Chapter 20

Career Planning

Chapter Objectives
After completing this chapter, you will be able to:

Section 20.1 Preparing for a Career
• Discuss the importance of career planning.
• Define at least five attributes you should know about yourself when analyzing careers.
• Describe how work is changing.

Section 20.2 Developing a Career Plan
• Name four sources where you can learn about careers.
• Describe some aspects of the working world that may affect a worker.
• Define short-, medium-, and long-term goals.
• Identify the three lists needed to make a career plan.

Ask
STANDARD &POOR’S
Developing a Retirement Plan: IRAs

Q: How do I plan for my retirement?

A: While planning for retirement is something everyone should do, an alarming number of people never get around to opening even one retirement account. According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), 49 percent of workers with an annual income between $30,000 and $60,000 don’t have a retirement account. IRAs, individual retirement accounts, are an extremely popular way to save for retirement. There are many kinds of IRAs, including the traditional IRA, which is tax-deductible, and the Roth IRA, which is nondeductible. It’s important to start investing early. Be sure to allocate your assets appropriately, and don’t touch what you’ve already put in! Many people borrow against what they’ve saved, promising themselves they’ll replace the money later, but they never get around to doing so. Finally, it’s a good idea to choose one or more beneficiaries for your investments.

Mathematics How much will a Roth IRA be worth in 5 years if you invest $3,000 now? Assume a 20% future tax rate and 10 percent annual earnings.

CONCEPT Multiplying by a Decimal To multiply by a decimal, count the total number of decimal places in the two numbers you are multiplying. Place the decimal point in the product by counting that number of places from the right.
Learning from Experience  One of the best ways to learn about occupations is to experience the work firsthand and talk to people about their jobs. What lessons do you think you could learn from a more experienced worker?
Read to Learn
• Discuss the importance of career planning.
• Define at least five attributes you should know about yourself when analyzing careers.
• Describe how work is changing.

The Main Idea
Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions that you will make. Career planning can help put you on the right path. It involves considering your interests and skills.

Key Concepts
• Making Decisions About Work
• Self-Awareness
• How Work Is Changing

Vocabulary
Key Terms
full-time job values
job skill
occupation ability
career aptitude
interests personality

Academic Vocabulary
You will find these words in your reading and on your tests. Make sure you know their meanings.
pursuing via
overseas adaptable

Graphic Organizer
In a graphic like the one shown, note five things you need to know about yourself before you begin career planning.

Academic Standards
English Language Arts
NCTE 1 Read texts to acquire new information
NCTE 4 Use written language to communicate effectively
NCTE 9 Develop an understanding of diversity in language use across cultures

Mathematics
Number and Operations Compute fluently and make reasonable estimates
Making Decisions About Work

Choosing a career is an important decision that everyone must make. The decision will affect the rest of your life. It will affect the amount of money you will earn. It will also affect the amount of satisfaction you will get from your work and life. A full-time job requires at least 40 hours of work every week. Most full-time workers spend 2,000 hours working each year. That is time you will want to spend doing something you enjoy.

Jobs and Careers

Work is essential to almost everyone's economic and social well-being. It includes jobs, occupations, and careers. A job or occupation is work that people engage in to earn pay. A career is a work history of one or more jobs in the same or related fields of interest. Each occupation in a career builds on interest, knowledge, training, and experience from the other jobs.

Pursuing a career requires career planning. Career planning consists of assessing your potential, analyzing your options, and preparing for the future. That preparation could include education or training as well as developing specialized skills or abilities.

Contrast What is the difference between a job and a career?

Self-Awareness

Before you start thinking about careers, you should note what interests you. Knowing yourself is a key part of your journey into the working world. Who are you? What do you value most? Answering these and other questions can help steer you down the right career path.

