



Career Search Navigator

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The Purpose

Choosing a career path is one of the most important decisions that students face today. Lack of planning forces many students into a 5 or 6 year college degree. Many students receive degrees in declining-growth fields or fields with a surplus of applicants, and cannot find employment after graduation. A wise choice can lead to rewarding occupational experiences, opportunity for personal growth and the security of adequate income. It will also allow the family to maximize their educational investment in the student.

What You Will Do In This Section

- Step 1.** Review your *Personalized Career Assessment* to conduct analyses of potential career paths, and match those paths with possible fields of study in college.
- Step 2.** Review “The Top 100 Careers for the Next Decade” list as reference.
- Step 3.** Review “The Top College Majors for the Next Decade” list as reference.
- Step 4.** Gather specific information from additional outside sources for further research into your potential career path.
- Step 5.** Conduct interviews with professionals in your prospective field(s) of interest to pinpoint the positive and negative aspects of your potential career path.
- Step 6.** Prioritize your career selections.

What You Can Expect To Accomplish

Successful completion of Section 1 through Section 6 you will allow you to:

- ◆ Conduct a successful professional career analysis.
- ◆ Narrow your college selection to relevant schools.
- ◆ Maximize your likelihood of career satisfaction once a school is selected.

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“The Top 100 Careers for the Next Decade”

01 Webmaster	35 Agency Director	69 Psychologist
02 Actuary	36 Postal Inspector	70 Cosmetologist
03 Computer Sys. Analyst	37 Optician	71 Petroleum Engineer
04 Accountant	38 Electrical Engineer	72 Teacher’s Assistant
05 Computer Programmer	39 Vocational Counselor	73 Agricultural Scientist
06 Software Engineer	40 Astronomer	74 Registered Nurse
07 Medical Secretary	41 Financial Planner	75 Respiratory Therapist
08 Paralegal Assistant	42 Oceanographer	76 Architectural Drafter
09 Mathematician	43 Publication Editor	77 Electrical Technician
10 Med Records Technician	44 Astrologer	78 Chemist
11 Dietician	45 Nuclear Engineer	79 Jeweler
12 Medical Technologist	46 Civil Engineer	80 Adv. Account Executive
13 Statistician	47 Political Scientist	81 Ticket Agent
14 Audiologist	48 Aerospace Engineer	82 Receptionist
15 Hospital Administrator	49 Tax Auditor	83 Museum Curator
16 Dental Hygienist	50 Economist	84 Commercial Artist
17 Medical Lab Technician	51 Radio/TV Newswriter	85 Secretary
18 Urban/Regional Planner	52 Mechanical Engineer	86 Photo Process Worker
19 Biologist	53 Broadcast Technician	87 Military Officer
20 Sociologist	54 Optometrist	88 Lithographer/Engraver
21 Historian	55 Podiatrist	89 Social Worker
22 Meteorologist	56 Motion Picture Editor	90 Dentist
23 Physiologist	57 Minister	91 Purchasing Agent
24 Dental Lab Technician	58 Attorney	92 Florist
25 Industrial Engineer	59 Chiropractor	93 Catholic Priest
26 Technical Writer	60 Hotel Manager	94 Archaeologist
27 Federal Judge	61 Computer Technician	95 Market Research Analyst
28 Insurance Underwriter	62 Physicist	96 Physician (Gen. Practice)
29 Industrial Designer	63 School Principal	97 Librarian
30 Speech Pathologist	64 Engineering Technician	98 College Professor
31 Occupational Therapist	65 Geologist	99 Psychiatrist
32 Pharmacist	66 Anthropologist	100 Exec Search Consultant
33 Philosopher	67 Personnel Recruiter	
34 Bank Officer	68 Physical Therapist	

****Ranking based on outlook, environment, stress, security, physical demands and income.**

Source: Krantz, Les, *The Jobs Rated Almanac*, The World Almanac, Third Edition

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"The Top College Majors for the Next Decade"

Agriculture

Agribusiness
Agronomy
Animal Sciences
Entomology
Food Sciences
Horticulture
Soil Sciences

Architecture & Design

Architecture
Urban/Regional Planning
Interior Design
Landscape Architecture

The Arts

Arts Management
Dance
Dramatic Arts/Theater
Film Arts
Graphic Design
Music/Music Business Mgt.
Photography
Studio Art

Biological Sciences

Biochemistry
Biology
Biophysics
Biotechnology
Botany
Marine Biology
Molecular Biology
Science Education
Wildlife Management
Zoology

Business/Management

Accounting
Business Administration
Finance
Human Resources Mgt.
Insurance/Risk Mgt.
International Business
Labor/Industrial Relations
Information Systems
Marketing
Real Estate

Communications

Advertising
Communications
Journalism
Public Relations
Broadcasting

Computer Sciences

Information Sciences

Education

Elementary Education
Physical Education
Secondary Education
Special Education

Engineering

Aerospace
Agriculture
Chemical
Civil
Computer
Electrical
Mechanical
Petroleum

Health Sciences

Athletic Training
Clinical Sciences
Dental Hygiene
Health Services Management
Medical Record Administration
Medical Technology
Nursing
Occupational Therapy
Pharmacy
Physical Therapy
Speech Therapy

Home Economics

Day Care Administration
Fashion Merchandising
Food Sciences
Hotel/Restaurant Administration
Human Development
Nutrition
Textiles and Clothing

Humanities

American Literature
Chinese
Creative Writing
English
French
German
History
Japanese
Linguistics
Philosophy
Russian
Religion
Spanish

Ethnic Studies

Ethnic Studies

Mathematics

Mathematics
Statistics

Physical Sciences

Astronomy
Meteorology
Chemistry
Geology
Geophysics
Oceanography
Physics

Social/Behavioral Sciences

Anthropology
Criminal Justice
Economics
Geography
Gerontology
Political Science
Psychology
Public Administration
Social Studies
Social Work
Sociology

Theology

Bible Studies
Theological Studies

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Conducting Further Research Into Career Paths

The difficulty in choosing a career is that it often requires making a considerable commitment in time and expense in educating and training yourself to prepare for that career, prior to working in the field. Millions of people have paid for four or more years of college, only to find that the field they trained for does not provide them with mental, physical or monetary benefits. However, having made the investment in time and money, they feel obligated to continue.

Some students decide to change their major or career interest after one or two years and since many of their college credits cannot be applied to their new major, they must spend five or six years in additional time and money to achieve a four-year degree.

Given today's high college cost environment, you cannot have too much information, or spend too much time researching, to properly plan and prepare for their career field. In addition to the information you receive with the Career Search Navigator report, you should also gather additional information through independent research and sources.

You should consider discussing your prospective interests with a **counselor from your high school guidance department**. You should also read business publications or trade and professional journals associated with your career to learn about the latest news and trends within the field or industry. Look for indications as to whether the field is expanding or experiencing a decline.

Other books to consider for further research into your Career/Major Interest(s) are:

College to Career, by J.S. Mitchell: The College Board

100 Best Careers For The Year 2000, by S. Field: Prentice Hall

Need A Lift?, published and produced by The American Legion

The Encyclopedia of Career and Vocational Guidance, W.E. Hopke: Ferguson Publ.

Professional Careers Sourcebook, K.M. Savage: Gale Research

What Color is Your Parachute?, R.N. Bolles: Ten Speed Press

Occupational Outlook Handbook, U.S Department of Labor: U.S Govt. Printing Office

**“Please make sure to make copies of
Section 5 prior to each interview!”**

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Questions to Ask Someone with Experience in Your Chosen Career or Field of Interest

An excellent way to learn more about an occupation is to talk with various people in that particular field. You can secure interviews with experienced people by calling them, introducing yourself, then explaining that you wish to seek a first hand opinion as to the benefits of their job or profession. Here is a list of suggested questions to ask these professionals:

Mr/Ms: _____ **Telephone No:** _____

Occupation: _____ **Company:** _____

How long have you been in this field?

Why did you decide to work in this field?

How did you get your first job in this field?

How has this field changed since your first job?

Do you know what the future outlook is for this field?

How competitive is this field?

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What do you **like** about your occupation?

What do you **dislike** about your occupation?

What are your primary duties during a typical day?

What kinds of education or training are required in this occupation?

What are the entry-level salary and benefits in this occupation?

What are the expected salary and benefits in this occupation after ten years?

What are the chances for advancement in this occupation?

What additional training or education is needed for advancement?

Where else can I look for information pertaining to this occupation?

Additional Questions:

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Ranking Your Career/College Major Interests

List as many as **three** career paths or objectives that you wish to pursue. Rank them in order beginning with your top choice. Use the results to determine your Career/College Major Interest when completing the College Selection Navigator.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

List the factors that interest you in each of your career choices.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
