

Evaluating your options

(from Career Planner: Choosing an occupation and Finding Out: How to get the information you need to make the choices you want)

Before you can evaluate your options, you need to finish the activity **Researching a specific occupation**.

To help narrow down your options, answer this question for each occupation that you researched:

Now that I know what is involved in this occupation, am I still interested? Yes/No

If you answered “yes”:

Write the name of that occupation in the short list below. Try to have at least three occupations to look at more closely.

Short list of occupations that I am interested in:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

If you answered “no,” remove the occupation from your list. Don't feel bad. It's good to know what you don't want to do and why.

Evaluating the information

This is a three-part exercise that will help you make the best decision and work toward your goal.

1. Sum up your options with an occupation overview

- ◆ Read over your notes.
- ◆ Review articles and other material that you found useful.
- ◆ For each occupation you may be considering, answer the questions in the following exercise. Use a separate page for each occupation.
- ◆ If you can't answer all of the questions in the exercise, you may need to gather more information.

Answer these questions to create an overview for each occupation you are considering.

Occupation overview exercise

Name of occupation: _____

1. How would you describe this occupation?

What are the key points you've learned about this occupation from your research?

2. How is this occupation related to what you value?

3. What skills do you have that will help you succeed at this occupation?

4. What skills will you need to develop in order to succeed at this occupation?

5. What will it take to succeed at this occupation in terms of time, money, and stress?

6. What are the rewards?

7. Will this occupation meet your needs?

a) Will you make enough money doing this work?

b) Will you be happy doing this work?

c) Will you be learning and growing if you do this work?

d) Do you feel that this work is worthwhile?

e) Will this work put stress on your family? Can you handle the stress?

f) Will this work affect your relationships with friends or family?

g) Will you have to move in order to do this work? Are you able to move?

h) Will you have time for your hobbies and other interests if you do this work?

2. Compare occupations

You can evaluate each occupation by comparing them.

Complete the table based on the information you have gathered for each of your occupations. When you are finished, what does this table tell you?

Factors	Occupation #1	Occupation#2	Occupation #3
What's important to me			
My interests			
Skills I'll use			
Financial factors			
Lifestyle factors			
What I'll give up			
What I'll gain			
My needs			
Other			