

Name:

Date:



INTRO

MAKE A LIST

1. Quick -- fill in each column with careers you'd LOVE to have when you are an adult and careers you'd HATE to have.

LOVE IT!	HATE IT!

2. What, if anything, do the jobs you'd LOVE to do have in common?



ARTICLE: 5 Factors to Consider When Selecting a Career

Picking a career is a big decision, and there are MANY things you can consider. Read this article to learn about 5 main points you should think about and then answer the questions.

5 Factors to Consider When Selecting a Career

If you're looking for a short-term or part-time job, you can make just about anything work. But, when you're trying to select a career path, you should ask yourself these 5 questions to improve your chances of loving your career:

1. **Do I have the skills, experience, and education?** Maybe you are a natural, but it is more likely you will need to work to develop the skills and expertise to be truly good at your future career. If you don't have the proper preparation, you will struggle to do your work well.
2. **Am I passionate about the work?** It will be easier to go to work and really thrive if you are passionate about your job and the impact that you are making.
3. **Will I have the lifestyle that I want?** Different careers have different expectations for work-life balance. For example, will you have to work nights, weekends, or holidays in this job? Does this career require travel? Do you have the flexibility to work remotely?
4. **What is the salary and earning potential?** Before choosing a career, you should know the average starting salary and how much of a chance you will have for raises and promotions. You will also want to know about other benefits like health care and retirement funds.
5. **What is the culture like?** Some careers are fast-paced and competitive, while others may value teamwork and commitment to the mission. Learn whether your personality will fit the industry before deciding this is the career for you.

The average American changes jobs many times over the course of their lives, but considering these 5 factors will help you find the profession that is right for you.

[Source](#)

1. Whitney absolutely loves animals, so she is considering a career as a National Park ranger. She clearly has the *passion*. Provide an example of another factor from above that she should consider and why it might be important before she makes a final decision.

2. Should you consider these career factors before, during, or after attending college or alternative training? Explain your thinking.

DATA CRUNCH: Starting and Median Salaries for Two Careers

When determining salary and earnings potential, there are two frequently used terms to understand:

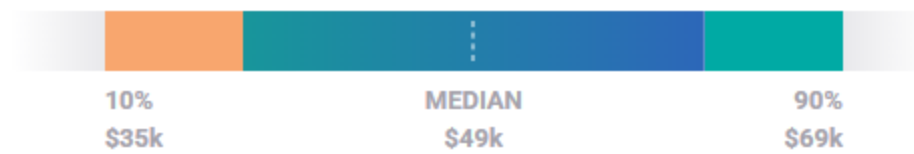
- The first year of your career in a new profession, you make what is called a starting salary, which will likely be much much lower than the average salary for everyone working in that profession. Most careers pay more to experienced employees than they do to new workers.
- The median salary for a profession is the middle of the payscale for people doing that job -- half of workers make less than the median salary, while half of workers make more than the median.

Learn more about salary and earning potential by studying graphs from two careers below -- Social Worker and Mechanical Engineer.

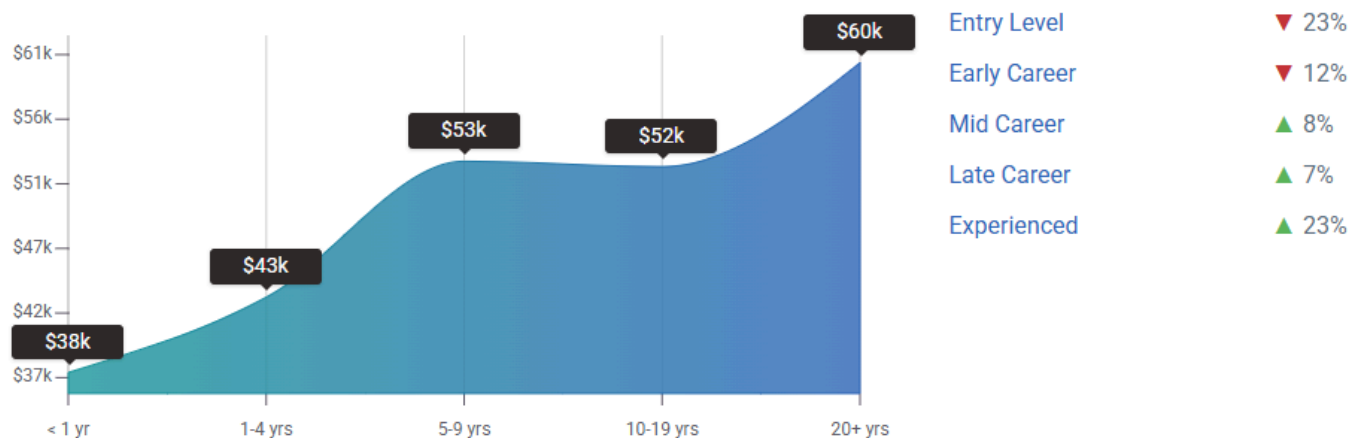
Social Worker

\$48,966 / year ▾

Avg. Base Salary (USD)



What is the Pay by Experience Level for Social Worker (BSW)s?



