

JOB VS CAREER

Calculate which one is for you...

As sophomores, you are a long way from deciding on a specific life job or career, but there are some factors to consider as you begin the decision-making process.

You should think of yourself as your own company (Me Inc), and it is your goal to develop the best career skills that you can. Also, rather than just thinking of your education as courses, curriculum and grades, think of it as career development. From here on out, you are in continual development of yourself.

MILLION \$\$\$ MOTIVATOR

If you're not sure whether to pursue a job or career, consider the following activity. Complete the calculations using a minimum wage of \$7.25 and a career salary of \$51,000/yr.

Minimum Wage for a Lifetime

\$ _____ /hr x 40 hrs/week = \$ _____

X 50 Weeks/Year = \$ _____

X 40 years = _____ (LIFETIME)

Career Salary for a Lifetime

\$ _____ / year x 40 years = \$ _____ (LIFETIME)

Subtract the minimum wages for a lifetime from the career wage for a lifetime.

Career lifetime wage \$ _____

Minus minimum wages for a lifetime \$ _____

Difference between the two salaries \$ _____

So - what is your goal – a job or a career?

JOB or CAREER Activity

Label each of the following characteristics as either “J”, a characteristic of a minimum wage **job** or “C”, a characteristic of a **career**.

- _____ requires planning and commitment
- _____ limits on how far you can go in your work
- _____ little chance for advancement
- _____ built over a period of time
- _____ greater employment security
- _____ available immediately
- _____ more control over your work (# hours and when you work)
- _____ good potential for advancement
- _____ less employment security
- _____ no requirement for post-secondary education
- _____ greater chance of job satisfaction
- _____ less control over your work (# hours and when you work)
- _____ greater financial potential
- _____ more opportunity for growth within your industry
- _____ requires post-secondary education
- _____ less chance of job satisfaction
- _____ limited financial growth potential

So – what is your goal now – a job or a career?

Are You on the Road to a Career?

A career is a high-performance job requiring greater performance skills and personal characteristics. Following is a list of critical cornerstones of high-performance, many of which would be important to any job. If you feel you have developed this skill or characteristic to a high level, label it with a + (plus sign). If you will set goals to develop any of these skills or characteristics, label each of them with a "G" (for goal).

- _____ positive attitude
- _____ motivation
- _____ initiative
- _____ strong work ethic
- _____ persistence
- _____ discipline
- _____ ability to cope with change or stress
- _____ willingness to learn
- _____ commitment to quality
- _____ passion
- _____ education plan
- _____ career plan
- _____ ability to manage time
- _____ ability to set priorities
- _____ decision making ability
- _____ oral communication skills
- _____ verbal communication skills
- _____ listening skills
- _____ creativity
- _____ critical thinking skills
- _____ problem solving skills
- _____ teamwork skills
- _____ computer skills
- _____ technology skills
- _____ professional skills
- _____ networking skills
- _____ mentoring skills
- _____ career contacts
- _____ part-time work in career interest
- _____ voluntary community service in career interest
- _____ family and friends
- _____ healthy lifestyle