What do I want to be when I grow up?

Career development is a lifelong process that is unique for every individual. There are many influences that contribute to your career such as:

Who you are as an individual

This includes your self-concept, interests, skills, knowledge, personality, ethnicity, age, gender, ability, disability, health, beliefs and sexual orientation. For example, your choice of hobbies reflects your interests and abilities.

Your community

The community plays an important role in forming your identity, beliefs and attitudes.

The environment and wider society

This refers to the opportunities or constraints caused by factors such as the region or location you live in (i.e. rural or metropolitan), what is happening in the employment market (e.g. are there job vacancies in your career field), your socioeconomic status (e.g. do you have to consider financial commitments such as mortgages or children’s education), historical trends (e.g. changes in women’s participation in the workforce) and political decisions (e.g. government grants available for enterprise development).

In adolescence, career exploration is based on identifying interests, abilities, capacities and values; learning about the world of work through observing adults at work; participating in the workforce; and accessing career resources and programs. (Adapted from myfuture.edu.au)

Read more...

Career V’s Job

A career is different to finding a job. A career is a lifelong journey. It’s something much larger than a job or an occupation. Your career is the variety of experiences of learning and working (both unpaid and paid) that you undertake throughout your lifetime.

It is up to you to actively manage the process of building your career, rather than just letting it happen.

You will need to plan and manage your lifelong career journey. You are the person best suited to make choices on the basis of your own skills, knowledge, interests and personality style.

3 Key things to consider

There are three key things to consider that will open the door to a successful career.

1. What are you interested in? What are you passionate about?
This may be different to what your parents, relatives, friends think you should do. The question that should be asked is “if you could be anything at all – what would you be”? The secret of career satisfaction lies in doing what you enjoy most. A few lucky people discover this secret early in life, but most of us don’t. We’re torn between what we think we CAN do, what we (or others) feel we OUGHT to do, and what we actually WANT to do. Concentrate instead on WHO YOU ARE and WHAT INTERESTS YOU and the rest will fall into place.

In taking into account what interest you, you should also consider if you have the right attitude and motivation. For instance if you want to be a medical doctor, make sure you’re comfortable around sick people, hospitals, dealing with trauma and blood and so on.
2. Are you studying the subjects that are needed for this job or career choice?
There’s not much point wanting to be a Doctor if you are not studying the subjects required to complete a medical degree. You must make sure that your education pathway is in line with your career aspirations.

3. Do you have the right personality or behavioural style for the job?
Careers that match your personality style make the best use of your natural gifts and talents and will give you the greatest happiness for your future work. When a person’s style is in harmony with their occupation they are more productive, happier and less stressed than when they are in a position that doesn’t suit their behavioural style. Without knowing this your career choice will be flawed. If the job requires someone to make quick decisions and you are more deliberate and take your time, then you are going to be “outside your comfort zone” and this job will not be a good match for you. (Adapted from mycareermatch.com.au)

Want to know more? Then read Whatever I do I’m gonna Rock

Career Pathways

Your career pathway is the unique route you choose, from the many routes available, to reach your career goals.

Your career pathway will involve you completing formal and informal learning, developing your skills and experiencing education and training, community and personal life.

Do your research

There are many avenues you can explore when researching a career. The following resources may be useful:

A. Career information websites [See the St John’s College Career Links page]
B. Read the Job Guide [Click Here to visit website] or you can access paper copies at school in the Careers Room
C. Apply for and complete some work experience with a local business or organisation
D. Speak to family and friends about their careers and what they entail
E. Visit the Careers Room at the College
F. Speak with a careers counsellor at the College

The My Futures website provides information to help guide your decision-making.

The Job Guide 2011 website includes hundreds of occupational profiles.

Find out about an Industry, A-Z of Occupations and resume builder

Queensland Studies Authority: Career Information Service

My Career Match specialises in career profiles for students - matching their personality style with the most suited careers.