

Career Planning Tips for Teens

Career planning has three steps that you will cycle through and repeat throughout your working life. By following these steps, you can make career decisions that are right for you. You'll know what your options are and what it will take to reach your goals.

First, take a realistic look at your strengths, weaknesses and interests.

Consider the following:

What are your goals?

What can help you achieve your goals, and what obstacles could get in your way?

What types of work and school courses and activities appeal to you? What interests you?

What do you do well now, and what skills have you gained through experience?

Second, explore your options.

It's hard to know what you want to do "when you grow up" if you aren't even aware of the possibilities. Here are a just a few ways to find career information:

Discuss your career and educational plans with your parents, FE advisor or other interested people.

Spend time with people whose activities interest you.

Volunteer or work in a job that interests you.

Finally, consider issues that can affect your plans.

Take appropriate actions to accomplish your goals. Consider:

What do you need to study in order to have the career that you want?

What schools offer the training you need?

How will you pay for school?

Are you ready to search for a job?

Think about Your Reasons for Going to University

What do you want to be when you "grow up" and how will university help you get there?

Although university cannot be all things to all students, with proper planning it can meet your needs and expectations. High school is an excellent time to identify what you expect from university.

Use your interests, abilities, and preferences to help you choose a career and plan your education.

As you decide which universities and major(s) interest you, keep your long-term goals in mind. Decisions about university are part of the career planning process.

For example, if you like planes and want to design them, look for a strong aeronautical engineering program. Decide what you want from life and use university as a tool to help you get there.