

CAREER CHANGER'S QUESTIONS

1. Am I dissatisfied with my field or only with my job? Could I find satisfaction in a related job within the same field?
2. Are my working conditions the motivating factor for a change? If so, could I change my environment, or my attitude toward it, or is a career switch the only way to resolve the problem?
3. Do I wish to apply certain values on the job that I can't in my present occupation?
4. Do I feel as though I could use more of my abilities and skills in another situation?
5. Do I have an understanding of my personality and the type of work environment I'd prefer?
6. Do I know where my interests lie? What do I know about my work interests?
7. Have I taken an inventory of my skills? Do I know what my "marketable" skills are? Do I know what my transferable skills are?
 - Will many of my skills transfer to my new choice, or will I need to develop several new ones?
8. Have I acquired new skills that I don't have the chance to use in my present occupation even though I'd like to? Are there any new skills I'd like to develop?
9. Am I willing to make sacrifices to start over in a new occupation—such as taking a salary cut? Are the people who are dependent on me also willing?
10. Can I enter my newly chosen field without retraining or further education?
11. Are there any ways that I can try out a new career without quitting my current job?
12. Do I have alternative plans—or are all of my eggs in one basket?
13. Exactly what will I be giving up and what will I be gaining to change careers?
14. How important are the "golden handcuffs"—seniority in your position, retirement fund, other benefits—both in the short term and the long run? Have I done pencil and paper figuring, or only daydreaming?
15. Are there career services and support systems available in my community to help me with this career change?
16. Do I have the patience to spend time in an entry-level position (if necessary) to get to my goal?
17. What preparations can I begin today to bring about the change I seek? Do I have a list of short-term, intermediate and long-term goals?
18. How willing am I to take risks—like risking not being happy in a new occupation? Would I be willing to make another change if that should happen?