Careers in Aviation

Carefully consider the unique characteristics of the careers in which you are interested. What is the work environment for people who work in commercial aviation?
Your Interests

Your interests are your favorite activities. They could lead to a career that you would enjoy. Make a list of your interests. What are your favorite things to do? What school subjects do you enjoy? Which types of books do you read, and what TV shows and films do you watch? You might see patterns in your list of interests. Things that you enjoy doing may involve working with people, information, technology, or all three.

Most people who enjoy working with others have a friendly demeanor. If you are interested in working with people, then you might enjoy being a salesperson or a nurse. However, several careers deal with information. Jobs that require handling information usually involve reading or doing research. Maybe you enjoy visiting libraries or learning about history. If so, then you might like being a detective or a lawyer. Many people interested in technology enjoy making or fixing things. If this sounds like you, then you might find reward in being a video producer or an electrician.

BusinessWeek Reader and Case Study

Picture Your Business with a Logo

Logoworks.com creates affordable logos and identities for small businesses. Doing most of the work online keeps it cheap.

Sarah Hawley, a 10-year public relations veteran, was moving from a job at a large agency to launch her own business, Mockingbird PR, out of her home in Gilbert, Arizona. She soon discovered that her experience bringing in clients wasn’t enough. Appearances mattered, too.

It was time to get a logo. More than just printing up business cards, a logo can create the kind of brand identity that becomes instantly recognizable to customers and also communicates that this is a serious business. Hawley analyzed a few different logo vendors and decided upon Logoworks.com, a five-year-old online provider of logo services for small businesses based in Lindon, Utah.

“I liked that their designers were spread out [across the country],” she says. “So none of the designs looked the same, and they weren’t influencing each other.” She also liked the ease of the process and the turnaround time.

But most important, she really liked the cost. Hawley chose the firm’s Platinum Package, which gave her 10 designs to choose from and unlimited revisions for $600—a fraction of the cost of getting a logo from an agency, which can start at $5,000.

CASE STUDY Go to the Introduction to Business Online Learning Center through glencoe.com for the BusinessWeek Reader Case Study.

Active Learning

Develop your own status symbol—a logo for your own business. First, decide on a particular business within a particular industry. Next, research companies in that industry to see what is appropriate. Finally, use a sketchpad to try out at least three different options. Present your research and logo options to your class. Ask for feedback on which logo makes the strongest impact.
Your Values

Values are what you believe to be important. They are the beliefs and ideas by which you live. Your values help you to make all kinds of decisions—from choosing friends to choosing a career. Your work values are the aspects of work that are important to you. Understanding your work values will help you select a career that suits you.

Your Skills, Abilities, Aptitudes, and Personality

Once you have some idea of your interests and values, you should consider your skills, abilities, aptitudes, and personality. A skill is proficiency for performing a task that is developed through training and experience. An ability is a natural or acquired skill or talent. Besides basic skills such as reading and writing, you may have a special ability to learn languages or to play a sport. An aptitude is your potential for learning a skill. Having an aptitude is like having a knack for something.

Personality is the set of characteristics that make someone special. It is the sum total of your feelings, actions, habits, and thoughts. If someone asked you to describe your personality, what would you say? You might start naming some of your characteristics. What are some of the first words that come to mind?

Explain What are values?

Offshore Outsourcing

Offshore outsourcing is the term used when jobs are transferred to countries overseas. In the past, outsourcing was a way to reduce costs, primarily with blue-collar jobs. More recently, there has been a growing shift in the number of white-collar jobs being outsourced, such as software development and medical and financial services jobs. This has raised a debate over how outsourcing will affect the U.S. unemployment rate and overall economy. Some argue that this trend will lead to decreased U.S. wages. Others claim that the United States has an edge with its innovation. They argue that this innovation will continue creating high-paying positions and that the recent increase in white-collar outsourcing is insignificant.

Examples of Languages Across Cultures

Q: In German, how do you say: “It’s nice to meet you”?
A: *Es hat mich sehr gefreut, Sie kennenzulernen.* (pronounced: Œ hüt mēkh zāir ghē-froyt, zēē kěn-něn-tsōō-lāi-r-něn.)

