



3 Steps to Take When Considering a Career Change

Are you at a point in your career where you are starting to seek out something fresh and new? Maybe you've accomplished all you can at your current job, or you've realized there's no room for advancement. Or perhaps you've felt trapped in your industry for awhile and are simply ready to pursue something different. Job seekers regularly look to jump into new roles and arenas, so we're here with some tips to help you consider your next move.

Assess Why You Want to Make a Move

Before making a final decision to take your career in a whole new direction, do some introspection to understand why you are looking to escape. Is it a bad boss? Is your current industry stagnating? Are you hoping to learn new skills and abilities? As you evaluate your reasoning, assess whether you're trying to leave due to a temporary or ubiquitous inconvenience (e.g. difficult coworkers), or for reasons that are industry-specific and can't be resolved (e.g. no room for growth; your industry is shrinking). Don't rule out a job change in the same industry if your reasons for leaving fit more in the temporary inconvenience category.

Do Your Homework

If it truly is your industry, not your particular company causing you to consider a change, make sure to select the right next career for you. Changing careers is a large undertaking, and putting in a little preparation could go a long way. Research the industry you are interested in moving to, and write out answer to questions like:

- Who are the customers or clients? Who will I be serving?
- What does this career trajectory look like? Will I be able to advance?
- Who are the big companies in this industry?
- What are the primary challenges of this role? What are the rewards? Will it be fulfilling?
- What skills and abilities are necessary to succeed?

Talk to Others in the Industry

In today's job market, who you know is important to finding and securing new opportunities. Join mixers, industry associations, conventions, and other events in the industry you are interested in. Ask the people you meet there about their companies, projects they're working on, and how they've made it to where they are. If it feels comfortable and appropriate, you could ask to job shadow an industry professional to make sure the switch will truly be a good fit. People are generally happy to walk you through their journey. Remember to follow up with new connections over coffee or lunch to keep up a memorable impression and a lasting relationship.

If you are actively looking into changing careers, please stop by the Career Action Center in Mountlake Terrace Hall, Room 138 for assistance with seeking opportunities, crafting a cover letter, or refining your resume. We also offer career workshops and assessments that can help you identify which path to start down if you're unsure of what your next steps should be.

Career Action Center: Mountlake Terrace Hall 130 | Open M-Th, 8-5; F, 8-3

Resource Room: Mountlake Terrace Hall 138 | Open M-Th, 9-4; F, 9-3

Phone: 425.640.1256

Email: careeractioncenter@edcc.edu