

10 TIPS TO SUCCESSFULLY Changing Careers

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Are you ready for a career change? It's never too late to try a new career on for size. But, changing careers can be a significant challenge, depending on your career of choice.

However, if you're committed, there's no reason you can't find a new line of work that fulfills you and pays the bills.

Think hard before you leap. You may have quite a bit of work ahead.

Try these activities to successfully make a career change and do the work you were meant to do:

- 1. Make a list of what you don't like about your current position.** If you're considering a change, there must be something that's rubbing you the wrong way. It might be your company, the people, or your position. Maybe you just weren't cut out to be an accountant. Consider the things you don't want to see in your next career.
- 2. Make a list of what you do like about your current position.** It can't all be bad! What are things about your current company and position that you enjoy? What would you like to see in your next position?
- 3. Consider your values.** Perhaps your most important value is helping people, but you spend your days driving a beer delivery truck. A position helping others directly might be more to your liking. List your values and consider careers that dovetail with them.

4. **Brainstorm a list of career possibilities that take into account your likes, dislikes, and values.** Now that you've given some thought to what you like, don't like, and your values, think of careers that can satisfy all of those requirements.

5. **What else do you need?** If you're planning a significant change, you'll probably need to learn a few new skills. You might even need to go back to school. **Consider what you need to add to your resume and make a plan to make it happen.**

6. **Set a goal.** Know what you want and put your vision to paper. Read your goal each day. Develop a reasonable plan to reach your goal in the near future. Create a goal that inspires you.

7. **Network.** Applying for an existing opening that is known to the public is like trying to win the lottery. **Your best bet is to leverage the people you know.** Try to get the inside scoop on your dream job. Let everyone know you're looking to make a change. Be careful not to burn any bridges at your current job until you're ready to move on.

8. **Contact headhunters.** A reputable headhunter only gets paid when they find you a job, and they are paid by the employer. You're also likely to get a lot of good advice. After all, they know what companies are looking for right now.

9. **Be willing to take a step back.** You might have to take a demotion or a pay cut in order to change careers. **Sometimes, it's necessary to take a small step back to eventually take a greater step forward.**

10. **Be patient.** Finding a new position is usually challenging. Finding a new position

in a new field is considerably more difficult. You must be patient and persistent. Expect that it will take some time, but keep working hard toward realizing your dream.

Few things will change your life more than a change of career. **It's worth the effort to find a job that you love.** After all, you spend 40-plus hours each week doing it. Take the time to make a wise decision and then put a plan in place. It might be the beginning of a new adventure.