



SEIU UHW-WEST & JOINT EMPLOYER
EDUCATION FUND

Career Counseling

Frequently Asked Questions

What services do the Career Counselors offer?

Career Counselors offer a variety of services to help you plan the next step in your career. Some of the most common examples are:

1. Assessments - There are a variety of Career Assessments that you can take to help you figure out what career is the best match for your skills, interests, and needs.
2. Education planning - Counselors can help you find Educational programs in your area that will help you get to where you want to go, and can help you identify financial resources that will assist in paying for school.
3. Job search assistance - If you know what you want to do and you already have the training for it, Counselors can help you navigate the job search process, so you can find the job that's right for you. They can also help you with resume-writing and interview preparation, if necessary.

How can I get advice from an Education Fund Career Counselor?

There are three ways:

1. Ask a quick question through an email exchange
2. Schedule a one-on-one private appointment for an hour outside of work
3. Schedule a 30 minute phone call appointment

Where are your Career Counselors located? Is there someone near me?

We have offices throughout Northern and Southern California, as well as in Denver, CO, and Portland, OR, so there is always someone nearby. If it's more convenient, you can choose to get Career Counseling by telephone. Just call our toll free hotline at 1- 888-872-4606 to be referred to a counselor in your area.

I want to get into a long-term training program (RN, Rad Tech, Surg Tech, etc.) but don't know how to get started. What suggestions do you have?

First, you should meet with a Career Counselor to discuss prerequisites. Many professional programs require math, science and general education classes. If you have not taken these classes, we strongly suggest that you get pre-tested in Math and English. It is important to get the math started now, because it can really hold you back! Check the Education Fund's course catalog, or your local community college, for the classes that you need.

I'm not sure what job I want to train for. What would you recommend?

You should meet with a career counselor to talk about what type of job is the best match for your skills, interests, and qualifications. Counselors can also help you to find out what jobs are 'in demand' with your employer, and how you can go about moving into a new position once you complete your training.

I am nervous about starting a new school program. What should I do?

Career counselors can conduct skill assessments and readiness surveys to identify your current knowledge and comfort level in several key areas. Career preparation courses will be available in subjects like Basic Skills, English-as-a-Second-Language, and Computers, as well as some targeted technical fields. Tutoring and other support networks can be developed with your career counselor so that you can successfully meet the challenges of your career advancement efforts.

I don't have the time to take an education program. Can I advance my career without enrolling in a school program?

Yes. Internships, mentorships, and on-the-job training are different ways to advance your career. There are also online classes and weekend intensive training programs that may work for you. A career counselor can help you determine the most effective development path, depending on your career goal.

What is the best way to find out about job options that use my current skill set?

Identify your top skills and talents by talking with a career counselor and taking a Skills Assessment. Determine which of your skills you enjoy using the most and would like to develop further. This information will help you to discover new jobs that interest you and use a similar set of skills.