



HOW TO CHOOSE A GREAT FUTURE

Choosing your career path is one of the most important decisions you'll make in your life. Some people know from childhood that they want to be a teacher or an underground miner. Some people find the decision a little tougher. Many have several careers, using their skills in a number of work settings, while some stick with the same kind of job until they decide to retire. Others are very clear about what they love to do, and figure out how those interests could turn into a job.

A job is more than just a way to make money for you and your family. It can also offer opportunities to challenge yourself, learn new skills, meet new people and feel good about what you do in the world. A career that fulfills you has many benefits beyond the paycheck. When your career suits your skills, abilities and personality, it can help you maintain the energy and drive to succeed at work and at home.



THE FIRST STEP IN CHOOSING A CAREER IS TO THINK ABOUT WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES YOU ENJOY. Most people who are successful and happy in their careers choose a job that is related to something they like to do in their leisure time, or a skill they enjoyed at school. Someone who enjoys working with numbers could be happy as an accountant or a bookkeeper. They might also enjoy being a mathematics teacher, but only if they also enjoyed spending time with children or students.

A person interested in machines might consider engineering or being a mechanic. It's important to think about the kinds of things you enjoy doing when you are choosing a career. After all, you will spend many days at work. The more you enjoy the tasks that you perform in the workplace, the more likely you are to be successful and happy.

Searching out career options is a challenge, so it's important to learn as much as you can about the career you imagine for yourself. The career type you are curious about may not exist in smaller communities and you may have to look in other places to get the information you want about training and opportunities. If that is the case, there are many resources online to help you find out more about careers that you might enjoy. You can learn more about jobs from sites like this one or, in some cases, you can start closer to home by speaking to people in a career that you'd like to pursue. Most of us have an idea of what certain jobs may involve, but those ideas are not always accurate. For instance, some people may think that police officers spend all their time chasing criminals, but police officers also do a great deal of paperwork. Similarly, you might know that network administrators ensure that computer networks are working, but did you know they also provide basic help to people having problems with their computers? It is important to have a good understanding of the abilities and responsibilities associated with your chosen career.

ONCE YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF THE KIND OF WORK YOU'D LIKE TO DO, you can begin researching training options. Some people prefer to look at jobs that provide training on the worksite. Others may be interested in positions that require a university degree, or a university degree followed by training in the workplace, apprenticeships or post-graduate certification. Once you know what qualifications you need to continue on a career path, you can evaluate your plans and see if they match with particular training.

You will want to ask yourself how long you're prepared to commit to training. For example, would you rather spend four years at university in Edmonton, or would you prefer to spend eight weeks training at Yukon College each year for the next three years, working close to home during the other months of the year? Questions like these are important to consider, because without the proper qualifications your career cannot advance. When you know what kind of training is required, you can decide whether you are able to take it on.

There may be different training levels for different jobs within an employment sector. For instance, if you want to be a dental hygienist, you will require college training outside of Yukon. If you enjoy helping people and working in a medical setting but you are reluctant to leave Yukon for years of training, you might find a career as a dental assistant satisfying.



AFTER GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAREERS THAT INTEREST YOU, ASK YOURSELF HOW THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF EACH JOB APPEAL TO YOU. Do you enjoy the day-to-day tasks of the career? Are you able to give the time and energy you need to succeed in the training required for the job? Do you have skills and experience that are needed to start the career?

It is also important to think about money and where the potential jobs are located. For instance, underground miners spend weeks at a time in remote locations. If you enjoy the city, you may want to choose a job that will keep you in town. Remember that some qualifications, such as for accounting, offer opportunities in a number of different industries.

Looking at all of these factors, you'll be able to judge the pros and cons of your potential careers and decide which one is the best path for you.

Understanding the labour market—including future trends—will also help you with your career decision. You might not choose based only on what jobs may be in demand in the future, but understanding what industries are growing may help you plan your career path. Websites like this one are a good resource for finding out about work trends and predicted employment opportunities. You can read about each type of work on the site, listen to a person working in that field describe their work and find out what they like about the job.

Once you have completed your training and started along your career path, you will develop your career. Throughout your work life, you will be presented with new opportunities for learning, training and choosing what direction to take within your field. You can use the information above at any stage in your career to decide how best to seize opportunities, build your network of contacts and increase your knowledge and skill levels through ongoing training.

Continuing career management involves making choices about what jobs you apply for, how you volunteer in the community and taking opportunities for further education. It is also very important to examine your plan regularly, to make sure you are heading in a direction that gives you a satisfying work life.