

CareerSMARTZ (CS19)

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



Task 9: Get a Professional Opinion

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

Objective

Your objective in this guide is to get a second opinion from a professional career counselor regarding the wisdom of your career goal choice and mission, as well as the accuracy of your career entrance qualifications to-do plan.

The more advice you get, the better your outcome. Consider getting more than one opinion.

Rationale

Why seek a second opinion? As career development specialists and authors, we have worked with thousands of students and adults in all areas of career development. Our experience has taught us that there are many pitfalls and obstacles that can derail a person’s career development. One of the most common problems that career planners face is the assumption that they know what to do to prepare for entrance into their chosen career field.

In today’s world preparation for many occupations requires careful planning to avoid wasted time, money, effort and, worse yet, failure in reaching the desired goal.

Our advice is “Don’t think you have made the best career choice and/or know everything there is to know about gaining entrance into your chosen career field. Get a second opinion from a professional career counselor.”

You would no sooner try to heal yourself when experiencing an illness or injury – the human body is too complex and requires specialized knowledge regarding how it operates. One mistake here could cost you dearly. The same is true when selecting a career goal and mission, and when developing a career entrance qualifications to-do plan.

Materials needed (download and print)

- CS19 (the document that you are reading now)
- CS2 (My Ideal Career Criteria) (completed as instructed)

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- CS12 (My Tentative Career Goal) (completed as instructed)
- CS14 (My Tentative Career Mission) (completed as instructed)
- CS18 (My Career Entrance Qualifications To-Do Checklist) (completed as instructed)

Getting professional advice may or may not cost you money

It is possible to get professional advice at no cost. Such is the case when using your local public employment service (CareerOneStop.org) or when seeking assistance from a local high school or college counselor. However, it is equally likely that you may be required to pay a fee for the advice. Remember, professional career counselors have completed years of specialized training and often have years of experience, and like other professionals (doctors, lawyers, etc.) charge a fee for their service.

Follow the steps below to complete this guide:

1. Find a career counselor

Regardless of where you live, you more than likely have access to professional career counselors (thanks to the Internet). To find a career counselor willing to help you, you can:

- Check your local newspaper classifieds
- Contact nearby high schools and colleges
- Check with your Chamber of Commerce
- Contact any public employment service (CareerOneStop.org Centers)
- Call your local library
- Contact your local social service agencies (check Yellow Pages)
- Conduct a Google.com search
- Ask your family, friends, and colleagues for suggestions
- Check community online apps like Nextdoor
- Contact the authors of the CareerSMARTZ program at Careersmartz.com/contact-us/.

2. Contact and schedule a meeting

Once you have identified a counselor and obtained his or her contact information (phone number, email address) contact the person by phone (preferably) and ask if he

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or she is willing to meet with you to review your career selection, mission, and entrance qualifications to-do plan, and advise you if any changes should be made.

Schedule a date, time, and location (physical or virtual via Skype or other online chat service).

Determine if a fee is required.

If for some reason the counselor is not able to meet with you, ask him or her for a recommended counselor.

3. Defend your career choice, mission, and entrance qualifications to-do plan

Meet with your counselor and give him or her a copy of the following:

- Your ideal career selection criteria (CS2)
- Your tentative career goal (CS12)
- Your tentative career mission (CS14)
- Your career entrance qualifications to-do plan (CS18)

Regarding your career selection:

Ask the counselor the following question, “Does my career choice make sense considering my ideal career selection criteria?” Point out to the counselor the ideal career criteria that are most important to you. If the counselor questions your choice, ask why and what might be a better career choice?

Regarding your career mission:

Ask the counselor the following question, “Will my mission make me seen as a valuable, sought-after employee by employers?” Be prepared to discuss why you choose your mission, and why it meets the needs of your occupational goal. If the counselor questions your choice, ask why and what would be a better mission?

Regarding your entrance qualifications to-do plan:

Ask the counselor to review your plan and its sequence of steps and advise as to whether the steps are properly arranged and complete. If not, what steps should be changed, added, or deleted?

Take good notes and don’t forget to thank the counselor for his or her advice!

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4. After your meeting is over:

Within 1-3 days after your meeting, mail (postal mail, not email) a hand-written note (or card) to the counselor thanking him or her for the advice that was given to you.

Your next step...

Move on to Task 10 CS20 (Define Your Final Career Goal and Mission) to declare your choice of a final career goal, your mission when working in your career, and your plan to prepare all necessary entrance qualifications.

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