Do you think outsourcing is good or bad for American workers? Explain your answer.
How Work Is Changing

The world of work is constantly changing. Some businesses fail, while new ones start. Certain workers are no longer needed. Others are in demand. The way people work is also changing. As previously discussed, technology enables work to be performed more quickly, easily, and in more cost-effective ways.

The working world is no longer limited by U.S. borders. The global economy continues to grow. People around the world want many goods and services that U.S. businesses sell. More U.S. companies are opening offices abroad, and overseas firms are operating within the United States. Companies do business via e-commerce. These changes create more job opportunities for workers.

Adapting to Change

Today’s workers must be adaptable and willing to learn new technologies and ways of working. Every day you should work to improve your basic skills, develop thinking skills, and build personal skills. You will use these skills in all kinds of work later. They will help you adjust to new technologies and to change. They will also help you to compete with others in the working world.

Shifting Careers

Many baby boomers will have begun and ended their career at one company. However, studies show that the generations that follow the baby boom generation will have between five and nine different careers during their lifetime. Why do you think this change has occurred?

Section 20.1

Review Key Concepts
1. What is the difference between a job and a career?
2. What is the difference between an aptitude and an ability?
3. Discuss some ways that work is changing.

Academic Skills
4. Mathematics George got his dream job after graduating from college. He became a construction manager, helping to build commercial buildings. His starting salary was $40,000. He will receive a 3% raise in six months and, if he does well, another 5% raise at the end of the year. Will he then be earning more, less, or equal to $42,923, the average salary offered to new graduates for this job according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook?

CONCEPT

Percents

A percent increase in a number can be found by multiplying the number by the sum of 100% and the percent increase.

Math

For math help, go to the Math Appendix.

Go to the Introduction to Business Online Learning Center through glencoe.com to check your answers.
Developing a Career Plan

Before You Read
Think about ways to get information about careers to help you make plans about your future.

Read to Learn
• Name four sources where you can learn about careers.
• Describe some aspects of the working world that may affect a worker.
• Define short-, medium-, and long-term goals.
• Identify the three lists needed to make a career plan.

The Main Idea
After you identify potential careers, you should research them. The information you gather will enable you to pinpoint the right career for you.

Key Concepts
• Finding Information on Careers
• Understanding the Working World
• Setting Goals
• Making a Career Plan

Vocabulary
Key Terms
- networking
- job shadowing
- internship
- volunteerism
- entry-level job
- outsourcing

Academic Vocabulary
You will find these words in your reading and on your tests. Make sure you know their meanings.
- series
- internal
- challenging
- ultimate

Graphic Organizer
In each box of a graphic like the one shown, note the preparation you will need to develop a career.

Graduation Plan | Education and Training Plan | Experience Plan
---|---|---

Academic Standards

English Language Arts
- **NCTE 1** Read texts to acquire new information
- **NCTE 9** Develop an appreciation of diversity in language use across cultures
- **NCTE 10** Use first language to develop competency in English language arts and develop an understanding of content across the curriculum
- **NCTE 11** Participate as members of literacy communities
- **NCTE 12** Use language to accomplish individual purposes

Science
- **Content Standard F** Students should develop understanding of personal and community health
Finding Information on Careers

After you identify potential careers, it is time to do some research. The information you gather will enable you to pinpoint the right career and develop a career plan. There are many sources of job information. Figure 20.1 offers a list of relevant skills and qualities to investigate when doing career research.

**Reading Check** Explain Why is it important to research careers?

Written Sources

There is a lot of written information about careers at libraries and on the Internet. Also, the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (OOH) describes hundreds of jobs. It lists the fastest-growing fields and gives addresses of places to write for more information.

Career Counselors

A *career counselor* is someone who is trained to provide information and guidance on choosing a career. A career counselor can also help you learn more about your interests and abilities. Most school counselors can provide career counseling.

