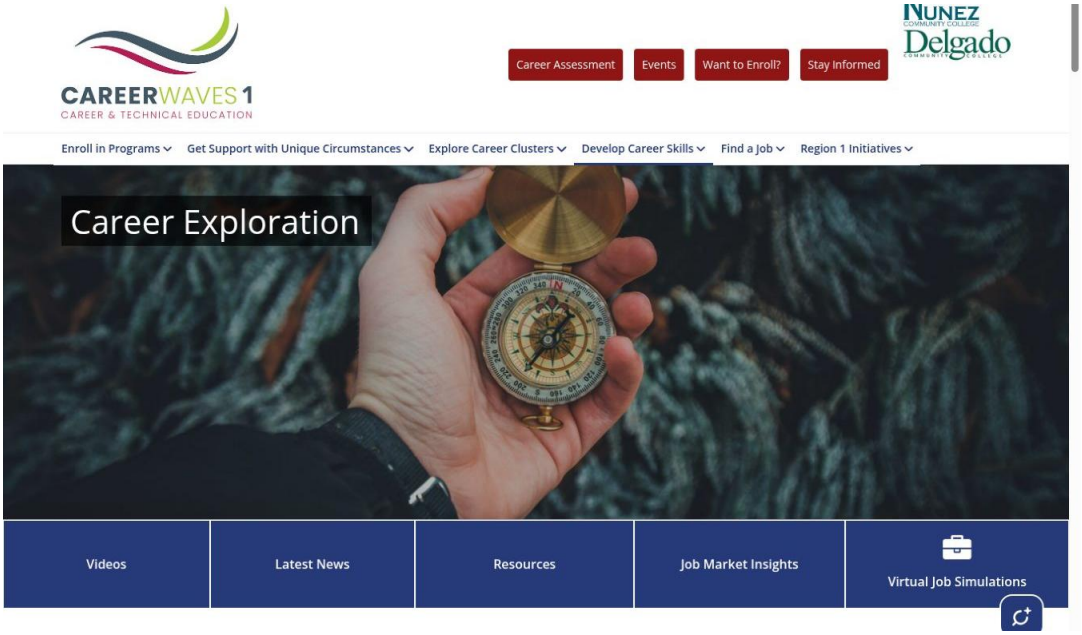
CareerWaves: Useful Tools and How to Use Them

A guide for students and families | Chalmette High School

You do not need to know your future career to begin. CareerWaves brings together career ideas, videos, job information, practice activities, and training links. Use it to explore one question at a time.

Open the Career Exploration page at careerwaves1portal.com.

