

Explore Your Career Choices

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Find the Career Choice "currently" best for you, such as:

- Management vs. Project Management
- Consulting vs. Staff Position
- External Consulting vs. Internal Consulting
- Current Employer vs. New Employer
- Current Industry vs. New Industry
- Large Company vs. Small Company
- Local Work vs. Relocate
- Owner vs. Employee
- Current Career vs. Different Career
- Advanced Education:
 - Graduate School vs. Self-Study
 - Night School vs. Full Time School

There are potential pluses (+) and minuses (-) associated with each career choice, that need to be evaluated, when picking the career choice “currently” best for you.

Management vs. Project Management

Management:

- + Able to do more work thru others
- + May have more responsibility & impact
- + Can provide Coaching & Strategic thinking
- May see more bureaucracy & meetings
- No longer completing the projects yourself

Project Management:

- + Get to work closely with small teams
 - + Get to focus on interesting problems
 - + Work has a lot of variety
 - Not in on Management decision making
 - May not get to make Strategic plans
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Consulting vs. Staff Position

Consulting:

- + Can work in a variety of industries
- + Can work on a wide variety of projects
- + Excellent pay
- Considerable travel & work out of town
- Long hours & promotions may be limited

Staff Position:

- + Much of work is regular hours & stable
 - + Get to know a company & products well
 - + More opportunities for promotion
 - May have to attend lots of meetings
 - Some work may be fairly repetitive
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External Consulting vs. Internal Consulting

External Consulting:

- + Can work in a variety of industries
- + Can work on a wide variety of projects
- + Excellent pay
- Considerable travel & work out of town
- Long hours & promotions may be limited

Internal Consulting:

- + Get to know the company's products
 - + Can develop expertise within the company
 - + Stable work & may travel less
 - May be vulnerable to mergers & layoffs
 - Type of work may be more limiting
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Current Employer vs. New Employer

Current Employer:

- + You already know the company & products
- + Your skills & background may be in demand
- + You may have good opportunities for promotions
- The company may not appreciate your work
- The company may be in trouble

New Employer:

- + New opportunity for growth & learning
- + Your skills might be better appreciated

- + Work may be challenging, leading to raises
 - Not easy changing jobs & new managers
 - May have to relocate or do a longer commute
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Current Industry vs. New Industry

Current Industry:

- + You already have knowledge of this industry
- + Your experience will transfer to other companies
- + You like your current industry
- Your current industry may not be healthy
- You don't like working in your current industry

New Industry:

- + May offer you more opportunities
 - + You are excited about a new industry
 - + You have friends that enjoy this industry
 - You may have to relocate
 - Your skills & experience may not transfer
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Large Company vs. Small Company

Large Company:

- + There are a lot of positions you qualify for
- + It may be easier to go into management
- + It is easier to work projects in groups
- It may be easy to get lost in a large company
- The bureaucracy may be hard to deal with

Small Company:

- + You may get to do a lot of different things
 - + The decision making will be more nimble
 - + You can see the work you do more easily
 - The company may have fewer benefits
 - You may be the only Industrial Engineer
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Local Work vs. Relocate

Local Work:

- + You already know the area you live in
- + You don't have to move your family
- + You like the area you live in currently
- The local economy may be doing poorly

- You don't like the city where you currently live

Relocate:

- + You get to move to a new area
 - + New opportunities if you move
 - + You like the new city better
 - It can be expensive to relocate
 - It can be disruptive for your family
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Owner vs. Employee

Owner:

- + As an owner you can make all the key decisions
- + You can feel proud of your company
- + You can take risks & be inventive
- You may have to work very long hours
- You may have limited benefits & high risk

Employee:

- + You may enjoy what the company does
 - + You get to work with a variety of teams
 - + You may have good benefits
 - You may not get wealthy from your work
 - You may not like your current boss
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Current Career vs. Different Career

Current Career:

- + You have good experience in this career
- + You are making good progress
- + You are still learning a lot
- Your career is not progressing
- You don't enjoy your current career

Different Career:

- + A different career interests you
 - + You are ready to try something different
 - + You have been preparing for a new career
 - You may not be as good in a new career
 - You may be starting over
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Advanced Education Options: Graduate School vs. Self-Study

Graduate School:

- + You can learn a lot from a Grad School
- + Your job requires an advanced degree
- + You will enjoy the immersive learning experience
- It is expensive & may require student loans
- You may have to relocate

Self-Study:

- + You can control what you read & study
- + You can get a lot of key information quickly
- + You can take courses online
- It may be difficult to learn on your own
- You may not receive a diploma or degree

Advanced Education Options: Night School vs. Full Time School

Night School:

- + You can still keep your current job & salary
- + Your company may pay for Grad school
- + You won't fall behind on promotions at work
- It may limit any travel assignments at work
- It takes a long time & some long work/study days

Full Time Grad School:

- + You may enjoy the immersive learning
 - + You will finish the degree quicker
 - + You may know the professors better
 - You may need student loans
 - You give up current job salary & advances
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Some Summary Comments

- Explore all the Career Choices, that are “currently” best for you
- Objectively consider the Pluses & Minuses of each available Choice
- Be comfortable with your “current” best Choice