

Finding the path to high tech?

Never underestimate the desire to learn and passion to succeed

You've just graduated from college or a technical-training institute and have decided that you are anxious to pursue a career within the computer industry because of the exciting growth in the high-tech world. Where do you begin, and what career path will you take?

Here are some common questions asked by anyone looking to make a career start or a career change: Whether you are anxious to pursue a sales career or that of an engineer these suggestions should give you an idea of what to expect and how to succeed.

- Focus on learning as much as you can about the job and your potential career path prior to accepting the job, i.e. how long will I be in training? What kind of training will I receive? Where can I expect to be within the first year? What goals should I achieve in the first year? Now is the time to ask as many questions as necessary to determine if this is the company that will invest in your career potential.
- All of your recent education is very valuable to a potential employer, but you lack actual "hands-on" experience. Most likely you will be learning everything about your chosen industry for the first two or three years of your new career. Resolve yourself to observe, listen and apply those learned skills in your new position.
- Once you are on board with a company, observe those employees that are successful at what they do. Is this the type of employee you want to become? Everyone wants to be a winner. Pursue conversations with those successful employees and ask for suggestions, as well as constructive criticism to determine your strengths and weaknesses.
- As you become established in your new career, review what you have learned and what personal goals you have accomplished to determine if this is where you want to be with your career. Invest time with this company to determine if this is the direction you want to pursue. You might discover that this isn't the niche you want to remain in, but it is the correct industry for your future. Make sure you feel you have given this career a chance for you to be successful.
- Even if you choose to change career directions and leave the industry you began your career in, review all of the training, experience and exposure you have received. This career-building, "hands-on" experience is the foundation to build your future on whatever industry you choose.

Remember, everyone started out with the desire to learn and the passion to succeed. It is this drive that will reward you in your future in the career of your choice.