**5 Factors to Consider when Choosing a Career**

There are many **factors to consider when choosing a career**, whether it is your first job or you are in the middle of changing careers. While this can be a difficult decision, it is certainly not an impossible choice to make when you have the right tools and resources. Fortunately there are many helpful ways of determining if a new career is the right one for you. Factors such as interests, attitudes, skills, training and availability of work are all important to consider when searching for a new career. Read on to learn more about these factors.

**What Interests You?**

Before selecting a career, it's advisable to start taking an inventory of the things that interest you in terms of work. Start by taking a look at the things you do well and compare them to work you've done in the past to identify key skills that can be used in a new career. If you have trouble deciding what you like to do, be sure to take an interest assessment offered by a career development resource or find one on the Internet. You may be surprised to find that some of the things you enjoy doing daily can actually be components of a future career.

**Evaluate Your Skills**

Everyone has unique talents that can be used in a career of some type. For many, these talents have been present since childhood; for others they are learned over time. Skills can be broken down by types and matched up with specific career paths. In order to determine what career you should choose, begin by looking at skills that can be used on the job or look at career paths that compliment your current skills and talents.

**Work Attitudes**

Whether many people realize it or not, how they feel about work can have an affect on the types of careers that they eventually find themselves in. Having a positive attitude about working can result in being able to manage high levels of stress and responsibility in addition to being self-motivated. In addition, attitudes can contribute to the factors that drive people to work in certain careers; such as those attracted to high earnings, wanting to work with specific groups of people or needing independence.

**Training and Education**

In order to land certain careers, an industry expected level of training and education is a general requirement. That means for each job type, you will need to attain a certain degree or level of experience before you can begin work in that area. Be sure to choose a training program that is within your means to achieve to avoid setting yourself up for failure.

**Availability of Jobs**

When choosing a career, a big factor is how many jobs will be available at certain levels. If you are a new graduate or are trying to switch careers mid-life, this can be a determining factor as to what type of work you settle on. Local industries can play a large part in what work people do, so if you are looking for something that is outside of available work, you can expect to have to relocate to find a job.

**Self Assessment of Your Skills**

It’s very common for job seekers to worry about **choosing a career** that is the perfect match. There are ways to handle this if you are at any stage of your career, whether as a recent graduate, someone who has been out of the job market for a while or even if you are a mid-life career changer. By conducting a self assessment of your skills and interests you can generally focus on careers that will lead to long-term satisfaction. During a self assessment you essentially gather detailed data about yourself in order to make a better informed career decision by looking at your inherent values, talents, interests, and personality as they relate to work.

**Identifying Your Personal and Work Values**

Your values about work have a lot to do with doing a self assessment of your skills to find a great career path. These are the ways you feel about work, your status and how this relates to you personally. For example, if you have work values that include entrepreneurialism and a deep sense of responsibility, you are likely to be more satisfied with a career that includes owning your own business. By understanding your personal values, you will be able to select a career path that is more in line with how you see the world of work and what matters the most to you.

**Evaluating Your Talents**

As an adult you no doubt have many talents, some of which are transferrable to career types and work duties. When conducting your self assessment, be sure to take an inventory of your natural skills to match up a career that will use these talents. This can be a good time to research different career paths to determine if they will allow you to use your talents in a constructive way, or if there will be certain talents you will need to develop. Failure to recognize this early on can result in frustration over a job where you can't use your talents to realize your full potential.

**Learning More About Your Interests**

While understanding your talents and skills is important, if you want to be successful in a career, you will want to know how your interests come into play. Interests include what you enjoy doing on an average day. Perhaps you like talking with people, being outdoors or working with children? Knowing in advance what really gets you excited about life is a basic component of any career assessment. Your interests can open your eyes to a wide range of career choices and give you more joy on the job daily.

**Considering Your Personality Type**

As the old saying goes, “it takes many different personalities to make the world go around.” Nothing could be more truthful when dealing with an assessment of yourself in terms of your career. Your personality, which comes from life’s experiences and genetics, can influence how well you get matched to careers as an adult. Personality can be a factor that can make you good at what you do. By honoring your unique personality, you can find a career that brings fulfillment and allows you to be genuine at work.