# *After Grad:* WORK OR COLLEGE?

- IT'S A -
MONEY THING®

## DEFINING YOUR DREAM JOB

**Whether you start out by getting a degree or by joining the workforce, your career path should be designed to lead you to your dream job.**

Out of thousands of career options, how will you recognize the job that's right for you? According to Oxford-based research organization *80,000 Hours*, personality quizzes and self-reflection can only take you so far. Their findings show that the key to your dream job is finding personal fulfillment—and that has more to do with the six elements outlined here than it does with traditional metrics like salary and stress levels.

***Use these six elements and their guiding questions to challenge and refine your idea of a dream job.***

*Source:* 80000hours.org

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### IT ENGAGES YOU

You know how the hours seem to fly by when you're completely absorbed in a task? Meaningful work is engaging and holds your attention.

- ***When do you typically experience 'flow state'? What sort of tasks trigger it?***
- ***How much variety do you need in order to stay focused throughout a typical day?***

### IT HELPS OTHER PEOPLE

Jobs that involve helping others score very well in job satisfaction rankings. Meaningful work makes an impact on others.

- ***How do the careers you're interested in help others?***
- ***Fill in the blank: "Friends/family/co-workers often ask for my help with _____."***

### YOU'RE GOOD AT IT

Being skilled at your job gives you a sense of achievement. Your dream job should align with what you're good at (or at least what you have the potential to be good at).

- ***What are things that I can do well?***
- ***Fill in the blank: "If given the chance, I think I'd be great at _____."***

### IT'S SUPPORTIVE

A hostile work environment can sour even the sweetest of gigs. You don't have to be best friends with everyone at work, but it is important that you're able to get feedback and help when you need it.

- ***How would I describe my ideal work culture?***
- ***What role(s) do I take on in a team setting?***

### IT LACKS MAJOR NEGATIVES

A major negative can quickly overtake the positives of a job. Long commutes, crazy hours and a lack of job security are a few common examples.

- ***What are my job dealbreakers?***
- ***Does my dream job require lots of overtime or travel?***
- ***How would my dream job affect my daily routine and/or lifestyle?***

### IT FITS INTO YOUR LIFE

Personal fulfillment can come from sources other than your day job. If side projects, hobbies or volunteering are an essential part of your well-being, make sure your dream job accommodates them.

- ***What needs do my hobbies/activities satisfy?***
- ***Does my dream job answer any of those needs? Does it leave time/energy for them?***

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