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The **no-bullshit** students guide to jobs.

The three paths to any career

Darryl Ucheya
Career & Rational Coach

There are basically three paths you can take towards any desired career. Whether you're currently at the internship stage or you're ready for a full time job, the same principles apply. They are as follows:

- The easy path
- The average path
- The hard path

The **easy** path

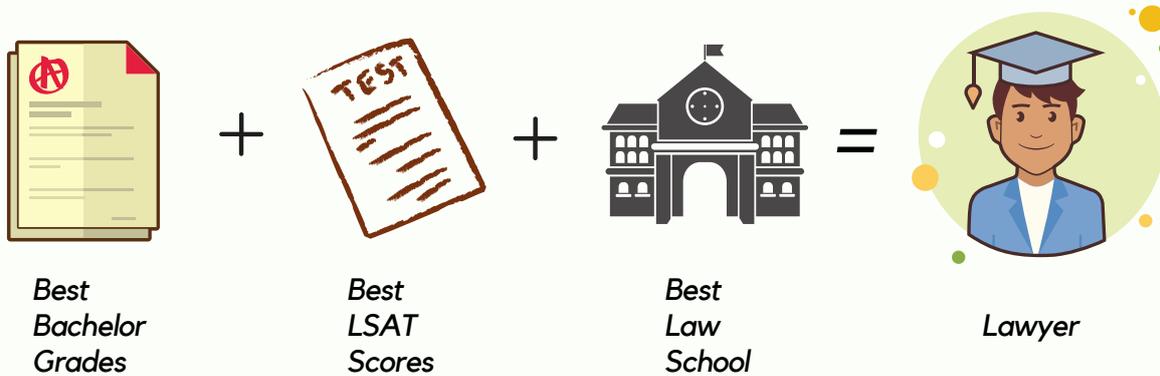
If you choose to follow the easy path, you'll have predictable success at identifiable moments in your journey. This part requires the satisfaction of three criteria at most:

1. Identify your desired occupation as early as possible:

The clarity a destination provides is priceless.

For example, aspiring lawyers know exactly what they have to do. They earn an undergrad in their desired field, they sit for the LSAT, then go to law school.

At the end of it all, they are Lawyers. At the beginning of the journey, because they were clear on the destination, they could then focus on the formula below:



The faster you know where you are headed, the faster you can get there.

2. Attend the best school possible:

All schools are not made equal. You know this already.

For example, certain companies predominantly hire from IVY League schools. Thus, if you want to end up at one of these workplaces, the easiest way to do it is by attending a school from which they hire - a *target school*.

The most desirable companies have *target schools*. They center their recruiting efforts at these schools, typically because most of their current workforce came from these schools. This doesn't mean that they won't occasionally hire someone from a non-target.

However, if you want the easy path, you have to meet them where they are at - at *target schools*. Let the students at non-target schools compete for the one remaining position, if at all.

3. Get the best grade possible:

For the most part, grades are the only indication a company has to judge you on paper. All things being equal, a 4.0 GPA student shows better dedication & comprehension of subject matter than a 3.5 student. Therefore, whether or not you're actually better or smarter than your 4.0 rival, they'll get better consideration because of their grades.

Don't give people a reason to count you out. In other words, the easy part is basically you checking off the requirement list plus taking away any reason people might have to pass on you. See illustration below:

Job Requirements	Easy	Hard-ish	Impossible
Ivy League or Top State School	Yes	No	No
3.8 - 4.0 GPA	Yes	Yes	No
Bachelors in Business	Yes	Yes	Yes

The **average** path

The average path is basically the easy path but with:

- A less than excellent GPA (3.0 - 3.6)
- And or attending a school one level below a target school.
- And or decided to pursue the career late, thus joining the pipeline after the people who are taking the *easy path*.

The **hard** path

This is basically that 2.9 GPA that you have to explain every time - the big elephant in the room at every interview. That is if you even get an interview.

And or coming from an average school, changed your major once or twice, thus you're starting out pretty late, no prior internships, etc.

The above are generic circumstances. Every individual is able to craft their own story and can go as far as they are willing to work for regardless of GPA and school.

But in general ambition and grit aside, your career path will be determined by planning, grades and your school.

Reach out to me if you have any questions.

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