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Introduction

Introduction

This is a goal setting exercise that clarifies what your most exciting/satisfying future looks like. Once you know this, you can make a plan that converts these aspirations into clearly defined goals. You then invest the time and energy to make them a reality. Psychology recognizes that you move towards what you vividly and repeatedly see in your mind's eye, particularly if you invest emotional energy into the goal.

It might not be so easy if you have not yet developed your life goals, and many people in their teens and twenties have not. Starting now is as good a time as any.

Any plans you make now are not 'set in stone' – such plans tend to evolve over time as you zero-in on what you really want. It might be helpful to discuss your ideas with a sympathetic adviser. It is wise to avoid discussing your plans with people who are likely to be negative, since we are particularly vulnerable to ridicule during this process.

>> [MyFuture](#) is a great resource in helping with this whole process.

Career in perspective with Life

A satisfying career is part of your life as a whole. Your career choices, whatever they might be, should allow you to answer YES to these statements:

- I am in control of my life
- I have a clear sense of purpose
- I have enough time for my family and friends
- I have enough time to relax and commune with Nature
- I have enough time for the pursuit of leisure interests (i.e. hobbies)

What does a good career look like? Your career choices should allow you to answer YES to these questions:

Am I inspired and energized by my work?

- I use my strengths and talents at work?
- I am comfortable with my work colleagues?
- Is my work helping me to reach my potential?
- Do I feel valued and recognized at work?
- Are my work-related stress levels manageable?

Top 10 Tips for Career Success

- Know what is important in your career and life generally
- Know your strengths and how these can add value to an organization
- Stay up-to-date with industry developments
- Know your life constraints and how to get past them
- Clear vision of your future – see yourself as the person you want to be
- Have explicitly defined goals
- Connect with people who can help you towards your goals
- Acknowledge and reward your successes
- Know that failure is a step towards success, and not be defeated by it
- Review your progress periodically and be willing to make adjustments

How to set goals

- Specific: goals should identify a clear outcome that you want to achieve
- Measurable: How will you know when you've done it?
- Achievable: Is it feasible within the time frame? Are you motivated to do it?
- Relevant: Is it relevant to your career aims?
- Timed: When will you complete this by?

Stage 1: Prelim Analysis

Stage 1: Preliminary Analysis

Write up to 100 words to answer the questions below:

1. What would be my ideal future career?

There can be multiple possibilities. The question is really 'What would I do if I knew I could not fail?' Do not limit your ideas; these are 'blue sky' possibilities where anything is possible. What can be imagined can be achieved through investment of time and energy.

Immediately after completing my Bachelor of Information Technology, I would like to undertake a job as a full-stack web developer, working on both front-end and back-end solutions. I would like to start my career at a small startup where I can really take on multiple roles and have a greater impact within a small team, possibly moving on to a larger corporation down the line. After having worked and gained experience in the IT industry for some time, I would like to teach Computer Education and Design and Technology at a secondary school level.

2. What skills, qualifications and experience would I need to make this a reality?

List the broad employability skill-sets you would need to go down this path, for example to become a roboticist, you would need a Bachelor's (at a minimum) or Master's degree (or higher) majoring in AI, an internship in the right environment, the willingness to live wherever the jobs are, have the willingness to put in a lot of hard work etcetera.

Starting from my second year, I would like to major in Software Development for my Bachelor of Information Technology. This will give me the necessary hard skills for working as a full-stack web developer.

I must be willing to continue to learn about new technologies if I am to work in the IT industry as it is one of the most dynamic industries and my inability to pick up on new skills would place me at a great disadvantage.

In terms of qualifications for my future in working in education, I would be required to complete the two year Master of Secondary Teaching postgraduate degree.

3. What employability skills do I already have, and what skills will I need to develop?

This is a gap analysis where you review what you already have, and determine what you will need to get that you do not already have.

Enter these two topics into the box:

Skills I have:

Skills I will need:

The following are a set of skills that I have already developed or will need to develop which can greatly assist my future career and can be relevant in every job industry.

Skills I have:

- Team communication
- Time management
- Organizational efficiency
- Problem solving
- Decision making

Skills I will need:

- Negotiation
- Presentation
- Analytical thinking
- Leadership

4. What have I achieved so far?

You may not think you have achieved much thus far (no Nobel prize yet), but give yourself credit for what you have done. You have made it this far in life, and that is an achievement. This exercise is about acknowledging the many things for which you deserve credit.

Thus far, I have achieved the completion of my secondary school education, gaining a place in university. Through work and other significant experiences, I have developed and gained extensive knowledge on a variety of topics in relation to my degree and have learnt a variety of employable and technical skills by the way of autodidacticism.

Stage 2: Career Action Plan

Stage 2: Career Action Plan

Complete the following table. See end for examples.

	What will I do?	To be done by	Outcome	Date Done
1	Undertake online research to identify potential career options; identify 3 job profiles of significant interest.	01 March	Identified 3 areas of interest; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web application development • Internet of things • Artificial intelligence 	01 March
2	Talk to fellow peers and teaching staff in order to discuss my career options in further detail	10 March	Gained further insight and clarity on the areas of interest and other potential possibilities	10 March
3	Reflect on the pros and cons of each career option, prioritise and eliminate any options as required	15 March	Interested in exploring web development and cloud computing. Excluded artificial intelligence due to the extensive mathematics knowledge required	15 March
4	Connect with a career adviser/counsellor for expert advice and explore prospective career options with them	12 April	Narrow down career opportunities and set long-term goals	N/A

5	Seek internship or placement opportunities related to chosen career path	09 June	Gain valuable work experience, make important industry contacts and develop and refine important skills	N/A
6	Build a professional network and connections with individuals in the same industry	Ongoing	Communicate with relevant professionals and gain a further understanding of the process in getting a job in IT	Ongoing

▪ *Example of a Career Action Plan*

Goal set	What will I do? Make your goal SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant)	Date to be complete	Outcome	Date completed
1	Research and select a career matching my aspirations; identify 3 job profiles of interest.	25 March	3 areas of interest: robotics, 3D printing, augmented reality (for example)	25 March
2	Meet with academic staff in areas of interest to discuss the possibilities and clarify perceptions of what the field actually involves. Prioritize the list of options.	10 June	Met with Professor X, Drs. Y and Z to talk about their fields. Now have clearer ideas about majors.	10 June

Notes

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Optionally, mention anything you wish to add (to clarify, quantify or qualify your plan)

Notes

Assessment Criteria

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10 Marks in Total

1. **Overall Efficacy (6 marks)**

You have evidently engaged with the task to produce a workable/practical plan.

2. **Presentation (1 mark)**

Work is well-presented

3. **Stage 1: Preliminary Analysis (1 mark)**

No less than 50, up to 100 words per section

Evidence of reflective thought in each section

4. **Stage 2: Career Action Plan (1 mark)**

A range of work is present

Work demonstrates understanding

Work showcases ability (for employers)

5. **Grammar/Expression (1 mark)**

Work is grammatically correct. Spell-checker has been used. Ideas are clearly expressed. Correct grammar and spelling are used. Class attendance.