

MAPPING YOUR CAREER

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What is a Career?

- A career is a long-term professional journey that involves a series of roles, experiences, and education that you pursue to achieve your goals.
- It's different from a job, which is usually temporary and focuses on paying bills.
- A career can include multiple jobs, but not every job is part of your career.

- **What is Career Mapping?**

- Career mapping is the process of visualising your career path, identifying your professional goals, and outlining the steps needed to achieve them. It involves assessing a number of factors to create a roadmap for your career advancement. The factors are:
 - Skills
 - Interests
 - Values
 - Aspirations
- To start with career mapping, you need to analyse your strengths and weaknesses, understand which industry you are willing to work in and have some clarity about your current situation versus where you would want to be x number of years down the line.

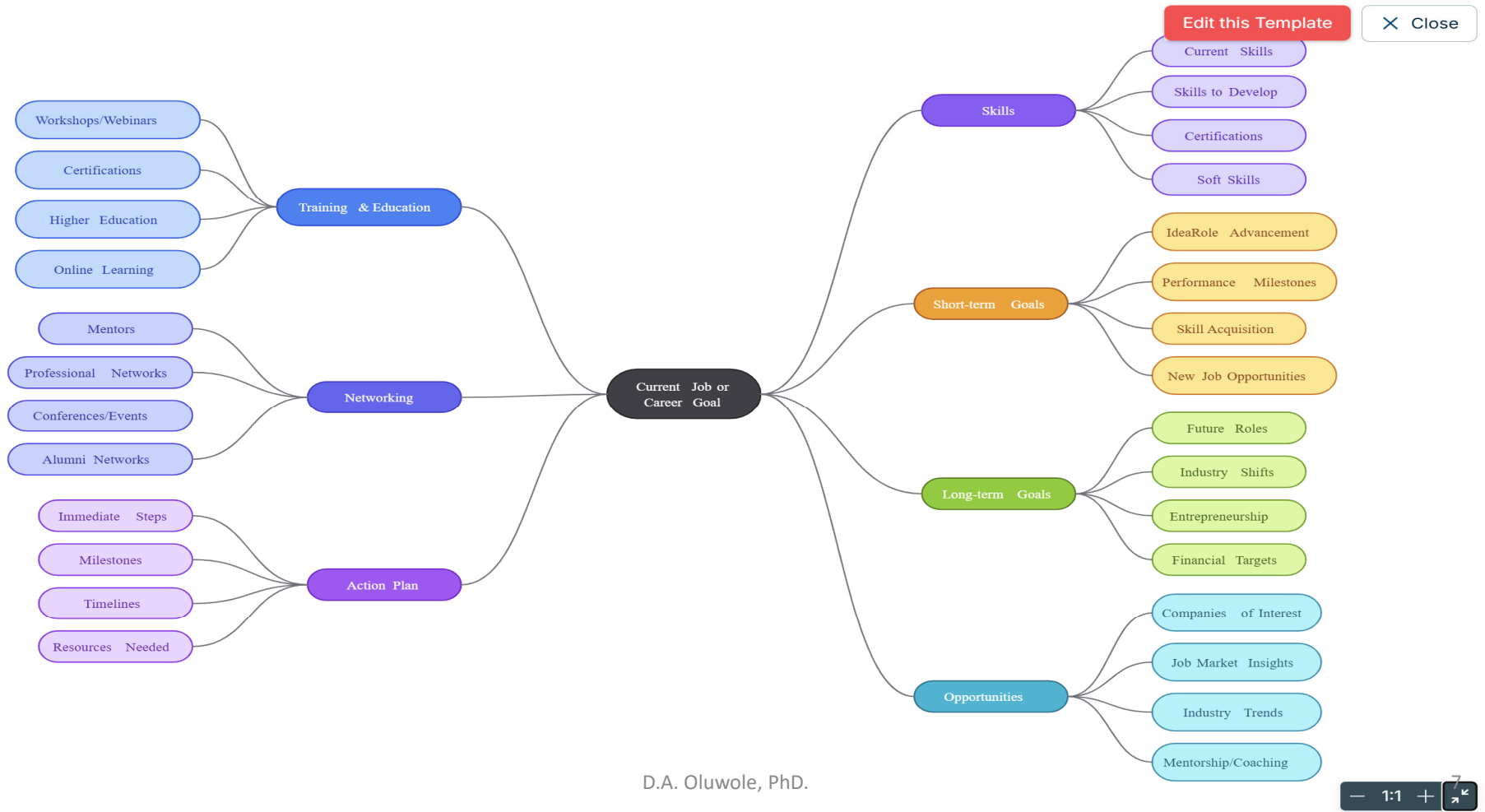
- By understanding your strengths, interests, and opportunities, you can make more informed decisions about your next steps, whether that's seeking new skills, pursuing promotions, or even changing career paths.
- It's a proactive approach to managing your career, ensuring that you have a sense of direction and purpose as you progress.



