QUESTIONS FOR CAREER CHANGERS

What am I looking for?

When contemplating a career change, there are a number of points to consider. Use these questions to help clarify what you’re looking for and the reasons prompting a change.

1. Am I dissatisfied with my career path or only with my current job? Could I find satisfaction in a related job within the same field?

2. Are the working conditions the motivating factor for a change?

3. If so, could I change my environment or my attitude toward it, or is the only resolution a career switch?

4. What values do I wish to express in a position that I can’t in my present job?

5. How would I describe my personality and the type of environments I’d prefer working in?

6. In what fields do my interests lie? What do I know about my work interests?

7. Have I taken an inventory of my skills and know what my marketable/transferable skills are?

8. What skills and abilities do I want to use in my future occupation?

9. Will my skills transfer to the occupation I choose, or must I develop new skills?

10. What new skills have I acquired that I don’t have the opportunity to use in my present occupation even though I’d like to?

11. What sacrifices am I willing to make to start a new occupation, such as taking a salary cut? Are the people who are dependent on me also willing?

12. Can I enter my newly chosen occupational field without retraining or furthering my education?

13. How much or what type of education or retraining am I willing to pursue to make a change?

14. Do I have a back up or alternative plan(s)?

15. What are some ways that I can try out a new career without quitting my full-time job?

16. Exactly what will I be giving up and what will I be gaining to change careers?

17. How important are the golden handcuffs (e.g., seniority, retirement fund, other benefits) to my welfare both in the short run and over the long run? Have I crunched the numbers in my budget, retirement fund, etc.?

18. Is there help available in my community to facilitate my career change or help insure its success?

19. Will I need to spend the time in an entry-level position to get to my goal and how will I feel about that?

20. What small preparations can I begin today to help with my career switch? What are my short and long term goals?

21. How willing am I to take risks and how will I deal with challenges along the way?

Adapted from Career Outlook, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics