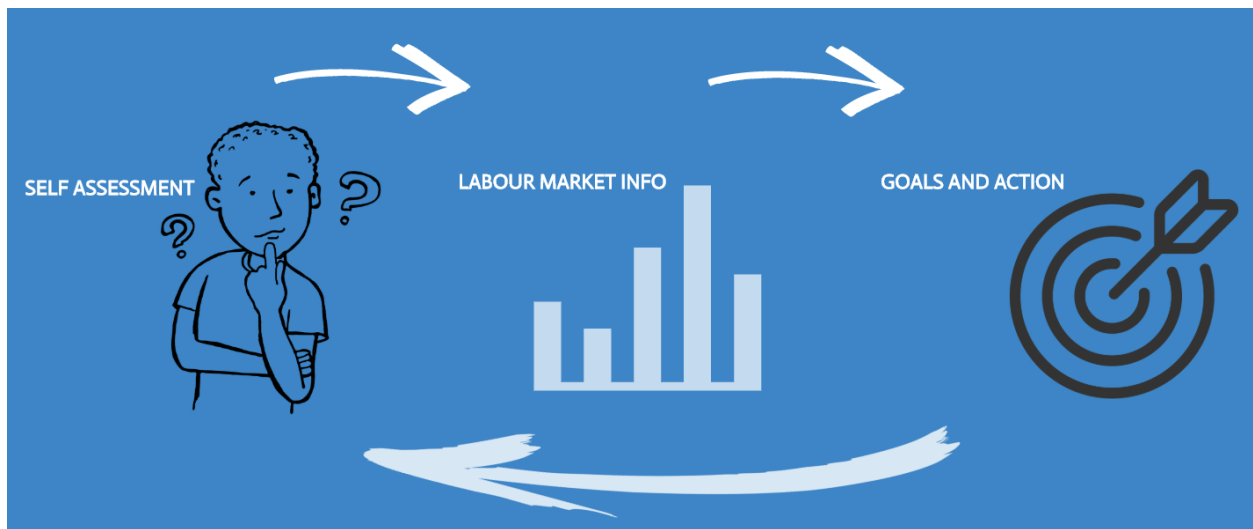


Career Planning 101

Are you wondering about what career options you should consider with the educational credentials you are pursuing at BCIT? Developing your career plan will provide tools and information that you will need and help you explore your career options, build experience, prepare for your future career, and eventually find a meaningful career.

Recommended Career Planning Steps

There are steps you need to take in planning your career. Working on your career plan in this order will help you move forward in a logical way as you embark on your career exploration and job search.



Step 1: Self Assessment

In order to evaluate the suitability of work options, it is important to know both who you are as a person and who you desire to become as a professional. This involves thoroughly examining your career values, interests, skills, personal qualities, aptitude, skills, experience, and personal circumstances.

Step 2: Labour Market Research

Once you have done a thorough evaluation of who you are, you can begin your research. This step involves brainstorming possible career options and research them thoroughly. During your labour market research, you will learn about the descriptions and qualifications for various positions, typical entry points and advancement opportunities, satisfactions, challenges, and other important facts in order to determine if a particular career would be a good fit for you.

Online resources are available to help you with your preliminary information gathering. The next step will be to speak with industry professionals who are working in the field that you are interested in. By having an information interview with these individuals, you will be getting an insider's perspective about the realities of the field and the recommended preparation for it.

Step 3: Goals and Action:

This step involves an evaluation of the pros and cons of the career options you have been researching and deciding your priorities and career goals. You'll make decisions regarding issues like relocation, cost analysis, work-life balances, etc. Once you have identified your career goals, you will engage in some activities to achieve your goals. It is highly recommended to develop your own career action plan with the support of [Career Specialists](#) and work on each action item.

Career Planning Resources

Here is a list of resources for each step:

General Career Planning Resources:

- Canadian Careers - <http://www.canadiancareers.com/>
- Career Build - <https://careerbuild.bcit.ca/>
- Career Cruising - <https://public.careercruising.com/en/>
- Career Key - <http://www.careerkey.org/>
- iSeek Careers - <http://www.iseek.org/careers/assessyourself.html>
- Job Hunters Bible- <http://www.jobhuntersbible.com/>
- Mind Tools- <http://www.mindtools.com/>
- Education Planner- <http://www.educationplanner.org/students/career-planning/checklists/index.shtml>

Self-Assessment Tools:

- **Strengths finder** – Free access for BCIT students and Alumni through Career Services
gallupstrengthscenter.com/
Discovery and ranking of personal strengths
- **Myers Briggs Type Indicator** – Fee for assessment
<https://www.myersbriggs.org/my-mbti-personality-type/take-the-mbti-instrument/>
<https://www.mbtionline.com/TaketheMBTI>
Diagnoses your personality types in relation to: Favorite world (introvert or extravert), how you process information, how you make decisions, and how you structure your relation to the world.
- **16 Personalities Assessment – Free**
<https://www.16personalities.com/>
A simpler version of Myers Briggs: personality types by 4 categories
- **WorkBC Blueprint Career Compass Quizzes – Free**
<https://www.workbc.ca/BlueprintBuilder>

Collection of career planning quizzes to help people define their work preferences, subject strengths, abilities types.

- [Abilities Quiz](#) - Assess your talents and discover occupations that match.
- [Work Preferences Quiz](#) - Identify how you like to work and find careers that align with your preferences.
- [Subjects Quiz](#) - Select your strongest subjects and see which careers might suit you best.

Labour Market Research Tools:

Online Resources

- Business in Vancouver - <http://www.biv.com/>
- Canada's Top 100 Employers - <http://www.canadastop100.com/tcd/>
- Glassdoor <http://www.glassdoor.ca/index.htm>
- NOC - <https://hrsdc-canada.blogspot.com/>
- ONet - <http://www.onetonline.org/>
- Talent Egg <http://talentegg.ca/>
- Vancouver Public Library Alternative Careers-<https://pwp.vpl.ca/siic/alternative-careers/>
- Vancouver Public Library Employment Guides - <http://pwp.vpl.ca/siic/guides/>
- Welcome BC Labour Market Outlook - <https://www.welcomebc.ca/Choose-B-C/Why-Choose-British-Columbia-Canada/B-C-Labour-Market-Outlook>
- WorkBC - [WorkBC labour Market and Industry](#)
- Working in Canada – http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/occupation_search-eng.do?lang=eng
- BCITSA Entrepreneurial Services - www.bcitsa.ca/beaboss
- See Job Posting Sites (link) Handout

Offline Resources

See the BCITSA Networking 101 (link) and [Information Interview](#) Handouts

Goals and Action Plan:

Check the following BCITSA Career Services Handouts

- [SMART Goals](#)
- [Career Development Goals](#)
- [My Career Action Plan](#)