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Unit 2: Planning Your Career Path

After completing this unit you will be able to:

- i) explain the relationship between job satisfaction and success
- ii) identify the career direction most likely to provide job satisfaction and success
- iii) make and explain your career action plan and the reasons behind your choices

**The Job Winners[®] Guide for
Young Adults**

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I'm still young. Why do I need to plan my career now?

The answer is simply that when you don't have a plan for your life, you are likely to find yourself controlled by other people and outside influences. If you have a goal to aim for, you are more likely to work your way towards it. If you don't, you have nothing to prevent you allowing yourself to go along 'with the crowd' who could lead you well away from the track that you later decide would have been best for you.

Take full control of your life; develop career and life goals. They are not set in concrete. Young people, especially young men, may change their career plans two, three or more times before the age of 25. However, these changes are often not huge. Generally speaking the original goals are not too far away from the goals set in your mid-twenties. But if you don't set goals when you are young, you may well find that later, when you do decide how you want to live the rest of your life, you are a long way away from your new career direction and to get there will not be easy.

Your chances of a successful future - and by that I mean where you're leading the sort of life you want to lead - are greatly enhanced by having goals and identifying the career path you want to follow at an early age. With such career planning behind you, you will be much more focussed in any further education or training you do; you will be better able to choose the right subjects to study and your motivation to achieve will be enhanced by your understanding of how that study will help you attain the life you want.

So I encourage you to work out now which career direction will be most likely to give you the sort of life you want.

How to get started

The activity sheets on the following pages are designed to help you plan your career direction. Your results, however, will have a firmer basis if you can also use online career planning programs such as JIIG-CAL's Career Voyage, Career Navigator or Career Compass.

Career success relies on doing work that gives you satisfaction, work that you are interested in. The first activity helps you to identify the interest types that are most important to you.

What sort of work is going to interest you most?

The six interest types shown on the next page are taken from JIIG-CAL's career planning programs. Read through them and rate each type Strong Dislike (SD), Dislike (D), Not Mind (N), Like (L) or Strong Like (SL).

Then try to identify the occupations that best match your top two or three interest types. List them in the table provided on page 5.

Setting personal goals

Imagine yourself 5 years from now. Imagine life the way you would like it to be in your wildest dreams, how it could be if everything came out right.

Your picture needs to be possible – but only just. Be bold. Aim high. Set ambitious, but achievable goals.

Why? Because if you aim high and then start planning how to get there, there is a good chance that you will succeed.

People who have thought out and written down their goals achieve much more than those who haven't. Back in 1953, the graduates of America's Yale University were asked in a survey about their goals. Just 3% had clear written goals.

A follow-up survey of that same group of people 20 years later showed that the 3% who had written down their goals were worth more in financial and material wealth than all the other 97% put together!

In 5 years time, do you want your life to be much the same as it is now? Or do you want your life to be significantly better? If you would like a better life, describe it by thinking about and answering the questions below.

There is no need to have goals under every section. On the other hand, you may want to have more than one goal under a single section; you may have as many or as few goals as you like.

In 5 years time what would you like your life to be like?

- 1 I will have a yearly income of \$_____,000.
- 2 I will have savings (including bonds / shares and investment properties) worth \$_____,000.
- 3 I will ☐ own or ☐ be purchasing my own home worth \$_____,000.
- 4 I will ☐ own or ☐ be purchasing (cars, motorbikes, personal vehicles).

How many	Type	Value (approx)

- 5 Other major possessions (eg boat, campervan, horse etc).

Description	Value (approx)

Preferred career options

My preferred career option is _____

The reasons behind my choice are: _____

This is the occupation I will tailor my résumé for.

My second choice is _____

The reasons behind my choice are: _____

Other options that interest me are:

Sometimes you may find that there is little likelihood of winning a position in your preferred option. This is why it is important to have contingency plans. However, concentrate on the preferred option until you are convinced that such a position would be very difficult to get.