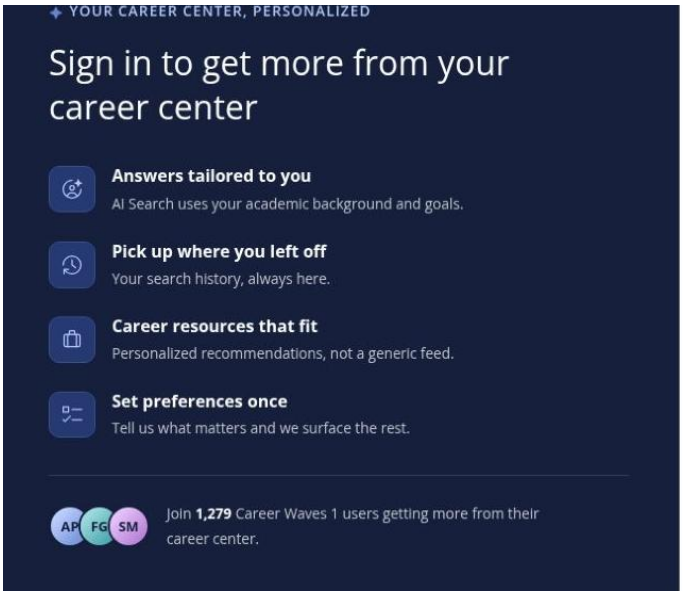


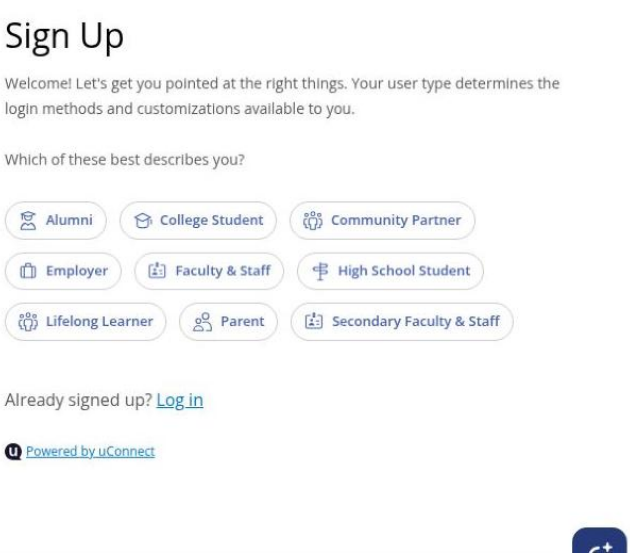
If you want to...	Start here
Get ideas from an interest	AI career search (page 3)
Check pay and jobs nearby	Job Market Insights (pages 4-5)
See what work is like	Videos (page 6)
Try a practice activity	Virtual Job Simulations (page 7)
Explore nearby training	Programs in Region 1 (page 8)

Your goal: Find one career worth exploring and one next step. You can change your mind as you learn more.

Do I need an account?

You can browse the public tools shown in this guide without a CareerWaves account. Some linked websites may have their own signup rules.





Why sign up?

The site says signing in adds AI suggestions based on your academic background and goals, search history, and resources matched to your preferences. The AI panel also says signed-in users receive unlimited searches. During our guest test, only one AI search per day was available.

Where to begin

1. Click **Sign up** near the top of the page.
2. Choose **High School Student**. Families have a separate **Parent** option.
3. Follow the signup directions on your screen. Use your school's directions for account setup.

Important difference: A CareerWaves account is not an application to college and does not enroll you in a program.

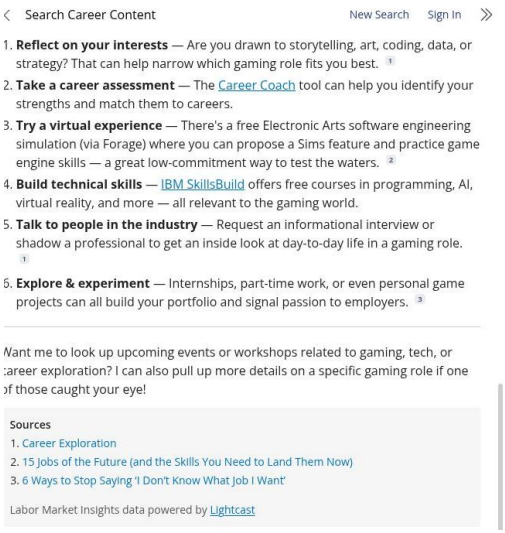
What we checked: The public pages, the account choices, and one guest AI search. We did not create an account or test the signed-in personalization. The account benefits above are described by the website.

1. AI search: Start with an interest

What it does: Uses a question you type to find and connect career content from this website. **Why use it?** It can help when you have an interest but do not know a job title.

Click the floating **AI search icon** near the bottom-right of the page. The panel is called **Search Career Content**. Type your question and click the send arrow.

Our tested question: "I don't know what career I want, but I like gaming. What careers could I explore and what steps could I take?"



The response suggested careers such as game designer, software developer, animator, and data analyst. It also suggested exploring your interests, trying a project, and talking with someone who works in a field.

Make your question more useful

Suggested prompt to try: "I am a high school student in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. I like gaming. Suggest three careers to explore in Greater New Orleans. Explain the work, nearby training options, and one thing I can try now. Include links."