[Source](#)

1. What is the starting salary for a social worker?

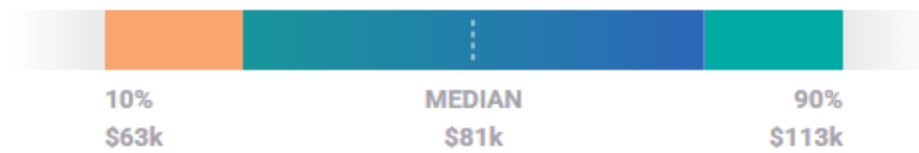
2. What is the median salary for a social worker?

3. How many years does the average person work as a social worker before earning the median annual salary?

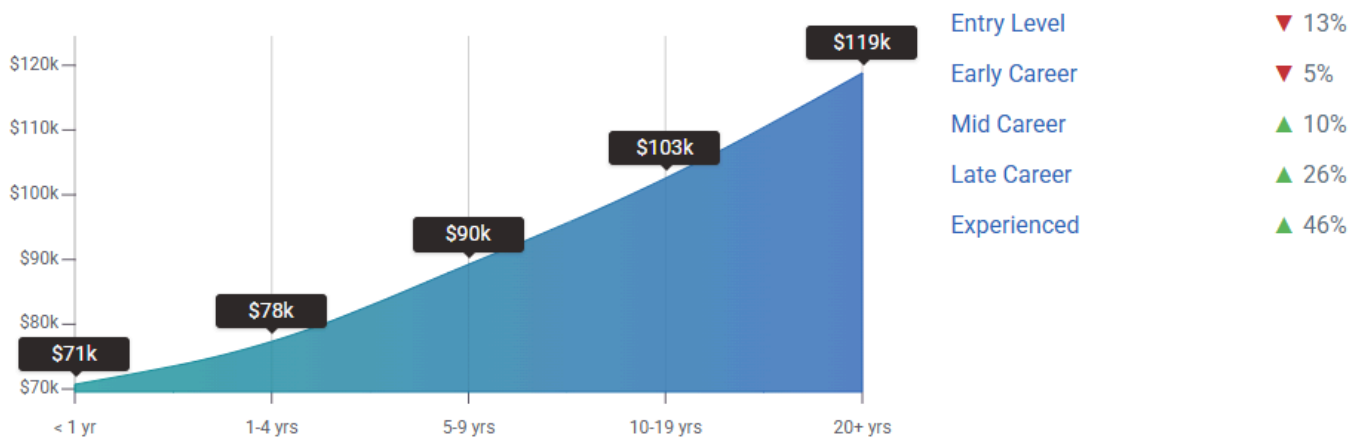
4. Would you say social workers have great earning potential? Why or why not?

Mechanical Engineer

\$81,472 / year ▾
Avg. Base Salary (USD)



What is the Pay by Experience Level for Mechanical Engineers?



[Source](#)

5. What is the starting salary for a mechanical engineer?

6. What is the median salary for a mechanical engineer?

7. How many years does the average person work as a mechanical engineer before earning the median annual salary?

8. Would you say mechanical engineers have great earning potential? Why or why not?



DO IT

INTERACTIVE: [Career Cluster Inventory](#)

Answer the questions on this career search tool honestly. It's quite long and might take 10-15 minutes to complete, but at the end, it will recommend which types of careers might be best for you.

1. Which Career Cluster, located at the top of your results page with the highest score, did the career inventory recommend?

2. Now, click on your recommended Career Cluster, and then use the Career Pathways flowchart to view jobs in this Cluster. After reviewing a few of the jobs, does this Career Cluster seem like a good match for you? Why or why not?

3. Choose any one job recommendation and click the job title link to explore that job more deeply. Now, complete this table by entering a ✓ to assess how well this particular job fits your factors for a desirable career.

Recommended Job I'm Assessing:				
Factor	This is a great fit for me	This is an OK fit for me	This is a bad fit for me	Not enough detail to assess
Skills, experience, education				
Passion				
Lifestyle				
Salary & earnings potential				
Culture				

4. What are some of the limitations of using a career inventory during middle school to help you choose a job?



EXIT TICKET

1. Why is it important to consider not just the starting salary for a given job but also how much you might earn over your entire career?

2. Name one potential danger of choosing a career based solely on salary and earnings potential.