

Developing Your Strength

Achiever

The genius of your Achiever talent begins with your tremendous motivation, drive and determination. You are in constant motion to reach your goals. The second aspect of your genius is found in the types of goals you set. You have daily goals in the form of lists of things to do. Then you have future goals tied to your daily goals. Finally you have ultimate goals. Your ultimate goals are always tied to excellence. So the genius of your Achiever talent is the tremendous amount of motivation and drive you have to reach your goals and to move your goals toward being excellent in terms of performance, productivity, effectiveness and efficiency. No wonder this talent is called Achiever.

Adapted from “The Genius and Beauty found within The Clifton StrengthsFinder Themes of Talent,” by Edward C. Anderson

Applying Achiever Talents in Careers

- As a talented achiever, you probably are attracted to goals. Take the time to establish clear and relevant objectives that will guide your intense efforts.
- Make a list of the steps to take in choosing a career, beginning with a visit to the career center on your campus. The list — and being able to cross items off it as you follow through on them — will give you a sense of direction as well as a deep sense of accomplishment.
- Roles that challenge you and reward your hard work will allow your Achiever talents to flourish.
- Work environments that provide incentives for quality or productivity are likely to bring out your best efforts.
- Find a place where your productivity, stamina, intensity, and drive for completion will make you a valued team member.

Adapted from StrengthsQuest website: www.strengthsquest.com

Career Plan of Action:

Applying Achiever Talents in Academics

General Academic Life

- Set at least one clearly defined and measurable goal for each of your courses at the beginning of the term. Document your progress toward every objective in an academic-achievement journal.
- Identify the most important fact, philosophy, concept, or law you learn in each class each week. Notice recurring patterns. Pinpoint discoveries.
- Set one or two "stretch" targets, such as earning a specific grade-point average, winning honors status, or being named to the dean's list.
- Seek opportunities to apply several of the ideas and concepts you have learned. Address groups and conduct demonstrations so others can benefit from what you know.
- Ask each of your professors to clarify their expectations for your performance. Emphasize that you intend to exceed the minimum course requirements.

Study Techniques

- Review your goals-achievement log. Look for evidence that you are progressing toward your objectives. Outline the steps you took to acquire one particular skill or master one key concept.
- Pay close attention to your body clock. Decide when your mind is most alert. Use this insight to your advantage when scheduling time to study.
- Decide whether your productivity, efficiency, and ability to retain essential information increases when you study with a tutor, a classmate, a group, or alone.
- Observe classmates to discover who shares your commitment to hard work. Form a study group composed of individuals who invest time, effort, and energy in scholarly pursuits.
- List everything you must do to prepare for a test, complete a project, conduct research, or finish an assignment. Prioritize activities. Set a deadline for each one. Then methodically carry out your plan.

Relationships

- Intentionally nurture friendships with people who are as driven as you are.
- Talk to students taking advanced-level courses in your major field. Ask them to describe the choices they made in the past that contribute to their success today.
- Realize that your natural inclination to study for as long as it takes inspires other achievers. Learn the names of these individuals. Add them to your study buddy network.

Class Selection

- Choose challenging, effective classes taught by instructors who have reputations for helping students reach their educational goals.
- Sequence the order in which you take classes. Each term, enroll in one course that is more demanding than any you have ever taken. Repeat this process each semester.
- Sign up for classes that cover unfamiliar topics. Understand that you are motivated by challenges.

Extracurricular Activities

- Join clubs that have members who share your strong work ethic.
- Advance toward your academic and career goals by enrolling in rigorous classes, volunteering on campus, performing community service, working part time, and participating in intramural or extramural sports.
- Elect to join organizations where your accomplishments will be recognized. Choose groups with goals that align with your own. Insist on establishing deadlines for reaching each objective.

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Academic Plan of Action:
