

# Developing Your Future Career

Setting career goals is an integral part of career planning. It could be argued that goal setting is the most important component of professional development.

## Why Career Goals Matter

**They help guide you** - Identifying your goals is crucial for success, without them, you'll never know which step to take next. They motivate you - Working towards something that matters to you will make you more productive in the workplace and encourage you to succeed.

## Setting your Career Goals

The first step in successful goal setting is figuring out what success means to you. Sure, you may dream of owning your own business or having large amounts of money, but to plan your career, you need to be realistic about what you can achieve.

Think of what would make you proud of yourself. Managing a business and / or owning and running your own business. Using your skills to help you travel around the country or overseas or a job that allows you to spend time with family and friends?

Deciding on what would help make you feel successful will help guide the rest of your decisions.



## Long Term Goals

These are the big things you want to do professionally. For example, getting another qualification, switching careers, starting your own business, etc. To achieve them you'll need a lot of time and hard work, but they can be incredibly rewarding.

## Short Term Goals

These refer to targets that are more achievable and can help push you towards achieving your long-term objectives.

# GOALS

## Identifying Career Goals

Goal setting is all about pinpointing different career objectives and figuring out the different steps you are going to need to take to achieve them.



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## Building a Career Plan

After you've determined what your goals are, you need to map out a strategy that will bring you closer to them. To make your planning more effective, you'll need to research and come up with detailed plans for your strategy.

## Strategies to Consider

**Analyze your current situation** - Before you can even do any planning, clearly and realistically identify your starting point. Where am I now - Qualifications, skills, knowledge? List your strengths and areas to be improved or developed.

**Identify where and what you want to be** - Before you can establish your action plan to get to where you want to be, you need to identify what you wished to achieve.

**Write Your Targets Down** - By recording your dreams and goals on paper, you set in motion the process of becoming the person you most want to be.

**Identify what you need to do to get there** - Seek advice, gain input from your peers. Look at other successful people or businesses – What can you learn from them? What do I need to do to turn your goal/s into reality?

## Create Your Plan

**Establish Realistic Goals** – Set specific targets that are achievable. (long and short term)

**Develop your action plan** – Your Strategies to achieving your goals- the things you need to do,

**Set a timeline and measurements** – When will the actions be undertaken. Track your progress, see how you are going. This will also allow you to stay motivated.

**Review your goals** – Do they need adjustment, are they realistic, have things changed. Seek assistance if and where required.



## Food for Thought

*"The trouble with not having a goal is that you can spend your life running up and down the field and never score."*

*—Bill Copeland*