

GET THE JOB

Be Honest About Your Goals

Even if you're qualified, that new job might not fit

Try to avoid the temptation to apply for everything in your field.

Some of these positions may fit your skillset, but are not necessarily part of the original career path you set out on. Maybe you're not passionate about this particular area of expertise, or it doesn't match your current lifestyle.

These are considerations that go far, far beyond salary. So be honest about your career goals before sending out a blizzard of resumes. Here are some important questions to ask yourself first.

TRAVEL

Desk jobs, with their reliable nine-to-five repetition, aren't for everyone. At the same time, however, others may not consider themselves suited for lots of travel or remote work. If you're more of a homebody than the jet-set type, that will have a huge impact on your ability to remain engaged while meeting career goals. Working from home sounds easier than it sometimes actually is, in particular if you are not a self starter or you thrive in a collaborative setting. Look for work that matches your personal sensibilities, and you're more likely to succeed.

MONEY

Salary should play a huge role in deciding to apply for any new position. After all, costs are always rising – and it can also be an important metric when evaluating your career. But don't forget to account for the long term. Taking more money for a new job that's not

as satisfying may lead to long-term frustration. Be prepared for potential turbulence if you leave a legacy company for a start up. Some emerging fields offer big salary bumps, but they may have a less stable outlook. That's a plus for some adventurous job seekers, but may be a negative for others.

RETIREMENT

Retirement can be a key benchmark when applying for a job, and not just for those who are late into their career arc. For instance, pensions are more rare these days, so that might be a serious consideration at any age. Matching contributions to



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market-based retirement accounts also become huge investments over a longer term. For more experienced workers, you may need to ask yourself if this is the last job you'd like to have – and if you'd consider working past the traditional retirement age in this role.