

Exercise 19: My Learning Plan

Instructions: A learning plan is a map for your education, career and future plans that will get you from where you are to where you want to be. Using the steps and example below, create your own learning plan. Be creative and detailed this is your map.

Step 1: Start with the end in mind (Define a clear goal)

- Seek help, make the most of career services, counseling opportunities
- Do research – libraries are your friend
- Imagine your ideal work week: what are your working conditions/environment? How much do you make? how many hours do you work?, what kind of tasks do you do on a daily basis?
- Search job and career sites for your dream job, what kind of skills do they require.

Step 2: Identify what education, training and skills you would need to succeed at your goal

- From research she found out the major competitors in this area and trends in the industry.
- Then she searched for jobs at the companies she was interested in as well as jobs for interactive designers.
- Time to come up with a clear idea of what type of working environment and her ideal work week also helped.

Step 3: Determine How you will acquire the skills you need and create a timeline.

- Determine the best methods to acquire the skills, experiences and training you need. Think beyond just classes, and include experiences, self study, practice and projects.
- Create a realistic timeline for acquiring each skill

My Goal is to be an interactive designer in a large online retail company.

- I want to work in a very creative environment
- Make between 45K and 60K (thousand dollars per year) with good benefits
- I want to stay in the Pacific Northwest
- I want a good work life balance – normal work weeks

Skills/Training	Reason	Method	Timeline
Flash	Interactive designer job listings	Enroll in 2 Flash classes at her college	7 months
Graphics (Illustrator/Photoshop)	Interactive designer job listings	Sign up for a daylong seminar, distance learning course	4 months
Project Management	Career exploration revealed this as something she needs to improve.	Find a mentor at her current job to help with project management skills	6 months
Time Management	Ideal work week is well managed and only 40 hours a week	Self study – and practice	4 months
Web Production	Interactive designer job listings	Enroll in a class and Build several sites on her own	4 months
Understanding of online marketing	Industry research	Research, join an online community, internship at local company	6 weeks.