- **Why is Career Mapping Important?**

- For a student who is starting in the corporate world or for a working individual who is confused about where to go next, career path mapping offers numerous benefits, including:
- **1. Clarity**
- Career mapping provides clarity about your career direction and helps you understand where you want to go professionally. By analysing your interests and values, career mapping gives you some clarity about where to allocate your resources in the future.
- **2. Goal Setting**
- It enables you to set realistic and achievable career goals aligned with your aspirations. Career mapping provides a structured framework for defining your goals in a way that is specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART)
- **3. Decision Making**
- It helps you make informed decisions about job opportunities, skill development, and professional growth. By aligning your choices with your career goals and values, you can make choices that support your long-term success and fulfilment. This ultimately helps you [maintain your well-being](#) and empowers you to build a career that reflects your values, interests, and aspirations.
- **4. Progress Tracking**
- Career mapping serves as a tool for tracking your progress and celebrating your achievements along the way. Career path mapping can help you boost your confidence and motivation and allow you to make adjustments as needed to stay aligned with your evolving aspirations and circumstances.

Career Map



Career Mapping is not the same as career pathing

- **Career pathing**, on the other hand, is often more structured and usually defined by an organization.
- It involves mapping out specific roles and positions within a company that you can progress through over time.
- It's focused on internal growth and advancement, showing a clear sequence of job titles and responsibilities within a particular field or organization.
- Career pathing is designed to align your growth with the needs and structure of the company, helping you see the next steps in your current job and what you need to achieve to get there.

Components of a Career Map

- A well-structured career map includes key components that guide your professional growth and keep you on track toward your goals. Below are the essential elements that make up an effective career map.
- **Current position** - Start by identifying where you are in your career right now, including your current role, skills, and experiences. This serves as the foundation for your career map.
- **Career goals** - Define your long-term and short-term career goals. This could include specific job titles, industries, or achievements you want to pursue over time.
- **Skills and competencies** - List the skills and competencies required to reach your goals. This helps you identify any gaps in your current skill set and areas where you need to develop further.
- **Milestones** - Break down your goals into smaller, achievable milestones. These can be job promotions, certifications, or projects that help you track your progress along the way.
- **Action plan** - Create a step-by-step plan to reach each milestone, including training, networking, or specific experiences you need to gain. This serves as your guide for continuous development.
- **Timeline** - Establish a realistic timeline for achieving your goals and milestones. A timeline helps you stay focused and ensures you're progressing at a steady pace.
- **Resources and support** - Identify the resources, mentors, or networks that can help you along your career journey. Knowing where to seek support can accelerate your growth.

