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# EXPLORE TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL CAREERS

Research technical and vocational careers to see which path works best for you!





# Explore Technical and Vocational Careers

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## About the Activity

There are so many rewarding and valuable technical and vocational careers to explore after high school. These opportunities are available in a variety of fields, like health care, construction, beauty, and so much more! Using a career log, teens will explore potential technical and vocational opportunities. By the end, they will have a better understanding of which careers are a good fit for their future!



## Supplies

**These simple materials will get you started:**

- Paper
- Pencil or pen
- If you would like to complete the career log virtually, you can use excel.

## Grades: 7-12

**Topic:** Financial Literacy,  
Career Exploration, College  
Readiness

**Time:** 1 ½ minutes





# Activity Steps

Choosing a career is an important decision. Creating a career log can help you explore a variety of career options before you decide to make a commitment.

Follow the steps below to start learning about different opportunities!

- 1 Before you get started, take a look at the activity guide. This pdf will have all the supporting resources for this activity like a list of vocational and technical careers, a career log, and a bonus activity!

**DID YOU KNOW?** Career and technical education is a group of courses, classes, or training that prepares a person for a technical or skills-based career. Some technical and vocational careers require education after high school that leads to a certificate in a specific field.

- 2 Prepare your career log by printing the page from the activity guide or you could draw the log with your pencil and paper. If you prefer to make a digital version of the career log, you could use excel.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Some careers offer on-the-job training that will provide specific training related to the job. A good example of this is the military. They provide the training that you'll need for the type of job you'll be performing.

- 3 Using the list of technical and vocational careers, select five jobs that you are curious about. If you have a career in mind that isn't on the list, be sure to add it to the log!

**DID YOU KNOW?** Apprenticeships are another form of on-the-job training that usually pay you to work and learn alongside an experienced employee.

- 4 Once you've chosen five career interests, fill in the other information on the chart about education requirements, compatibility, and salary. After you have filled in your log, take a moment to review your research and think about which career could be the best fit for you!

**DID YOU KNOW?** Some of the jobs that don't require a four-year bachelor's degree do require a two-year associate degree. Associate degrees are usually obtained from two-year community colleges or other schools. This degree can lead to a specific career or it can be a stepping stone to a bachelor's degree.

## Bonus Activity:

After you've completed the career log, you could diver deeper as a career detective!

Select one or two of the careers from your career log and find someone in your family or community who has that job or a similar job. Interview them with the questions found under the career detective section of the pdf to learn more about the role. This inside scoop could give you a better idea of the day-to-day responsibilities of a potential career.



# Test Your Knowledge

See how much you've learned about technical and vocational careers!

## QUESTION 1

A career and technical education is...

- a. On-the-job training.
- b. A degree from a four-year college or university.
- c. A group of courses, classes, or training that prepares a person for a technical or skills-based career.
- d. A two-year college degree

## QUESTION 2

What is an associate degree?

- a. A two-year college degree.
- b. A four-year college degree.
- c. An apprenticeship.
- d. Technical and vocational education

## QUESTION 3

True or false? Some jobs offer on-the-job training.

- a. True
- b. False

## QUESTION 4

What is an apprenticeship?

- a. A certificate program,
- b. A four-year college degree
- c. An extracurricular activity
- d. On-the-job training that usually pays an individual to work and learn alongside an experienced employee.

## Reflection Questions

### Questions to deepen wonder and understanding

- Did you discover a new career interest after completing this activity?
- What were some of the pros and cons of the careers you were interested in?
- What are some next steps you can take to learn more about technical and vocational careers?



# Activity Guide

## Sample Technical and Vocational Careers:

Below is a listing of some career clusters and a few sample careers in each area. Begin to think about which general areas you are interested in.