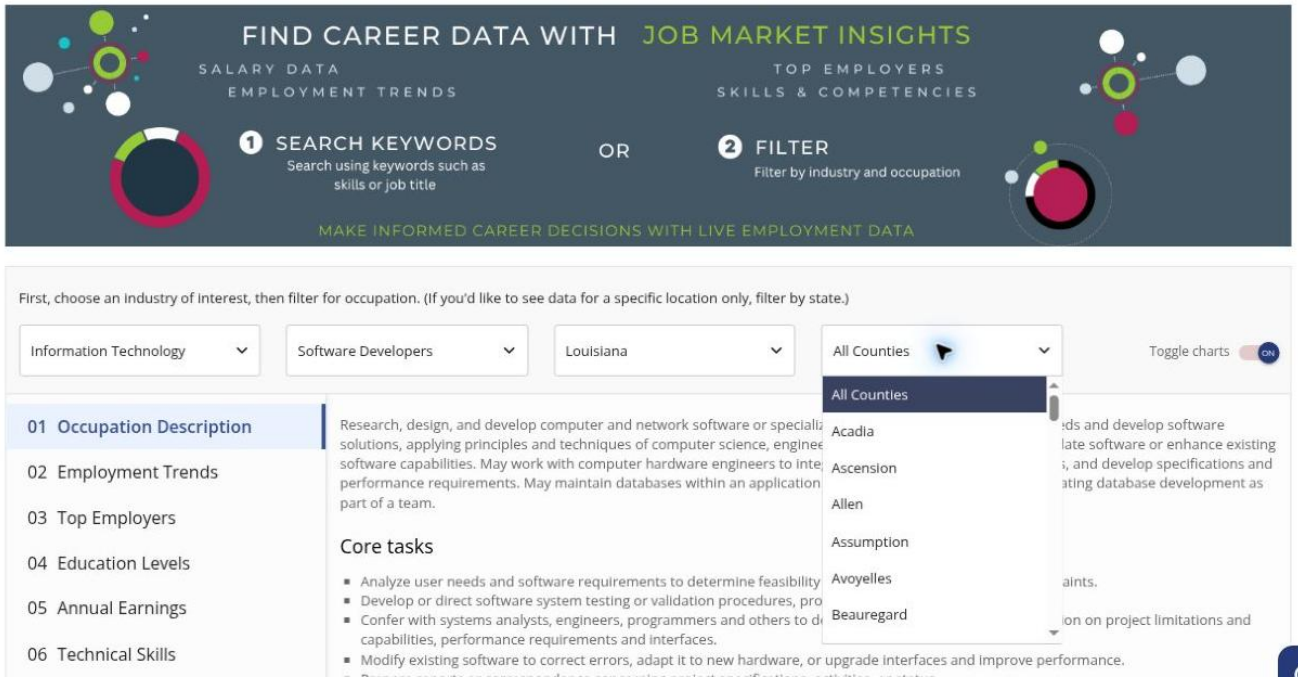
This local prompt is a suggestion; it was not tested in our guest session. If asked which region you want, say where you hope to study or work. For a nearby search, name **St. Bernard Parish and Greater New Orleans, Louisiana**.

Use the answer: Pick two careers. Open the links. Check the location and program details. Our tested response used national career information; it did not provide a verified local training plan. Treat an AI answer as a starting point to check with a counselor.

2. Job Market Insights: Make it local

What it does: Shows information about an occupation, including pay, job trends, employers, and skills.
Why use it? It helps you compare an interesting career with work opportunities in an area.

On the Career Exploration page, click **Job Market Insights**. The section heading below is **Labor Market Insights**. These names refer to the same tool on this page.



Try this search

1. Choose **Information Technology** under Select an industry.
2. Choose **Software Developers** under Select an occupation.
3. Change **Nationwide/State** to **Louisiana**.
4. Open **Counties** and choose **Orleans**. Wait for the results to update.

