The Importance of Finding the Right Job

Jobs are constantly changing. The types of jobs available and the skills needed to fill them have changed considerably over time. The following information shows current occupational trends and predictions for the future. Knowing these trends is necessary to make smart decisions about the career you wish to pursue.

Today:

- On average, workers will change jobs about seven times during their careers.
- Nearly 80 percent of all jobs require some sort of postsecondary training[1].
- Manufacturing is becoming increasingly driven by advanced science and technology, and the industry has a growing need for a workforce with the right skills.
- Employers in general are demanding specific skills and experience in addition to college or postsecondary schooling.
- Additionally, employers often require training beyond high school – either through college or technical schools.
- Skilled jobs requiring less than a bachelor's degree constitute almost half of today's job market.

[1] Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Tomorrow:

- Advancement in technology will cause rapid and unpredictable changes in career demands.
- High-tech workers will need to return to school to learn new skills.
- Manufacturing will shift from mass production to flexible production. Workers will need an even wider range of skills than they do today.
- The key to successfully landing jobs will be developing a wide range of skills.
- The worker who is prepared to engage in continuing education, on and off the job, will have the economic advantage in the workplace.
- Traditional skilled trades, such as auto mechanics, plumbers, electricians and dental hygienists, will still be in demand.

So You Want to Be a Star?

Many young people dream of fame in the entertainment or sports world. Yet, the number of people aspiring to these glamorous jobs far outnumbers the actual openings. In the case of sports, experts estimate that only one out of every 10,000 high school student senior athletes will make it to the pros. And even if you do get drafted, there's no guarantee you will become rich and famous.

If you excel at sports, do not give up on your dream – but be realistic at the same time. There are still many occupations that allow you to work in professional sports and stay close to the game you love. Here are just a few examples of sports-related careers you may want to consider and prepare for:

- **Broadcaster/Journalist** – Whether they are broadcasting the game live, recording a highlight reel for television or discussing trade deadlines in the newspaper or online, sports reporters and broadcasters are the eyes and ears of the people.
- **Photojournalist** – Uses a still or video camera to catch the action.
- **Coach/Umpire** – Requires a broad knowledge of the sport to either teach or motivate players, or to observe and regulate the players' actions.
- **Facilities Manager** – Oversees the day-to-day operations of an arena or sporting venue.
- **Physical Therapist** – Develops exercise programs to help recovery from injuries and to prevent future injuries. A license is required to practice this occupation.
- **Sports Statistician** – Collects and analyzes sports data for individual games, seasons and careers. Sports announcers rely on statisticians for information.
- **Sports Turf Specialist** – Tends to grass in stadiums, golf courses and tennis courts.

This career guide includes information about hundreds of careers in Pennsylvania – both sports-related and non-sports related. Take a look at our Occupational Data Bank on pages **19** through **40** for more information about many of the occupations that are in demand throughout Pennsylvania.

	High School Student Athletes	High School Senior Athletes	NCAA Student Athletes	NCAA Senior Athletes	Drafted from NCAA	Odds High School Seniors to the Pros
Women's Basketball	438,933	125,409	15,708	3,491	32	1 in 13,700
Men's Basketball	545,844	155,955	17,500	3,889	48	1 in 11,400
Football	1,108,441	316,697	67,887	15,086	255	1 in 4,300
Baseball	471,025	134,579	31,264	6,948	806	1 in 600
Men's Ice Hockey	36,912	10,546	3,944	876	11	1 in 3,400
Men's Soccer	398,351	113,815	22,573	5,016	49	1 in 8,100

Source: Estimated Probability of Competing in Athletics beyond the High School Interscholastic Level, NCAA September 2011

Media Mythmaking and Employment Reality

Think for a moment about how the media affects your everyday life. By highlighting certain events or trends, the news media can often guide how we think. Through packaged commercials, the advertising industry can influence what we buy. It's no surprise then that the entertainment media also affects our tastes and interests, even to the point of affecting the type of careers we might find interesting and worthwhile.

