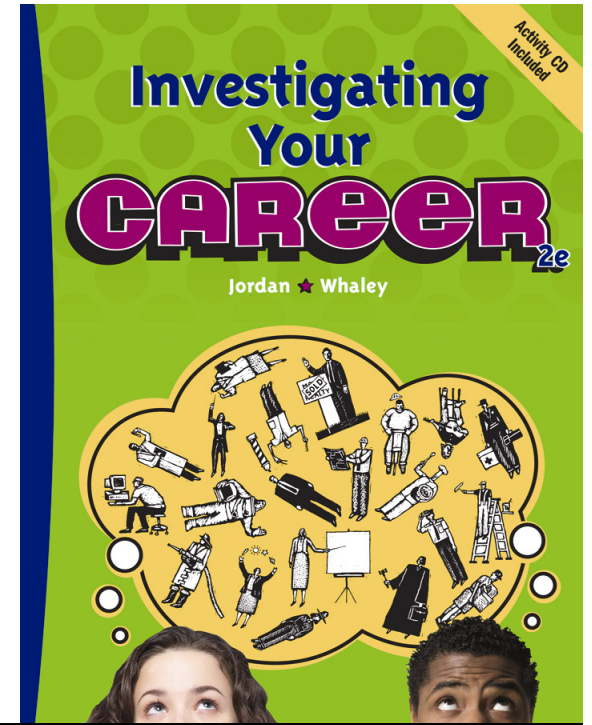


chapter  
1

# Preparing Your Path to Success



## *Investigating Your Career*

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## CHAPTER 1

# Preparing Your Path to Success

### Goals

- \* Discuss realistic career expectations.
- \* Compare the differences between job, occupation, and career.
- \* Describe the steps in the *P\*A\*T\*H to Success*.
- \* Explain why career planning should begin now.
- \* Describe how career planning supports career success.

# Career Expectations

- Your expectations
- Your peers' expectations
- The reality



# Your Expectations

What do you expect from a career?

- Use of your strengths?
- Service to others?
- Creativity?
- Variety?
- Balance in your life?
- Specific location?
- Title and position?
- Fame?
- Income?

# Your Peer's Expectations

## What do your peers expect?

- Nearly one in three intends to have a professional career.
- One in twenty college students expects to become an actor, an artist, or a musician.
- Few dream about a blue-collar career unless it is one in the military.
- Almost all expect to have a high-status job with high pay.
- Eighty percent expect to graduate with a bachelor's degree.
- Many believe that a bachelor's degree is a vital tool for success.
- Seventy percent expect to earn an advanced degree.

# The Reality

## Student Choices

- Teacher
- Doctor
- Lawyer
- Sports field
- Science/biology

## Fast-Growing Occupations

- Home health aide
- Network systems/data communications analyst
- Medical assistant
- Physician's assistant
- Computer software applications engineer
- Physical therapy assistant
- Dental hygienist
- Computer software systems engineer
- Dental assistant
- Personal care aide

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## The Reality

- Battelle Institute predicts that the top ten careers of 2014 do not currently exist as career choices.
- Make sure you prepare for a career that will be available when you finish your education or skill training.

## Job—Occupation—Career

*Job, occupation, career*—do those terms all have the same basic meaning?

- Job
- Occupation
- Career
- A career or a job?



# Job

- A **job** is a paid position involving a specific place and time and specific tasks set by an employer.
- A job is often temporary. After the age of 25, a person changes jobs an average of 10 to 15 times throughout his or her lifetime.

# Occupation

- An **occupation** is a specific set of skills that requires special training, education, or experience.
- People in an occupation may consider their occupation as a job or a career.

# Career

- A **career** describes a lifetime work history or long-term participation in a particular field.
- The average adult changes careers between five and eight times from age 25 until the end of working.

## A Career or a Job?

- You may choose a job based on its location and pay rather than on the fact that you will like the job in the long run.
- Liking a career is very important because your career path will affect all aspects of your life.
- The closer your career is to your talents and passions, the more satisfied you will be with your career.

## Your *P\*A\*T\*H* to Success

- Finding your path to a satisfying career requires careful planning and thoughtful decisions.
- You hold the key to discovering your career—knowing yourself.
- Evaluate who you are so you can find out who you can be.
- The *P\*A\*T\*H* to Success is a four-step tool to help you begin your self-discovery process.

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## Your **P\*A\*T\*H** to Success

- **P**assion
- **A**ttitude
- **T**alents
- **H**earth

# Passion

Uncovering your passions is the first step on your *P\*A\*T\*H to Success*.

- **Passion** refers to the strong, positive feelings you experience while enjoying something.
- Being good at something does not always mean you enjoy it.
- Begin to identify your career-related passions by thinking about what makes you happy.

# Attitude

Choosing a positive attitude is the second step on your *P\*A\*T\*H to Success*.

- **Attitude** refers to the way you feel about something.
- Enthusiasm and the belief that you can excel make up a positive attitude.



# Talents

Determining and developing your talents make up the third step on your *P\*A\*T\*H to Success*.

- Talents are natural strengths and abilities.
- Choosing a career that matches your talents will help you expand your strengths to create your career path.

# Heart

Finding your heart is the fourth step on your *P\*A\*T\*H to Success*.

- **Heart** refers to what you believe is important to your life choices.
- What are your values?
- Who and what are important influences in your life?

## Why Plan Now?

- Employers expect you to plan and direct your own career development.
- Success in the competitive job market requires:
  - Transferable skills.
  - Specialized skills.
  - A broad skill base.
  - The ability to adapt to the always-changing hot fields in the labor market.
- Plan now for current and lifelong learning so you will be ready to meet the future.

# Planning for Career Success

What is a career plan?

- A career plan is similar to a proposed schedule of a journey.
- To build your career plan, you will:
  - Travel the *P\*A\*T\*H to Success*.
  - Research career clusters.
  - Identify skill requirements in your chosen career clusters.
  - Set goals for education, training, and experience.

# Succeed through Career Planning

- The process of developing a career plan will help you organize your thoughts toward your future in a satisfying career.
- Benefits of having a career plan:
  - You will have a good idea of where you are going.
  - You will have a great design of how to get there.
  - You will be able to picture your future.
- Knowing the reality of your situation helps you reach your goals.

## Summary

- I can identify realistic career expectations.
- I know the differences between the meanings of the terms *job*, *occupation*, and *career*.
- I can describe the steps of the *P\*A\*T\*H to Success*.
- I understand why career planning should begin now.
- I can describe how career planning supports career success.