

A Great Career Fit

What Does a Great Career Fit Look Like for Me?

First things first, try to take the pressure off yourself for finding that one perfect dream job. It's likely that your career interests will evolve over time and that many diverse paths could be fulfilling for you. You may take a job to get your foot in the door to start and be able to move into a great long term fit soon. Or you may think you've landed the ideal job only to discover 3 years in that you want to shift your focus.

According to a 2018 report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average person changes jobs ten to fifteen times in their lifetime! Those job changes might be promotions, lateral moves within an organization or whole new paths.

You also will have life and circumstance changes that will take you in new directions. So, take a deep breath; you'll find your way! And the Career Development Center is here to help. Remember, the world needs what you have to offer.

Let's think about some of the elements of a great job fit:

- 1. PURPOSE:** For example, let's say that you know you're really good with numbers. So you think you should be an accountant, but that might not be a great conclusion if taxes don't create a sense of purpose for you. If a sense of meaning for you comes from working with youth, maybe you might want to be a math teacher or a financial advisor for the Boys and Girls Club.
- 2. ABILITIES:** Some abilities are innate, but many can be developed. For example, maybe you want to be in agriculture but have a bad back. You may find a lot of joy in agricultural sales or consulting that wouldn't have you lifting as much as a production role. If there's something you're really interested in but you don't think you can do it, brainstorm with a career advisor or mentor what possibilities may exist that you haven't thought of. Or, maybe you want to be a wildlife biologist but you don't have the scientific credentials. Decide whether you're willing to do the schooling and seasonal assignments to get there.
- 3. DEMAND:** This is where reading job boards early on comes in. You might discover that there are not as many opportunities in your region as you initially expected. That's a good insight! It's important to investigate how market realities intersect with your desired path. (But that's not to say you can't be an entrepreneur and invent what the world needs, too!) O*Net (onetonline.org) is a great place to research current occupations, job outlooks, salaries and more.

