

8 Surefire Ways to Fail



America continues to be the world's largest economy and boasts the lion's share of global billionaires. In fact, there were reportedly 442 billionaires in America in 2012. When considering the staggering success only an elite few attain in business, it begs the question, "What do these billionaires know that the rest of us don't?" And, as importantly, "How can we avoid failure as we aspire to achieve career success of any measure?"

With this in mind, here are eight pitfalls to avoid for the proverbial 99% in their quest for success.

1 Short-sightedness

Every successful person at some point in their lives had a vision for what "could be," and set out in relentless pursuit of their dream. From Thomas Edison to Steve Jobs and countless success stories in between, visionaries are filled with a passion and purpose that drives them every day.

Those who are shortsighted and unmindful of future consequences of their efforts, both the good and the bad, are more likely to fail than those who are thoughtful and perceptive in their approach.

2 Inaction

Have a vision or a goal? The first step is to write it down along with related objectives and action steps.

Now you've taken initiative, which is the critical first step to achieving success. Post your vision statement in your bedroom, bathroom or office. Share it with others. And be sure to follow your action steps. By taking these minor steps, you make yourself accountable and become the master of your destiny. Take quantum action and you will surely have a breakthrough. Or find contentment with the status quo and, well, remain there.

3 Contentment

You may have the vision. You may

write it down. You may have shared it with others, but without passion, that vision will likely wither.

Passion for what you seek to accomplish should be almost palpable to the extent that others can see and feel your drive. The key is to match your vision with something you can be truly passionate about. Something that will keep you engaged every moment of every workday to bring you one step closer to the measure of success that you personally desire.

4 Instability

Many have vision and passion, but lack the self-discipline required to stay the course. The pain of living a life of discipline is less than the pain of regret for what "could have been."

Those who are self-disciplined motivate themselves to continue with their action steps and persevere amidst adversity, asserting sheer willpower over their more base desires and instincts to give up or turn attentions to something more enjoyable in the moment.

5 Doubt

Life and work can be hard and even cruel. Remember, the race is not for the swift, but rather those who persevere.

Rather than allowing doubt to seep in and poison the process, you owe it to yourself to remain confident in your vision and your methodologies to get you there. Sure, you can adapt as needed along the way, but always know that success will ultimately be yours.

6 Going it Alone

A mastermind group, coach or mentor is an excellent way to get motivated. Meeting regularly can be a boost to your morale and provide new perspectives on your approach.

The Internet makes it extraordinarily easy to find a coach or mentor and join a mastermind group that can help propel your vision to new heights and facilitate invaluable networking opportunities.

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7 Dishonesty

While it sounds cliché, honesty is indeed the best policy in business. Integrity is of paramount importance for those seeking to find and sustain long-term success.

True success comes when you are a person of your word, when you have a pure conscience, and when you have not cheated others on your way to the top. Dishonesty has a tendency to sneak back up on you, causing far more problems than the risk was worth taking in the first place.

8 Arrogance

Humility, like patience, hard work and integrity, is a virtue. So, when you finally reach your destination of success, when your vision becomes a reality, do not forget your humble beginnings and all those who helped you to get to the top of the hill.

Extend gratitude. There is no such thing as a self-made millionaire. ↩

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