

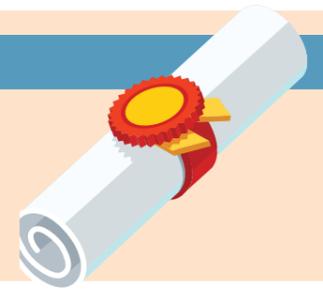
# 10 Career Myths

Myth

1

## Your college major determines your career path

A degree is only a part of your personal brand. Although some roles do require specific vocational training, most majors will teach you the analytical and creative thinking skills valuable in a number of careers.



Myth

2

## Your existing skills will go to waste if you decide to change jobs

Providing a solution to a problem by drawing on lessons learned from past projects is a way that you can always add value to an organization with your existing skills. Today most companies encourage their staff to have an entrepreneurial mindset, which requires creative thinking and continuous learning.

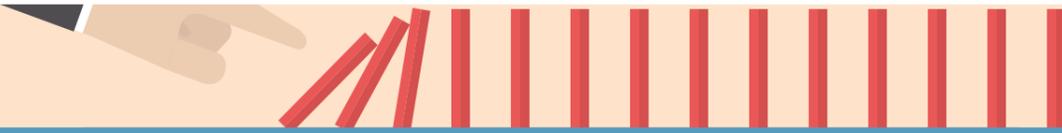


Myth

3

## Once you choose and begin a career, everything else will fall into place

It is your responsibility to nurture your own personal career development. There are numerous resources available to assist you, and finding a mentor can help, but no one career offers a direct path to satisfaction. Continuing education, self-reflection, and being prepared to pivot will ensure that you will be as successful as possible in your professional endeavors. DCE makes career coaching available to our students through InsideTrack ([ucicareer.insidetrack.com](http://ucicareer.insidetrack.com))



Myth

4

## Job market demand should be the only factor in planning your education and profession

Employment trends are important to consider when planning education and professional development but should not be your primary source of direction. Ten years ago, who would have thought that fields such as digital marketing, mobile app development, or product development would be in such high demand? Remember that even in fields with high job growth projections, a career won't simply fall from the sky.



Myth

5

## There's little outside of your education that can improve your chances of success

Researching job opportunities, meeting others in your desired industry, and even volunteering are just a few of the things outside of the classroom you can do to better your chances of success. Employers value academic experience, but they also hire for transferrable skills like tenacity, interpersonal communication, and enthusiasm.

Myth

6

## For some, it's too late to change careers

Career changes can occur in all industries and economies for a number of reasons. Since skills and experience can be transferable, motivated professionals may enter a new career with the right combination of continuing education, networking, and persistence. The internet provides education and business opportunities for people from around the world at any stage in their lives. DCE's programs are ideally suited for career changers.



Myth

7

## You won't get hired because you lack experience or have gaps in your work history

Although a career change may require a temporary step back in responsibility or even time spent interning, small sacrifices will help you earn the experience you need to prepare for larger roles. Most entry-level job requirements are more flexible than people think and if there are gaps in your employment, a well-designed resume should focus on skills and professional accomplishments over chronology.

## You can't test drive a new career

Informational interviewing, networking, and taking an internship are ways to investigate the industry or role that you plan to work in. Getting to the truth of job perceptions requires accurate feedback from reliable sources. You may even learn that some careers have requirements or demands specific to the industry they serve. A number of the certificate programs at DCE offer you the opportunity to secure an internship in your area of interest.

Myth

8



Myth

9

## There's something wrong with not knowing what you want to do for the rest of your life

Most people will work an average of five to seven jobs and have as many as three different professions in their lifetimes. Your interests, skills, and experience will change with time and it's appropriate to adjust your career path accordingly.

## The only way to advance is to make vertical moves up the corporate ladder

Lateral moves within or outside of your organization allow you to experience a new aspect or operation of an industry. Having diverse skills and job experience demonstrates your adaptability and willingness to learn, something valuable to any organization.



Myth

10