

Design your future

If you are working through this activity on your own, answer the questions fairly quickly. The drawing question might seem an odd thing to include, but have a go: drawings can expose underlying assumptions, promises and predispositions including those that represent and regulate identity development. If you can, ask a group of friends to do the activity and then discuss your responses. In what ways do their views, aspirations and drawings differ from your own? What might you learn from their responses? If the activity raises questions for you, ask a careers professional, lecturer or trusted friend for advice.

1. Name 3 characteristics of a successful graduate in your discipline or major.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

2. What differences are there (if any) between you and the above characteristics?

3. How would you describe the role of a professional in your discipline or major?

4. What will your personal role be?

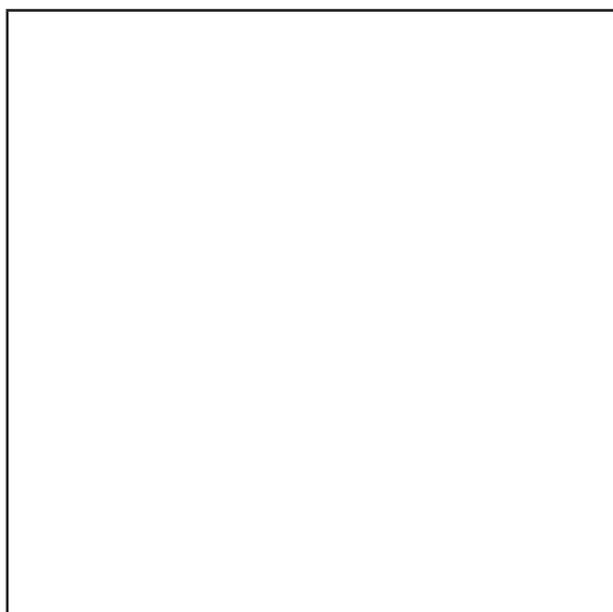
5. How will the learning in this unit contribute to your development?

6. In a sentence, describe what you hope to achieve in your career.

7. Imagine yourself in 15 years' time. What do you expect to be doing at that time?

8. What concerns do you have about graduate life?

In the box below, draw yourself as a graduate.



Write a few words about your drawing.

Make it count!

This resource prompted you to share some fundamental thinking about your future life and work. It may also have raised some questions. If it did, write them down and make an appointment to talk them through. Sources of help include careers professionals in your institution's career services office; mentors and family members; trusted friends; lecturers; and people you know in your industry. Don't be afraid to ask your questions - the answers might give you a head start.

At questions 6 and 7 you imagined your career goals. Look back at those questions and your responses. Can you find someone in industry who has achieved something similar to what you wrote? If not, are these goals unrealistic; are you perhaps looking in the wrong place? Find the closest match you can and find out what that person did to get where they are. Think about how you might begin that developmental journey and don't wait until you graduate to start!

The 'Designing my future' questions were originally designed by Dawn Bennett (Bond University) and Sally Male (University of Western Australia), for engineering student workshops in 2011. Please [contact us](#) if you would like information about the associated research.

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