There is nothing inherently wrong with developing an interest in a career you first saw on television (or in theaters). But it is important to realize that the careers you see on television comedies ("Frasier" or "How I Met Your Mother," for example) and dramas (like "CSI" and "Law & Order" franchises) are glamorized accounts of the fields. Even documentaries (on CourtTV or A&E) and do-it-yourself-shows (such as cooking shows with famous chefs) only demonstrate activities of the job which the viewer is apt to find interesting, pleasant, fascinating or amusing. Everything else, such as the preparation needed to do the job and the other roles the person might play in the job, is recognized only in passing. This can leave viewers interested in a career even though they are unaware of the schooling and experience required to obtain the career and the daily functions of the job should they get hired.

Consider some of the careers listed below. All of these careers are good careers for those truly motivated enough to pursue them. These occupations all have two things in common: first, highly stylized versions of them receive widespread exposure on television and in movies; second, the number of those hired to do these jobs tends to be small, making these careers very difficult to break into.

Occupational Title	Total Annual Openings	Average Income	Typical Preparation Required
Chefs	70	$42,990	Related work experience
Detectives	86	$77,210	Related work experience
Psychologists (clinical, counseling and school)	260	$72,060	Doctoral degree
Psychiatrists	35	$152,830	Doctoral degree
Fashion Designers	6	$57,220	Long-term on the job
Kindergarten Teachers	190	$55,510	Bachelor's degree
Agents (performers, artists and athletes)	12	$61,500	Bachelor's degree plus work experience

Source: CWIA, 2010-20 Pennsylvania Occupational Employment Projections & Occupational Employment Statistics Survey (May 2011, Pennsylvania)

If you are interested in any of these careers, find out as much as you can about them. Use O*Net (www.onetonline.org) to learn about working conditions, training requirements and similar occupations. Also, please look closely at the Occupational Data Bank on pages **19** through **40**. Increasing your exposure to additional occupations may lead you in a new direction when planning for your future.

See the Resource Guide for more information

The Only Constant is Change

Career Change through Lifelong Learning

In today's workforce, workers change jobs frequently. Because of downsizing, turnover, technological advancement and economic disturbances, workers often have to take on new duties within their current jobs, or look for new jobs beyond what they're used to doing. Pennsylvanians need to think differently about education and how to prepare, so they can make informed career choices. In other words, job security now depends on being flexible, adaptable and willing to continually learn new skills.

The CHANGES formula provides a framework for keeping your career relevant and thriving.

Careers evolve. Today, workers must get used to change and risk. The average worker will change jobs between seven and nine times in his or her life. These are usually job changes, not career changes. Workers can learn more skills performing the same job function at multiple employers than by sticking with the same company their entire lives.

Hit the books; surf the Internet. Find all the information you can about jobs you might be interested in, including wages, skills needed, growth within the industry and related industries and general economic trends. Always be on the lookout for new job possibilities.

Accomplishments matter. Keep a running list of your major projects and achievements, and refer to it often. Identify the common threads that tie your work history together, and highlight the skills, knowledge and competencies that a new employer can use.

New skills keep you growing. Getting promoted from your current job – or finding a new one – often requires continued learning. Keep up to date with software and technology, whether through classes, on-the-job training at your current job, or part-time or volunteer work.

Get out there and network! Even in these days of instant communication via the Internet, the best way to learn about new job opportunities is through people you know. See our Networking section, on pages **56-57** later in the guide for more information.

Enthusiasm pays off. Be a model employee at all times – always eager to do your job well – because it can have long-term rewards. You never know when you'll need a good reference, or when a good job opportunity might open up at an old employer. When leaving a job, be sure not to burn your bridges.

Sell yourself. Seeking a new job is much like marketing a product. You are "packaging" your image and selling your skills, accomplishments and work ethic to prospective employers. You have to take the initiative and make the sale; you can not wait for opportunities to come to you.

Be sure to visit these sites when looking for more information about changing careers:

- www.paworkforce.state.pa.us
- www.paworkstats.pa.gov
- www.cwds.state.pa.us
- www.careeronestop.org
- www.bls.gov/k12/index.htm
- www.careertech.org
- www.quintcareers.com
- www.acinet.org
- www.careerknowhow.com
- www.wetfeet.com
- www.jidaw.com/careerplan.html (This site is primarily geared to technology careers.)