

Questioning Yourself

Questioning yourself about your areas of interest is the most critical step in beginning the career development process. Career satisfaction depends on more than the monetary benefits of being employed. Becoming a successful profession also encompasses your job fulfillment through your wants and needs in regard to job responsibilities, work environment, location, and many other factors. Ask yourself the following questions to identify some of your future career goals.

- What do I like to do?
- What are my favorite free-time activities?
- What do I like the most about my major?
- What is my ideal work environment?
- What kind of business do I want to work for?
- Do I prefer a desk job, an outdoor job, or a combination?
- Do I have a geographic preference?
- Do I want to work with people, data, or things?
- Do I prefer to work by myself or with others?
- Do I want to follow directions or direct others?
- Do I prefer to be self-guided or closely supervised?
- Do I prefer projects or regular routines?
- Do I want to do mental work or physical work?
- What are 3-5 occupations I would consider after college and why?
- Who has a job I would like to have?
- What are my strongest/most useful skills?
- What are other skills/traits I have that could help me in my job?

- What are skills/traits that others tell me I have?
- What skills/traits would I like to develop?
- What type of compensation is most important to me?
- What kinds of working conditions do I want?
- Do I want a nine-to-five job or one in which I can set my own hours?
- Do I thrive in a high-stress atmosphere, or would I prefer something a bit more laidback?
- Do I want an office position or one that involves travel?
- Do I want to stay in a particular city long-term, or do I want to relocate?
- What benefits do I want?
- Do I want a set salary, or would I prefer to work on commission?
- What would I most like to be doing in my job?
- For whom would I most like to work?
- Are there skills I'd like to attain in order to move toward my goal?
- Career-wise, where do I want to be in five years? In ten years?