Finding YOUR dream Job!

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You CAN work!!!

- Money!
- Contribution!
- Social Connection!
- Making a Difference!
- Independence!
Employment Basics

Olers are like everyone else, and to get employed we need to think through:

- Interests
- Skills/Abilities
- Training
- Experience
- Focus on Abilities! NOT what you can’t do!!!
Explore Careers

- **Self Assessments**
Assessment tools on DOL website

- The **Skills Profiler** identifies skills and matches them to jobs.
- O*NET's **Ability Profiler** matches strengths with occupations.
- O*NET's **Interest Profiler** identifies broad interest areas.
- O*NET's **Work Importance Locator** identifies job features that are important to you.
- **Employability Checkup** provides a snapshot of your employability.
Plan – What are your goals

- What skills do you need based on career goals?
- What education or training is appropriate?

- Volunteering
- Short-Term Training
- Certification
- Apprenticeship
- Community Colleges
- Programs at Colleges
Job Search

- Research Companies
- Resume Writing Cover Letters
- Disclosing Disability?
- Networking
- Interviewing
- Volunteering/Interning
What is on your resume?

- Sell yourself!
- Identify your skills!
- Highlight your accomplishments!
- Use Keywords!
- KEY Words!
- [http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/skills/resumes/verbs.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/skills/resumes/verbs.html)
What to have at interview

- Employer research
- Questions
- Resume, application, and personal data sheet
- Portfolio and work samples
- Letters of recommendation and reference list
- Notebook and pen
- Social security card, driver's license, or state picture identification other forms of ID.
- Extra money

- **Confidence and a smile!!!!!!!**
Employment Resources

- [www.disability.gov/employment](http://www.disability.gov/employment)
- [http://www.ssa.gov/work/](http://www.ssa.gov/work/)
- [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)
- [http://rsa.ed.gov/people.cfm](http://rsa.ed.gov/people.cfm)
What OIers had to say

1. How did you decide what you wanted to do for a living? (what inspired you to end up in your current job?)

2. Specifically as a person with OI, what is the most important factor you contribute to your success in employment?
Meet Kyle – Public Policy/Business Owner

“My brother Gene, who was heavily involved in politics in NJ, took me to the state Democratic headquarters on the eve of the 1992 Presidential election. I was immediately drawn to the excitement and revelry of the celebration while watching the election returns. From that day on I was addicted to politics! A love of politics transformed into a specific interest in the function of government and that's when I decided to join the ranks of young Capitol Hill staffers.”
Meet Susie - Actress

“I had a series of wonderful teachers and one horrible one who told me to choose another career because it was going to be hard on me because I had a disability. He was himself on crutches, but it had come to him later in life and so disability was a big burden to him. Sometimes you need that one person to tell you know to really make you sit down and define why you think you CAN do it. In a weird way, I thank him too.”
Meet Tim – Television Production Manager

“Don’t listen to people who say you can’t do things because of your disability – just be persistent – don’t get mad, just work it and make it happen.”
Meet Bruce – Finance/Govt

“The most important contributor to my success has been confidence in my own ability and willingness to take a little risk. Work hard: Sometimes you have to overcompensate for an employer's fears about hiring someone with a visible disability.”
Meet Michelle - Lawyer

“Discrimination by others had the biggest impact on my career. Not necessarily in a bad way. If it not were for law firms discriminating I wouldn't have had the experience of running my own practice. It may have been the more difficult route but it was still worthwhile.”
Meet Natasha - Teacher

“ My entire life was brought up with no major regard for my OI. My mom wanted me to be like everyone else and would get upset at anyone who treated me like a special person because of my disability. Teachers were supportive and one time a teacher didn't want me to do a project because I might get hurt. My mom was upset and told her that I would do the homework like everyone else.”
Meet Brett – CEO, Center for Independent Living

“From having OI for me I have had to be very patient in life and know no matter what the circumstances are never giving up. I believe that is what has led to me being successful. No matter what the hurdle is never giving up and staying patient is what has worked for me.”
Meet Amy – Senior Sales Executive, Travel

“... As people with disabilities, it's imperative that we get an education - as we need to have as many diplomas in our arsenal as feasible. Be passionate about whatever you do with your life. This is it - there are no dress rehearsals. - pick something that makes you happy and that makes you tick... and something that ultimately helps others.”
Meet Kara - Psychologist

“ My advice is to SEEK MENTORSHIP! I am still constantly open and excited to find professional mentors with OI/disabilities. Even when they are not directly in my field”.
Meet Karen – Architect

“I also have learned that it is ok to tell clients how I can do things – and to hire others to do what you can’t. When we are walking together through a project, I often ask them to slow down or to assist me up a slope – and I don’t worry about looking weak or silly. Everyone is happy to help, and still respect me afterwards. 😊 They are looking for my technical expertise, not being a runner or super hero”. 
Meet Jeffrey – Director
Tourism and Travel

“As it related to OI, I have been very fortunate that it hasn't been a big issue. All of my employers have been very accommodating when I have had an injury. I have never felt that I couldn’t do anything professionally, but I do notice my stamina and everyday pain is getting worse and that is something I need to manage. My hearing or lack of, is truly my biggest obstacle.”
Meet Tracy - Lawyer

“I think the most important factor in my success as a lawyer was how hard I worked. I always felt I had to work harder than my non-disabled classmates and colleagues, especially in law school. I knew I would be trying to get a job in a profession where there were not many disabled people and I wanted to stand out for reasons other than my disability.”
Meet Dee – Youth Minister

“As for the OI part, the most helpful thing coming from a family of Olers has been that I know how to handle fractures. I mean I have had campers break bones while running summer camps and my family experience has been invaluable. OI has not really been an issue at all for me getting employment as I do not use any kind of mobility device. I do not hide the fact that I have it, I really am clear with the fact that I have hearing aids and I break easy, but so far that has not been a problem towards me getting employment in youth ministry or education.”
Meet Ingunn - Lawyer

"Peer work. In NFOI (Norway OI-organization) we meet people with OI who are older who are working full time. It is not acceptable to "give up and live on welfare". Sometimes I think this means that people work too much and get more exhausted than necessary. Then again having a job means so much for self respect, economy and social life and input."
You can find your dream job!!!

Don’t take no for an answer!!!! Aim High!!! Seek solutions and accommodations!!

You can do it!!!!! Keep up your determination!!! Live your dream!!!!!
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