



**What
Career Will
You
Choose?**

PATHS TO A CAREER

Work will consume a significant portion of your life. Most men and women work an average of 40 years and change jobs as many as five or six times. To help insure satisfaction, you should choose a career tailored to your interests. The effort you put into selecting your career will pay off many times.

Technology is creating a demand for highly skilled workers and employers hire people with specific job skills. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates the majority of jobs through 2010 will require a trade or technical course.

CAREER HUNTING ...Here's how. The first step in selecting a career is to review your career choices. Consider these suggestions:

➤ **YOUR INTERESTS**

Do you enjoy helping people, working with your hands, working with information and numbers, creating, designing, and being outdoors? Identify your interests and translate them into career possibilities. One of the most important factors in career satisfaction is liking what you do. To help you with your interests, take the **CHOICES** program in the Career Center.

➤ **SALARY**

What salary can you expect to make in your chosen field? After two or three years of experience? After ten years? Talk with employers. Get realistic estimates on what the return on your investment will be.

➤ **ADVANCEMENT**

Is your career open-ended? Where will it lead you? Will it offer you the opportunity to eventually start your own business (if that is your goal)?

➤ **JOB DEMAND**

Is there a need for your career specialty or are there more trained people than there are jobs for your career? Choose a career with a good future and make sure you won't become obsolete in a few years.

➤ **JOB MOBILITY**

Where are the jobs in your career specialty? Are they available in your locale or would you be required to relocate or travel? For example, commercial drivers usually have to relocate, sometimes overseas, while computer programmers work in large or medium-sized cities. Medical workers, on the other hand, are usually found everywhere.

➤ **WORKING CONDITIONS**

Find out what your duties and work environment will be like. Don't be unpleasantly surprised on the job. Before you make up your mind about a career, get all the facts.

➤ **EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

Nearly every good job today requires specialized training beyond high school. Find out what kind of training is required for your career.

DID YOU KNOW?

The ten fastest growing occupations in California through 2008 are:

1. Computer Science
2. Electronic Pagination System Operators
3. Computer Support Specialists
4. Systems Analysts-Electronic Data Processing
5. Medical Assistant
6. Computer Engineers
7. Medical Records Technicians
8. Surgical Technologists and Technicians
9. Paralegal personnel
10. Physician Assistant

Another way to prepare for the world of work is to take classes from our Regional Occupation Program at King. Some of those classes are:

Animal Health
Digital Imaging
TV/Video Production
Sports Fitness
Sports and Entertainment Marketing
Retail Sales
Fashion Merchandising

Other classes are offered throughout the Riverside area. Some of those classes are:

Cosmetology
EMT Training
Fire Fighting
Welding
Auto Body and Collision
Law Enforcement
Banking

You must be 16 years of age or in 11th grade. See your counselor or the ROP coordinator for additional information. The coordinator is located in the Career Center.

For additional information on career development, see the Community College section of this handbook. Your counselor has information on certificate programs available at Riverside Community College along with Occupational Department telephone numbers as well as other vocational training resource telephone numbers and web sites.

ASVAB

Not sure what you would like to do as a career? Take the ASAVB. It is the most widely used multi-aptitude test battery for students in the nation.

For students it will:

- Provide relevant information for career and education decision making.
- Identify student abilities, strengths, and weaknesses.
- Demonstrate relevancy between world-of-work and school.
- Give the student a purpose to stay in school.

For parents it will:

- Provide a roadmap showing the connection with the high school and career choices.
- Inform parents of student's work interest, abilities and career options.
- Provide clear information usable at home with the excellent website.

Sign up in the Career Center in October. The test will be given in November of each year.

Choices Planner

Martin Luther Kings has an online Career Information and Planning System called **Choices Planner**, and a companion assessment tool called **Ability Profiler**. **Choices Planner** can help you find careers according to your skills and interest, then help you build a plan to prepare for and achieve an educational or employment goal. The **Ability Profiler** gives you the opportunity to take an assessment test to learn more about your abilities and see how they connect to careers that interest you.

To get started using these programs, you will need to create a portfolio. Once created, you may access both programs from any Internet computer, using the Portfolio name and password you select for your portfolio. Freshmen Studies students will be given a chance to create this portfolio in the fall of each year. Parents can also create their own portfolio from the **Parents Sign In** page. Additionally, this information can be accessed in Spanish.

If you would like to work on this at home, the web site is www.bridges.com. The site ID is 0090077 and the password is mlking.

Career Resources and Searches

AMERICA'S JOB BANK

www.ajb.dni.us

APPRENTICESHIP

Department of Labor

www.doleta.gov/

CAREER MAGAZINE

www.careermag.com

APPRENTICESHIP

Assoc. Builders & Contractors

www.abc.org

APPRENTICESHIP

Division of Apprenticeship Standards

www.dir.ca.gov/das

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

<http://careerpathsonline.com>

APPRENTICESHIP

Contractors

www.agcsd.org

APPRENTICESHIP

In California

www.CalApprenticeships.org

BEST JOBS USA

<http://www.bestjobsusa.com>

CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/

CAREER SEARCH

www.fastcompany.com/company

www.asktheheadhunter.com

www.firstgov.gov

www.workforce.org

www.collegegrad.com

www.careerjournal.com

<http://www.cweb.com>

www.monster.com

www.jonmonkey.com

www.jobweb.org

www.jobcorp.org

www.myfuture.com

www.career.org