

This book guides readers through a structured process of self-reflection, research and identifying an appropriate career or career path based on their identified purpose in life. Readers are guided to plan and launch their career using a work book and strategies for skill acquisition, professional preparation, self-marketing and interviewing.

How to Launch Your Career in Seven Steps:

Live, Work, and Succeed with Purpose

by Nat Harrington

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A person stands on the peak of a large, mossy rock, silhouetted against a bright, hazy sunset sky. Their arms are raised in a 'V' shape. The background shows rolling hills and some greenery at the base of the rock.

HOW TO LAUNCH YOUR CAREER IN SEVEN STEPS

**LIVE, WORK, AND SUCCEED
WITH PURPOSE**

NAT HARRINGTON

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This book provides content related to career launch topics. As such, use of this book implies your acceptance of this disclaimer.

Table of Contents

Preface - Anyone Can Get a Job, But Successful People Have Careers with Purpose.	xi
Introduction.....	1
Tips for using this book.....	7
Step One - Know Your Purpose in Life and Why it Matters for Your Career Choices.	9
Step Two - Know Your Aptitude.....	21
Step Three - Analyze Your Current Situation to Develop Your Plan.	41
Step Four - Target the Road of Knowledge You Need to Get Where You Want to Go.	47
Step Five - Create Your Own Brand—Your Story.	51
Step Six - Launch Your Branding Campaign in Your Resumes, Letters (and Applications).	61
Step Seven - Stay True to Your Purpose in Your Thoughts, Job and Career Choice.....	65
Afterword	73
Resources.....	79
Work Book.....	81

Step Three

Analyze Your Current Situation to Develop Your Plan.

Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom.

—Aristotle

Now that you know your purpose in life, your aptitude, and your career choice, the next step is to take a step back, look at who you are right now and what you have accomplished and have going for yourself already so you can accurately develop a clear, honest plan to get the rest of what you will need to launch your career.

By now you know that this book is all about creating clarity—clarity in your own mind about what you want and clarity about exactly how you are going to get there.

Action 3.1:

Make two lists:

- 1) Attributes and assets—who and what you have going for yourself now**
- 2) What you still need to actually start the work in the career you identified**

Example

My career-launch assets

1. High school diploma, with certification/specialization, extra credit, etc. in _____ industry

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2. Volunteer experience at _____ providing_____
3. A mentor or potential mentor who is a _____
4. Family member, family friend in my chosen career field
5. Professionals in my place of worship who can help me
6. Work experience providing _____skills and experience
7. Spare time between ____and____, and M–F
8. A quiet place to work on my career plans
9. A laptop computer and access to the internet (library, etc.)
10. Approximately \$_____, or access to funds for resume copies, postage, entrepreneur business expenses, etc.; marketing myself to the next employers, career school, partner, etc.

What I still need to attain the next logical job, internship, apprenticeship, part-time employment, course, certification, or position to launch my career

Example

My career-launch needs

1. Actual experience as a _____
2. A computer
3. _____ hours of free time to plan my career launch
4. A degree or certification in _____, so I can get hired to work as a _____
5. \$_____ / week, month, etc. to be able to _____.
6. A mentor who is a _____ or who works in _____ to volunteer to help guide me through the pathway to my career goal
7. A job as a _____ to provide _____ as I launch my plan
8. A basic budget

If your list seems difficult, remember—there are many creative ways to go about getting what you need, including money. And ask others for ideas. Recall the two young entrepreneurs you met in Step Two who started a successful GoFundMe page to raise money? That helped fund the launch of their entrepreneurial careers.

Action 3.2:

Set your goals. If you haven't yet set two important *time* goals, set and solidify them in your mind NOW:

- 1) Goal one: target date when you WILL have that certification, degree course, or whatever is required for your next position(s).**
- 2) Goal two: target date when you will be firmly in your career. If this is not yet solidified in your own mind, make notes to commit to set those goals before Step Seven.**

Action 3.3:

Prioritize the needs in list #2, going after and checking off the easiest items first, and use your dedicated, set-aside/free planning time to continue the process of acquiring the items you need in order to keep moving forward. Update your notes, regularly checking off what has been accomplished and specific progress toward accomplishing the other items.

Action 3.4:

- Take deep breaths and keep stress under control.**
- Work on staying energized yet confident and relaxed. Don't fight yourself or your feelings; process the feelings of being overwhelmed with so much to do.**

Remember, this is not a race. There's no arbitrary deadline. This is your life plan, and

there is nothing more important. You are now making up for planning that may not have been as clear and did not start earlier for whatever reasons. There are no other shortcuts. There is no quitting on yourself. There is nothing better you can be doing with your time. Your friends and social life can come back once you are on your way to your planned career. The time and work you put in now will set the foundation for a career that will take off and become easier once it is launched.

Step Four

Target the Road of Knowledge You Need to Get Where You Want to Go.

*Throughout the centuries there were men who took first
steps, down new roads, armed with nothing
but their own vision.*

—Ayn Rand

Identify and target the career-training school, college, courses, employers, or mentors that you need; or start your own business.

You are now armed with where you are going and what you still need to “get there” (an internship, entry-level position, training course, certification, degree, capital, or LLC filing to start your own business, etc.).

Action 4.1:

For your list of needs, research online and make a list of companies, schools, or programs that provide the specific item or items you need to land you on the next step—that first job in your chosen career field or next step to start your own company.

Don’t worry—the choices may live out of town, seem too expensive, or have some other negative or drawback; just make the list. You can edit and change it later.

Action 4.2:

Research industry and trade organizations or professional associations where people in your chosen career field are members. Almost all career fields have professional associations or unions that are happy to help career launchers sign up and get help to become one of them.

Use these contacts and relationships as extensively as possible. Those support and mentor relationships can exist online and in support groups. Most have sections for apprentices, beginning engineers, student journalists, and new entrepreneurs, for example.

Action 4.3:

- **Identify and recruit a mentor.**
- **Join a career or industry support group or professional association.**

Warning: Check out and be very careful who you associate with and who you share any personal information with to ensure they are genuine and not a rip-off or scam or unsavory person.

If you are a minor or still in school, inform your parents or guardians and teacher of the steps you are taking and seek their guidance, especially when you reach out to others online or in personal meetings.

Action 4.4:

Continue to update and edit your lists to set limits and make definitive plans for attainable results:

- Schools, employers, etc. within YOUR travel range
- Costs that you will be able to pay, including scholarships, grants, etc.
- Salaries/expenses that you need to fulfill the commitment
- Time requirements that you can meet; for example, every day from 9 a.m. to noon for one year

Action 4.5:

- 1) **Focus—think daily about working in BOTH your next identified career step AND the ultimate, long-term career goal job.**
- 2) **Make detailed lists of needs to get to BOTH the immediate and ultimate career, with time goals that you will adhere to.**
- 3) **Execute some of the steps in your career-launch plan immediately...today. And prioritize the remainder within the week, month, and year.**

Examples:

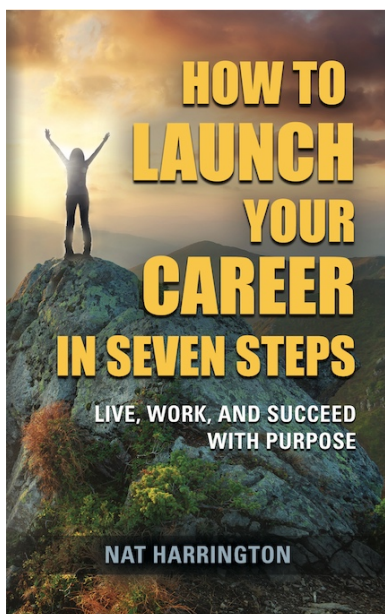
- 1) Obtain and complete application forms during week #1 for school, volunteerships,

apprenticeships, part-time work, auditing classes, promotion at your current job, etc.

- 2) Think of and draft letters to possible mentors.
- 3) Apply for financial aid, if necessary.
- 4) Explore career/industry associations for financial and education assistance.
- 5) Ask to visit/study businesses that do career work you want to do.

Action 4.6:

Complete and follow up on each of the applications and letters. This will be ongoing focused work and may take several weeks. Create your own pace and goals and stay on track by resisting and avoiding distracting people and social situations. First things first. YOU are the most important activity right now. The other things will be always be there.



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