

## What can I do now while still in high school?

Preparing for a career is not an event, rather, it is a process that requires a specific plan, direct action and devoting the appropriate time in order to achieve success.

### ***Take Career/Interest Inventories***

You wouldn't choose the first MP3 player you saw or heard about would you? You would likely research what each has to offer and how it would suit your needs and wants. So, why would choosing a career be any different? We are talking about the rest of your life here. There are many resources available, including your guidance counselor, who can steer you toward other avenues -- many of which are online and are free. This will help you narrow the thousands of choices down to those which match your interests and your skills.

### ***Spend time with people in areas that interest you***

Regarding that same MP3 player, wouldn't you ask people who own one how they like theirs before you buy your own? The same holds true for career choices. Spend time with those who are already in the areas that you have identified as possible 'interest areas'. Find out what they like most and least about the job. Ask them what opportunities exist to move up in this area, pay ranges, work/life balance, and if this is a growing area or one where opportunities are declining due to technology changes or shifts in the economy. Not sure where to find someone to talk to...ask around your neighborhood, school, church and professionals on the job.

### ***Gain the "Triple Threat"***

For recruiters who hire for companies, the "Triple Threat" is a term used for candidates who stand above the crowd and possess:

- 1) GPA of 3.0 or higher;
- 2) Work experience (the more related to the career you are pursuing the better);
- 3) Leadership experience (companies are losing top notch employees to retirement and need to hire those who have demonstrated they can lead...not the ones who just 'say' they can).

### ***Research Educational Programs / Career Opportunities***

Once you have your career interests narrowed down, begin researching colleges that offer programs in those areas, whether it is a technical college or four-year university. Then, familiarize yourself with admission requirements and costs of each. If you aren't sure about college right now, research career opportunities at established companies that provide for tuition reimbursement, this way, you can keep all options available in the future.



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