

# CareerSMARTZ (CS13)

*A highly effective career success strategy built around “Find a need and fill it.”*



## Task 6: Define a Tentative Career Mission

**Note:** All underlined words are hyperlinks to Internet websites and will only function when viewing this document on your computer.

### Objective

Your task in this guide is to define in writing your career mission. Like selecting a career goal, this decision will also be “tentative,” subject to a final decision later in the program.

What is a career mission? Simply put, it is the main goal or goals that you wish to achieve once you enter your chosen career goal. In Task 5 (Select a Tentative Career Goal), you determined which type of work you want to pursue. Now, it is time to determine what you want to accomplish from your work.

**Note:** In this guide, you will define **what** you want to accomplish in your career, not **how** you plan to do it. How you plan to achieve your career mission (i.e. your strategy) will be addressed later in the CareerSMARTZ program.

Defining a career mission before you begin working will help you determine which type of talent you should develop, and later, how to conduct your future job search.

Also, having a career mission will help you focus your energies and resources for maximum success. Career guidance professionals agree that having both a career goal and a mission increases your chances of achieving a rewarding and successful career. ***They are both equally important!***

### What if you already have a career mission in mind?

It is possible that you may already have a career mission in mind prior to starting this guide. If so, we still recommend that you complete this exercise to confirm your choice is a wise one, or to define your objective more clearly.

### Rationale

Trying to determine a career mission is often difficult to do. While a select few individuals seem to know at an early age in life what they want to do career-wise and what they hope to accomplish, most individuals, however, experience confusion and frustration when trying to define their career mission.

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So, how do you figure out what your career mission should be? Where should you direct your energies and why? What should be the purpose of your career?

Fortunately, we can turn to the wisdom of experts from the fields of psychology and philosophy who, over centuries of thought, have discovered answers to this question.



**First**, there's the teachings of Dr. Abraham Maslow and his [Hierarchy of Needs](#), a psychologist who taught us that we all are motivated to satisfy our personal needs, and that we often look to others for solutions to our needs.

People who respond to the needs of others are thought of as “problem solvers,” and are especially important people to those who are experiencing the needs. People with problems will naturally seek out assistance from problem-solvers and typically “reward” those problem-solvers in many ways, including financially.

***Therefore, the path to personal and career success can often be found by first satisfying the needs of others! By helping others, you are actually helping yourself! Keep this thought in mind as you read the next section.***



**Second**, there is the philosophy of **IKIGAI** (pronounced e-key-guy). IKIGAI is a centuries old Japanese philosophy that states every person has a purpose in life and it is each person's responsibility to discover their IKIGAI.

According to the philosophy, discovering one's IKIGAI is essential for a happy and rewarding life and can be found by examining the intersection of four bodies of knowledge (see picture).

The four bodies (circles) of knowledge include:

Circle 1: That which you love

Circle 2: That which you are good at

Circle 3: That which you can be paid for

Circle 4: That which the world **needs**

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[Click here for more information about IKIGAI](#)

Whatever information fits into the intersection of your four circles is your IKIGAI – aka your purpose in life.

Notice that in both Maslow’s theory and in the philosophy of IKIGAI the concept of “satisfying the needs of others” is the key to personal and career success.

The authors of the CareerSMARTZ program can’t stress enough the importance of adopting a career philosophy whereby you commit yourself to ***using your talents to satisfy the needs of others***. History has taught us that by helping others, you can achieve both personal and career fulfillment, success and rewards. ***If there’s one major key to career success, it’s following this principle!***

You may be surprised when we tell you that you have already unearthed what your IKIGAI could be, it is just that you have not yet recognized it.

For example, to answer ***Circle 1 That which you love*** in the IKIGAI illustration above, look back at your Interests that you listed on CS2 (My Ideal Career Criteria).

To answer ***Circle 2 That which you are good at***, look back to your Skills and Aptitudes that you listed on CS2 (My Ideal Career Criteria).

To answer ***Circle 3 That which you can be paid for***, look at the occupations that you listed on CS6 (My Career Options).

And, finally, to answer ***Circle 4 That which the world needs***, examine what you recorded for question 5 on CS10 (My Talent Requirements) – here you will find the clues to what your IKIGAI could be!

The guide that you are following now will help you interpret the information that you recorded on CS10 (My Talent Requirements) into a career mission.

## **Future use**

Whatever you decide your tentative career mission should be, it will be used later in the CareerSMARTZ program to determine the following:

- Which type of education or training you should pursue
- Which employers are most likely to help you achieve success
- What should be the theme of your future job search

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- What should be your strategy for career success

## Materials needed

- A copy of CS13 (the document that you are reading now)
- A copy of CS10 (My Talent Requirements) – completed as directed
- A blank copy of CS14 (My Tentative Career Mission)

## Follow the steps below to complete this guide.

1. Carefully review the information that you recorded on CS10 (My Talent Requirements) ***for the occupation that you have selected as your career goal***. Read this information several times to refresh your memory regarding the true nature of the occupation and the talent required.

Examine what you recorded regarding the goal of the occupation, the objectives that are typically set to reach the goal, the obstacles most commonly encountered in attempting to reach the objectives ***and, most importantly***, what talent should a worker in this occupation “bring to the table” to achieve success in the occupation (Question 5).

2. On CS14 (My Tentative Career Mission), enter the job title of your career goal.
3. On CS14 (My Tentative Career Mission), define your career mission. Specifically, define what you wish to accomplish – what you envision your mission will be. Be as specific as you can!

**Note:** Mission statements can be overly complex or simple. Neither is right or wrong. It all depends upon what you want to do when you enter your occupation.

***Remember what you learned from Maslow’s philosophy and the Japanese belief in IKIGAI – that the key to a rewarding life and successful career seems to center around helping other people meet their needs.***

Also remember, that you are only defining what you want to achieve in your career – your goal. It is not necessary at this point to define “how” you plan to achieve your mission. That information will be addressed later in the CareerSMARTZ program.

Here are a few examples of mission statements to help you define your mission.

My career mission is to...

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- Find a way to reduce bullying in schools.
- Help homeless people find jobs and living arrangements.
- Study how sunlight can be converted into energy.
- Contribute to the body of knowledge regarding violence in our society.
- Teach children how to read and write.
- Explore ways to reduce traffic gridlock.
- Find new forms of energy to power vehicles and homes.
- Find, preserve, and archive books for use by future generations
- Increase the number of young people who want to play sports.
- Help companies better manage and use their accounting data.
- Find ways to reduce illegal drug use in communities.
- Promote science and tech careers to young women in high schools.
- Create an Internet website to help young aspiring artists find employment.
- Predict and promote how the Internet will be used in the future.
- Export used clothing to people in need in third-world countries.
- Set up a pen pal service on the Internet to improve the communication between various world peoples and cultures.
- Create the next generation of digital documents, magazines, and newspapers.
- Improve the selection of items delivered via vending machines.
- Sell high-tech clothing that can monitor a person’s health and wellbeing.
- Help control the spread of mosquito borne diseases.

***Set your goals high - tackle the big problems.***

***Solving big problems brings big rewards - solving little problems brings little rewards.***

***To keep moving forward, to never be bored, to help the most people, and to gain the best rewards, set your goals higher than you currently think you can reach.***

## **What’s your next step?**

Move on to Task 7 CS15 (Identify Your Career Entrance Qualifications) to determine which type of education or training you need to gain entrance into your chosen career goal.

**Need more help?** Visit the [Contact US](#) page at [www.CareerSMARTZ.com](http://www.CareerSMARTZ.com).