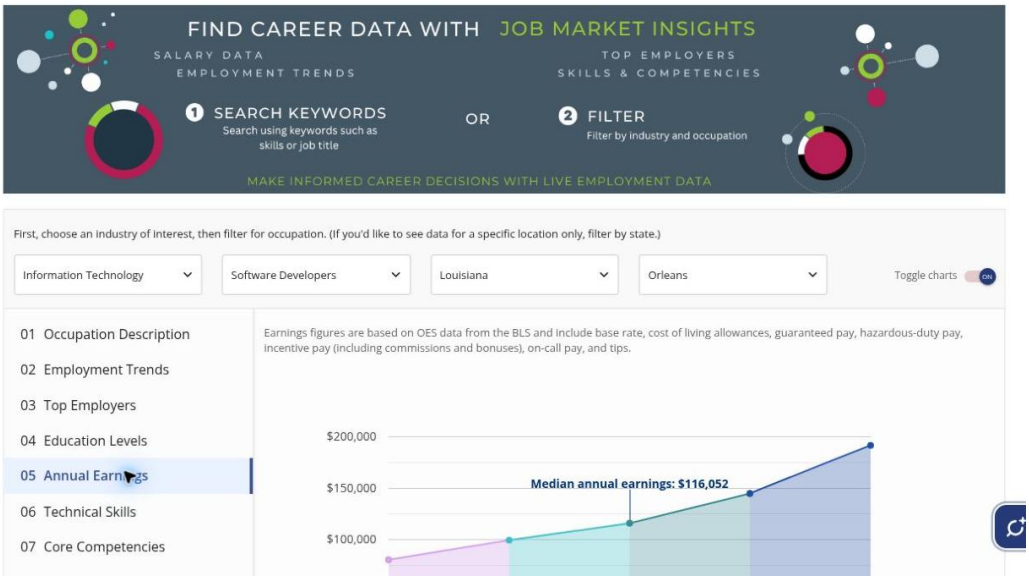
In Louisiana, the Counties list contains **parishes**. You can also choose St. Bernard, Jefferson, or another parish. **All Counties** under Louisiana means the whole state. One parish does not represent all of Greater New Orleans; compare nearby parishes separately.

Words to know: An **industry** is a broad field of work. An **occupation** is a kind of job. **Nationwide** means the entire United States.

Use the answer: Read Occupation Description first. A software developer builds and improves computer programs. Liking games may be a starting interest; enjoying coding, testing, and solving problems is worth exploring too.

Read the results without the jargon

Choose a result tab on the left. Let the display finish updating after you change a career or location. Recheck your filters before writing down a number.

