COLTON REDLANDS YUCAIPA
REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM

2026-2027

Middle School Career Exploration

COURSE OUTLINE

DESCRIPTION:

Middle School Career Exploration provides the opportunity for students to explore different career pathways while building on important 21st Century Skills such as critical thinking, communication and problem solving. The teacher acts as facilitator as the students rotate through a series of modules where they engage in authentic problem-based learning experiences as they discover their interests and aptitudes, along the pathway to high school career education programs and postsecondary success.

INFORMATION:

PRE-REQUISITE:	None
LENGTH:	One Semester or One Year
SECTOR:	N/A
PATHWAY:	N/A
ARTICULATED:	No
UC A-G APPROVAL:	No
ABILITIES REQUIRED:	N/A
CALPADS:	7000 Exploratory CTE

Orientation

A. Introduce the course and facilities.
B. Discuss the syllabus and major objectives.
C. Explain applicable classroom management procedures, and any operational guidelines.
D. Review instructor/student expectations.
E. Explain attendance requirements and procedures.
F. Review grading and student evaluation procedures.
G. Discuss the work-based learning aspect of the program, if applicable.
H. Discuss the “next steps” related to additional education, training, and employment.
I. Review classroom safety, emergency and disaster procedures.

1. Communication Skills

A. Demonstrate positive verbal communication skills using appropriate vocabulary, demeanor, and vocal tone in the classroom and/or worksite.
B. Read and interpret written information and directions.
C. Practice various forms of written communication appropriate to the occupation.
D. Practice positive body language skills.
E. Practice professional verbal skills for resolving a conflict.
F. Demonstrate active listening skills including techniques for checking for understanding, and for obtaining clarification of directions.

2. Interpersonal Skills

A. Demonstrate positive teamwork skills by contributing to a group effort.
B. Practice the importance of diversity awareness and sensitivity in the workplace.
C. Define sexual harassment in the workplace and identify the employee’s role and responsibility.
D. Practice participation skills.
E. Identify different personality types and demonstrate flexibility and adaptability working with diverse individuals.
F. Practice business and social etiquette skills appropriate to the occupation.
G. Evaluate and discuss the role of business and personal ethics in decision making based on various job-related scenarios.
H. Demonstrate the use of time management skills.

3. Personal and Occupational Safety

A. Demonstrate procedures to be followed in case of emergencies.
B. Describe and discuss the procedure for reporting a work-related hazard or injury (worker’s comp), including ways to report a potential safety hazard to a supervisor.

C. Identify and discuss cyber ethics, cyber safety, and cyber security.
D. Apply personal safety practices to and from the job.
E. Recognize the effects of substance abuse in the workplace.
F. Explain the importance of CAL-OSHA in the industry.

4. Leadership

A. Define leadership and identify the responsibilities, competencies, and behaviors of successful leaders.
B. Work with peers to promote divergent and creative perspectives.
C. Demonstrate how to organize and structure work, individually and in teams, for effective performance and the attainment of goals.
D. Explain multiple approaches to conflict resolution and their appropriateness for a variety of situations in the workplace.
E. Employ ethical behaviors and actions that positively influence others.
F. Analyze the short-term and long-term effects a leader's actions and attitudes can have on productivity, morale, and organizational culture.

5. Career Planning

A. Complete a self-assessment designed to identify skills, aptitudes, and possible career interests.
B. Identify education, training or other post-secondary requirements necessary to prepare for a chosen career.
C. Develop a career goal and create a career plan.
D. Research how technology is used in a chosen career pathway.
E. Describe factors involved in career decision making.
F. Research salary and job outlook for a chosen career.

6. Career Exploration (Paxton Patterson Modules)

A. Use vocabulary common to assigned industry sector.
B. Evaluate nature and scope of assigned industry sector and its role in society and the economy.
C. Describe roles, responsibilities and relationships of the professions within the assigned industry sector.
D. Research career opportunities and the means to achieve them for assigned industry sector.
E. Read, interpret, and use technical drawings or documents to plan a project.
F. Demonstrate technical skills used in assigned industry sector.
G. Identify skills that can be transferable among a variety of careers.
H. Use critical thinking skills to solve problems and make informed decisions.
I. Employ reading, listening, speaking and writing skills to accomplish complex tasks.

Key Assignments

Assignment	Competencies	Career Ready Practices	Anchor Standards	Pathway Standards	CCSS
1. Students will develop a career plan that compares and contrasts multiple career choices based on a variety of preset variables.	1A-C, F 2D 4A, B, D 5A-F 6A-I	1 2 3 5 7 10 11	2 3 5 7 10		LS 6-8.3 WS 6-8.6 WS 6-8.7
2. Students will complete a variety of written and performance-based tasks to demonstrate understanding of technical skills and career opportunities in an assigned industry sector.	1A-F 2A-E, I 3D, E 4B, C, E 5B, D, F 6A-I	1 2 4 5 7 8 9 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 9 10		RLST 6-8.4 RLST 6-8.7 SLS 6-8.1 WS 6-8.7

Standards Assessed in this Program

Career Ready Practices

1. **Apply appropriate technical skills and academic knowledge.**
2. **Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason.**
3. **Develop an education and career plan aligned to personal goals.**
4. **Apply technology to enhance productivity.**
5. **Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.**
6. **Practice personal health and understand financial well-being.**
7. **Act as a responsible citizen in the workplace and the community.**
8. **Model integrity, ethical leadership, and effective management.**
9. **Work productively in teams while integrating cultural/global competence.**
10. **Demonstrate creativity and innovation.**
11. **Employ valid and reliable research strategies.**
12. **Understand the environmental, social, and economic impacts of decisions.**

Anchor Standards

2.0 Communications

- Acquire and use accurately sector terminology and protocols at the career and college readiness level for communicating effectively in oral, written, and multimedia formats.

3.0 Career Planning and Management

- Integrate multiple sources of career information from diverse formats to make informed career decisions, solve problems, and manage personal career plans.

4.0 Technology

- Use existing and emerging technology, to investigate, research, and produce products and services, including new information, as required in the sector workplace environment.

5.0 Problem Solving and Critical Thinking

- Conduct short, as well as more sustained, research to create alternative solutions to answer a question or solve a problem unique to the sector using critical and creative thinking, logical reasoning, analysis, inquiry, and problem-solving techniques.

6.0 Health and Safety

- Demonstrate health and safety procedures, regulations, and personal health practices and determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and domain-specific words and phrases as related to the sector workplace environment.

7.0 Responsibility and Flexibility

- Initiate, and participate in, a range of collaborations demonstrating behaviors that reflect personal and professional responsibility, flexibility, and respect in the sector workplace environment and community settings.

8.0 Ethics and Legal Responsibilities

- Practice professional, ethical, and legal behavior, responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives and resolving contradictions when possible, consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and organizational norms.

9.0 Leadership and Teamwork

- Work with peers to promote divergent and creative perspectives, effective leadership, group dynamics, team and individual decision-making, benefits of workforce diversity, and conflict resolution.

10.0 Technical Knowledge and Skills

- Apply essential technical knowledge and skills common to all pathways in the sector following procedures when carrying out experiments or performing technical tasks.

Common Core State Standards

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Standards

LS 6-8.3: Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

Reading Standards for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects

RLST 6-8.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
RLST 6-8.7: Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

Speaking and Listening Standards

SLS 6-8.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6-8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly

Writing Standards

WS 6-8.6: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as well as to interact and collaborate with others, including linking to and citing sources.
WS 6-8.7: Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.