

College Preparation Versus Career Readiness

Lesson 2 of the Spending Series

Marci Hethmon, Extension Specialist, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Lynne Middleton, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development

Christopher Sneed, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences



Rawpixel.com - stock.adobe.com



College Preparation Versus Career Readiness

Lesson 2 of the Spending Series

Skill Level

Beginner (3rd/4th graders)

Educational Standards Supported

4.MD.A.2

Learner Outcomes

The learner will be able to:

- Understand the difference between choosing a career following graduation or entering a trade or college program
- Differentiate between educational pathways to identified careers
- Identify and verbalize advantages and disadvantages of entering the workforce, and enrolling in trade program versus community or university program
- Map give jobs with corresponding career pathways

Tag(s)

Consumer Education

Time Needed

20-60 minutes

Materials Needed

- 10-15 Sets of Pathways Cards (Printed two-sided and cut) - Pages 7-10 of this lesson plan
- One Pathways Handout for every group of 2-3 students

Authors

Marci Hethmon, Extension Specialist, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Lynne Middleton, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development

Christopher Sneed, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Introduction to Content

Upon graduation from high school, students will have a choice to make: Will they immediately enter the workforce? Will they apply to attend a trade school, two-year college or a four-year university?

Introduction to Methodology

This lesson will include some research, discussion and a game students will play to see if they prefer a job or a career, a two-year degree, trade school diploma or four-year degree.

Terms/Vocabulary/Concepts

Job—Typically, a short-term position that offers immediate pay with specific responsibilities and tasks.

Career—A set of jobs or one long-term position that typically is in a certain field and may include multiple positions, skills and knowledge learned. A career may require on-the-job training, some college or university work.

Two-year College—Typically, considered a community college or junior college, trade school or online university. An associate degree is awarded at a two-year school, and it falls between a high school diploma and a bachelor's degree received from a university.

Four-year University—Most four-year universities award bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.



Setting the Stage/Opening Question

Ask, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Let students answer.

Give positive accolades to each one who shares. "That sounds like a fun job," "Oh I would enjoy that, too," and "Yes, we need people to do that."

As you talk about professions that youth choose, make a list on the board or a sheet of paper to come back to later. Introduce "career clusters," which are jobs in the same industry. Explain that career pathways are the steps or actions you take in order to meet the requirements for a specific job.

After a few students have answered, say, "But how many of you know the steps to take to be hired for the job you want to have?"

Ask, "Have you decided what job you want?" Let students answer.

Then ask, "What specific certification, training or degree do you need to get that job?"

Give an example – "Those of you wanting to be a veterinarian probably already know that being a vet takes a good eight years of school."

Show the YouTube video. It is 2 minutes, 44 seconds:

[youtube.com/watch?v=1VUEFOB63jw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VUEFOB63jw)

Experience

Ask, "What did you learn from the video?" Let students answer.

Ask, "What are the advantages and disadvantages associated with attending a four-year program?"

Explain that certifications are different and separate from a degree awarded by two-year or four-year college programs.

Say, "A two-year college degree program usually earns an associate's degree while a four-year college degree program will allow you to earn a bachelor's degree."

Ask, "What are some pathways that will help you reach your career goals quicker?"

Ask, "Have you heard of trade school?"

Explain that trade school offers shorter programs and teaches skills like plumbing and electrical work. After completing the program, you can earn a certificate that gives you the ability to be employed in that field.

Strategies to Increase Student Engagement

- Ask students what their parents do and if they know how they prepared for that job
- Visit PBS A-Z Career lab and search to view kid-friendly career videos: thinktv.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/a-z-career-lab/
- Create a jobs poster or PowerPoint collage that depicts the activities and jobs students think they will enjoy

Ask, "What other kinds of jobs might require you to go to trade school and earn a certificate?"

Allow time for verbal discussion.

Distribute the Pathways activity. Point out that degree designations can be a clue to the type of education a job may require.

Divide students into groups of two or three.

Ask students to work together and match each job in the Pathways activity to the type of education that job may require on their worksheet. Sometimes there is more than one choice.

Lead a discussion about job responsibilities and pathways to the jobs on the list. Discuss apprenticeships as an additional option and note that apprenticeships are often required for advancement in trade professions.

Share/Process

Return to the list created at the beginning of the lesson. These are the jobs students stated they had an interest in.

Ask the following questions of each job listed:

- How do you think you will get there?
- No college?
- Two-year college?
- Technical or trade school?
- Four-year college degree?
- Why do think that?

Generalize

Ask, "How can you find out more about jobs and the pathways you can use to get there?" **ANSWER - ask parents, interview adults in a job you may like, job shadow someone in the career you're interested in, and/or do some internet research.**

Ask, "Why is it important to think about these things now? Do you think your interests might change before you are ready to graduate and find a job?"

Apply

Say, "So, let's say you have a friend named Joan. Joan really likes doing things with her hands. She doesn't mind working outside and getting a little dirty. Joan really enjoys building things. What kind of job do you think she would like?"

Allow time for responses. If necessary, suggest things like landscaping or construction.

Ask, "What kind of pathway would Joan take?"

Ask, "Would she need a four-year degree? Or something else?"

Allow time for discussion. Note that there may be several choices for her.

Digging Deeper

As a follow up or part of the lesson, visit:

bls.gov/k12/students/careers/career-exploration.htm

This site allows students to explore various occupations, salaries and educational requirements.

