

Influences on Career Path Decisions

 work.chron.com/influences-career-path-decisions-12307.html

Related Articles

A variety of factors are likely to influence your career path, and some of those factors may change during the course of your professional life. Sometimes, life circumstances alter career paths, while in other instances, what you thought would be an enjoyable career is no longer appealing or fulfilling. Additionally, outside influences, such as family and friends, can change your views or make you see your professional goals differently.



Location

Geography can have an influence on career path decisions in a number of ways. You may choose a job that requires living in a certain region, or you may find that employment opportunities are more plentiful in a particular part of the country. You may also have a personal preference for where you want to live, be that in a bustling city, a rural area of a sunny locale.

Parents

Parents often have an influence on the career paths their offspring pursue. A parent may urge a child into a vocation similar to their own, or to one that has demonstrated high earning power. You may find yourself attracted to a particular line of work because of your parents' professional history, which likely has given you a first-hand perspective on that type of work.

Spouse

If you are married, your spouse can influence the choices you make regarding your career. When couples make decisions as a unit, there has to be some give-and-take and compromise. For example, if a spouse is offered an exceptional job opportunity out-of-state, you may decide together that the best option is for you to leave your job and pursue professional opportunities in the new location.

Children

Many people change their career outlook when children enter the picture. You may decide you want to pursue a less stressful or hectic career to spend more time with your children. On the other hand, you may decide to look for ways to increase earnings in order to provide for their well-being and future education.

Earning Potential

The earning potential of your chosen profession is likely to be a factor that influences your career path. You may find one aspect of your career is more financially rewarding than another, or that working your way through the ranks holds greater financial incentive than staying in the same job. Your personal financial needs are also likely to influence the career choices you make.

Industry and Economic Changes

Changes in your industry, or the economy, both have the potential to affect career choices. If you find your profession flooded by new college graduates, you may see earning potential diminish and decide to pursue a new path. Likewise, new developments in your field may open the door to expanded professional opportunities. Even the changing world economy has the potential to affect the choices you make about your professional path.

Photo Credits

- Goodshoot/Goodshoot/Getty Images