

CHECKLIST

Mission: (to-be) accomplished



As kids, many of us were unsure what we wanted to be when we grew up—many bonafide grown-ups still are. The good news is two-fold: 1) It's OK if you don't feel pulled to a particular calling, and 2) Finding your mission is much less daunting than some make it out to be.

◇ Start with a microcommitment

Think of your mission as a process. Start by identifying pursuits that are worthy for now, but flexible enough to change in the future. Try attending a couple classes, then see where you stand.

◇ What are you doing already?

Where does your time go today? Think beyond work: Your hobbies, the thoughts rattling around in your head, or your favorite reading topics could hold clues about your preferred path.

◇ What are you good at?

Actively using our strengths and then receiving praise for it tends to result in us doing those things more. Try pursuing a personal project or side hustle that engages your strengths.

◇ What do others view you as an authority on?

What are people always asking your advice or consult on? Do you have a valuable, in-demand skill or acute knowledge of a particular subject? Those may be hints, too.

◇ What's your favorite aspect of your current work?

Even if you don't love your day job, there must be some aspect of it that gets you excited, be it hands-on work with clients, writing copy, or keeping your team on task.

◇ Feel free to experiment

There's no treasure map to the holy grail. For most of us, our mission evolves over time. Give yourself a chance to experiment with a growing area of interest and see where it takes you.