

# Twenty Questions You Should Ask Yourself Before Changing Careers

1. **Am I dissatisfied with my career or only with my job?** Could I find satisfaction in a related job within the same profession?
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 change?
4. Do I wish to **express certain values** on the job that I can't in my present occupation?
5. Do I feel as though I could use more of my **abilities and skills** in another occupation?
6. Do I have an understanding of my **personality and the type of work environment** I'd prefer working in?
7. Do I know where my interests lie? What do I know about my **career interests**?
8. Have I taken an inventory of my skills and know what my **marketable/functional skills** are?
9. Have I acquired new skills that I don't have the opportunity to use in my present occupation even though I'd like to?
10. Am I **willing to make sacrifices** to start all over in a new occupation, such as a salary cut? Are the people who are dependent on me also supportive?
11. Can I enter my newly chosen occupational field/career without **retraining or future education**?
12. Will my functional skills transfer to the occupation I chose, or must I develop new skills?
13. Do I have **alternative plans** or have I placed all of my eggs in one basket?
14. Are there any ways that I can **try out a new career** without quitting my full-time job?
15. Exactly what will I be giving up and **what will I be gaining** by changing careers?
16. How important is my current job seniority, retirement fund and other benefits to my welfare both in the short term and over the long run? **Have I done some pencil and paper figuring or only daydreaming?**
17. Are there **resources available** in my community to facilitate my career change and **to help insure success?**
18. Do I feel that I have the **patience** to spend the time in an entry-level position to reach my career goal?
19. What small **preparations** can I begin today **to help with my career change?** Do I have a list of small, medium and big goals?
20. How **willing am I to take risks**—the risk of not being happy in my new career? Would I be willing to make another change if that happens?