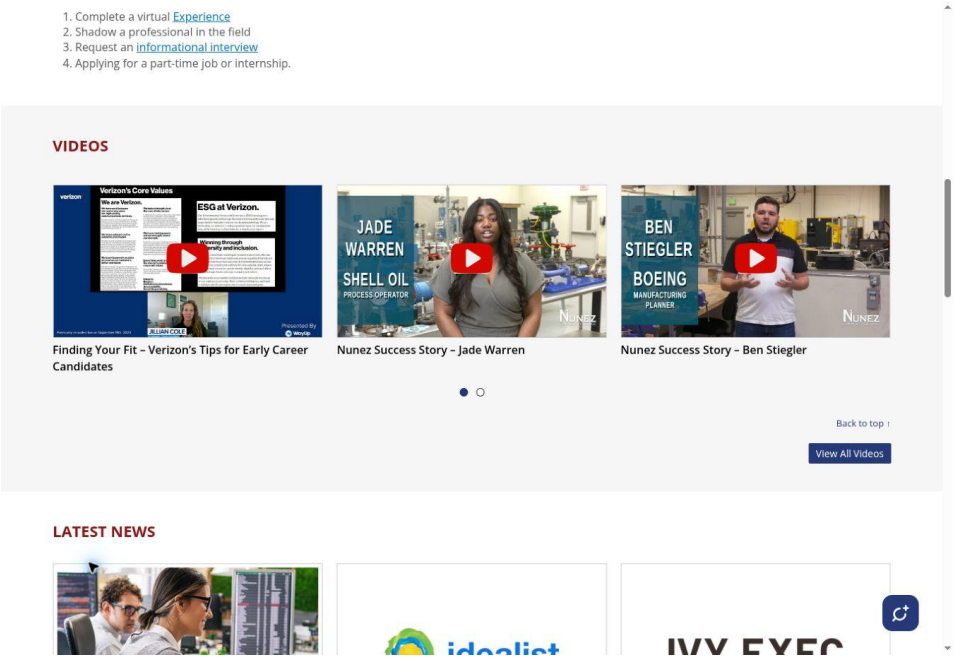


Result tab	What it means / how to use it
Occupation Description	The work and main tasks. Ask: Would I enjoy doing these tasks?
Employment Trends	Job counts over time and an estimate of future jobs. Growth is a prediction, not a promise.
Top Employers	Companies the tool identifies as hiring. Check a current posting for the location and requirements.
Education Levels	Education held by people already in the career. This is not the same as the minimum education needed to enter it.
Annual Earnings	Pay for one year. Median is the middle amount: about half earn more and half earn less. It is not guaranteed starting pay or take-home pay.
Technical Skills	Specific work skills mentioned in job postings. Choose one skill you could learn or practice.
Core Competencies	Abilities useful for the work, such as problem solving. Importance rates relevance; level rates needed skill.
Job Titles	Names used in job postings. Try these words when searching for jobs.

