



## Recovering from a Career Misstep

It's normal to believe you're the only person who's ever had a career misstep. Maybe you've taken a position that's wrong for you. Or gone down a career path that you regret. You might now think that your career is doomed to fail when in actuality, this could simply be a sign that it's time to reinvent your professional life.

The thought of starting over in a new career can seem daunting. But it can also be very exciting. It won't be easy, but you might be on your way to embarking on the career that is truly perfect for you. Just remember, recovering from a career misstep is very do-able. In fact, admitting to yourself that it's time to reinvent your career is the first (and possibly hardest) step in the process. The following tips will help you adjust to this next adventure in your professional life.

### Don't keep it a secret

Let friends, family members and those with whom you network know that you've decided to embark on a new career. People respect individuals who have the chutzpa to take this step, and you might be surprised how willing they are to help you out. Present this not as a career failure (which it isn't), but rather just the perfect time to take hold of your professional life. Trust that many colleagues will find themselves jealous that you're making the move.

### Look inwardly

Take a good hard look at yourself. What makes you tick? What are you passionate about? Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses, and consider what you have liked and disliked about past positions.

### Make a plan, set goals

We've all heard the phrase *It's not a goal until you write it down*. It's a great saying, especially if you're looking to change careers. Consider those you can meet with who might be able to introduce you to others in your desired profession or industry. Ask questions, lots of them, and listen. Set a contact goal for each day and stick to it. And make sure you ask for referrals from those you've met or talked to. A simple *Is there anybody else you can think of I could talk to?* will go a long way to building your circle of influence.



## **Network, network, network**

Contact people in your new chosen field and be open about your desire to head in this new direction. People generally like to offer help when asked; it makes them feel good. And it will be hard to find somebody who's never experienced career malaise before. They'll understand and will respect your decision to reinvent your career.

## **Prepare for interviews**

While this might sound obvious, if you have not changed jobs in a while, you might need to brush up on your interviewing skills. Rehearse questions with a friend or family member. Make sure you've researched the company.

Always be prepared with some educated questions to ask during phone screens or interviews. Not having any questions will make you seem disinterested, unenthusiastic, or lacking energy. Not very hireable qualities. Always send a thank you note, but stand out by sending it via good old-fashioned mail. Rest assured the other candidates will send thank you notes via email, if they send one at all.

## **Understand pay scales**

A new career path might mean your next position will result in less money. But you'll be a lot happier if you downsize your lifestyle to make way for a position you'll enjoy. And if you enjoy it, your chances for missteps down the road will be greatly reduced. Understanding the pay range of the position for which you're applying is important when applying for jobs. If you enter too much or too little when asked about expected salary, you might immediately take yourself out of the running.

## **You may have heard about this little thing called...**

...social media. Use it, early and often. If you don't embrace social media, most notably [LinkedIn](#), you're missing out on a wealth of networking opportunities and user group information. Join a group that caters to the position or industry in which you're interested. You'll find great tips and information that will arm you when talking to an interviewer.

If you have questions about how to deal with a misstep in your career, or want to explore temporary employment while you are evaluating your next move, [contact Workway](#) today. We place qualified job-seekers in direct hire, temp-to-hire and temporary positions in a variety of fields, locally, regionally and nationally.