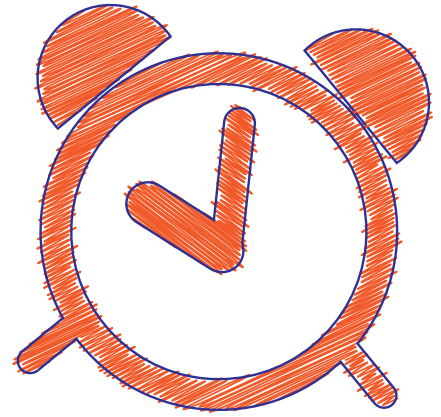


What's  
the **big deal**  
about career planning?



### It's a matter of TIME.

One of the biggest reasons to plan for a career you'll enjoy is time. Some simple math illustrates the importance of time:

The average person works until the age of 55, at least. Suppose you start working when you're 20. That means you'll spend at least how many years of your life working?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Let's look at the time spent working from the *percentage* of time spent working. First, figure out how many total hours there are in a week.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

The average person needs eight hours of sleep a night. Figure out how many hours a week that equals. Then subtract sleeping hours in a week from the total number of hours in a week in step 2.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

The majority of people work at least 40 hours a week, either at one job or two or more jobs. Subtract those hours from the remaining (non-sleeping) hours in a week.

4. \_\_\_\_\_


Now, figure out what percentage of your non-sleeping time each week you'll spend working

5. \_\_\_\_\_

*Wouldn't you prefer to spend all that time at a job you enjoy, rather than one you hate?*

Plus, your work may often **influence**



- the people you hang out with 
- where you live
- time spent with family and friends
- your leisure activities and hobbies, etc.

In other words ...

**your career will be a major part of who you are!**

Answers: 1. 55 - 20 = 35 years 2.  $24 \times 7 = 168$  hours 3.  $168 - 56 = 112$  hours 4.  $112 - 40 = 72$  hours 5.  $40 \div 112 = 36\%$

# The **big deal** about career planning, continued

## Why worry now about education beyond high school?

Education beyond high school can be the key to the kind of life you want. Those who complete some type of education or training after high school graduation:

- have a wider range of job possibilities and options;
- develop lifelong learning skills;
- are in a better position to help their families and communities;
- get a better start in life. They learn to express their thoughts clearly, make informed decisions and use technology – all useful skills on and off the job.
- generally earn high wages and face lower unemployment levels than those who have not finished or only completed high school.

### Money talks:

Education after high school can open doors to better-paying jobs, better working conditions (like hours and work settings), benefits and opportunities to move up. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), learning more equals earning more and being less likely to become unemployed. For the most recent information available, visit

[www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm).

finding  
occupational  
wages  
for South  
Dakota



To find the most recent South Dakota wage data available, visit [dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic), then

- Choose “Wages & Income” from the menu at the left
- Then choose “Wages by Occupation”

Other sites with educational requirements and wage information:

O\*Net Online: [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

My Next Move: [www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org)

Occupational Outlook Handbook: [www.bls.gov/oo](http://www.bls.gov/oo)