

Success is Within Your Grasp



What is success? If you ask 20 people for a definition you are likely to get 20 different answers. Let me offer a definition that has the ability to reshape your life should you accept it. Success is the progressive realization of worthwhile, predetermined, personal goals.

Success is progressive; it is a journey!
Success comes as soon as you take action to accomplish a goal.

Success means realizing goals, in other words, actually accomplishing goals.

Success means your goals are worthwhile to you.

Success means your goals are predetermined. You decide what your goals should be today, tomorrow, and five years from now.

Success means your goals are personal. Motivation occurs when the goals are yours, not goals others have set for you.

Success means setting goals. Goals are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and tangible and they encompass every area of life; career, family, financial, mental, physical, social, and spiritual.

You probably have the idea by now that goals and success are intertwined.

Starting the journey is the hardest part. It takes work to articulate your personal mission statement that describes how you want to live your life. Careful introspection will help guide your thoughts to paper. Just like a corporation's mission statement is the guiding principle behind all company decisions, your personal mission statement guides the creation of your goals.

Set goals in all areas of life; career, family, financial, mental, physical, social and spiritual. Consider both short-term (less than one year) and longer term goals. Make sure each goal supports your personal mission statement. Ask yourself, "Is each goal I have written, specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and tangible?" Rewrite the goal until it supports these characteristics.

Set in place an action plan that will guide you towards achieving each goal. The plan must be specific and include the benefits you will gain by reaching each goal and the losses you will avoid by reaching each goal. You will outline all possible obstacles that stand in your way and write down two possible solutions for each obstacle identified. You will outline how you are going to track the progress towards each goal to make sure you don't get off track. Finally you will list in specific detail each step you will take by what date to move you closer towards your goal. Keep these sheets in your day planner to have at your fingertips at all times. The format suggested below will help organize your planning sheet.

Planning Sheet

Goal (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Tangible)

Benefits from Achieving Goal

Losses to Avoid

Possible Obstacles

Possible Solutions

Specific Action Steps	Target Date	Date Reviewed	Date Completed
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1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Method of Tracking Progress _____

Completion of a planning sheet is what brings a goal clearly into focus in your mind. Once on paper, you can start to see the reality of achieving your goal since how you will achieve it is clearly laid out before you. Read it daily. Act on it daily.

Success is goal-directed action. If you have goals and are working towards them, then you are successful!