

CAREER TRUTHS

MYTH: “I need to figure out my career right now.”

TRUTH: People today change jobs an average of 12 times throughout their career. Reframe “what am I going to do for the rest of my life” to “what am I going to try first.”

MYTH: “I need a network of well-connected people to get a good job opportunity.”

TRUTH: Studies show that 70-85% of opportunities are found through connections, and you already have a large network - your family, friends, Stanford faculty and alumni!

MYTH: “I have to find a summer internship after freshman year. That’s what everyone does.”

TRUTH: A summer internship will not dictate what opportunities are available to you next summer or after graduation. There are also many alternatives to a traditional internship such as study abroad, research, and service projects, and employers often find these experiences equally as valuable on your resume.

MYTH: “My major will dictate which job opportunities are open to me after graduation.”

TRUTH: Three quarters of all college grads don’t end up working in a career directly related to their major. Every major has transferable skills and knowledge that will be marketable to employers and there are always ways to gain additional industry skills and knowledge outside of your major.

MYTH: “I don’t have any paid experience so I’m not qualified for most job opportunities.”

TRUTH: Experience includes leadership positions, athletics, service opportunities, group projects, and more. Employers often care more about transferable skills and a willingness to learn.

MYTH: “I need to find a summer internship Autumn Quarter or it’s too late.”

TRUTH: The peak for posted internships is actually in February and March!

MYTH: “I need to figure out what I’m passionate about so I can figure out what I want to do with my life.”

TRUTH: Instead of trying to find one passion, re-focus on discovering new interests by trying new things. Only 20% of young people have a clear vision of what they want to do, where they want to go, and why.

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