

# 5 Ways to Explore Career Options

Exploring **career options** can be both exciting and stressful at the same time. It is time-consuming and costly to go from one career to another. By researching as many career paths as possible and gaining a bit of experience, you are more likely to see your final decision as the right one. Below, you will find different ways to explore career options. To find even more information about career choices, visit [CVTips.com](https://www.cvtips.com).

## 1: Internet Researching

The first step in exploring career options is to research various career paths. Use government websites and search engines to gain insight into the qualifications, standard salaries and opportunities for advancement. There are many industries you can choose from, and each one offers different rewards. That being said, many jobs will require you to gain more education, which may or may not be an option for you. Making these decisions early in your research will save you a lot of time and energy.

## 2: Job Shadowing

After conducting ample research, select two or three career paths which interest you more than the others. If you are interested in health care, you may want to shadow a nurse, radiologist or health care administrator before you gain the necessary education for the position. Perhaps law enforcement has peaked your interest, in which case you could ride along with a police officer. If you are thinking about becoming a teacher, arrange to sit quietly in the back of the room during class, and be sure to observe the teacher planning her lessons. It is crucial to watch the day-to-day activities of someone in each of the careers that interest you; observing the regular activities will give you a better idea of whether or not that particular career path is for you.

## 3: Interviewing

Because of work and school schedules, job shadowing may be difficult to time. If you are lucky enough to shadow one or two people in each of the fields you are interested in pursuing, you still have only gained a small perspective of that position. Arrange to interview several people in each of the fields you are considering. Ask them questions about their careers in order to understand the pros and cons of each position. For example, you may want to ask a nurse or police officer what types of hours they work and how well they were able to adjust to their ever-changing schedules. If you think teaching would be a good job for you, make sure you ask questions about what to expect after becoming a teacher.

## 4: Auditing College Courses

For career paths that involve additional education, arrange to sit in on required college courses. Professors are typically eager to allow potential students to get a better insight into their course requirements. The sooner you find out if the required courses will keep your interest, the sooner you will decide on a career path.

## **5: Volunteering**

Another great way to explore career options is to volunteer in various career fields. Many high schools, colleges and universities will help students set up volunteer jobs as a means of gaining experience.

**Update your contact information.** Be sure that your phone number and email address are both correct. Also, make sure your email address is straightforward and easy to understand - just your first and last name, for example.