



## How to Get a Better Paying Job

If you are an employee at the bottom of the totem poll at your company you may be feeling a sense of hopelessness. The lowest paid employees are often the people doing the most physical work in the worst working conditions. These employees are often the people with the most inconsistent work histories which makes it difficult for them to find a better job. According to a study by University of Warwick Economist Mark Stewart, individuals in low paying jobs are 2.7 times more likely to be unemployed a year later than individuals in higher paying jobs. Continually working in low paying jobs is a formula for repeat unemployment. There are steps you can take to help yourself find steady work with better pay and working conditions. Below are some ways to move up from a low paying job.

**On the Job Experience** - Finding a job without any required experience is almost impossible. When you have a job take every available opportunity to gain more experience. Volunteer to fill in for coworkers while they are on vacation and volunteer to be trained to cover breaks.

**Attendance** - The most annoying problem for employers is when an employee calls in sick, shows up late, or does a no call no show. Make sure to arrive at least 5 minutes early and be prepared to start working right away. Make sure to tell your boss about vacations as soon as you know, and keep unplanned absences to a minimum.

**Performance** - Although there are many factors that effect the future of your employment, one of the most important is your performance. If you are a really hard worker and complete all assigned tasks, employers are often able to overlook other shortcomings. If times get tough an employer will want to keep their top performers.

**Attention to detail** - Your boss may not look at every piece you make or every project you finish, but he or she will look at some, and you will never know which one that is. The best practice is to pay close attention to everything that you do. Take pride in your work and let it show.

**Communication** - Regardless of what type of job you have, you will have to communicate with coworkers and bosses. Your ability to communicate is reflected in your attitude, listening skills, and nonverbal body language. Many times it's not what you say but how you are saying it.

**Job Hopping** - One of the top reasons that a hiring managers give for not hiring someone is that they have had too many jobs in a short period of time. If you are having problems at work, stick it out until you find a new opportunity. It much easier for the person who is still working to find a job, than the person who hasn't worked in several months.

**Education** - Education is not just college. You can gain education through company training, reading books, industry associations, etc. The more you know, the more opportunities you will have at work. Of course college is a really great option also.

**Express your goals** - If your goal is to advance to another position within your company, tell your boss. Most employers will try to work with people to help them reach their goals as long as the employee is willing to put in the effort. The only way your employer will know what you want is by telling them.