The Best Career Guide for Autistic Adults 2014

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Computers

Creative Arts

Culinary

Mathematics

Medical

Research

Trades

Writing

Resources

Introduction

I am a diagnosed Autistic adult. I am diagnosed with a form of High Functioning Autism named Asperger Syndrome. It was recognized in this country from 1994 until 2013 when the Autism diagnostic guidelines changed in the United States. However, those diagnostic guidelines did not change who I am in my life.

I am only 44 years old at this point in life which is January 2014. I have held a variety of different careers in my life with both being paid and unpaid positions. I have enjoyed most of them. However, there are some I would never repeat in my lifetime again.

When I attended high school during the 1980s, I was only diagnosed with a learning disability to receive Special Education or help in school with my disability. I did not receive much career guidance at all from people. The only advice that I received from my parents is to go into the field of education because you will have financial security in life. However, it was not a field that either of my parents was familiar with and how competitive it was to enter into it.

I know it is better than some career advice that some parents receive right now from the schools and even the medical doctors. Their advice is to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) from Social Security Administration for their child. It can be a great help, but it is not an easy life for those diagnosed with Autism at all because the health insurance and income sucks to say the least in life. I have even come across some parents who believe that their child will receive it based on half of their retirement benefits. I know for a fact that it is not easy to get it based on their parents’ benefits at all.

It leads to the point of what to do in your life. Did you know there are actual occupations that work well with your diagnosis in life? I have a group of highly educated friends who are disabled and have great jobs in life with excellent benefits better than what the government would give to you if you had SSI.

I will have to admit that some of these jobs do require a college education before you can get hired for them. However, I have discovered that there are colleges that will admit and help college students on the Autism Spectrum succeed during their college years. Trust me. College programs for the disabled have improved since I was a college student. The best thing about the college help is that it is free to the college student to receive this help.

Is it risky to even think about a college education and a great career in life? Yes, it is. However, there are great resources out there to help you get hired by companies once you do graduate. However, I can tell you from my own personal experience that receiving SSI is more aggravating than a regular job trust me because being on SSI can seem like a full time job in itself at times in dealing with the government. No one will ever tell you this because only those who receive it could tell you it.

Are there jobs out there for the disabled who are unable to work full time and still receive SSI? I have discovered that there are jobs out there. However, it does take a little bit of detective work to find these jobs in your local community. There are employers out there who think it is more of a problem to hire the disabled than it really is. However, I do encourage you to find work because it can lead to better benefits in the long run for you in life including health insurance, but it will not come through your job at all. However, I must warn you that it may take years to receive some benefits like having your own apartment through government help or not even receive some help like through an adult Autism waiver through your state because they have some tough guidelines to receive one these.

I have also included some careers that I have found others have succeeded and did well in them despite their disability. Through networking over more than a decade, I have found that Autistic adults have sometimes a special talent or ability that they develop on their own to better understand a favorite subject at times. I have discovered that some favorite subjects or themes can translate into a great paying job in your local community. Some of these jobs might not pay as well as others at times. However, if you find a career that you love in life, it truly is not work for you at all.

I will focus on the careers and jobs that require a little bit of planning and specialized training in their field. I will not mention some of the normal or typical fields that the disabled go into because it is changing right now due to popularity in some disability circles to go for specialized training.

I have broken this book down into sections to make it easier to locate careers based on your interests and abilities. It is only a small listing of all the careers out there. However, there are many other fields out there within that interest category.

If you decide to go to college, there is free help for you on the college campus. Each college offers free services to disabled students, but you need to contact the office to find out what paperwork is needed to be competed to receive these services. There is also free tutoring offered on campus for the students attending the college.

If your career needs a college degree, I recommend starting at the local community college and then transferring to a four year college or university. I recommend always going with the college or university that offers you the most financial aid or lowest cost to save you a lot of money in student loans when you graduate. When you have very few in student loans, it means more money to live on.

I hope by writing this book that I can give you better career advice based on my own personal experiences that you will have the job of your dreams and succeed in life. Always remember, many hobbies and interests have turned into a great career for others over time.

