

## Pivot with Purpose: Navigating a Career Transition



The journey towards a successful career isn't always a linear path. Rock legend Joan Jett once said "Success isn't one straight line – it's a ladder, and there's always another rung above you to reach out for. Like anything else, there are ups and downs."

Making a career change can be the result of many factors. For some, a layoff can force them to look in a new direction. Others aren't happy in their current position and feel the need to pivot professionally. They're looking for new ways to forge their own path.

Regardless of the reasons, making a career switch isn't without its challenges. A successful career change often requires taking a step back to become more self-aware of your interests and skills. It also requires thoughtful planning and strategic action.

Many of us will change careers several times in our lives. While change can be stressful, career changes don't have to be permanent.

***Here are 6 ways to navigate a successful career transition:***

### **Self-Assessment: Know When and How to Transition**

Take inventory of what you like and dislike about your current situation. What would make you jump out of bed on Monday morning ready to tackle the world? To be successful at something, you have to be passionate about it.

What kind of work environment and culture would make you happy? Identify your transferable skills. What expertise could be applied to new industries or roles?

Before making a move, look at your personal values and strengths. Is there a common thread? In some cases, you might have to learn a new set of skills to work in the industry of your choice.

## **Leverage Your Network**

70% of professionals find new roles through [networking](#) rather than direct applications. Connect with industry professionals online and in person. Attend industry conferences, join professional groups and be active on LinkedIn. Seek mentorship to get advice from people who have made successful transitions – whether through formal programs or informal connections. Set up information interviews to get yourself noticed. Employers like to hire people they know personally, so making a connection in your own industry (or a new one) might get yourself hired.

## **Do Your Research and Be Willing to Learn**

Take the time to learn as much as possible about your new career. Even if you're staying in the same company or industry, you need to know exactly what you're up against. Talk to people who are doing the jobs already. Read articles and trade publications to stay up to date on industry trends. No matter your level of experience, there will always be something to learn so remain open to learning new skills and approaches. Being receptive to feedback will help you succeed in your new role.

## **Develop an Action Plan**

Once you've done your research and completed your self-assessment, it's time to develop an action plan. What steps do you need to take to reach your goals? Be specific and set an appropriate time frame. Create a financial buffer. Experts recommend having at least 3-6 months of savings before making a career change. Explore part-time or consulting work to ease any financial strain while transitioning. If needed, consider new certifications to boost earning potential.

## **Revisit Your Personal Branding**

Once you have a clear goal, it's time to update your resume and LinkedIn profile to reflect your new direction. Create a compelling narrative that connects your past experiences with your future aspirations. Frame past experience as an asset, even if you're moving to a different field. Highlight transferrable skills and show why you're passionate about the transition.

## **Embrace the Uncertainty**

Remember the famous quote "The only constant in life is change?" Once you embark on a career transition journey, there are no guarantees as to a successful outcome. You'll be faced with a lot of questions that won't have immediate answers. Remember that uncertainty is a natural part of the process. As with most things in life, we're faced with embracing the unknown and have to forge ahead looking for the best possible outcome. Look at it as an opportunity to grow and learn new things about yourself. If the current or future path doesn't work out – that's OK – you'll find something else.

Successful career transitions require planning, resilience and a proactive mindset. The transition process might take time, so stay positive and be patient. By staying focused

on your goal, you'll be able to successfully transition to a new career that is a better match for your interests and aspirations. So get out there and transition from stuck to soaring. It's time to reinvent yourself and your career!