



ASK THE EXPERTS

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CAREER

How can I find a career role model who aligns with my professional aspirations and values?

Having a career role model can serve as a source of inspiration, guidance, and motivation as you navigate the complexities of your professional life. Here's how you can find a role model who aligns with both your career aspirations and personal values:

Step 1: Self-Reflection: Begin by assessing your own career goals, values, and interests. What do you aspire to achieve in your professional life? What values are non-negotiable for you? By clearly defining your own objectives and ethical standpoints, you make it easier to identify role models whose paths and approaches resonate with your own.

Step 2: Research: Start exploring the landscape of your industry to identify potential role models. Look for professionals who have achieved success in a manner that aligns with your values. You can find such individuals through industry-specific publications, social media platforms like LinkedIn, and networking events. You may also look within your organization, or within academic or vocational settings.

Step 3: Observe and Analyze: Once you've identified potential role models, observe their career trajectories and how they conduct themselves both professionally and personally. What steps did they take to get to where they are? Do they exhibit behavior and values that align with your own? The idea isn't to replicate every aspect of their career, but to learn lessons that are applicable to your own path.

Step 4: Engage: Don't underestimate the power of direct communication. If the role model is accessible, consider contacting them. Accessibility could be determined by several factors including the role model's willingness to engage, the availability of contact information, or the presence of mutual connections who could facilitate an introduction. Prepare thoughtful questions that would provide you insights into how they've shaped their career. This could be through email, social media, or even face-to-face, if the opportunity presents itself. Some professionals are open to informational interviews/career conversations or mentorship, which can offer valuable firsthand advice.

Step 5: Implement: Now comes the most important part: applying what you've learned from your role model to your own career. This could range from adopting certain effective work habits to making strategic career moves. The objective is to personalize these lessons and make them applicable to your unique career trajectory.

Step 6: Continuous Evaluation: As your career evolves, your need for a role model may change. Periodically assess whether your current role model still serves your aspirations and values and if you need to start the search process over. Additionally, as you advance in your career, you may find that you become a role model to others. This could be a fulfilling way to give back and contribute to the growth of professionals who are at a place in their careers where you once were.

Finding a career role model who aligns with your professional aspirations and values is a continuous journey of self-discovery, research, engagement, and implementation. As you go through the different stages of your career, a suitable role model serves as a compass, guiding you through challenges and helping you make informed decisions. Remember, the goal is not to become a carbon copy of your role model, but to glean insights and inspiration that can help you carve out your own, authentic path to success.

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