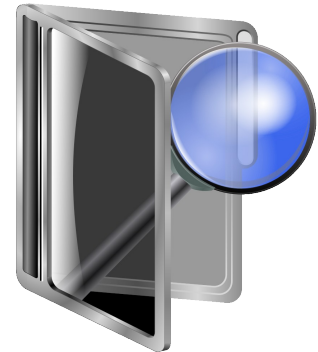


# Planning Your Career

**Think about what you want to do and find out more the kind of training, education, and skills you will need to achieve your career goal.**

**With all the career possibilities available, how do you make a decision? Once you know what career path you want to follow, how do you get there?**



**Assess your skills and interests.** Think hard about what you are good at, what kind of personality you are, and the values you hold. To determine your interests, think about what you like to do. Think about experiences you have enjoyed. Evaluate what you liked, what you found challenging, and what you may have learned from those experiences. Make a list of activities you have enjoyed during the past few years. Make a list of skills you have. Your skills may include training you have gained through part-time or full-time jobs. Evaluate those skills and interests you have listed. Are there any experiences that could turn into a career?

**Compare your skills and interests with the occupations you've selected.** The career that matches your skills, interests, and personality the closest may be the career for you.

**Research occupations.** Find out more about the nature of the jobs and careers that interest you, such as educational requirements, salary, working conditions, future outlook, and anything else that can help you narrow your focus. If you don't research careers, you may not know about the best occupations to fit your interests and skills.

It's also important to decide if the career you are considering is really what you expect and whether it offers the salary and benefits you want. One good way to learn about a career is to get some work experience or work shadowing. Another good way to find out about a job is to 'network', talk to someone who is in the career now.

**Choose your career goal.** Once you've decided what occupation matches up best with you, then you can begin developing a plan to reach your career goal. Once you have determined what career path you want to follow, assess what you need to do to prepare for that career. Do you need special training? If so, research the places of education that offer the kind of training you need. What kinds of experience will you need to be successful in the career?

**Select a Third level Institute** that offers a college degree or qualification that best meets your career goal and financial needs.

Find out about any **financial aid** that may be available to help support you in obtaining your career goal, especially the maintenance grant and/or scholarships.

Learn about **job hunting tips** as you prepare to graduate or move into the job market.

Prepare your **Curriculum Vitae** and practice job-interviewing techniques.