

CAREER COUNSELING

OBJECTIVE

To help students make their Career Plan while in College and prepare themselves with various skills / strategies that are needed to adopt achieve their career objectives.

Introduction

Graduating from college marks an end of normal education and beginning of the most productive years in one's life. Whether you opt for further specialization or take up a job, college education is the deciding credential. The knowledge acquired during college years is the foundation for your career.

For most students, a career plan is an obvious one - do a Bachelor's or Master's degree and take up a job. Students step into the professional world with high aims, expectations and also certain preconceived notions about their abilities and prospects. But most of them do not have the right picture of the job market and its expectations, as they do not attempt to know the same till they finish their course or at least till the final semester. And at that point, they realize that they have made the wrong choice or lost the way. Some choose or accidentally land up in jobs for which they are perfect misfits. This is either because they do not have the required skills or interest in it. Thus, career planning must be done at an early stage as early as they enter First year Engineering

Here are some pointers to help you.

Contemplate: Factors like interests of parents, family profession, social status, demand of professional in the specific field and financial constraints must be considered along with passion and abilities. Listen to yourself and be flexible to align your career plans along with these factors..

For example your financial constraints might not allow you to opt for a job you are passionate about but which offers less money benefits. In this situation you should either put in extra efforts like a part-time job or take up a better paying job and pursue the job of your interest as an avocation and plan a transition later.

Focus: You must have sound knowledge on where you want to be at least five years from now and a fair idea of ten years from now. Also, consider the steps you should take to ensure your progress.

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Additional Knowledge: Remember that the knowledge you acquire from textbooks is not sufficient to begin your career. So seek the help of people in your field. If you are opting for a job that is not directly related to your education, you need to acquire the additional credentials to establish yourself in the field. And after you graduate from college, here are some ways to find a job:

Placements

Job Opportunities through Campus placements: Many colleges provide campus placement facility to their students. But you need to have a good academic record and must fare well at the interview. For getting placed ability in logical reasoning, analytical and verbal skills and communication skills are need and they must be improved. Non-CSE/IT students may also develop mastery of 'C' language. Once hired, the companies train you according to their requirements and your further growth depends on your efforts.

Recruitment Agencies: Recruitment agencies act as a bridge between job seekers and companies. They not only select suitable candidates for companies but also guide you through the process of recruitment. As they know precisely what the company is expecting from the prospective employees, they can offer you counsel on facing the tests and interviews and areas to work on. Some recruitment agencies even offer training in some specific areas like soft skills or technical skills for eligible candidates.

References: Referrals from your employed friends give you an edge over others in getting a job. So, post your resume to all your friends and relatives in your desired companies. They can also guide you on the hiring process.

Job Sites: Job sites introduce the job seekers and companies to one another. Today, they play a vital role in the initial process of recruitment and have almost replaced the traditional methods.

Opportunities galore in Services like Air force, Army and Navy.

Higher Studies

Higher Studies Overseas: Opportunities galore for higher studies in USA, Canada, UK, Germany, Australia, Sweden and other European Countries.

Excellent opportunities are available in USA. High score in GRE and TOEFL are required to get admission in good US universities. Assistantships will also be given in deserving cases to students who have excellent scores in GRE, carried out their project work in hi-tech industries.

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Identification of professors in different Universities in areas of interest of students is a must for admission and also for getting financial assistance. In the Visa process also, it helps as the US Embassy asks searching questions on how the proposed institution will help in fulfilling academic aspirations etc. Record of interaction with the professor with whom contacts are developed and which matches with the career objective can be quoted and shown.

In general one should not apply to top Universities only. Two at higher level, two at medium level and two low ranking Universities may be chosen so that possibilities of securing assistantship can also be explored. Preparations for GRE and TOEFL examinations are essential for going to US Universities. Preparation for GRE/TOEFL should start as early as in First year engineering itself. Higher score better the chances of getting into US Universities as well as of getting assistantship. Now-a-days many students, who are unable to get Visa to USA, are applying to Germany, Sweden, and Norway, where education is free and are taught in English medium. Many are applying to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, UK, Singapore, etc. Students should explore all possibilities.

Higher studies in India through “GATE”-to enter into institutes of higher learning.

As you are aware, IITs conduct every year GATE examination for admission into various PG programs in India. All IITs, University Colleges and other renowned institutions consider GATE score as the criterion for admission to P.G. courses.. GATE examination is basically on technical competence in the specialized area for which admission is sought. The courses and the syllabus for each course are clearly defined in the GATE application. Many students take coaching in various coaching centers for improving their proficiency, which is a good initiative.

Higher Studies in Management institutes through CAT or any specific institute entrance exams like that of ISB/SYMBIOSIS/ICFAI/XLRI/TAPMI, etc

These days there is more emphasis on management education and hence, many students are trying for admission into IIMs, XLRI, TAPMI, ISB, SYMBOSIS, MDI, FMS, IIFT, Narsee Monjee, etc. For this, the type of examination conducted is different, and is known as ‘CAT’. Effective mastering of communication skills both written as well as oral is required for doing well in CAT.

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Training through Internship/Apprenticeship

Internship: An internship gives you an insight into the technicalities of a job in your field. By the end you would have learnt the work and also gained some amount of formal work experience.

Apprenticeships: Apprenticeships help students to learn the technical skills while undergoing such training in an organization. Several organizations such as defence labs, BHEL, HAL, BDL, etc. offer such apprenticeships.

However, one must realize that in the initial stages of your career you must invest your efforts to learn skills required without being too choosy about the pay or waiting endlessly for dream offer. At the same time you must also be flexible enough to slightly alter your career path according to changing requirements of the field.

Training programs in state of the art technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and Block Chain Technologies, which may lead to subsequent absorption.

Short-Term Projects: Short-term projects help you to get practical knowledge of your vocation. This will later help you to handle interviews in a better way.

Opportunities in Apprenticeship with GoI and TASK:

Govt. of India offers one year Apprenticeship to graduate engineers with nominal monthly remuneration. Applications are available at TASK. The application needs to be filled there giving all the details. TASK will inform the posting to a specific company after processing the papers. For further information on the matter, Training and Placement Section may be contacted.

Opportunities through Entrepreneurship

Govt. of India is encouraging entrepreneurship. In this regard, a careful study has to be made as to the area in which an industry is to be set up. Getting practical experience in the areas concerned is advised so that the difficulties that are likely to be faced when the industry is set up can be understood and addressed.