Your next step: Record the career, location, one pay figure, and two useful skills. Compare a second career using the same location. Check STAR Jobs for another Louisiana career comparison.

3. Videos: See what work is like

What they do: Share career advice and stories from people with work or training experience. **Why use them?** A job title alone does not explain what a workday feels like.



What to click

1. On the Career Exploration page, click **Videos**.
2. Click a video title or picture. Examples on the page include **Nunez Success Story - Jade Warren** and **Nunez Success Story - Ben Stiegler**.
3. Use **View All Videos** for more choices. Follow the video page's play instructions.

You can also click **Resources** and look for **Candid Career+ Video Library**. Follow the access directions on that resource page; it is a separate video resource.

Watch with a purpose

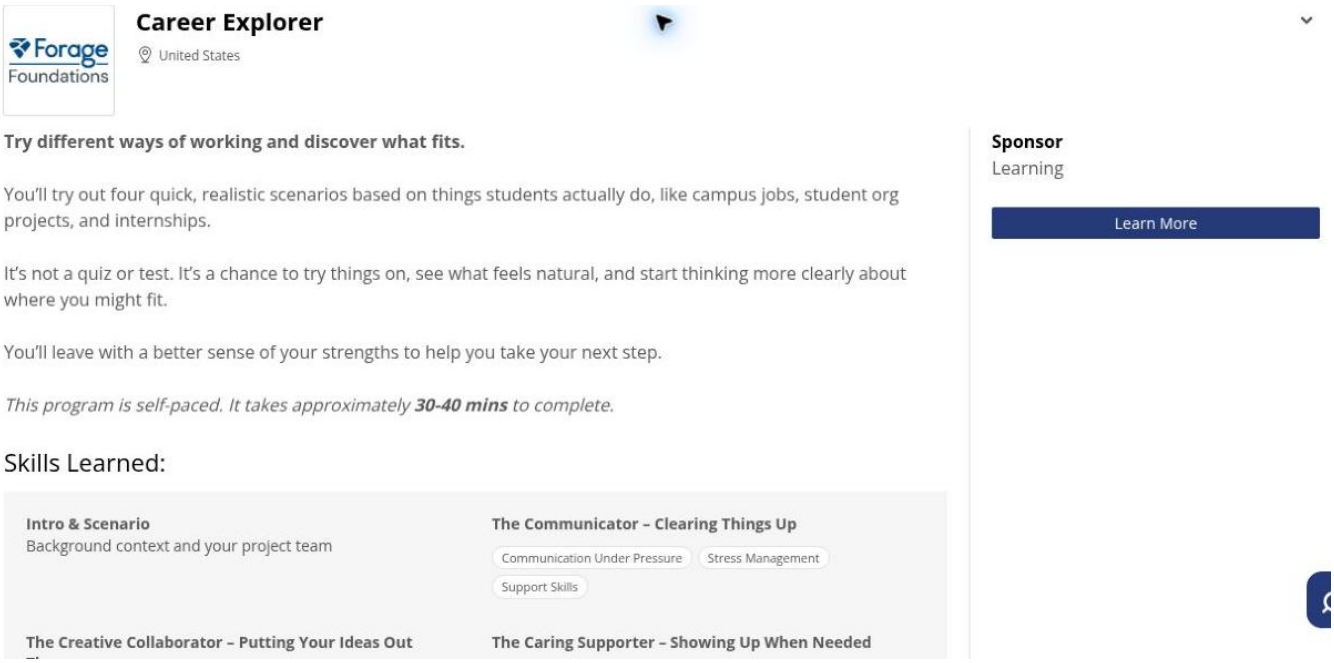
Write down:
One task: What does the person actually do?
One skill: What must they learn?
One question: What would you like to ask them?

