

## Preferred Occupation Overview

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<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Jing Wei is contemplating a career as a paralegal but she knows that there have been changes in the labor market that have impacted the availability of jobs. Jing Wei is not sure what course of action to follow since she's recently become unemployed after working for many years in her previous field.</p> <p>Robert's older sister recently graduated from college and she's having difficulty finding a job. Robert knows that his sister worked very hard and received excellent grades and solid recommendations so he's not sure about <i>his</i> prospects for finding work.</p> <p>Melissa's parents are concerned that she is not pursuing an internship while she's in school. They are afraid that Melissa won't have enough practical work experience on her resume to secure employment after she graduates.</p> <p>Sarah has just received an offer for a job and she's thrilled! The job is in her field of interest, the salary is acceptable, and there are plenty of opportunities for advancement.</p> <p>What did Sarah do that the other three students did not do? Why was Sarah, a recent college graduate, able to find work in a very dynamic labor market?</p> <p>What information should students consider as they think about occupational fields to enter? Is there a database of objective information that can help students and job seekers make informed decisions?</p>
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<b>Explore Preferred Occupations</b>	<p>As Sarah planned her academic pathway with the help of counselors and advisors, she took the critical extra step of reviewing labor market information related to her areas of occupational interest.</p> <p>Based on what Sarah discovered, she was able to make some informed decisions about her college coursework and extracurricular activities to insure that she obtained the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to qualify for available employment.</p> <p>At first glance the idea of analyzing labor market information seems daunting; however, all of the data gathering, analysis, and market projections have <i>already</i> been conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.</p> <p>All students and job seekers have to do is access this easy-to-understand and readily available information.</p> <p>Use the activity link provided in the FYE Career Exploration site to explore the occupations in which you are interested. Then, use the Career Exploration worksheet to reflect upon factors that will help you determine if the occupation is a viable option for you.</p> <p>You'll also find it helpful to make an appointment with either a career development counselor or your academic advisor to discuss your findings.</p>
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