

Steve Jobs was an American mastermind. He did not follow the usual path that most Americans aspire to follow: graduate from college, make a living, start a family, and settle down. Rather, Jobs dared to make unconventional decisions and followed his own creative mind. Jobs lived by the quote in *The Whole Earth Catalog*, “Stay foolish. Stay hungry” and advised others to do the same. Jobs had a direct impact on shaping the way technology is today.

Throughout Steve Jobs’ younger years, he learned quickly that he had a fiery passion for technology and learning. In *Steve Jobs*, Walter Isaacson explains, ““It was a very big moment that’s burned into my mind. When I realized that I was smarter than my parents, I felt tremendous shame for having thought that. I will never forget that moment.” (Jobs) This discovery, he later told friends, along with the fact that he was adopted, made him feel detached and separate from both his family and the world.” He knew he was different, and he knew he was very smart. Luckily, his parents provided him with the stimulating childhood he needed and helped support his way to college, which was their one promise when adopting him. With his parents being barely able to provide him with the funds to go to college, Jobs decided on Reed College in Portland, Oregon. After realizing he did not enjoy the required classes and that he was wasting his parents’ money, Jobs dropped out. He trusted that it would all work out just fine. He followed his heart and spent more time in classes that he was interested in. Because of this, he learned about calligraphy and other topics that intrigued him. Dropping out allowed him to intersect his curiosity in both art and technology, which helped develop his business in the future. Jobs elaborates in his 2005 Stanford Commencement address, “It was pretty scary at the time, but looking back it was one of the best decisions I ever made. The minute I dropped out I could stop taking the required classes that didn’t interest me and begin dropping in on the ones that looked interesting.” Jobs was always seeking new ways to be creative and followed his own path; he trusted his interests and pursued them. By not following the traditional career advice of graduating from college and pursuing his studied career, Jobs did something “foolish” and followed his hunger.

Jobs followed his passion and interests instead of chasing money. There were many times when Jobs “failed” throughout his career development. He could have easily given up and pursued a simpler career path that made good money, but he instead focused on his passion. He had a niche for technology, and he was not going to let any failures stop him. In *Steve Jobs* we saw that, “The best thing ever to happen to Steve is when we fired him, told him to get lost,” Arther Rock later said. The theory, shared by many, is that the tough love made him wiser and more mature. At the company he founded after being ousted from Apple, Jobs was able to indulge all of his instincts, both good and bad.” Jobs was fired from the company that he founded. Some people in that situation might give up or find another career path, but Jobs stayed hungry. After being fired, he created NeXt and Pixar Animation Studio. Jobs stayed committed to his passion and the money eventually followed. Jobs added in his Stanford Commencement address that getting fired was one of the best things that could have happened to him because it helped him transition to a new creative state in his life. In *Steve Jobs*, Jobs elaborates on his hunger: “My passion has been to build an enduring company where people were motivated to make great products. Everything else was secondary. Sure, it was great to make a profit, because that was what allowed you to make great products. But the products, not the profits, were the motivation.” Jobs followed his motivation to pave success.

Jobs believed in figuring out what people want before they know they want it. Jobs was many things, but one of his best titles was “designer”. He created products that were brand new and never before seen. It may have seemed foolish, but he did not follow the latest trends. From *Steve Jobs*, “Some people say, “Give the customers what they want.” But that’s not my approach. Our job is to figure out what they’re going to want before they do. I think Henry Ford once said, “If I’d asked customers what they wanted, they would have told me, “A faster horse!” People don’t know what they want until you show it to them. That’s why I never rely on market research. Our task is to read things that are not yet on the page.” Jobs took risks and did not let the fear of failure stop him.

Jobs was an innovator, creator, visionary, and so much more. When thinking about career development, it might be worth taking some occasional risks; after all, it could pay off in the end. People should consider living like Steve Jobs lived and “stay foolish and stay hungry”.