

OBTAINING YOUR OWN CAREER OR OCCUPATION

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1. Look for a first job in some place to work, that is relatively close to your home.
2. Note that there are others ways to produce an income, if your are of an entrepreneurial mindset. Some of these are even useful as a small side job. The basic idea is create items that others want and for which they will pay, preferably at least double what the offered items cost you to produce, both in terms of overhead expenses, your supplies and your time. Handcrafted items like old wood furniture which has been painted, walking sticks, clever sayings printed on T-shirts, and artwork or photographs containing inspirational sayings are all examples of possibilities. The idea is to minimize expenditures, until income from the endeavor has greatly exceeded the same.
3. You do not want to be losing most of your take home pay, to cover the costs for transportation to your job, especially if someone must drive you there.
4. Understand that accepting a job involves an agreement for an exchange of value. It is you agreeing to trade your time and efforts on their behalf, in return for their money. So when you are 'on the clock,' your time belongs to your employer. It does not belong to friends, texting, phone calls, or calling off from work to attend fun events. Make your employer glad that they trusted you. Undependable will soon become equivalent to unemployed.
5. Spend your time while working in your first job, considering others who you admire and why you admire them. Research various occupations and consider those you feel might fulfill you as an honest person and as a provider. Unless or until you enter into a covenant relationship with someone else, who has agreed to provide for you, you will need to earn your own living.
6. Pick at least four potential occupations that are of the most interest to you personally. At least two of these should be trades, which do not require a college degree.
7. Then research to determine the steps that must first be completed, to enter those fields. Ask professionals who are already accomplished in those occupations, who would be willing to advise you (and many will), about the necessary steps.
8. Then pick one of these professions to begin pursuing.
9. Your desired profession may absolutely require a college degree, in order to enter that field. Do NOT borrow money to go to college. If you can't afford it, then you can't afford it.
10. Note that many scholarships are available that pay toward tuition costs, for students coming straight out of high school. These are mostly one-year scholarships or grants. Colleges and universities count on students, once they have already invested in, and completed one year of classes, being willing to sacrifice, to finish what they have begun. Scholarships are available for furthering an education, but they are relatively rare and difficult to obtain.
11. Continuing a college education often requires borrowing money to pay for the expenses of doing so. Do NOT borrow money for college. Even though the initial scholarships have expired, the credits earned for the classes you completed, have not expired. There are very few reasons not to take time off, between the first and second years of college.
12. Hang onto textbooks from the classes which were directly pertinent, to your profession of interest. Those will be useful for refreshing your previously acquired knowledge, should you decide to resume classes at a later point in time.
13. Now consider the trades that are of interest to you. Pick one that offers training at no initial cost to you. Some examples are EMT training and CNA training, but there are many more

such opportunities. What is really nice is when they are somehow connected to, and offer some level of knowledge in, your desired profession. These opportunities are often called apprenticeships, whether with companies utilizing those trade skills, or with unions. This offer of training usually comes with a condition that upon completion, you will work for the group that trained you, for a specific time period, to pay them back for the time and expertise they invested in you. That will be a paid position.

14. Once in that trade position, begin saving heavily again to pay for the expenses of furthering your secondary education, assuming you still wish to continue. Having the knowledge of, and experience gained in, a trade, will always give you a fallback position, in case problems arise later in your other chosen profession.
15. Complete your obligations to the trade or organization which trained you. Then resume your college classes.
16. Once you resume classes, work part-time in your trade, to earn more for your college expenses, than any minimum wage job could provide.
17. Well before you graduate from college, begin researching companies for whom you might enjoy working, in your chosen profession. Send out letters of inquiry to them, as to what they tend to look for in members of their team. That will narrow down your field of research, while creating a network of contacts for the future.
18. When researching companies of interest, find out how they have handled slow times in their business in the past. If they have a history of laying off staff to increase profits at that point, they have no loyalty to their team members. That company might not want to be one in which you should plan a future. At best, it might be a temporary landing spot in which experience can be gained, while seeking a better long-term option with a group more loyal to their people.
19. Take the time to find employee reviews on social media, from people who have worked for, or still work for, companies of interest. That are usually quite informative about the internal atmosphere at businesses. In many cases, such reviews will only come from past employees. Those currently employed may not wish to risk being, fired due to their opinions. Some employers keep tabs on the public Internet use of their employees.
20. If multiple options seem to be presenting themselves, ask yourself. Which of these companies would be most likely to place value on you as a team member? Understand that companies cannot succeed without employees, meaning they need you as much as you need them.
21. Can you see yourself working there in five years, as a valued member of the team and growing in responsibilities and attendant compensation? Will there be any openings in the future that allow advancement? Or will self improvement take place only through a lateral transfer to another company? If that seems to be the case (discuss that during the interview) then understand that accepting that position might be for the sake of your resume, not for your retirement. You might also want to consider the impact your position with them, might have on your family.
22. Be aware that the need to transfer laterally between companies to improve, will likely necessitate severing roots and leaving friends, family, churches, and so forth. Will the financial gain be worth the personal loss? Such a transfer, even if a new residence is not involved, will likely involve more travel and consequently, more time spent away you're your family and other personal obligations.

23. Also understand that frequent changes of employers will quickly become a deterrent to employers seeking to build a loyal, cohesive team.
24. A job offer is the beginning of establishing an agreement between you and them. They are more open to negotiation than they might have you to believe. Such negotiations could include salary or hourly pay, performance bonuses or overtime pay, profit-sharing, retirement contributions, days off, supply of uniforms or electronic devices, phone payments, mileage reimbursement, medical and life insurance contributions, and whether any work-from-home is permitted, among others points of discussion. Understand that all such benefits have value and may offset slightly less pay.
25. Begin employment with a desirable company in your chosen profession. Once there, work hard to make yourself valuable to them. This may require seeking out additional education or training, when you discover you have a deficiency in your knowledge. It may require asking a lot of questions, which is far preferable to gaining experience by making a lot of mistakes. Get over that fear. Quickly acquired knowledge eliminates some potential opportunities to make mistakes.
26. Eventually, if you have an entrepreneurial mindset, you may wish to begin exploring what will be required for you to form your own company. A lot of advice on doing so is available on the Internet. The best way is probably to ask others, who are already doing what you wish to do, for their advice and input. Seeking advice from those who are nearing the end of their careers, might also yield surprising opportunities.