



CAREER CONNECTION

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Career Myths and Beliefs

MYTH #1: Everyone who enters college must have a major.

Estimates suggest that from 20% to 50% of all entering college students are undecided about their major. Estimates suggest 50% to 70% of college students will change their majors at least once.

MYTH #2: You should choose a career that is in high demand.

The job market and economy are cyclic. Careers in high demand now may be glutted later. Best insurance is to major in something that interests you, and in which you have talent and motivation.

MYTH #3: You must pursue a specific undergraduate major to gain admission to postgraduate or professional schools such as medicine, law, or business.

Some graduate and most professional schools require or recommend specific academic prerequisites; specific majors are not always required.

Broad skills are an asset when applying.

MYTH #4: An academic major leads to a specific career. My major should be directly related to my job/career.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the average person changes her/his career five times in a lifetime. Some majors such as Nursing or Accounting prepare students for specific fields, however, most majors give graduates multiple options.

MYTH #5: The most qualified person gets the job.

Typically the person who gets the job is the one who makes the best impression.

MYTH #6: Good grades and a college degree will get me a good job.

While employers do look for academic success, many would rather see a GPA of 3.0 plus several internships, leadership activities, community service and technical skills.

MYTH #7: My first job out of college is one that I will be stuck with for a long time.

New college graduates are often in their first job for one to three years.

It isn't typical any longer to spend a lifetime with one employer.

Studies show that the average working American will have three to five careers and between 10 to 12 jobs during his/her lifetime.

MYTH #8: I should know what I want to do before I go to my campus career center.

Career services can assist students focus on self-assessment, goals, understanding more about the world of work and other areas to enhance success.

MYTH #9: My family and friends know me. They can help me choose the right career.

Students must live with their job choice. Pleasing others can come back to haunt us.

MYTH #10: I'm going to graduate school: I don't need a resume.

It is a good idea to begin building a resume currently. It allows one to see gaps in experience and fill them in before education is completed.

*MYTH #11: Interviewing is easy
if you know how to talk.*

Marketing yourself to employers is the main stay of job searching.
The best way to do that is to read up on interviewing and practice.

*MYTH #12: The only jobs available
are in the classifieds.*

At least 50% of jobs are found through networking. Research shows that fewer than 20% of jobs are listed in the classifieds.

*MYTH #13: I sent a resume and a cover letter.
If they want me, they will contact me.*

Passive approaches don't work in today's job market.
You need to do extensive follow-up.

*MYTH#14: Money is the most important factor
when making a decision about a job offer.*

The most important factors are job content and the new boss.
Job satisfaction is a high priority, as people spend significant time at work.

MYTH #15: The campus career center is the place you go when you are a senior.

Pursuing career and/or graduate school is time-consuming and beginning early is best. Starting late adds more stress and anxiety to this already challenging process. It is important to participate in internships, developing a resume, cover letter, and interviewing skills.

MYTH #16: More education means more marketability.

A “better” degree doesn’t necessarily mean getting the job you want or getting a job that is meaningful. The right combination of education and work experience, along with abilities and personal qualifications conveyed in an interview are important.

MYTH #17: The Company will take care of my career and me.

This might have been true in the 1950's but the workplace has changed. According to Business Week, the chances are one in three an individual will lose his/her job at least once during working life. Career self-management is important.

MYTH #18: I posted my resume to the Internet so I should hear about a job offer soon.

The Internet does not solve all career problems. It should be part of the overall plan, but shouldn't provide a false sense of security.