Dawn Lucan

Video Game Programmer

A person interested in video games could actually become a video game programmer. There is a great need in this country for it. There is a growing market each year with either a console or web based video games. Some can program great hand held computer device game. Most companies will require you to earn at least a 2 year degree from your local community college or at least a Bachelor’s degree for this field.

Video Game Tester

A growing field is video game tester which is a fantastic field for those who love to play video games. You actually get to test video games in development, and this is well before the video game hits the store shelves. Companies like to work out the bugs or problems in the video game before it comes out to the consumer on the store shelves. This is actually not volunteer work but paid work. You will have to write out a detailed report in this field if you encounter a problem with the video game. You can learn more about this exciting field at videogametestersalary.com.

Illustrator

An illustrator is someone who draws for a living, and his or her work is published in books. The most common market for this is through publishing children’s books. It is pretty difficult to find someone to team up with who is a writer. I recommend using your own creative stories to enter this job market. However, it does take a lot of time and patience to get noticed and published.

Resources

[www.writersdigest.com](http://www.writersdigest.com)

[www.writersmarket.com](http://www.writersmarket.com)

Comic Book Artist or Cartoonist

You can become a comic book artist. You can do it through the major comic book publishers if they like your idea, or you can do it independently through publish on demand publisher. It takes time and skill to develop the ability to be a great comic book artist. It does help reading a bunch of comic books though. You might want to study art at college for it because you can learn some great tips on how to improve your skills from an instructor to enter this field.

Tour Guide

You can become a tour guide. If you have a passion for a particular subject, there can be others out there who would be interested in purchasing your service. It takes a lot of research and time to make it possible. You could work for the federal government, college, cruise ship, or independent bus company. You just remember that you have to create the perfect sales pitch for it. It also helps to be a great public speaker on with this field if you are really interested in it. You should also search if your local area has a tour guide association because it can be great for networking and getting known by others.

Resources

[www.backroads.com](http://www.backroads.com)

www.grandamericanadventures.com

itmitourtraining.com

[www.wftga.org](http://www.wftga.org)

Paleontologist

If you have a passion for dinosaurs, this is a great field to research in as a career. It involves more than books in this field. It does involve some digging in dirt searching for their fossils. Some share their passion for dinosaurs at the local museums around the world. I have even seen a paleontologist share his love of dinosaurs on a regular children’s cartoon show. This career field does require at least a Bachelor degree in archeology at a college or university.

Resources

[www.journalofpaleontology.org](http://www.journalofpaleontology.org)

[www.vertpaelo.org](http://www.vertpaelo.org)

Chef

Chef is a professional person who works primarily in restaurants for pay or set salary. Typically, a chef works many long shifts in a day at his or her restaurant. He or she works from a set menu that the restaurant has besides daily specials. Often these places have a themed menu such as American, French, Mexican, etc. This type of job requires at least a technical school, culinary school, or college education.

Job and Independence Resource Websites

About Career Planning: careerplanning.about.com

Careerbuilder: [www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com)

[www.Care.com](http://www.Care.com)

College Financial Aid: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Explore Health Careers: explorehealthcareers.org

Indeed: [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)

Inside Career Info: www.insidecareerinfo.com

Monster: [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)

National Council of Independent Living: [www.ncil.org](http://www.ncil.org)

Riley Guide: www.rileyguide.com

School Soup: www.schoolsoup.com

SCORE (advice): www.score.org

SitterCity: [www.sittercity.com](http://www.sittercity.com)

Snagajob: www.snagajob.com

Small Business Administration: www.sba.gov

Social Security Administration: [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

TheARC: www.thearc.org

Very Special Arts: [www.vsarts.org](http://www.vsarts.org)

Name

Address

Telephone Number

Cell Phone Number

Email Address

Objective (optional job titles):

WORK EXPERIENCE

Job Title
Company Name

Company Address

Work Start Date- Work Completion Date

EDUCATION

Degree or Diploma

Graduation Date or Attendance Years

Name of School

SKILLS

References available on request.