



Scholar Talk

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Nine Steps to Your Best Career Fit By Susan Pines, Jist Publishing

A large body of research gives nine predictors for career satisfaction and success according to Michael Farr's book, "Overnight Career Choice" (Jist Publishing). By thinking about the factors listed in an organized way, you can make the right career choice in a short time.

Farr suggests you take a few hours to consider the following nine most important components of an ideal career before thinking about specific job titles:



1. What are you good at?

List your top skills and abilities. Think about your personality traits, such as honesty and enthusiasm; your general skills that are useful in many jobs, such as writing clearly or an ability to prioritize; and your job-related skills learned through education, training and experience.

2. What interests you?

Write down your top interests. Are you good with computers? Do you have a knack for repairing engines or furniture? Do you enjoy photography? Do you have a flair for numbers? Do you like to help people solve their problems? Consider all of your interests.

Map out your route to a successful and fulfilling career!

3. What motivates you and is most important to you?

Prioritize the values you would like to include in a career. Do you want to help society and others? Would you like to have authority? Do you want creative or exciting work? How important is variety, independence, recognition, good pay and security to you? Think about what you really want from your career. *(Continued on Page 3)*

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Special points of interest:

- Get published the easy way!
- Find the career best suited to your personality and lifestyle!
- Chill out with our new ICEBREAKER feature!
- Get a free lunch at one of Baltimore's finest hotels!

Changes to the CBF Last-Dollar Grant Program Aim to Better Serve Our Scholars...And We Want YOUR Input!

CollegeBound Foundation is expanding services to recipients of the Last Dollar Grant. We are gearing up to provide support which will aid in the retention of our students in college. We want to be able to do everything possible to ensure the success of those whose college education we are helping to fund, and that includes you. WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK! Complete the enclosed questionnaire and GET PUBLISHED! You heard right...complete the included form and be listed as a contributor in our new handbook!

Responses will be used in our Transition to College Handbook being developed for all CollegeBound Scholars. It is anticipated, the handbook will be the new go-to resource for finding the answers to common college and CBF related questions. It will also serve as a resource for where to find needed help and support. Let other scholars in on the advice, tips, helpful people and strategies that got you through sticky times at school.

ICEBREAKER: Crush Your Stress with a Bit of Humor!

This is definitely food for thought for students who are preparing their introductions to employers!

This was actually an essay written by a college applicant. This author of this essay, Hugh Gallagher, now attends NYU.

IN ORDER FOR THE ADMISSIONS STAFF OF OUR COLLEGE TO GET TO KNOW YOU, THE APPLICANT, BETTER, WE ASK THAT YOU ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCES YOU HAVE HAD, OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU HAVE REALIZED, THAT HAVE HELPED TO DEFINE YOU AS A PERSON?

I am a dynamic figure, often seen scaling walls and crushing ice. I have been known to remodel train stations on my lunch breaks, making them more efficient in the area of heat retention. I translate ethnic slurs for Cuban refugees, I write award-winning operas, I manage time efficiently. Occasionally, I tread water for three days in a row.

I woo women with my sensuous and godlike trombone playing, I can pilot bicycles up severe inclines with unflagging speed, and I cook Thirty-Minute Brownies in twenty minutes. I am an expert in stucco, a veteran in love, and an outlaw in Peru.

Using only a hoe and a large glass of water, I once single-handedly defended a small village in the Amazon Basin from a horde of ferocious army ants. I play bluegrass cello, I was scouted by the Mets, I am the subject of numerous documentaries. When I'm bored, I build large suspension bridges in my yard. I enjoy urban hang gliding. On Wednesdays, after school, I repair electrical appliances free of charge.

I am an abstract artist, a concrete analyst, and a ruthless bookie. Critics worldwide swoon over my original line of corduroy evening wear. I don't perspire. I am a private citizen, yet I receive fan mail. I have been caller number nine and have won the weekend passes. Last summer, I toured New Jersey with a traveling centrifugal-force demonstration. I bat .400. My deft floral arrangements have earned me fame in international botany circles.

Children trust me.

I can hurl tennis rackets at small moving objects with

deadly accuracy. I once read Paradise Lost, Moby Dick, and David Copperfield in one day and still had time to refurbish an entire dining room that evening. I know the exact location of every food item in the supermarket. I have performed several covert operations for the CIA. I sleep once a week; when I do sleep, I sleep in a chair. While on vacation in Canada, I successfully negotiated with a group of terrorists who had seized a small bakery. The laws of physics do not apply to me.

I balance, I weave, I dodge, I frolic, and my bills are all paid. On weekends, to let off steam, I

participate in full-contact origami. Years ago I discovered the meaning of life but forgot to write it down. I have made extraordinary four course meals using only a mouli and a toaster oven.

I breed prizewinning clams. I have won bullfights in San Juan, cliff-diving competitions in Sri Lanka, and spelling bees at the Kremlin. I have played Hamlet, I have performed open-heart surgery, and I have spoken with Elvis.

