Careers for ISFJ Personality Types

“On my honor, to do my duty…”

Whether you're a young adult trying to find your place in the world, or a not-so-young adult trying to find out if you're moving along the right path, it's important to understand yourself and the personality traits that will impact your likeliness to succeed or fail at various careers. It's equally important to understand what is really important to you. When armed with an understanding of your strengths and weaknesses, and an awareness of what you truly value, you are in an excellent position to pick a career which you will find rewarding.

ISFJs generally have the following traits:

- Large, rich inner store of information which they gather about people
- Highly observant and aware of people's feelings and reactions
- Excellent memory for details which are important to them
- Very in-tune with their surroundings - excellent sense of space and function
- Can be depended on to follow things through to completion
- Will work long and hard to see that jobs get done
- Stable, practical, down-to-earth - they dislike working with theory and abstract thought
- Dislike doing things which don't make sense to them
- Value security, tradition, and peaceful living
- Service-oriented: focused on what people need and want
- Kind and considerate
- Likely to put others' needs above their own
- Learn best with hands-on training
- Enjoy creating structure and order
- Take their responsibilities seriously
- Extremely uncomfortable with conflict and confrontation
ISFJs have two basic traits which help define their best career direction: 1) they are extremely interested and in-tune with how other people are feeling, and 2) they enjoy creating structure and order, and are extremely good at it. Ideally, the ISFJ will choose a career in which they can use their exceptional people-observation skills to determine what people want or need, and then use their excellent organizational abilities to create a structured plan or environment for achieving what people want. Their excellent sense of space and function combined with their awareness of aesthetic quality also gives them quite special abilities in the more practical artistic endeavors, such as interior decorating and clothes design.

**ISFJ CAREERS**

**CREATIVE/TECHNICAL**
- Artist
- Electrician
- Innkeeper
- Interior decorator
- Merchandise planner
- Musician
- Preferred customer sales representative
- Real estate agent/broker
- Retail owner

**BUSINESS**
- Bookkeeper
- Clerical supervisor
- Computer operator
- Credit counselor
- Customer service representative
- Home health care sales
- Paralegal
- Personnel administrator
- Secretary

**HEALTH CARE**
- Dental hygienist
- Dietician/nutritionist
- Family physician
- Health care administrator
- Home health aid
- Licensed practical nurse (LPN)
- Medical equipment sales
- Medical records administrator
- Medical technologist
- Medical/dental assistant
- Nurse
- Optician
- Pharmacist/pharmacy technician
- Physical therapist
- Primary care physician

**SOCIAL SERVICE/EDUCATION**
- Alcohol and drug addiction counselor
- Child welfare counselor
- Curator
- Curator
- Educational administrator
- Educational administrator
- Elementary school teacher
- Genealogist
- Guidance counselor
- Guidance counselor
- Home health social worker
- Librarian/archivist
- Librarian/archivist
- Personal counselor
- Preschool/elementary teacher
- Probation officer
- Religious educator
- Religious educator
- Social worker
- Social worker (elderly and child day care issues)
- Social worker (elderly services)
- Special education teacher
- Speech pathologist

Radiological technician
Respiratory therapist
Veterinarian

Excerpt from *Do What You Are* by Paul Tieger and Barbara Barron-Tieger
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