

Criteria to Evaluate Before Accepting a Job

In today's difficult job market, many desperate candidates for employment will accept the first job offer that comes their way with little or no thought as to what it will mean to them or what is included in that offer.

If you follow the methods described in *The Career Guarantee*, you are no doubt aware that I believe in taking the offensive, to first determine *your* needs and then go after them. That is, to be aggressive and market yourself as you would any product. Each of us has the ability to determine our own success. Whether you realize it or not, we all have two basic choices in life: to select a career which will satisfy our lifestyle or to compromise our lifestyle to fit our chosen career.

When considering a specific job offer, you should carefully consider the position and have a complete understanding of three basic areas. These include:

1. Salary (base, commissions, bonuses)
2. Benefits (medical, dental, disability insurance)
3. Savings Plan (401K, stock options, equity position)

In addition to these primary areas, there are several other considerations to reflect on when evaluating whether a position will be right for you. Some of these include child and/or pregnancy care, counseling services, overtime, performance appraisal, training, travel requirements, tuition reimbursement, union or non-union, and vacation time.

Remember, how much effort you put into your job search will have a direct correlation to your success in obtaining your ideal career. Don't be shy in your interviews! Consider the above factors so you can make a well informed decision. After all, 8 hours a day, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year (assuming 2 weeks vacation), for 40 some odd years is over 80,000 hours on the job. As you can see, it is too important a decision to take lightly! Go get 'em!