But I have not yet gone to college.



If you have a joke, story or article, good for breaking the ice, email it to: srodowsky@collegeboundfoundation.org!

Tidbits: Quick Snipits

SAVE THE DATE!

Join CBF for the 18th Annual Scholars' Luncheon. Returning Scholars receive one free ticket to our event that celebrates YOU!

Thursday, July 27th

Light St. Hyatt

Invitations to be mailed out soon!

- **RENEWAL MATERIALS DUE JULY 1ST!** Make sure that you send a copy of your 2006-2007 SAR, FAAL and MHEC letter (if applicable), along with a copy of your transcript (with Spring '06 grades—unofficial is fine) and verification of your 4 volunteer service hours by July 1st to be considered for funding for next year!
- **GRADUATES, CONSOLIDATE YOUR STUDENT LOANS NOW!** Interest rates for Stafford loans will go up to a fixed 6.5% on July 1st. Students that have more than one lender are able to consolidate or re-consolidate their loans at much lower rates typically between 3 and 4%—or as low as 2.75% if you really shop your loan! Loan consolidation will lower your interest rate (so that you will pay less money) and will lower the amount of your monthly payments. Check out www.nextstudent.com for the lowest rates we've seen!
- **EARN VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS AND MEET FELLOW SCHOLARS** by helping out with our new Transition to College Workshop for incoming freshmen to be held on July 15th. Call the CBF office for details!

Congratulations to These Scholar Graduates!



If you are graduating and are not listed here, please call the CBF office. We want to pat you on the back for a job well done (and include your achievement in our Scholars' Luncheon program!)

Capital College Kamesha Norris
Clark Atlanta U Nakia Green
Notre Dame Ashley Avent
Frostburg Travon Morgan
 Michelle Powell II
High Point Precious Hall
Morgan Wayne Brown
 Ariel McCrea
 Uchuema Obua
 Devan Perry
St. Mary's of MD Durryle Brooks
 Brandon Scott
 Adrian Tyree
Temple U Jonathan Albright
UMBC Rolanda Ball
 Michael Decker

UMCP James Brockington
 Christopher Brown
 Shanda Brown
 Inga Ferguson
 Myron Goldstein
 Ja-Nee' Jackson
 Jennifer Lewis
 Nicole Poon Ying
 Misbha Qureshi
 Kelly Smith
 Yavona Williams
 Tiana Wynn
UMES De'Nay Charles
 Tuan Vo
Villa Julie Candice Atkinson
 Latoya Chambers
 Maria Garzon
 Devon Wilson
Virginia Union U Patrice Pinn

Nine Steps to Your Best Career Fit By Susan Pines, Jist Publishing (continued)

4. How much money would you realistically like to earn?

Mull over the money issue now so you can make a good decision when you receive a job offer. If you found the perfect job in all other respects, what would be the least pay you would accept? What is the reasonable lower end and upper end of pay you can expect on your next job?

5. What level of responsibility do you want?

Decide how much responsibility you are willing to accept in your ideal career. Do you like to be in charge? Are you good at supervising others? Do you want to be accountable for the performance of others, of a department, or of a territory?

6. Where do you want your ideal job to be located?

Consider where you would like your work to be located geographically. Are you willing to move? What kind of a commute do you want? Do you want to be near relatives or public transportation? As you add criteria, you will have fewer places to look for your job, but you may end up with what you want.

7. What special knowledge would you like to include in your career?

List knowledge that you have gained from school, hobbies, family experiences and other formal and informal sources.

Are you a good cook? Are you talented at home decorating? Do you like to work with kids? Do you have a good understanding of investments? As you fine-tune your career choice, include one or two of your special knowledges. They could make you a unique applicant in the right setting. For example, a public relations specialist who knows a great deal about bicycle racing would be an ideal candidate at a bicycling association.

8. What kind of work environment do you prefer?

Define what you did and did not like in past work settings to create your ideal work environment picture. For example, do you like to work outdoors? Do you prefer a small or large organization? Does a quiet work space appeal to you?

9. What types of people do you like to work for and with?

"Although you may need to compromise, getting as close as possible to your ideal career choice will likely pay off in success and satisfaction for years to come."

Identify the types of co-workers you prefer. If you have ever had a rotten boss or worked with a group of losers, you know why this is important. Do you prefer creative types? People who are friendly or who keep your relationship very professional? Do you want a boss who interacts with you all day or one who lets you work independently?

After you define these nine ideal career factors, Farr suggests that you use them to research specific job titles and employers and keep the factors in mind during job interviews.

"Although you may need to compromise, getting as close as possible to your ideal career choice will likely pay off in success and satisfaction for years to come."

This is a direct excerpt from the article, "Nine Steps to a Perfect Career Fit" by Susan Pines (Associate Publisher for Jist Publishing), first released via careerbuilder.com's Career Advice section, March 9, 2006.

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