Finding the Way to Your Career

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AAAS/Science Careers
AAAS

- International nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world
- Membership-based organization
- Publisher of Science
- Source for broad range of career advice and resources through ScienceCareers.org
- Science Careers Outreach Program

-Slides available at sciencecareers.org/outreach
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Introduction

- My career path
- Strategies to find your career
- Career resources from *Science* and AAAS
Brianna’s Career

- Life as an undergrad
- Graduate School
- Gaining Skills & Experiences
- Time to Job Search
Finding the Way to Your Career

What career path is right for you?

The Decision Cycle

1. Awareness
2. Self-Assessment
3. Exploration
4. Integration
5. Commitment
6. Implementation
7. Re-evaluation

(Adapted from Carney & Wells 1995)
Research Your Options

- Learn about different career paths
- Ask unbiased sources
- Speak with career counselors
- Read about career paths
  - ScienceCareers.org – articles and forum
  - Alternative Careers in Science – Robbins-Roth
  - Put Your Science to Work - Fiske
  - So What Are You Going to Do With That? – Basalla & Debelius
  - Nontraditional Careers for Chemists - Balbes
Reflect on Your Preferences

- Take career inventories and self-assessments
- Informally reflect on preferences
  - Journal
  - Pro and con lists
  - Lists of skills and values
Questions to Consider
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- Where do you want to work?
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- Where do you want to work?
- What do you want to wear to work?
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- How often do you want to change projects?
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- What type of tasks and activities make you completely lose track of time?
- Do you want to do lab work? What would you miss about being in the lab?
- Where do you want to work?
- What do you want to wear to work?
- How often do you want to change projects?
- Would you like to work independently or as part of a team?
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- Who do you know who likes their job?
Yet Other Considerations

- Employment trends
- Societal needs
- Economic conditions
- Family responsibilities
- Geographic considerations
- Immigration issues
Informational Interviewing

- Learn about career options and expand your network
- Ask for a few minutes of the person’s time
- Prepare ahead of time
- Ask open-ended questions
- Mind your manners
- Ask for referrals
- Afterwards, write a thank you note
Questions to ask

- What attracted you to this field?
- What do you like most or least about this position or field?
- Describe a typical day or week.
- What steps did you take to break into this field?
- What skills are most helpful in your job? How can I develop them?
- To what professional associations do you belong?
- How do I locate positions in this field?
- What advice do you have for me?
Other Networking

- Ask your contacts about career options
- Social networking
- Career fairs
- Meetings and conferences
- Mentoring programs
Develop New Skills

You might need experience in new arenas!
- Volunteer
- Complete an internship
- Pursue fellowships
- Get additional training
- Take a part-time or temporary job
- Demonstrate an interest in your new career path
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Science Careers

- Job Boards
- Articles
- Forum
- Booklets
- Outreach
- Webinars
- CTSciNet & MySciNet
- GrantsNet
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Other AAAS Programs

- Science and Technology Policy Fellowships
- Mass Media Fellowships
- EntryPoint!
- Communicating Science
Resources

Available at sciencecareers.org/outreach
- These slides (and others)

Available at sciencecareers.org/webinar
- Nontraditional Careers webinar
- Job Search webinar