

Kick-Start your Career Today

The good thing about starting your career is that you have an endless number of choices in front of you. The bad thing about starting your career is that you have an endless number of choices in front of you. You are unique, and whether you realize it or not, you possess many special talents and abilities as well as the potential to achieve your dreams in every aspect of life. Believe it, because it is this core belief in yourself and your abilities that will propel you forward and form the foundation of all your future achievements.

When you are making your career plan, you may feel some anxiety over how to choose your first job after graduation. If you procrastinate your job search in today's economy, or if you are lazy about how you go about it, you can't expect to land the kind of job that will launch a successful career. Make a commitment to get a kick -start on your competition by getting your act in gear today. Ever wonder what's holding you back? It might be something more simple than you think. Maybe you need to consider changing something basic.

Know your working style: This is the key to gain a clear picture of where you want to end up in 5, 10, or 15 years. Think back to projects you have completed in the past that you enjoyed and inspired your creativity. Then find professionals who work in an industry that you might be interested in so that you can plan your career. Check out growth and economic trends using online resources. Then, reflect back on all that you have learned so that you can decide whether or not your personality fits the industry you are interested in.

Understand Your Strengths: When you understand your strengths or weaknesses you can see the areas of your life that could do with a little improvement for your personal wellbeing and career. The best thing to do is sit down with a piece of paper and write down all the things you think are your strengths and define them and how it could be improved. This is a great way to just start brainstorming and thinking about any specific skills you have. Everyone has different strengths and weakness. Notice What You Do Differently from Others? Are there specific ways that you have of handling certain situations? Don't do things just because other people are doing them, do them because you want to do them

Manage your Time: Being able to successfully manage your time is the key to perform your job successfully. When you're able to balance your time amongst various tasks, you'll be able to accomplish those tasks in a focused and effective manner. Minimize Distractions and don't Procrastinate. It's important to get things done before you start worrying about them, or before the deadline approaches too quickly. Be aware of the fact that you're going to have interruptions and distractions. So, make time to get distracted and make time for interruptions. You can break down tasks by hour, or by the day. Write down five tasks you have to accomplish in a day, and then accomplish those and move on to other things. It's really about finding a calendar system that works best for you.

Reduce Your Stress Load: It's important to learn how to positively and effectively manage your stress, so that it does not overload and consume your thought process. Understanding the source and reason for your stress is the first step of learning how to manage your stress. Try and take account of all your sources of stress. Keep track of the different reasons you get stressed and then you'll be able to track how the solutions and coping mechanisms you've implemented has effected your stress. What is causing

you to worry? Are you stressed because this event, person, or thing has a direct impact on you, or are you just worried for the sake of being worried? Are you blaming other people, events, and circumstances for the way you are feeling? Try and look at things from a realistic perspective and be optimistic.

Make the right Decisions: With time, effort, and an investment, you will certainly be able to make a change to a completely different career by leveraging your transferable skills. However, the fact remains that your first career will open up many doors for you. Your first job after graduating is a key that will unlock the doors to numerous future opportunities. Be cautious as you choose this position. Don't compromise, because while a career change might be feasible during your first five years in an industry, it will become increasingly more challenging after that. You may earn more in a sector or particular job, but if your passion lies somewhere else, you may lose out on many opportunities and not feeling fulfilled by chasing the money. It might be difficult for you to pass up on good opportunities even though they just don't fit your goals, but know that with patience and a passion for what you want to do, you will find the career path that you can truly enjoy.

Clean Up Your Digital Dirt: Corporate recruiters constantly search social networking sites to identify likely candidates, and also to gain greater insight into candidates they have already been identified. So it's time to clean up all your social networking profiles and remove any funny photographs or posts. Nothing is private on the Internet, and many of those cherished vacation photos will be seen as inappropriate by recruiters and can cost you job offers. Besides, they have no place in creating the right image for the young professional you wish to become in the next phase of your life.

Build Professional Networks: A strong first step is to establish the new "professional you". Set up a LinkedIn.com account and join discussion groups relevant to your target profession. You especially want to find people who currently hold the job title you are seeking, and people who hold job titles one, two, and three levels above your own, because these are the people most likely to know of job openings and be in a position to hire you. Ask questions that will help you understand what it takes to become successful, which are good companies to work for, why people fail, and the biggest mistakes entry-level people make. Questions like these will help you gain visibility with recruiters and hiring managers who frequent the same groups looking for entry-level talent.

These are only some of the essential skills you will need to get things done and further your career. If you really want to kick-start your career you need to go above and beyond what the corporate world wants and expects of you. It is only when you think creatively, push the limits, and go out of the box that you'll be able to truly make large strides at work.