**Health Sciences:** Certified Nursing Assistant [CNA], Phlebotomy Technicians [CPT], Home Health Aide, Paramedic or Emergency Medical Technician [EMT], Medical Assistant [MA]

**Business:** Project Management Professional [PMP], Microsoft Office Specialist, Certified Scrum Master [CSM]

**Sales:** Marketing Specialist, Sales Representative, Data Analyst

**Finance:** Controller, Accounts Receivable

**Information Technology:** Web Developer, Network Specialist, Site Reliability Engineer

**STEM:** CAD Specialist, Mechanic, Engineering Technology Specialist

**Manufacturing:** Machinist, Tool and Die Maker, Production Specialist, Materials Manager, Materials Acquisition

**Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics:** Truck Driver, Logistics Planner, Distribution Manager, Transportations Analyst

**Hospitality:** Guest Experience Specialist, Reception Manager, Assistant Hotel Director

**Government:** Administrative Assistant, Project Manager, Zoning Specialist

**Law** (Paralegal, Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice)

**Agriculture, Farming, and Fishing, Wildlife:** Farmer, Wildlife Administrator, Agriculture Inspector

**Human Services:** Child Care Worker, Social Service Assistant, Rehabilitation Worker, Elder Care Worker

**Construction:** Construction Technology, Construction Inspector, Project Estimating

**Education and Training:** Teaching Aide, Safety Specialist, Training Consultant

**Arts, Audio-Visual, Communications and Entertainment:** A/V Technician, Audio Engineer, Lighting Technician

**Food Preparation and Serving:** Cooks, Chefs, Bartenders, Food Preparation Workers, Waiter/Waitress

**Cosmetology:** Hairstylist, Barbers, Cosmetologist

# Investigate & Explore

## Take your new knowledge to the next level.

There are many paths towards a successful, lucrative, and rewarding career. Some students decide to attend college and some students pursue careers that don't require a college

degree. They opt into the military, obtain a vocational certification, or enter the workforce directly after high school. Each of these career options is equally important to the way our society operates.

As you plan for your career path, be sure to make it personal by factoring in your interests, skill set, goals, and most importantly, your happiness!

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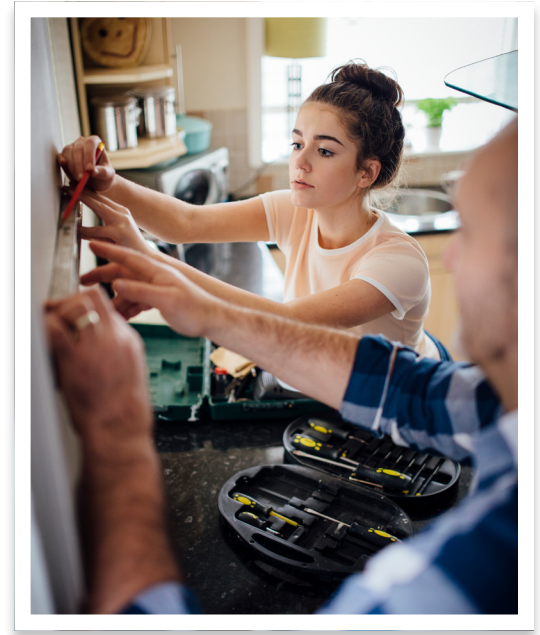
# Career Log

Use the jobs listed in the Explanation section of this activity to get started.

Why are you interested in these jobs?

Also, note the starting and median salaries for each job. Most jobs can be found at the My Next Move website:

<https://www.mynextmove.org>



| Job Title             | Education Requirments: | Why are you interested in this job? | Estimated Starting Salary: |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sample: AV Technician | GED or HS Diploma      | I like working with equipment.      | \$26,690                   |
| 1.                    |                        |                                     |                            |
| 2.                    |                        |                                     |                            |
| 3.                    |                        |                                     |                            |
| 4.                    |                        |                                     |                            |
| 5.                    |                        |                                     |                            |

## Career Detective Questions

Name of Community Career Contact:

Job Title:

Education:

How did they get started in this career?

What interests them every day about their job?

What part of their job do they not like?

Are they satisfied with this career path?

Why or why not?

What advice do they have for someone just getting started?

Anything else they shared.