



Wider Opportunities for Women

Nontraditional Employment for Women CAREER ASSESSMENT SURVEY

What is a Nontraditional Job?

Nontraditional jobs for women are any jobs that we most often see men doing, for example, carpenter, auto technician, welder, heavy equipment operator, utility worker, landscaper, plumber, electrician, laborer, printer, maintenance mechanic, milker, computer repair technician, cable installer, pest controller and truck driver. These jobs usually offer higher wages, good benefits and career ladders.

WOMEN CAN DO THESE JOBS, TOO!

Would You be Interested?

(Circle 3 if you like to do these activities, 2 if you are willing to do them although not very interested in them, and 1 if you don't like to do them.)

- | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|
| 1) | Work with your hands? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2) | Make repairs around the house? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3) | Fix outlets, radios, stereos? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4) | Work outdoors? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5) | Drive cars, vans, farm equipment? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6) | See concrete results from your work? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 7) | Solve technical problems/puzzles? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 8) | Work from a pattern, blueprint, or diagram to construct or make things? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 9) | Paint, wallpaper, fill in holes in the walls? | 1 | 2 | 3 |

TOTAL YOUR INTEREST SCORE: _____

If your total score is more than 15, a nontraditional job may be for you!

Having the Requisites:

While many nontraditional jobs require skills, these skills can be gained in a wide variety of ways. For example, did you know:

- Following a sewing pattern employs the same skills as reading a blueprint welders must use, or reading a schematic drawing for building a house?
- A driver's license may be the first step toward an exciting career in the transportation field or heavy equipment operation?
- Following a recipe for a meal is similar to following instructions for repairing a copy machine or mixing cement?

The following activities utilize skills that are transferrable to nontraditional jobs.

(Check things you may have done that help toward success in nontraditional jobs.)

- _____ Worked in a nontraditional job before as a paid worker, volunteer, or as a hobby.
- _____ Received a high school diploma or GED.
- _____ Obtained your driver's license.
- _____ Traveled and enjoyed going from place to place.
- _____ Used hand or power tools.
- _____ Worked on your car or someone else's.
- _____ Done handiwork such as knitting, embroidery or other crafts.
- _____ Followed a pattern in sewing.
- _____ Regularly participated in a sport or worked-out.
- _____ Planted and maintained a successful garden.
- _____ Fixed a broken television, radio or computer. Or used a manual to figure out what's wrong with an appliance.
- _____ Entered/completed a trade school program for a vocational skill.
- _____ Driven/fixd farm machinery or a school bus.
- _____ Built or repaired items in your home or apartment (built a bookcase, fixed a leaky faucet).
- _____ Followed a recipe.
- _____ Worked independently, with little supervision.
- _____ Served in the military.
- _____ Worked outdoors for long periods of time.
- _____ Assembled a child's toy or furniture.

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS CHECKED: _____

If you have checked 3 or more of the above items, a nontraditional job may be for you. If you have checked 4 or more, you're already on your way!

Your counselor or case manager can provide you with more details on how other skills you may possess transfer to a nontraditional job.

Describe Yourself:

Are you: (Check those that are true for you.)

_____ a person who likes to take on challenges?

_____ in good physical health or fitness?

_____ a person who needs to earn more than \$6.00 per hour to support yourself and your family?

_____ a person who needs to have access to health care and other benefits?

_____ willing to explore new things, new places, new people?

_____ interested in a career, not just a job?

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS CHECKED: _____

If you have checked 2 or more of these qualities, nontraditional employment may be for you!

Some women are unhappy doing work that other women enjoy.

Do you dislike: (Check those you don't like to do.)

_____ Working at a desk all day.

_____ Working with groups of children or sick people.

_____ Dealing regularly with the public in a store or restaurant.

_____ Helping others solve their personal or family problems.

_____ Working indoors.

_____ Working in one place all day.

_____ Answering questions and referring people to other sources of information.

_____ Completing written products.

_____ Using the same equipment all the time.

_____ Work in which you rarely use your physical strength.

_____ Receiving lots of supervision and feedback on your work.

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS CHECKED: _____

If you have checked 2 or more of these activities, a nontraditional job may be for you!

Nontraditional Jobs:

Check those jobs which sound most interesting to you:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer repair technician | <input type="checkbox"/> plumber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cable installer | <input type="checkbox"/> welder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> household appliance installer/repairer | <input type="checkbox"/> bricklayer or concrete/stone mason |
| <input type="checkbox"/> printer | <input type="checkbox"/> truck driver |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cabinet maker | <input type="checkbox"/> carpenter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> heavy equipment operator (bulldozer operator, crane operator, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> pest control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> heating, ventilation and refrigeration mechanic | <input type="checkbox"/> machine tooler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> electrician | <input type="checkbox"/> painter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> irrigation technician | <input type="checkbox"/> milker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> auto/heavy equipment repair technician | <input type="checkbox"/> machinist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boiler mechanic | <input type="checkbox"/> environmental technician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> landscaper | <input type="checkbox"/> utility worker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> construction laborer | <input type="checkbox"/> flagger |

Are there other nontraditional jobs you are interested in?

When you hear or read about a woman who has taken a job that is not traditional for women, what is your reaction?

Very Positive ___ Somewhat Positive ___ Somewhat Negative ___ Very Negative ___

Briefly explain your answer: _____

The more information you have about a career, the better!

We invite you to explore the many nontraditional career opportunities available to you. There are programs in your community that can offer you:

- nontraditional career exploration
- hands-on training
- support from women experienced in nontraditional occupations (notably the trades)
- information about apprenticeship opportunities, and
- job placement.

See last page for information on where you can find these services.

I am interested in learning more about nontraditional job opportunities

___ YES ___ NO

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

*This self-assessment questionnaire was developed by Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW). It can be adapted for use by other communities, with an acknowledgment to WOW.
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- *Hands-On Training*
- *Support from Women Experienced in Nontraditional Occupations (notably the trades)*
- *Information about Apprenticeship Opportunities*
- *Job Placement*

For further information on career opportunities in nontraditional careers, contact:

(name/address/phone)

