

Career Planning For Students with OI

In the same manner that students who are in their Freshman and Sophomore years of high school need to begin planning for college, planning for a career needs to begin early in the college years. Your choice of college major, courses, internships, and extracurricular activities relates directly to your career opportunities. The type of OI you have and any additional or related health complication i.e. hearing loss, need to be taken into consideration. The ever increasing availability of assistive technologies has opened up many fields for students with OI to consider. Some career counselors say that the average person will have 3 different careers in a lifetime. Young adults who have OI need to consider the possible need for retraining as career choices change or if their physical abilities change.

1. Choosing a Career

- A. Seek advice from people who know you, school counselors, professors and persons in your field of interest.
- B. Some careers, such as Engineering, require an academic program with an emphasis on career preparation.
- C. Some careers grow out of a program of more general studies.
- D. Evaluate your talents, interests and physical abilities.

2. Build a Resume

- A. Take advantage of school-to-work programs available through your college or through your state's DVR office.
- B. Find out about and participate in mentorships, and internships.
 - a. Consult your campus office for career development.
 - b. Consult with your major advisor.
 - c. Seek information from the professional society for your chosen career.
- C. Seek out applicable volunteer work experiences.

3. Use All Available Support Services

- A. Utilize the services of your college's career center.
- B. Learn about support services available from the community where you hope to live and work.

Career Planning Resources

- **HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center**
The George Washington University, Washington, DC 20054-001
202-973-0904
Website: www.heath.gwu.edu
- **The American Association for the Advancement of Science Entry Point Summer Internship Program**
www.entrypoint.org
This program places students with disabilities who are studying computer science, engineering, mathematics, or physical sciences in internships at corporations.
- **The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars**
(202) 336-7585; www.twc.edu
The Washington Center finds internships for all kinds of people, including individuals with disabilities.

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