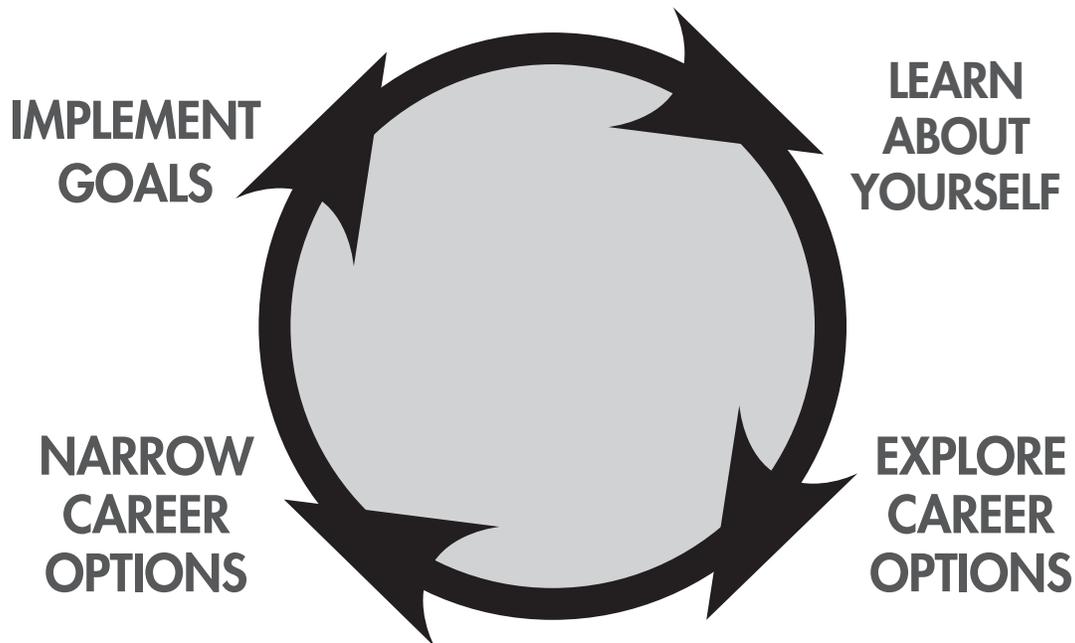


Making a Career Decision



As a child, you probably had dreams about what you wanted to be when you grew up. You might not be so sure now. It is difficult to sort through the tangle of career options, majors and opinions. Career counselors can help you determine the best path for you by guiding you through the Career Development Process. Through participation in career counseling, you obtain the knowledge and tools you need to:

- Learn more about yourself.
- Understand vital occupation information.
- Conduct reality checks.
- Plan education and training.
- Take advantage of experiential opportunities.

The steps that make up the Career Development Process contribute to solid career decisions and successful job searches within your field. Career counseling can also save you time and money. You are less likely to change majors repeatedly if you work with a counselor regarding career choice—especially early in your education.

Considering that the typical American works between 80,000 and 100,000 hours in a lifetime, finding and keeping satisfying work is important. Ever had a job that you disliked? Imagine doing that job for 80,000 hours or more!

Aside from the amount of time we spend at work, our jobs are tied closely to our identity. This fact is revealed by the way we often respond when someone asks us what we do for a living. We reply, “I am a firefighter,” or “I am a paralegal,” as if we were asked “What are you?”—not “What do you do?”

Because work is so important to us, the quality of our job situation affects us deeply. When things at the office are bad, the negative feelings have a tendency to follow us home. Job dissatisfaction can compromise our personal life or enrich it. When we love our job, we feel better about life in general.

Imagine the peace of mind that you can experience from having a career goal and knowing how to achieve it. You owe it to yourself to develop a career plan. Learn more by contacting us at career.services@cpcc.edu.