Networks

Another way to get information is by networking. *Networking* is the practice of building informal relationships with people whose friendship could bring advantages such as job or business opportunities.

**Figure 20.1** Skills for Success

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21st Century Skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading/Language Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and Media Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking and Systems Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Identification, Formulation, and Solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Century Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, Information Processing, and Research Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-Solving Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Development and Productivity Tools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Workplace Skills** To succeed in the 21st century job market, all workers need information, communication and media literacy skills, thinking and problem-solving skills, and interpersonal and self-directional skills. *Why do you think creativity and intellectual curiosity are important?*
Work
The best way to learn about a career is to work. New workers often benefit from job shadowing, which involves following another worker on the job for a few days. Internships are another option. An internship is a temporary paid or unpaid position that involves direct work experience in a career field. You might also consider volunteerism, or working without pay.

Understanding the Working World
There are some general aspects about the working world that you should know. They may affect you at some point during your career.

The Career Ladder
Most occupations have career ladders. A career ladder is a series of different jobs within a career. You might start with an entry-level job, which is suitable for a worker who is new to a job, field, or subject. From there you might be promoted to a higher level job with more responsibilities. Continually improving your skills will help you to succeed by climbing a career ladder.

Outsourcing
While U.S. companies face global competition for sales, some U.S. workers face global competition for jobs. Many U.S. firms outsource work to other countries. Outsourcing is using outside sources to do tasks traditionally handled by internal staff. It is usually done to cut costs.

The Role of Supply and Demand
Many people think that supply and demand affect only the prices they pay for goods and services. However, supply and demand also affect the job market. If there are more qualified people than there are openings for a job, then it will be difficult for a worker to get the position. People who have special skills, talents, or knowledge are also highly sought after for jobs. The more demand there is for a worker’s set of skills, the easier it will be for him or her to get a job.
Setting Goals

Before you reach your career goal, you must first set and reach other goals. Goals can be short-, medium-, or long-term. A short-term goal is something you might start and reach quickly. A medium-term goal is usually more challenging and takes longer to achieve. A long-term goal may take a long time to reach. Short- and medium-term goals can help you achieve a long-term goal. When setting goals, be as specific about each one as you can. Specific goals are easier to aim for and achieve.

Making a Career Plan

As you can see, making a career plan takes effort. You can create one now for one of your career choices. It is a good way to prepare for future career decisions.

Plot Your Career Course

Now that you have seen the process of career planning, get started with your own career. First, write your ultimate goal at the top of a sheet of paper. Then use library and Internet resources to research and make three lists. Your teacher, school counselor, and family can also help.

Graduation Plan In the first list, identify and select current courses, activities, and experiences that are related to your career goal. This list could lead to a specific career choice.
**Education and Training Plan** In the second list, detail the education or training you will need after high school. Be specific. List and explain your education and training alternatives, including courses you might take, and certificates or degrees you must earn.

**Experience Plan** In the third list, note experiences that will lead to your specific career choice. Include internships and volunteer, part-time, and temporary jobs.

**Set Your Goals** Once your lists are complete, determine whether each of the items listed is a short-, medium-, or long-term goal. Chart your goals in the order in which they will happen. Think about when you might start and complete each one. What can you do now? What will you do one, three, or five years from now? How long will it take to reach your ultimate goal?

**Achieving Your Goals**

The more specific and realistic your goals are, the more likely you are to achieve them. However, your goals and the time you spend on them may change over time. If you are not reaching your goals, do not lose motivation. Find out why you are stuck. As you review and revise your goals, you must also renew your motivation. The most important thing is to have a plan that gets you moving toward your ultimate career goal.

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**Review Key Concepts**

1. Identify some sources to use for career research.
2. What are some ways to gain work experience?
3. What are short-, medium-, and long-term goals, and how do they relate to a career plan?

