

PLANNING A CAREER:

TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF WHAT'S NEXT

Finding a job that is right for you

Do you know now what career you want? If your answer is, "No," you're not alone. It may help to think about your interests, your skills, your education and training options, and your resources. Exploring all of your options is an important first step down any path. If you need help, you'll find resources for learning about jobs and careers. Several free tools are online or at most job counselors' offices that can help you research careers and even learn about yourself and what kind of job you might enjoy. Please note, however, that while online tests can be interesting and helpful to get you thinking about all of your options, you are the ultimate expert on you.

IN-PERSON HELP

It's best to talk with people who are "in the know." In addition to talking with your school counselors, people at job fairs, ministers, parents or friends of parents, here are a few government resources and community centers that may be able to help you. Many community groups and job training sites are found here.

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD)

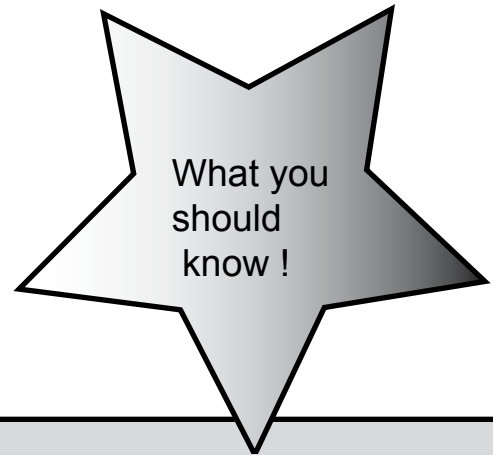
<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/>

This website, run by Wisconsin's department of labor, has great information for job seekers, including: a job match program, a list of Job Centers, information on hot careers in Wisconsin. The website also has resources including: lists of upcoming job fairs, tips for job searches, and statistics on the best bets jobs for Wisconsin. The site offers special help for veterans, youth, and unemployed workers!

Wisconsin also has a number of Job Centers that can help you plan, train for, and find a job. For a list of those in Rock County, call 608-741-3400 or visit 1900 Center Ave. in Janesville.

The Rock County site is: <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/Dept/HumanSvcs/JobCenterMain.htm>

Rock County Job Center contact is: Shannon Moe 741-3567



It's true most of the time that you can just change jobs or quit, but there is one major exception. If you decide to join the military, leaving can result in a dishonorable discharge, which could harm your future employment opportunities. Also, it is difficult to switch jobs in the military. So, if you train as a cook, don't expect to switch to a computer tech later. And skills and certifications you learn in the military may have no civilian counterpart once you leave the military.

PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

When you're making changes—from high school or something else—not knowing can be the hardest part. It may help to:

- **Get Help:** Talking to career counselors or adults you trust can help you make good decisions.
- **Search the Internet:** The Internet is a great resource. Many libraries and community groups will let you use the Internet for free.
- **Take Small Steps:** When in doubt, make a smaller change instead of a huge leap.
- **Find What's Exciting to You:** Reflect on what inspires you and what you feel passionate about. Then, find a job that allows you to live your passion every day.
- **Experiment:** Test reality by taking action (take a class, apply for a job, get an internship).
- **Surround Yourself with People Who Support You:** Connect with people who believe in you, provide healthy support, and provide constructive criticism.

ONLINE HELP:

You can also go to career websites online, but there's no substitute for talking with professional job counselors. Many websites have information useful for exploring job opportunities and training programs and even finding jobs.

Browse!

- **Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD)**

<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/>

- **Wisconsin Job Center** <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/> 888/258-9966 Provided by Wisconsin's DWD, this site helps job seekers explore career options, look for work, and even get help writing a resume and get "job ready".

- **Wisconsin's Worknet:** <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet/>

A site for career exploration, with specific programs for youth. Find Wisconsin's "hot jobs," explore the wages of different positions, and even find summer/seasonal jobs, internships, and help searching for a job.

- **America's Career InfoNet:** <http://www.acinet.org/acinet/>

Look here to find out about wages and employment trends, occupational requirements, state-by-state labor market conditions, employer contacts nationwide, financial aid information, and the most extensive career resource library online.

- **Occupational Outlook Handbook:** <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

This is a great site for information about hundreds of different types of jobs – such as teaching, practicing law, and nursing. The OOH tells you: the training and education needed, job responsibilities, average wages, and job prospects.

- **What Interests You?:** <http://www.bls.gov/k12>

Find jobs that match your interests at this US Department of Labor site. A lively site with lots of ideas.

Fellowship of Reconciliation USA, 521 N. Broadway • Nyack, NY 10960 • 845-358-4601 forusa.org and

Rock Valley Fellowship of Reconciliation, Janesville, WI Rockvalleyfor.org Assisted by American Friends Service Committee