With parental permission, students may enjoy visiting the following site.

timeforkids.com/your-hot-job/

This free site requires a log-in and the creation of an avatar. Youth are asked not to use their real names. This site offers a brief interest inventory and gives several career suggestions to explore.

Notes

Supplemental Information

Educational Standards Met

Math - Measurement and Data:

4.MD.A.2 Solve one- or two-step real-world problems involving whole number measurements (including length, liquid volume, mass/weight, time, and money) with all four operations within a single system of measurement. (Contexts need not include conversions.)

5.NF.B.6 Solve real-world problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem.

Classroom Aide	School Teacher	School Principal
Veterinary Assistant	Veterinary Technician	Veterinarian
Accounting Clerk	Accountant	Accounting Manager (CFO)
Orderly	Licensed Practical Nurse	Nurse Practitioner

<p>Classroom Aide</p> <p>\$28,000</p> <p>Assist a teacher with instructional duties.</p>	<p>School Teacher</p> <p>\$58,000</p> <p>Teach one or more subjects to students at the middle, intermediate, or junior high school level.</p>	<p>School Principal</p> <p>\$89,000</p> <p>Plan, direct, or coordinate the activities of schools.</p>
<p>Veterinary Assistant</p> <p>\$29,000</p> <p>Feed, water, and care for pets in animal hospitals and clinics. Clean and disinfect cages and work areas.</p>	<p>Veterinary Technician</p> <p>\$36,000</p> <p>Perform medical tests in a laboratory environment for use in the treatment and diagnosis of diseases in animals.</p>	<p>Veterinarian</p> <p>\$125,000</p> <p>Diagnose, treat, or research diseases and injuries of animals.</p>
<p>Accounting Clerk</p> <p>\$46,000</p> <p>Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete.</p>	<p>Accountant</p> <p>\$75,000</p> <p>Examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records to prepare financial statements.</p>	<p>Accounting Manager (CFO)</p> <p>\$130,000</p> <p>Direct financial activities for all or part of an organization.</p>
<p>Orderly</p> <p>\$37,000</p> <p>Transport patients to all areas of a hospital.</p>	<p>Licensed Practical Nurse</p> <p>\$54,000</p> <p>Care for ill, injured, or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Nurse Practitioner</p> <p>\$108,000</p> <p>Diagnose and treat acute, episodic, or chronic illness, independently or as part of a team.</p>

Construction Laborer	Carpenter	Construction Manager
Mower and Landscape Maintenance	Landscape Designer	Landscape Architect
Factory Worker	Equipment Repair	Mechanical Engineer
Dental Assistant	Dental Hygienist	Dentist

<p>Construction Laborer</p> <p>\$44,000</p> <p>Perform tasks involving physical labor at construction sites.</p>	<p>Carpenter</p> <p>\$49,000</p> <p>Construct or repair structures and fixtures made of wood and comparable materials.</p>	<p>Construction Manager</p> <p>\$99,000</p> <p>Plan, direct, or coordinate activities concerned with the construction of structures.</p>
<p>Mower and Landscape Maintenance</p> <p>\$37,000</p> <p>Landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment.</p>	<p>Landscape Designer</p> <p>\$49,000</p> <p>Directly supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in landscaping activities.</p>	<p>Landscape Architect</p> <p>\$74,000</p> <p>Plan and design land areas for projects such as parks and other recreational facilities.</p>
<p>Factory Worker</p> <p>\$38,000</p> <p>Hands-on, physical labor producing or assembling products in a factory setting.</p>	<p>Equipment Repair</p> <p>\$46,000</p> <p>Perform work involving the skills of maintenance to keep machines or mechanical equipment in repair.</p>	<p>Mechanical Engineer</p> <p>\$99,000</p> <p>Perform engineering duties in planning and designing tools, engines, machines, and other mechanically functioning equipment.</p>
<p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>\$46,000</p> <p>Perform limited clinical duties under the direction of a dentist.</p>	<p>Dental Hygienist</p> <p>\$81,000</p> <p>Administer oral hygiene care to patients. Evaluate patients' oral hygiene problems or needs and maintain health records.</p>	<p>Dentist</p> <p>\$150,000</p> <p>Examine, diagnose, and treat diseases, injuries, and malformations of teeth and gums.</p>

Pathways Worksheet

Place the job cards in the column you think most closely match the educational requirement of the job listed on the card.

On-The-Job Trainings	Two-Year Associate Degree or Certificate Program	Four-Year (or more) College Degree
-----------------------------	---	---

Answer Key

On-The-Job

Classroom Aide
Veterinary Assistant
Accounting Assistant
Orderly
Laborer
Mower/ Landscape Maintenance
Factory Worker
Dental Assistant

Two-Year Community College Degree and/or Certificate

Teacher
Veterinary Technician
Accountant
Licensed Practical Nurse
Carpenter
Landscape Designer
Equipment repair
Dental Hygienist

Four-year (or more) College Degree

School Principal
Veterinarian
Accounting Manager
Nurse Practitioner
Construction Manager
Landscape Architect
Mechanical Engineer
Dentist

Note: Alternate answers can be accepted if the student can make a good case. Many of these occupations have several routes for achievement.



UTIA.TENNESSEE.EDU

Real. Life. Solutions.™

W1376B 2/26 26-0133

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.