

Selecting an Occupation

Occupational Considerations:

1. Do I like the proposed occupation?
2. Can I meet its physical requirements successfully?
3. Can I meet its mental requirements successfully?
4. Can I meet its personal requirements successfully?
5. Can I meet its educational requirements successfully?
6. Does the occupation pay a desirable wage?
7. Does it promise steady employment?
8. Is it free from special risks or hazards?
9. Does it provide at least a fair opportunity for promotion?
10. Does the occupation render a social or an antisocial service?

When Pay Tends to Increase:

1. Because a job requires a longer period of training.
2. Because more general education is required of beginners.
3. Because more technical knowledge is necessary.
4. Because the responsibilities of the position are more important.
5. Because a high degree of manual skill in a mechanical job is required.
6. Because more managerial ability must be exercised.
7. Because a more attractive personality is required.
8. Because there is greater risk of accidents.

The Big Decision

The selection of your career may be the most important one you will ever make. Because there are so many choices to make and because circumstances often change the way we live, people are often hesitant or refuse to make a choice at all. "Why should I think about choosing a career?" you may ask. "I'll just find a job." There are many good reasons for making a career choice.

1. If you choose a career you can prepare for it. You will be able to make a choice of training programs or colleges and to decide whether you can get your training in high school, in one or two years of trade school, or in four or more years of college.
2. If you prepare for a career and get the training necessary, you may double or triple the money you would normally earn in a 40 year work period. Over the course of a lifetime, someone with a bachelor's degree is likely to earn \$1.9 million more than a student with only a high school diploma. All indicators point to a growing difference between the earning power of a high school diploma and a college degree.
3. You will have an easier time finding a job if you have been trained than if you are unskilled. There are many more available jobs for skilled workers.
4. You will probably be able to get a more interesting job if you prepare for it. Many unskilled jobs are repetitious and boring.
5. An unskilled job may not require you to use all of your mental abilities; a career usually does. People need to be stimulated to think. Otherwise, they become bored and unhappy.

6. A career for which you have trained will probably bring you a better life. You will earn more money, be open to advancement in your field and be able to associate with people who have similar interests. Many people who work in unskilled jobs find themselves desiring more training at a later day when they do not have the time and money for training.

Instructions: Use the internet to complete the following assignment. Specific training requirements for trade school programs and colleges may be found in the American Trade School Directory and in the college catalogs.

Investigating Careers

1. Name of occupation to be studied _____

2. List five duties of this occupation:

3. List two other occupations similar or related to this one:

4. Give the name of a local firm employing people in this field. Is part-time employment available?

5. Does this field require special training or schooling? YES NO

6. Name the nearest schools offering training in this field: _____

7. How many years of training beyond high school are necessary? _____

8. Are apprenticeships or scholarships available for this occupation? YES NO

9. Is a license required to practice in this field? YES NO

10. What high school courses will prepare you for this career?

11. What personality traits would help you to do this job effectively? _____

12. What special abilities are necessary for this job? _____

13. Are there any unusual hazards or physical demands in this work? YES NO

14. If YES, list them: _____

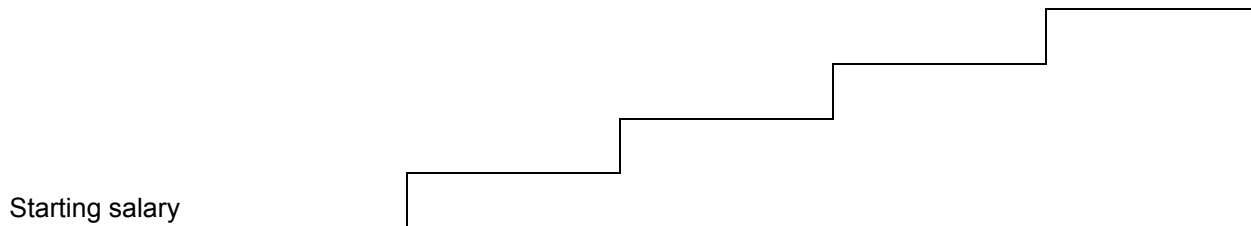
15. What are the work hours? _____

16. Will you be working alone? YES NO

17. Will you be required to supervise or make decisions? YES NO

18. What is the salary range? _____

19. Are there opportunities for advancement? YES NO If YES, fill in the steps below starting with the entry level position:



20. What are the fringe benefits offered (sick pay, vacations, insurance, retirement, etc.)? _____

21. Are uniforms or special equipment required? YES NO If YES, list them: _____

22. Does this job require a security clearance? YES NO

23. List three advantages of this job:

24. List three disadvantages of this job?

