

Career Planning & Professional Development

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Seven Common Myths of Career Planning:

1. It is necessary, at some point, to become a grown-up; defined as trading away passion, excitement, and clarity of vision in exchange for deliberative, thoughtful, rational analysis of all options.
2. A career represents a carefully articulated, structured and predictable series of events leading from a clear starting point to a well-defined end-point.
3. Success is externally and universally defined.
4. Professional success is a multiple choice, single best answer test.
5. Following guidance from experienced colleagues is likely to lead us down a smooth and productive path.
6. You have to do it all yourself.
7. It is always a mistake to pass-up a good opportunity, because it may not come around again.

Rules of the Road:

- Scholarship is central to academic advancement.
- Productive scholarship is, almost always, linked to the core of our work.
- Pursuing a focused area of scholarship for a period of time is generally more productive than changing focus in response to inter-current events.
- Know your departmental expectations and engage with the process on an ongoing basis.
- Force yourself to distinguish a good opportunity from the “deal of a lifetime.”