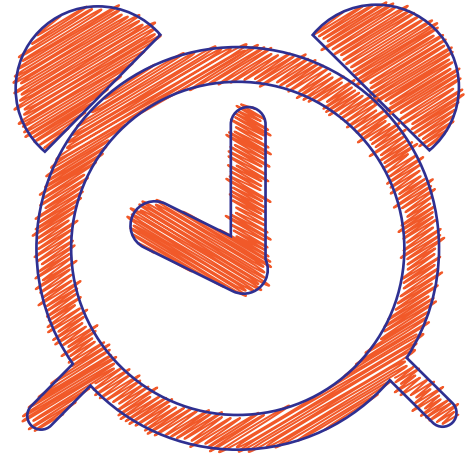


What's the big deal about career planning?



It's a matter of TIME.

One of the biggest reasons to plan for a career you'll enjoy is time. Do some simple math to discover the importance of time.

The average person works until the age of 55, at least. Suppose you start working when you're 20. That means you'll spend at least how many years of your life working?

1. _____

Let's look at the time spent working from the *percentage* of time spent working. First, figure out how many total hours there are in a week.

2. _____

The average person needs eight hours of sleep a night. Figure out how many hours a week that equals. Then subtract sleeping hours in a week from the total number of hours in a week in step 2.

3. _____

Let's say you work full time (at least 40 hours a week). The majority of people work at least that many hours a week, either at one job or two or more jobs. Subtract those hours from the remaining (non-sleeping) hours in a week.

4. _____

Now, see if you can figure out what percentage of your non-sleeping time each week you'll spend on the job.

5. _____

Wouldn't you prefer to spend all that time on the job doing work you enjoy, rather than work you hate?



The work you do often influences many other parts of your life:

- the people you socialize with
- where you live
- the amount of time you have for family and friends
- your leisure activities and hobbies, etc.

In other words ...

your career will be a major part of who you are!

Answers: 1. 55 - 20 = 35 years 2. 24 x 7 = 168 hours 3. 168 - 56 = 112 hours 4. 112 - 40 = 72 hours 5. 40 ÷ 112 = 36%

The big deal about career planning, continued

Why worry now about education beyond high school?

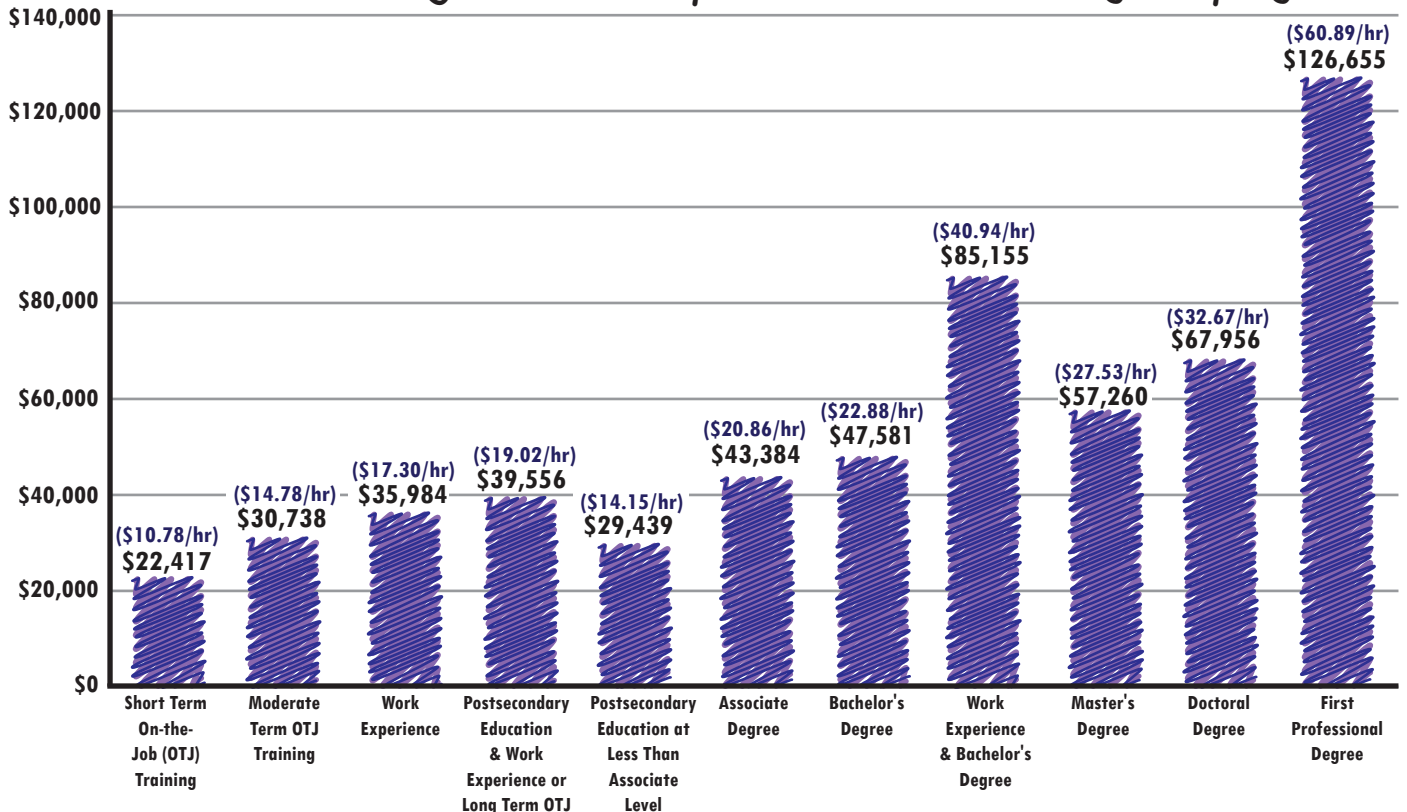
Education beyond high school can be the key to the kind of life you want. Those who complete some type of education or training after high school graduation:

- have a wider range of job possibilities and options;
- develop lifelong learning skills;
- are in a better position to help their families and communities;
- get a better start in life. They learn to express their thoughts clearly, make informed decisions and use technology — all useful skills on and off the job.

Money talks

Even if other reasons for making career and education plans beyond high school do not make sense to you, we bet this one will. Education after high school can open doors to better-paying jobs as well as better working conditions, benefits and opportunities to move up. The graph below compares the average wages of occupations by level of education preferred.

South Dakota's 2011 Average Occupational Wages by Level of Education, Training & Work Experience Preferred by Employers



Source: Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) data, through first quarter 2011 for most categories.