

Career Exploration

Discover

Give or take a few years for grad school and you can expect to spend close to 50 years of your life working!

Let us help you figure out how to make those 50 years enjoyable and lucrative! Choosing the multiple careers you will have over a lifetime means understanding two important dimensions: 1) Yourself and 2) The world of work.

Understanding Yourself

Your **interests, skills, values, and personality traits** should all play a role in a satisfying career. Identifying these aspects of who you are and connecting them to possible career paths will help identify options you will be good at and enjoy and give you the lifestyle and work-life balance you seek!

Our Career Assessments can provide concrete and objective measurements to help you discover the essential qualities of who you are. It's important to speak to a career counselor to discuss your results and bounce around ideas. This can make the information easier to digest. Make an appointment today!

Understanding the World of Work

Your career exploration will not happen in a vacuum. Learning about work, different industries, and economic trends can all help you make informed decisions. **Here are some ways to learn about the world of work:**

- Explore the curriculum through our many majors. The more you learn about the world around you, the more you will see work being done in many different ways. As you become interested and passionate about majors, you will begin to see that working with those issues may lead to an exciting career.

- Explore careers. Do you know what an auditor does? What are the differences between a dietician and a nutritionist? Reading about different careers and their training and educational requirements, salary, and employment outlook can help you choose among competing paths.
- Shadow professionals. Through our shadowing program, you can meet professionals who are doing the types of work you are interested in. Learn about the day-to-day life of a job to help you envision yourself doing it—or not!

You are now ready to proceed to the next step: acquiring Experience!

Experience

“You can't get a job without experience and you can't get experience without a job, right?” Wrong!

Choosing a career and preparing for it requires you to obtain experience, true, but that experience can come from a variety of opportunities. Career Development will work with you to explore the various ways to acquire experience. Here are just a few examples:

- Internships. Transylvania allows you to receive academic credit for engaging in professional learning experiences in the for-profit, non-profit, and government sectors.
- Research. Out-of-class research at Transylvania or at another university can greatly improve your laboratory and field skills and make you competitive for grants, scholarships, and admittance to high-ranking graduate and professional schools.
- Community service. Working with and serving others not only benefits those in need, but allows you to learn more about possible careers and helps you gain skills from your efforts.
- Student activities and athletics. Campus involvement is a great way to acquire skills, explore interests, develop leadership ability, and demonstrate accomplishments. Employers and grad schools prefer to see extensive commitment to fewer activities rather than casual involvement in many of them.
- Part-time and summer jobs. Working in your uncle's sandwich shop may be fine for a summer or two, but after that finding opportunities more closely related to your career field can give you the entry-level experience needed to secure that full-time offer upon graduation.

When you have acquired some experience and are ready to find that rewarding career, you have to make the Connection.

Connect

“It's not what you know, but who you know that matters when trying to find a job!”

Actually, it's both what you know **and** who you know, and for students at Transylvania, that's a great thing!

The truth is, who you know can get your foot in the door when applying for jobs, but it's what you know and *who you are* that will ultimately lead you to receiving an offer.

Career Development can help you connect your passions and interests, through your experience, to promising opportunities.

There are four steps to an effective search, connecting who you are to the careers you want to have:

1. Documents. Effective application documents, including resumes, cover letters, and personal statements, are simply essential.
2. Research. Just as you study for an exam, you also need to study the job market, including the position, the company, and the industry you're interested in.
3. Networking. Career Development will work closely with you to identify community leaders, business owners, and alumni who can help shepherd your application to the right eyes.
4. Search. A targeted job search requires more than surfing job boards; it is *targeted*, intentional, and thorough.