

ICAN[®]

Succeed. In Education. In Career. In Life.

IS THE JOB RIGHT FOR YOU?

Prepare Now for the Future

Not sure what you want to be when you grow up? You're in good company if that's the case: Many college students switch their major or have an undeclared major, and many more college graduates are currently working in a field outside their college major. But that doesn't mean you should leave your future up to chance. The more prepared you are, the more likely it is you will land and love the job of your dreams.

- ▶ **Follow the outline** in the enclosed booklet. This process will give you an idea of the types of careers that might be best for you. Keep your list for the next step.
- ▶ **Branch out.** Think beyond the obvious. You might not like some of the duties of a career but other aspects may appeal to you or could be combined with different skills in another field. For example, maybe "architect" appears on your list, but you prefer the outdoors over an office. Maybe you could work as a landscape architect at a golf course or greenhouse.
- ▶ **Do your research.** Use the planner on the back of this sheet as a guide. Make a copy for each career you're interested in. Look up the answers to each of the questions and write them down. This will help you decide if that particular job is truly a good fit for you.
- ▶ **Make a plan.** Obviously you don't need to declare a college major as a freshman in high school, but knowing where you're going is the best way to get there. What classes do you need to be taking now to prepare yourself for the types of careers you might like best? Are there part-time jobs or internships you can get in the next couple of years that will give you related experience?
- ▶ **Re-evaluate often.** Just because you've made a plan doesn't mean you've already signed your life away. It's better to find out through a high school job that a particular line of work isn't for you than to stick with a misguided goal through college (or beyond). The best thing about starting early is that you've got plenty of time if something doesn't work out.

Start Your Research

www.MyACT.org
www.careers.iptv.org
www.bls.gov/oco/
www.careeronestop.org
www.onetcenter.org
www.iowajobs.org
www.mynextmove.dol.gov



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Career Research Guide

Training

How much education or training beyond high school do you need?	
What, if any, majors will prepare you for this career?	
What types of high school classes relate to this occupation?	
Will you need any ongoing training or education?	

Money and Outlook

What is the average starting pay?	
What is the median salary, or the amount of money you can make with a few years' experience?	
What is the outlook (how many jobs will be available in the future) for this career?	

Responsibilities and Skills

What are the daily responsibilities?	
What are the required basic skills?	
What are the working conditions?	
What are the travel requirements?	
What are the physical demands?	

POINTS TO PONDER

As you consider different careers, think about these questions:

- ▶ How much will the postsecondary education or training cost?
- ▶ Are you willing to commit the money and time necessary?
- ▶ How well do you enjoy the main tasks?
- ▶ Is the environment desirable, OK or undesirable for you?
- ▶ How might the job change as technology grows?
- ▶ How well do the demands of the job fit with your family goals?
- ▶ How well does the job fit in with your overall values?
- ▶ Does the job allow for personal expression?