

EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS OVERVIEW

As tempting as it can be to make a quick career decision, it is important to first thoughtfully consider a wide range of career possibilities before narrowing your potentials or making a decision. This where the second stage in our Career Planning Process, **Explore Your Options**, fits in.



Another way of looking at this process is to consider the scope of activities associated with each stage. This graphic highlights that the scope of activities in Stage 2 is expanding. That means, you're looking to add more and more career possibilities for your consideration...you don't want to leave anything out at this point.



So, the question you're trying to answer is: "What jobs might you be interested in?". There are 2 broad methods to begin gathering answers: Researching and Doing.

		Good for:
Researching	Internet	Exploring many job possibilities including the following information for each: responsibilities, specific tasks performed, education requirements, knowledge and skill expectations, wage ranges, current employment trends, potential employers, etc.
	Networking	Learning about what really happens in "the day in the life" for the jobs you're considering by talking to those who have actually done it! You can also learn about the education and career path choices made by those who are already doing what you're interested in.
Doing	Volunteering	Finding out if you like doing something as much as you thought you would. You may find that you like doing something for a few hours, but doing that same something day-after-day may no longer interest you after a trial. Volunteering is a great way to find out (plus you're helping others in the meantime).
	Internships	Trying on the job first-hand in the "real world". Internships offer the chance to really experience the job and its day-to-day demands and expectations. Internships often provide the final validation of a career choice.