**Academic Skills**

4. **English Language Arts** Work in a small group with other students to produce a print advertisement, radio ad, or television spot designed to recruit applicants with certain aptitudes and skills to a specific position. For example, you might recruit recent law school graduates for positions.

5. **English Language Arts** Find a partner and write a role play about a job interview. Perform your role play for the class and conduct a discussion about it.

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**Employment Agencies** Adecco is the world’s largest employment agency. Each day, the Swiss company helps more than 700,000 people find work. Its services include temporary staffing, permanent placement, project assistance, and outsourcing. The firm also trains workers to meet local needs. How can an employment agency help you as you enter the workforce?

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Go to the *Introduction to Business* Online Learning Center through glencoe.com to check your answers.
### Section 20.1 Summary

**Preparing for a Career** Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions that you will make. While a job is work that people do for pay, a career usually builds on interest, knowledge, training, and experience from one or more jobs. Career planning can help you determine the right path to take. It involves considering factors such as your interests and skills. Other aspects to consider are changes that have affected the working world, such as the growth of the global economy and e-commerce. These and other changes create more job opportunities for workers.

### Section 20.2 Summary

**Developing a Career Plan** After you identify potential careers, you should research them. Research sources include libraries, the Internet, networks, and work. New workers can learn more about careers through job shadowing, internships, and volunteering. They should also be aware of aspects of the working world that might affect them, such as career ladders and outsourcing. Setting short-, medium-, and long-term goals can give you direction. The more specific and realistic your goals are, the more likely you will achieve them and reach your ultimate career goal.

### Vocabulary Review

1. On a sheet of paper, use each of these key terms and academic vocabulary terms in a sentence.

   **Key Terms**
   - full-time job
   - job
   - occupation
   - career
   - interests
   - values
   - skill
   - ability

   **Academic Vocabulary**
   - aptitude
   - personality
   - networking
   - job shadowing
   - internship
   - volunteerism
   - entry-level job
   - outsourcing
   - pursuing
   - overseas
   - via
   - adaptable

### Review Key Concepts

2. Discuss the importance of career planning.
3. Define at least five attributes you should know about yourself when analyzing careers.
4. Describe how work is changing.
5. Name four sources where you can learn about careers.
6. Describe some aspects of the working world that may affect a worker.
7. Define short-, medium-, and long-term goals.
8. Identify the three lists needed to make a career plan.
9. How can your strengths and weaknesses affect your job objectives, career choice, personal development, and life goals?

10. Suppose you have developed a plan for a career that has a good outlook. If the outlook became negative by the time you were ready to pursue the career, what would you do?

11. A profession such as law or medicine usually requires a high level of education. A trade such as mechanics requires a high level of manual or technical skills. Which one would you most likely pursue? Explain your answer.

12. Besides the resources mentioned, what other resources could you use to find information about careers?

13. Why might it be helpful to research information about careers in other countries?

14. Think about your personality. Write a list of words that describe you, such as outgoing, energetic, caring, loyal, quiet, serious, confident, friendly, creative, or shy. What potential business careers might fit your personality?

15. Research the impact new technologies and global competition have on U.S. jobs. How do changes in technology and global competition affect workers? Write a one-page report on your findings.

16. Select two careers—one in business and the other in a different field that interests you. Research the careers. Use different techniques, such as job shadowing, volunteering, watching videos, or doing interviews. Write a review of each career.

17. Talk to a guidance counselor about your interests and skills. Develop a plan for personal growth and skill development. Write a thank-you letter to your counselor reviewing your plan.

18. Research types of self-assessment tools. See if there are any specific tools offered for people seeking business careers. Then write a two-page report summarizing your findings.

19. A mentor acts as an advocate, offering advice as a trusted counselor or guide. In two or more paragraphs, discuss how a mentor can help you prepare for a career.

Technology Applications

Spreadsheets and Written Reports

20. Create a spreadsheet listing your interests, values, skills, aptitudes, and personality traits. Identify and research two potential business careers—one in the United States and one in another country. Compare and contrast the careers. Choose one. Write a report assessing your skills and the education or training you might need for the chosen career.