Example: After a Nunez story, ask: "What helped this person get started? Which part could I try while I am still in high school?"

Your next step: Discuss your question with a family member or counselor. A video shares one person's experience; use the job-data tool and college information to learn more.

4. Virtual activities: Try something

What they do: Let you explore sample situations or tasks online. **Why use them?** Trying an activity can tell you more about your interests than reading a career title.



Try Career Explorer

1. Click **Virtual Job Simulations** on the Career Exploration page.
2. Click **Career Explorer**.
3. Read the description, time estimate, and skills.
4. Click **Learn More** to open the activity on Forage. Follow that site's access directions; separate signup may be needed.

The Career Explorer listing describes a self-paced activity of about **30-40 minutes**. It includes four practice situations about communicating, sharing ideas, supporting others, and using data.

This is practice. It is not a paid job, an actual internship, or proof that you qualify for a career. Not every activity focuses on a specific local employer.

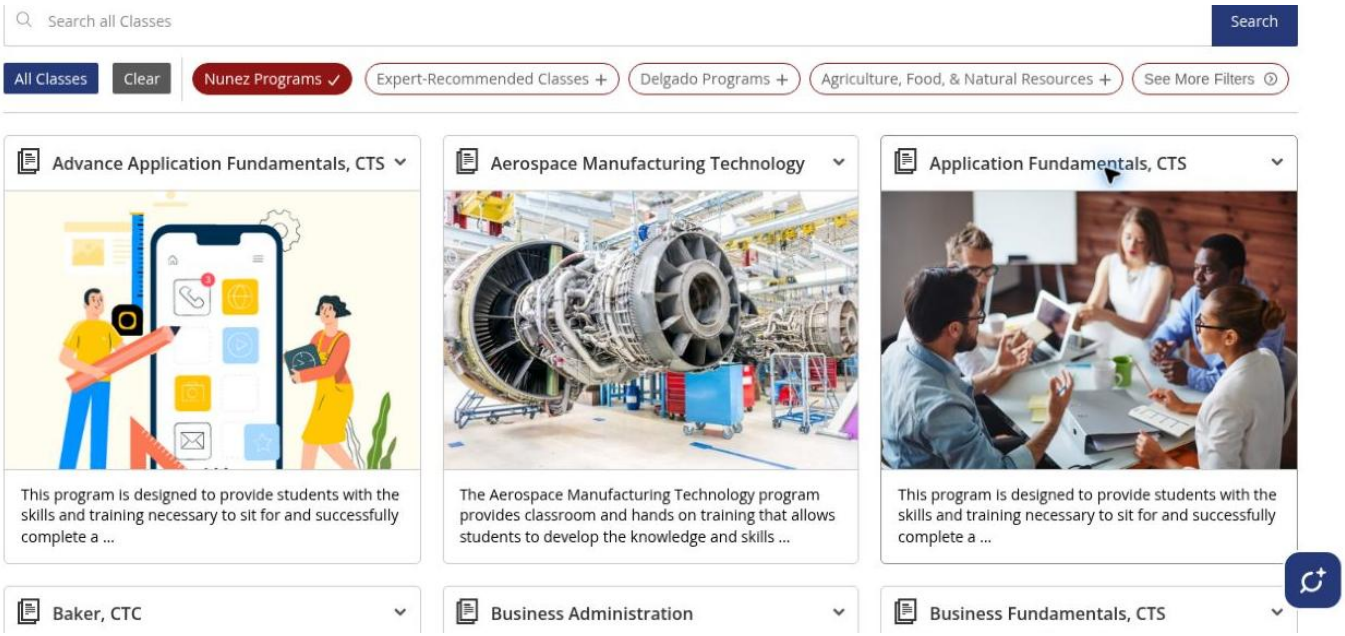
Use what you learn

Ask: Which task did I enjoy? Which part was difficult? Would I like to do more of this kind of work?

Example: If you enjoyed spotting patterns in data, add data analyst to your list. If you enjoyed sharing ideas, explore design or communication careers. These are ideas to investigate, not a test result that decides your future.

5. Programs: Look for nearby training

What it does: Lists education and training options, including Nunez and Delgado programs. **Why use it?** It helps you move from "That career sounds interesting" to "How could I prepare?"



What to click

1. Open **Enroll in Programs** in the top menu.
2. Choose **Programs in Region 1**. The next page is titled **Classes**.
3. Choose **Nunez Programs** or **Delgado Programs**. If a filter panel opens, click **Apply Filters & Reload**.
4. Use Search all Classes or the career filters to narrow your options.
5. Click a program title and read its description and college links.

Example: Selecting Nunez Programs shows listings such as Aerospace Manufacturing Technology. This is a separate example of using the program filter; it is not a gaming-career recommendation.

Term	Plain meaning
AAS	Associate of Applied Science: a college degree focused on preparing for work in a field.
CTS	Certificate of Technical Studies: a focused group of college courses for particular skills.
Program	A planned set of courses leading toward a degree, certificate, or other goal.

Your next step: Confirm the current program, location, cost, schedule, and entry requirements with the college. For high school access or dual enrollment, talk with your CHS counselor or CTE/Dual Enrollment Coordinator. A listing does not mean every student can enroll now.

Turn your search into a next step

A simple family activity

You do not have to use every tool. Start with an interest, learn about one career, and choose one small action.

Our exploration notes	Write your answer
An interest I enjoy	_____
A career I want to explore	_____
The location I checked	_____
One fact I learned	_____ _____
A useful link or resource	_____
One question I still have	_____ _____
My next step	_____
Who can help / when I will ask	_____

Example: "I like gaming"

Use the AI to get career ideas. Explore software developers in Job Market Insights. Check Louisiana and nearby parishes. Watch a relevant video or try an activity. Then ask a counselor about a class or project that lets you try coding or design.

A good next step is specific: "This week, I will ask which CHS class or activity lets me try this skill." You do not need a complete career plan today.

About this guide

Public pages and screenshots checked October 1, 2026. Screens and results can change. AI output may differ each time. Signed-in personalization was not tested. The local AI prompt on page 3 is a suggested prompt, not a verified local result.

Sources: CareerWaves Career Exploration page; Search Career Content guest panel; Sign Up page; Career Explorer listing; Programs in Region 1 / Classes page. All screenshots are from the live website. Open the linked pages below.

Career Exploration

Account choices

Career Explorer

Programs / Classes