

Match Your Life Passions with a Career!

Do You Have a Career Plan?

You wouldn't go on a trip without information on where you were going and how to get there. The same is true with your career! Follow these steps to develop a career plan just for you.

STEP 1 - Do a self-assessment to discover what careers may be right for you. (see below)

STEP 2 - Access more information about the careers that interest you. (see below)

STEP 3 - Consider your educational options: technical/trade schools, 2-year and 4-year college programs, apprenticeships, military opportunities.

STEP 4 - Create your career plan based on who you are today, but know that you can always choose a different career path in the future if you choose.

Start by exploring your interests, which will help you discover college majors or careers that are a good fit for you!

You're more likely to be happy and successful in your work when your job matches your interests and life passions. Take this easy, [15-minute quiz](#) to get matched with careers based on your likes and dislikes. Check [College Board BigFuture](#) for additional college planning resources.

[MyACT](#): Explore Interests, college majors or careers that are a good fit for you! You can complete any or all three of the Inventories.

[The Princeton Review Career Quiz](#) is another resource to help students identify potential careers based on personal interests. This is a short inventory consisting of only 24 total questions.

[My Next Move Interest Profiler](#): Answer questions about the type of work you might enjoy. We'll suggest careers that match your interests and training.

Career Information at Your Fingertips!

[The Occupational Outlook Handbook \(OOH\)](#) is the government's premier source of career guidance featuring information on the hundreds of occupations that provide the majority of jobs in the United States. The OOH can help you find career information, education and training requirements, salary, and outlook for hundreds of occupations.



Alternatives to college, entering the workforce, and certifications to help you get hired!

If you're considering joining the workforce after graduation, there are plenty of opportunities for you to find your passion, while earning a paycheck. A great starting point are the **WorkKeys** assessments, which will determine your work-ready skills and enable you to earn your NCRC, a portable credential that is highly valued by many employers.

Here are some tips to consider when finding a job after high school:

- **Rise in the ranks.** If you're already working, look into higher-level jobs with your current employer.
- **Do your research.** Search employment websites for opportunities and job requirements.
- **Talk to your counselor.** Work with your counselor or the local employment office on developing a cover letter, resume, or personal website to help you apply for jobs.
- **Get certified.** Consider getting a professional certification license, accreditation, or an employability certificate (like the [ACT National Career Readiness Certificate™](#)) to boost your job prospects.
- **Complete an apprenticeship.** Becoming an apprentice allows you to earn money while training for a specialized, highly skilled career, like carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, and even types of engineering.
- **Get an internship.** Consider contacting local employers and ask if they offer internship positions for hands-on experience.
- **Job shadow.** Seek opportunities that allow you to “shadow” an employee and learn more about day-to-day work in a profession you’re interested in pursuing. You might even be able to participate in these before graduating high school.
- **Consider joining the military.** Serving in the military can help you earn money for college and offer specialized training in a variety of fields. Talk to local military recruiters and interview friends and family members who have served. You should also compare military training, benefits, tours of duty, and promotion opportunities.