



Intellectual Capital Blog

How to choose a career: 80,000 Hours | 10 June 2016

CIO WM Research

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Our interns start on Monday, which always makes me think about how little thought most people tend to put into their career choices. I think a lot of us spent more time thinking about choosing a college than a career. If I'm honest I probably didn't put enough thought into either (e.g. only applied to one college and took the first job that sounded interesting), but fortunately I was lucky with how my choices ended up.

For those of you that are thinking about your career choices, or know a young person that is doing so, the non-profit "[80,000 Hours](#)" has created an amazing career guide. It'll take you about 4 hours to get through it, but considering you are likely to work for at least 80,000 hours at that career (hence their name) it's well worth the time. Their research helps you "find a high-impact career, recommends high-impact options you might not have thought of, and gives you a step-by-step process for making career decisions." They also have a fairly quick Career Quiz you can take, and do one-on-one consulting as well.

I suggest taking five minutes to look through the website. They have an interesting, data-driven take on thinking about what makes for a successful career that gets past "follow your passion" and other platitudes and focuses on the ingredients that result in high job satisfaction.

We've published quite a bit about human capital over the last few years (*Your Wealth & Life: Valuing your human capital* is a good summary). Absent a large inheritance early in life, human capital will be your most important asset until you are way past middle age. Much of that human capital is developed after you enter the workforce and develop a specialized set of skills. Therefore, it makes sense to spend quite a bit of time making sure your human capital is built in a career that reflects your skill set, values, and objectives for your life.

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