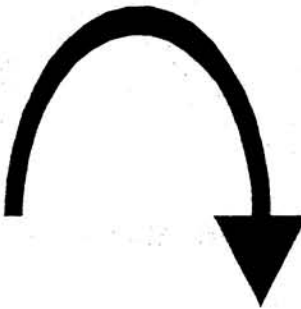


**Help Yourself!**

# # 7 Job Search Barometer

The search for employment by the college graduate is, even at best, an awesome experience. Many people find the task so overwhelming that it seems almost impossible for them to answer the question of where to begin. Studies have found that students who had formulated specific ideas about geographical preference, work setting, and type of work desired, were significantly more successful in securing employment than those who had not done this.

The task then, for a potential job searcher, is how to begin. What questions need to be answered now? The Job Search Barometer attempts to provide a systematic method for assessing one's readiness to undertake the job search process. The questions are in logical sequence and move in a systematic progression through all the steps which



While the Barometer was designed initially for graduating students preparing for interviews, it is equally valuable for undergraduates who wisely are not waiting until their senior year to start thinking about what they plan to do upon graduation. Simply substitute "I will" for "I have" in the various statements.



## Directions

Score one point in the left hand column for each total item which you have completed. Use the space provided after an item to summarize your thinking. Subtotal each part and transfer these subtotals to the end of the barometer.

# Part 1 - Self Awareness

\_\_\_\_\_ I have considered the personal requirements and preferences I have regarding:

- a. Geographic locations I will consider: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Health restrictions under which I must operate: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Setting I most desire: (urban, suburban, rural) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have identified the work settings I will consider. (For example: large industrial, small business, research centers, education institutions, government, other.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have identified personality characteristics which should be considered in my job decision:

- a. Do I work best with people, data, or things? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Do I work best by doing or thinking? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. How do I feel about supervision and responsibility? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have identified my assets in terms of skills and interests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I know how these skills and interests might be applied to work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have summarized my personal experience in terms of work, education, and vocational activities. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have decided whether I will consider a position which would require travel. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Subtotal** [A subtotal of less than 6 for this section indicates you should see a counselor in your career planning and placement center to help you clarify your thinking.]

*If you are considering graduate school*

- \_\_\_\_\_ I have a career objective which requires an advanced degree.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have discussed my plans with an academic advisor or major professor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have written for applications in time to meet early winter deadlines.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have taken, or have arranged to take, the necessary graduate school admissions examinations.