Business Ethics

Job Shadowing

21. Imagine you just started an internship at a large phone company. You spend the first day job shadowing a longtime employee. During a tour of the office, you are given access to confidential information about the company’s customers. Is this right or wrong? Explain your answer.
Applying Academics to Business

**English Language Arts**

22. Write an e-mail or letter introducing yourself to someone working in a career that interests you. Describe why you are interested in the career and request an information interview. Include a list of at least six questions for the person.

24. Others can often see strengths in a person that the person himself or herself does not recognize. Pair up with another student you know fairly well. Each of you should list four or five strengths of your partner, and then exchange the lists and discuss them. Write a sentence or two telling what you learned about yourself from the experience.

**Mathematics**

23. Using the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, research the median annual salaries for five or six different careers that interest you. Consider careers such as architect, fire fighter, flight attendant, teacher, lawyer, or salesperson. Make a bar graph to compare the data you have gathered.

25. The average earnings of a real estate agent in a medium-sized midwestern city have been growing at a rate of 1.5% per year for several years. If the average earnings were $35,670 last year, what are they likely to be next year?

*CONCEPT* **Graphs** A bar graph is a chart that uses either horizontal or vertical bars to show comparisons among categories. One axis of the chart shows the specific categories being compared, and the other axis represents a discrete value.

*CONCEPT* **Word Problems** Read carefully to make sure you understand the question. To solve this problem, ask yourself how many time periods are in question. Round to the nearest dollar.

Active Learning

**Diagram Career Paths**

26. Interview a family member or a friend of the family about his or her career ladder. Create a diagram that shows the jobs the interviewee has had. Then connect the skills, experience, education, and leadership roles that led to advanced positions on the ladder. Write a brief report about the interview, and share your work with the class.

**Business in the Real World**

**School-to-Work Programs**

27. Create a chart of the programs in your school and community that link school to work. Ask your guidance counselor and teachers to help you. Include names, addresses, and telephone numbers of people to contact. Then, as a class, compile all the charts, and prepare a document that can be shared with the rest of your school.
**Real Life Skills**

**Analyze Entry-Level Job Skills**

28. Interview the personnel manager of a large firm or the person who hires employees for a small firm. Determine the qualities that the manager looks for in an entry-level employee. Ask about the noted strengths and weaknesses of today’s applicants. Then prepare a brief report of your findings. Share it with the class.

**Cool Business Careers**

**Find Your Dream Job**

29. Go to the *Introduction to Business* Online Learning Center through [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com) for a link to the Occupational Outlook Handbook Web site. Click on the “OOH Search/A-Z Index” link and enter the job title “architects, except landscape and naval.” Then write a one-page report about this type of occupation. Conclude your report with a list of things you could do now to prepare yourself to pursue the occupation.

**Role Play**

**Creating a Career Plan**

30. **Situation** Imagine you are a career counselor for a state employment agency. A nearby high school asks you to talk to students about developing a career plan.

**Activity** Develop a presentation on the steps of a career plan.

**Evaluation** You will be evaluated on how well you meet the following performance indicators:

- Convey the importance of career planning.
- Outline the steps to complete a career plan.
- Give a well-organized presentation.
- Answer questions about planning a career.
- Project your voice, and use correct English and grammar.

**Standardized Test Practice**

**Directions** Choose the letter of the best answer. Write the letter for the answer on a separate piece of paper.

1. **Given the following set of data, which is greatest?**
   
   \{1, 3, 4, 5, 5, 7, 8, 8, 8, 9, 10, 10\}
   
   A mean
   B median
   C mode
   D the mean and median are equal

**Test-Taking Tip** Look for key words in test directions and questions such as choose, describe, explain, compare, identify, similar, except, not, and but.

**Reading** Go to the *Introduction to Business* Online Learning Center through [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com) for a list of outside reading suggestions.