CAREER EXPLORATION
Discover Your Path

Student Support Services
TRiO
Technical College of the Lowcountry
What is Career Planning?

Career planning is an on-going life-long process that takes time, energy and commitment. It involves developing an awareness of your skills, abilities, values, strengths, interests and learning about the various types of occupations that exist and their requirements.
Is Career Planning the Same as Job Searching???

No! Job searching is a short-term pursuit of a position that matches your financial and career goals. Career exploration is a long, progressive process of choosing education, training, and jobs that fit your interests and skills.

www.careerinfonet.org/explore/
How Important is it that I Select the Right Career???

Very Important!!!

Your decision may have lifelong ramifications; for example, your choice of career can play a major role in determining your income, status within your community, opportunities for success, circle of friends and even your choice of spouse. The career you choose helps shape your identity and sense of self-worth.
Where Do I Begin???
Begin by taking a serious look at yourself. The following are things about ourselves that will help us to know what career we should work towards:

- What are you passionate about?
- What are your interests?
- What skills do you possess?
- What do you do in your spare time?
- What are your values (those things that are important in regards to the way you work and live)?
Typically you will have some idea of the career path you desire...

However, it can always be helpful to run your ideas by someone who you not only trust, but who knows you well. Sometimes others who have your best interest “at heart” can help guide you in your decision.
There are many online resources that are available to help you investigate career paths. The following are even free! O.Net’s “My Next Move” website allows users to search careers with key words, to browse careers by industry, and even has a career assessment test for those who aren’t yet sure about their choices. Just click and follow the directions!

www.mynextmove.org

Also, the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration’s CareerOneStop website offers lots of valuable career exploration information... check it out!

www.careerinfonet.org
To receive credit for this workshop, please go to the My Next Move webpage:

www.mynextmove.org

Use the section located under “I want to be a...” and search for careers that might be of some interest to you. Once you find the careers you are looking for, review the knowledge, skills, abilities, personality, technology and education sections. Research three different careers and print out the profile summaries and turn them into the SSS Department, along with a completed online workshop evaluation, for workshop credit.
Self-Directed Search

Career self assessment tests like the Self-Directed Search (SDS) can be taken to help determine which careers best match your interests and abilities. The test can be completed in about 30 minutes and the results identify occupations that best suit the taker’s interests and skills.

www.self-directed-search.com/
In regards to the SDS, Dr. John Holland was a classification interviewer with the Army, and he discovered that many people seemed to fall into certain personality types based upon their interests and skills. The SDS was then designed to help people make career and educational choices that match their interests and abilities. There have been many empirical studies performed that support Dr. Holland’s process.

Examples of Personality Categories and Corresponding Careers

• Realistic Category – Tend to prefer to work with objects and things.
• Investigative Category – Often have a strong desire to understand cause and effect and work in jobs that are scientific in nature.
• Artistic Category – Prefer to be expressive and enjoy opportunities to create new things and use their imagination.
• Social Category – Prefer to work with others in a supportive way.
• Enterprising Category – Often prefer activities selling and promoting.
• Conventional Category – Often prefer orderly, systematic work.
Want to take the SDS?

The SDS is available online for a fee. However, all TCL students have access to the SDS for free! Students interested in joining Student Support Services (SSS) take the SDS as part of their application process. All other students can take the SDS by contacting TCL’s Career & Transfer Manager Melanie Gallion @ 843-525-8224.
Other Ideas for Discovering the Career for You!

Once you have some career ideas, reach out to people who are already working in your chosen field of interest. One of the best ways to find out about a career is to talk to someone who is living it!

Contact companies and inquire about un-paid internships, job shadowing or volunteering. Having an opportunity to actually participate in a work environment will provide you with lots of information in regards to whether or not your career choice is the best choice for you!
Never Give Up on Yourself or Your Dream Career!

“Magic is believing in yourself, if you can do that, you can make anything happen.”
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe