

THINGS TO AVOID DURING THE CAREER CHANGE PROCESS

A career change can often require an individual to employ techniques that are vastly different than that of the traditional job search. What follows is a list of things to avoid when embarking upon a career change:

Making a career change based solely on monetary concerns.

Remember the old adage: “Money cannot buy happiness.” Just because a certain field promises to offer significant financial gains does not mean that you will be happy. Remember, you will be spending a significant amount of time where you work, and financial rewards do not typically transcend whatever unhappiness you may experience at the workplace.

Making a career change without bolstering your networking base.

Take advantage of the resources you have available to you, either through your own contacts, or through SIPA Global Connect, or through your friends and colleagues. Informational interviews are a must when trying to expand upon one’s own networking base. You may also consider joining relevant organizations to attain information and contacts.

Making a career change without self-reflection.

This is a very important point. In the early stages of the career change process, it is important that you tally-up a list of both your likes and dislikes. Consider what it is that you enjoy doing in your spare time, and ask yourself if this is something of which you could make a living. Make a conscious effort to better know yourself before embarking upon the career change process.

Neglecting to update your job-search techniques.

OCS is a great resource for bolstering one’s job-search techniques, especially if it has been awhile since you have performed any significant job hunt. Engage in mock interviews. Take advantage of the career counseling OCS offers to all current students, as well as SIPA grads. Review your resume writing techniques, networking and interviewing skills. Make certain to acquaint yourself with the current environment of the particular sector that you are trying to break into.

Making the change without a plan.

Remember: a successful career change will often take months to accomplish. On the one hand, this should not frustrate you. On the other hand, you cannot lay back and assume that things will take care of themselves. Plan ahead as much as you can the steps that you will need to follow in order to keep yourself on task. Without a plan, you might end up taking the first job that is offered to you.