

Factors in Your Career Decision

Listed below are aspects of a career or job choice that can make the difference between your satisfaction and dissatisfaction. Select three occupations you are thinking about and fill in the blanks in the column headings below. Now, consider each factor below in relation to your preferences and needs. Use career center staff and resources listed in the [Tools for Career Exploration](#) to help you find the information. Talk to people in the fields you are considering for more information.

Indicate with a “+” or “-“ sign whether an occupation satisfies your preferences for each factor.	Occupation #1	Occupation #2	Occupation #3	Example
Advancement Opportunities -What are my chances of moving up in the field? -What is the typical way to advance? -Am I willing and able to do what it takes to advance?				+
Hours -What are the usual hours? Full-time or part-time? -Is shift work required?				-
Interests -Would I like this type of work enough to make it a career?				+
License Requirements -Are certificates or licenses required? -Can I qualify for them?				N/A
Outlook for the Job -What are my chances for finding work in this field? -Are there job openings now? In the future? Where are they? -Will I be competitive?				+
Physical Capability -Am I physically able to do this kind of work?				+
Skills -Do I possess the skills and abilities needed to enter the occupation? - -Could I develop them? Would I enjoy using these skills?				+
Tasks Performed -What tasks are performed in the job? -Would I be primarily working with people, information, or things? Is that what I want to do? -Are these the kind of people I like to help, serve, or be around?				+
Training and Education -Am I willing and able to get the training required? -Do I have the time and money needed for training? -Are there different ways to enter the occupation?				+
Values -Is this work compatible with my values? -Will this kind of work help me reach my long-range goals?				+
Wages -What salary could I expect at the entry level? -What do experienced workers earn? -Are there chances for overtime or bonuses? -What kind of benefits could I expect in this field? -Does the salary meet my needs?				-
Work Setting -Where would I work? Is this a setting I would like? -What are the conditions (indoors/outdoors, noisy, etc?)				+
Other Factors				N/A
Results: Total the number of positive responses (+) for each occupation under consideration. Which occupation is the best match for you?				9