

# CAREER CONNECTIONS

THE ASVAB CEP STUDENT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

## TIPS FOR NAVIGATING THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

When you were young, you might have known exactly what you wanted to do when you grew up. Now, you might not be so sure. It's a big decision and there's so much to consider. Should you go to college? How will you afford it? Do you want to go straight to work after high school? What about life in the military?

Making the decision about what to do with the rest of your life might seem impossible. Don't get overwhelmed! It's important to remember that this is only the first of many steps into your future.

Your path will likely have many twists and turns. You might have 10 careers during your lifetime. You don't have to have it all figured out right now, you just have to take the first step.

### DECISION-MAKING TIPS<sup>1</sup>

Use these tips to help navigate the decision making process.

**Identify your priorities.** Determine what is important to you. Not sure? Try writing a mission statement. This will give you a way to define who you are, set priorities, and serve as a beacon to stay on track.

**Compare your options.** The internet is a wonderful resource. Considering colleges? Use Internet search tools to compare colleges side by side. Considering work? Use the OCCU-Find to explore over 400 careers.

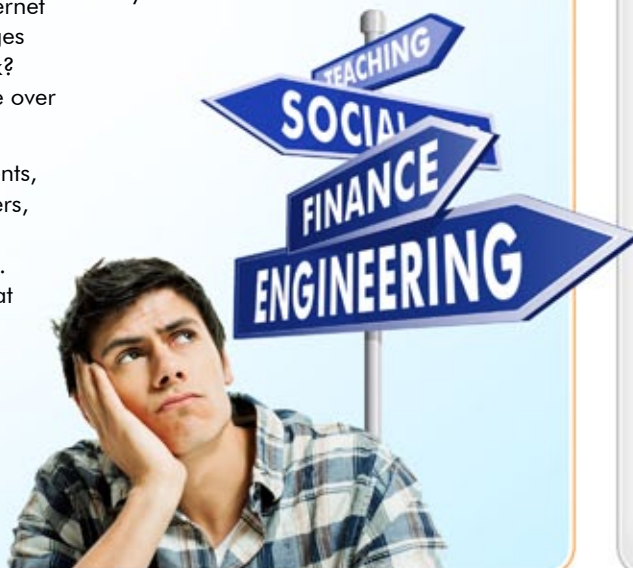
**Get advice.** Talk to your parents, mentors, family friends, teachers, and counselors. These are the people who know you the best. They've also lived through what you're going through. Take advantage of their experience.

**Volunteer or visit.** Experience your options first-hand.

**Consider your decision carefully.** Think carefully about what is the best fit for you.

**Decide.**

**Feel good about your decision.** You did it! Don't dwell on what might have been. Get excited about what you'll do next.



**START THINKING**  
about your career today.

[www.asvabprogram.com](http://www.asvabprogram.com)

### LET'S GET REAL.<sup>2</sup>

**MYTH:**

Once you choose a career you're stuck there until you retire.

**REALITY:**

Experts say that people will make an average of three career changes and have more than 10 jobs in their lifetime.

**MYTH:**

Most students know their major before they enter college.

**REALITY:**

Even if they had a major in mind when they started, most college students change their major at least once, some even three or four times.

**MYTH:**

The Military is a roadblock to a higher education.

**REALITY:**

The Post 9/11 GI Bill pays all public school in-state tuition and fees.

<sup>1</sup> College Decision-Making Guide How to Choose Which Offer to Accept. <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/letters-are-in/103.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.myfuture.com/>



## JOB-SHADOWING

The older you get, the more you discover about yourself, your likes, and your dislikes. "Choosing a career is a complex, multistep process. It requires learning about yourself and the occupations you are considering so that you can make an informed decision."<sup>3</sup>

"Job shadowing is the process of observing workers on the job for a first-hand look at careers."<sup>4</sup> Job-shadowing gives you the opportunity to visit a work environment and see how individuals in those careers spend their day. It's

intended to help you hone your objectives so you can decide if a career you are interested in is right for you.<sup>5</sup>

National Job Shadow day is Ground Hogs day. Many schools offer a job-shadowing program. Does yours? Ask your guidance counselor!

Some websites even offer virtual job shadowing which allows you to shadow workers on the Internet. The OCCU-Find contains over 300 career videos to give you a day-in-the-life glimpse of what the world of work is like.

## STUDENT INTENTIONS PIE CHART

What to do after high school is a big decision! Maybe you're thinking about going to college or working or even taking some time off? Or maybe you haven't made up your mind yet?

Keep in mind that having a plan is the best way to get on track toward success in the future. Check out what other students who took the ASVAB intend to do after high school.\*



\*SY 2010-11

48%	- 4-yr College
8%	- 2-yr College
2%	- Vo-Tech
15%	- Military
3%	- Work
24%	- Undecided

## TRIVIA QUESTION

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which of these jobs made the list of the 30 fastest growing occupations, 2008 – 2018?

- Veterinarians
- Skin care specialists
- Dental assistants
- Athletic trainers
- All of the above

(Answers at bottom.)

## We're Talking About ASVAB MOBILE!

We know you don't always have time to sit around on your computer when you're thinking about careers. So, we're making it easier for you to get your career exploration on - anytime, anywhere.



Trivia Answers: All of these jobs are expected to see growth in the coming years! For a complete list of the 30 fastest growing jobs visit: [www.BLS.gov](http://www.BLS.gov)



## Your Future BEGINS NOW!

Don't get stuck in a career that doesn't fit. Make plans now to take the courses you need for the career path that fits your interests and skills.

Check out the Career Planning Tools in the *Plan for your Future* section of the website.

[www.asvabprogram.com](http://www.asvabprogram.com)

## SIGN UP TODAY!

The ASVAB Career Exploration Program will be testing at your school:

**DATE:**

**TIME:**

**PLACE:**

<sup>3</sup> Matching yourself with the world or work: 2004. <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ooq/2004/fall/art01.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> "Free materials shed light on job shadowing." Grab Bag Fall 2004. <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ooq/2004/fall/grabbag.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> School-to-work programs: information from two surveys. <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2001/08/art5full.pdf>