



In pursuit of passion

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Being a geek no longer has a “boring” tag attached now. In fact, today a geek is celebrated and geekdom is even considered glamorous. In the ‘age of the geek’ which we live in now there are no shortage of career opportunities for true geeks. True geeks are those people who would do the same job even if they were not being paid for it. This passion reflects in the quality of their work and their ability to dedicate a large part of their time and life towards it. While one can be a geek in every field here we specifically talk about a few fantastic career opportunities that exist today, and will continue to expand in the next few decades.

The right pill
Unfortunately many people confuse a Bachelors of Pharmacy with pharmaceuticals. Pharmacy is geared towards certifying people for being retail chemists and regulatory work as well as with further study in clinical trials and advance labs — not as direct entry to the multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical industry. India is being billed as the pharmaceutical production centre of the world and there are incredible opportunities for those who can bring expertise in pharmacology, chemical engineering, chemistry and production methods. New technologies such as flow chemistry will allow the micronisation of pharmaceutical factories and usher in a few age of green chemistry and safer drugs. There are almost no programs that specialize in this in the country today. A course demonstration by Apeejay Stya University attracted more than two hundred top pharmaceutical companies to immediately hire any future graduates.

The true Geek is someone who has a deep interest in a particular field, but also is a constant learner. The fact is that anything a geek learns

CAREER COMPASS: CHOICES FOR THE GEEKY YOUTH



in college will be outdated within a few months. Thus what is important is to choose a course that teaches you to learn how to learn and equips you with the latest research to be ahead of industry rather than behind it when you graduate. After all a great Geek does not wait for someone to teach them, they seek out and learn for themselves.

— The writer is Member Management Board of Apeejay Stya & Svan Group and Pro-Chancellor of Apeejay Stya University



Building careers
The third great opportunity is in advanced civil engineering. Technologies such as laser cut pre-fab and 3D printing are changing the way we build buildings and infrastructure. With the new development agenda of the Indian government there is an urgent need of experts who can upgrade traditional techniques of construction and development to increase the speed and quality of infrastructure. In its 2015 budget the government had announced an increase of almost \$11 billion in infrastructure spends just in India.

The new careers combine several skills ranging from material science to chemical engineering, from advanced project management to mechanical engineering in application to construction methods. The buildings and bridges of tomorrow will not just be drawn up by architects but designed by advanced civil engineers who will work at both creating sustainable green solutions by design as well as applying innovative and sustainable fabrication methods.



On “cloud” nine
The first is a field which is revolutionising almost everything it touches — cloud computing. Cloud computing has been gradually taking speed in the last decade with a large part of the credit going to Amazon for their web services suite of products. Cloud computing has been changing the job markets for tech around the world causing most traditional IT skills to become obsolete.

Institute Sage predicts the public cloud market will reach more than \$160 billion in 2020. Industry surveys predict not only will millions of new jobs be created in the next few years these jobs will be much better paid than current IT positions.

In fact, if you are certified in cloud computing your skills are applicable from in everything from mobile app to hardware from enterprise infrastructure to general software development. Since in the next few years cloud computing is poised to become the greatest growth driver in the IT industry it has almost become mandatory for everyone to gain expertise and knowledge in it.

Drone technologies
The second great opportunity is in drone-related technologies. Almost every sector of industry and military is looking at drones as a solution to logistics problems. Whether it is military surveillance, architecture surveys, marriage photography or even home delivery, drones are changing the way we view distance, mission time and the size of vehicles we need to get the job done. In the next few years military and private players will buy millions of drones and companies need experts that can not only build them but ensure proper communication with them to accomplish missions.

According to BI Intelligence the civilian and commercial drone segment alone with grow more than 19 per cent for the next five years with the overall market reaching more than \$10 billion by 2020.

Instead of pursuing traditional communication and telecom careers, Geeks are finding their talents extremely useful in this burgeoning sector using a wide variety of skills from traditional wi-fi and satellite to innovating new custom radios and protocols.

