

Career Planning: Here is What You Should Do First

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Whether you are a university student, a fresh graduate, or a young professional, if you really have a burning desire to create a successful career, and make it to the top in your field, then self-evaluation and self-reflection is the first step to start with. Don't wonder, and for sure, don't underestimate this, because if you really want to have a successful career, if you want to become an authority in your field, and make it to the top, then you should start it right. And to start right, you should know yourself better, you should know your strengths and weaknesses, your values and priorities, your skills and competencies, what you are good at and what you are not and what is your passion and interest. And that can only be done through self-evaluation and self-reflection and here is why. When planning our career path, many of us tend to make a very big mistake. They do not conduct any self-evaluation and self-reflection to better understand themselves and evaluate their skills, competencies, and learning progress. They only try to gather some information for the sake of getting things done such as preparing their CV, cover-letter to apply for a job. They don't go in-depth, in an organized way to collect information for the sake of knowing who they really are, what they want and try to make sense of these information to plan and decide their career path. Whether it is due to lack of time, lack of awareness of its importance, or in worst case not knowing it is something that should be done. They directly jump into preparing a CV and cover-letter, choosing their career path and start to approach companies looking for a job. And that is the biggest mistake they make in their career life. To understand why it is so, consider the following example. Imagine building a five-story house on a ground that you know nothing about it. You did



little to no research to find out the strength of basis and whether that place is suitable to the type of house you are building or not. Instead, you just jumped directly into the construction phase, building your house on a ground without a proper evaluation of the basis. By the time you are done, you realize that your house could collapse at any time because of the weak basis. And you end up forced to move and build another one which costs you your time and money. This is exactly the same scenario as building a career path without first doing any self-evaluation and self-reflection. Many people out there end up taking a wrong career path, wasting their time and energy because they did not take the time to understand and evaluate themselves, their capabilities and what they really want. And if you don't know yourself intimately, you can't build a successful and enjoyable career. If you are a young professional or in your mid-career, you still have the time to check if you are in the right direction and improve yourself. And if you are a recent graduate or a university student, it is much more better to do it now, and plan your career the right way instead of wasting your time taking a wrong path and not knowing what you really want. And if you are unemployed as a result of being laid off or could not secure a job, taking the time to do this self-evaluation and self-reflection will extremely help you to assess yourself, and your progress. It will give you a better picture of who you really are, a picture which maybe you could not see before because you were busy with your work or your studies. It will also help you gather all the details about your experiences, activities, projects, workshops, training courses and many other things in one place. And all these details will later be used to improve your CV and cover-letter, and build a strong online presence by updating your profiles. And doing so will increase your chances of getting what you want and opportunities coming down your way. Now, if you are ready to start it right, to discover who you really are, what you really want to be, and build a career based on what you are passionate about rather than what you are told to be or what circumstances made you be, there are some useful reports available to achieve that. Based on my personal experience, I have prepared a self-evaluation report which discusses the steps used to do self-evaluation and self-reflection. The document lists 19 steps to follow in order to collect the information needed to plan your career and life in general. Please contact Alahdal directly to get hold of the report. You can also visit his website where more articles are available within career management, personal development and industry insights.