Benefits of Career Mapping

- Career mapping offers numerous advantages that help you take control of your professional journey. From gaining clarity on your goals to making informed decisions, here are some key benefits of career mapping.
- **Clarity and direction** - Career mapping provides a clear picture of your professional goals and the steps needed to achieve them. It helps you see where you're headed and what's required to get there, reducing uncertainty and making it easier to make informed decisions about your next move.
- **Goal setting and focus** - By breaking long-term objectives into smaller, manageable goals, career mapping allows you to stay focused on your progress. It encourages you to regularly set and achieve milestones, keeping you motivated and ensuring you're on track toward your bigger ambitions.
- **Skill development** - A career map identifies the skills and experiences you need to reach your career goals. This enables you to proactively seek training, education, or on-the-job experiences that will help you grow, improving your qualifications for future opportunities.
- **Increased job satisfaction** - Having a clear career plan increases your sense of control over your professional life. It helps you align your current role with your future goals, making your work feel more purposeful and contributing to higher job satisfaction.
- **Adaptability** - Career mapping allows you to adjust your plans as circumstances change, whether due to new interests, emerging opportunities, or industry shifts. It gives you the flexibility to revise your goals and strategies while still keeping a clear focus on your overall vision.
- **Better decision-making** - With a career map in hand, you can make more strategic decisions about your career moves. Whether it's deciding on a new job, pursuing additional education, or developing specific skills, career mapping helps you evaluate options in the context of your long-term goals.
- **Improved confidence** - Knowing that you have a solid plan for your career can boost your confidence. Career mapping helps you stay prepared for the future and feel more secure in the choices you make along the way.
- **Work-life balance** - Career mapping allows you to balance your professional growth with personal life goals. By planning your career in alignment with your personal values and priorities, you can make career decisions that promote a healthy work-life balance.

Strategies for Effective Career Mapping

- In this dynamic era, where choices abound, the importance of career advice for college students cannot be overstated. The following tips are applicable to students of all ages — no matter your stream, degree, domain, or dream career — as long as you're a lifelong learner!
- **Know Yourself - Strengths, Weaknesses, and Everything in Between** Understanding your strengths, weaknesses, and interests is the cornerstone of effective career navigation for you.
- **Be Real With Your Goals** Establishing both; short-term and long-term goals is crucial for maintaining focus and motivation as a student.
- **Explore, Explore, Explore** If you're a parent reading this, inspire curiosity and exploration, especially in young children, to help them uncover their true passions

- **Run After Your Passion** The key to ultimate career happiness lies in pursuing what you love.
- **Dont Shy Away From Internships** Internships offer invaluable, hands-on experience in your chosen field.
- **Do Skill-Based Courses** Augment your academic pursuits with additional courses that enhance your knowledge and skill set.
- **Focus On Developing Soft Skills** - Beyond technical expertise, [Importance of soft skills](#) such as critical thinking, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving are [essential for any job](#).

- **Find (And Stalk) Your Dream Companies on Social Media** - Be open and fearless in the pursuit of finding your dream job among the sea of available jobs and companies. Harness the power of social media and connect with companies (or potential future colleagues) of interest.
- **Get an Early Start** - College presents an opportune time for financial independence. Explore paid internships, blogging, tutoring, or gig work to earn and manage your expenses.
- **Have a Vision** - Embrace your dreams and aspirations, even if they seem unconventional to others.

- **Go for an Aptitude Test** Career aptitude tests are valuable tools that delve into critical aspects of your personality, linking them to potential career paths.
- **Talk to the People, Ask Them Questions** Engage in informal discussions with family, friends, and acquaintances working in various fields.
- **Create and Embrace New Opportunities** In the early stages of your career, don't hesitate to create and make way for new opportunities and experiences. The proactive pursuit of goals, combined with dedication and motivation, sets the stage for opportunities to emerge. Embrace a mindset of perseverance and tenacity.
- **Don't Let Failure Belittle Your Faith** Fear is a significant obstacle to realizing your dreams.. Career journeys are seldom linear; mistakes are opportunities for growth. In the face of challenges, maintain resilience, and view setbacks as stepping stones toward greater experience and success.

Conclusion

- Career mapping is a useful way to guide your professional journey. By using visual tools, connecting with industry professionals, identifying your skill gaps, exploring different career options, networking, and regularly updating your career map, you can take control of your career growth.
- These strategies will help you set clear goals and take steps to achieve them, leading to more job satisfaction and success. Remember, career mapping is an ongoing process that requires regular check-ins and adjustments as you develop in your career.

END

THANK YOU



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