

GUIDELINES OF CAREER PLANNING

- 1** You will have 40-50 years of work ahead of you. This means that you will have time for several careers. You just need to decide which career to pursue first.
- 2** Selecting a career takes time and normally *requires active research* and some work experience. Tests and assessments alone are not enough to make a good decision.
- 3** Be flexible. Don't turn down a good opportunity just because it's not in your plan. Most people take the first *good* opportunity that comes along. It may not be in your major or chosen career field.
- 4** There are many jobs that require a degree, but no major in particular. Unless you want to work in a career that requires certification or specific training like medicine, accounting, education, or engineering; most majors will prepare you for hundreds of good jobs.
- 5** You can be in the right career and still experience doubts/frustrations. No job is perfect. Sometimes you can be in the right career field, but in the wrong specialty. Sometimes you can be in the right job, but working with the wrong group of people.
- 6** You can be very satisfied with your career and still not be happy. There are many factors outside of your job that can affect your happiness and well-being.
- 7** It is ok to have a "ok job". Not everyone finds a career where they get to change the world or one that makes them wealthy. It is normal to have a job that is pleasant and that meets your needs, while finding fulfillment or adventure in the other areas of your life.
- 8** Just because you're good at something, doesn't mean that you should do it for a living.
- 9** Don't rely on common knowledge, media, or one person's experience when evaluating careers. Do your research and *get the facts*.
- 10** For most people career advancement takes time. You don't start at the top. Be prepared to adjust your expectations.
- 11** Think BIG and have a Plan B. Go after what you want, but remember that there are many things beyond your control. Be prepared in case Plan A doesn't work out.
- 12** Comparing yourself to others will only lead to frustration. There will always be someone who seems richer or more successful. Define success for yourself and set your own timeline.
- 13** Realize that your interests, needs, and priorities will change throughout life. What you want from a career today may be very different from what you want 10, 20, or 30 years from now. Don't stick with goals that are no longer important to you.