

4 KEYS

to Discovering Your Career Path

1

Get to know yourself.

Consider three questions:

- What am I good at?
- What do I like to do?
- What do I not like to do?

Your answers can be as simple as, "I don't like to be outside." "I like to help people," or "I'm good with words." These answers can give you a guide as you look at what careers are out there. Remember, figuring out what you don't like or aren't good at can help narrow down your search just as much as figuring out what you do like.

2

Use your resources.

Find the meeting point of the things you like and the things you're good at. Ask that uncle of yours who has similar interests as you what he does. Take an aptitude test. Talk to your school counselor who gets paid to help you figure out what jobs are out there. Look through the majors offered at a university or a job listing website. There are probably careers out there that you never knew existed!

3

Set goals.

Set small goals and crazy big goals. The one where you are a published author, cure a disease or invent a new way to give clean water to the world will give you the drive to keep pushing. The small one that you can accomplish next month where you graduate high school, finish a project that you started three months ago or finally get an A on that biology test gives you a point to aim for in your day-to-day life. It also keeps you from being overwhelmed by your big goals. Goals give us a point in the future to head toward, even if we don't know exactly where we'll end up. They're the steps that get us there.

4

Take the pressure off.

On average, people hold about 12 different jobs during their working lifetime, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. You're not committing to one job for the rest of your life. You're taking one step in the series of steps that make up your career. You may not know exactly where the job will lead, and it may change directions partway through, but that's OK. Be open to change, give yourself the freedom to be wrong and just take that first step.

If you want to take an assessment to get some ideas on what career you could pursue, check out OKCareerGuide.org. Create an account, and then you'll be able to take assessments that can help direct your search. You can also use the account to set and keep track of goals, get ideas on what steps to take next and find information about different majors and job possibilities.