

# Building a Career Pathway

## EXPLORING CAREERS & EDUCATION

Different careers require different levels of education. Reflecting on your personal values, interests, and skills will help you build a career pathway that is right for you.

### STEP 1: SELF-ASSESS

**THINK ABOUT YOUR SKILLS.** What are you good at?

**THINK ABOUT YOUR INTERESTS.** What do you like to do? What is your favorite class in school?

**THINK ABOUT YOUR IDEAL WORK ENVIRONMENT.** Do you like to work by yourself or with other people? Do you prefer to be inside or outside? At a desk or on your feet?

**THINK ABOUT YOUR IDEAL LIFESTYLE.** How much do I need to make? Take the quiz at [jumpstart.org/reality-check](http://jumpstart.org/reality-check).

**HOURLY SALARY:**

**YEARLY SALARY:**

### STEP 2: EXPLORE

**THINK ABOUT YOUR CAREER OPTIONS.** Based on the information above, what is one career area or industry that interests you?

#### EXAMPLES

- Agriculture
- Arts
- Business
- Computers
- Construction
- Education
- Entertainment
- Healthcare
- Legal
- Science
- Sports & Fitness
- Transportation

Next, explore the variety of careers in this industry based on the education you will need. Complete the worksheet on the next page using an online career exploration system like Oregon CIS or Naviance (subscription required) or websites like CareerOneStop or MyNextMove.

- **FOUNDATION:** What classes should you take in high school? What skills should you cultivate?
- **LEVEL 1:** Entry-level careers that only require a high school diploma or GED.
- **LEVEL 2:** Technical careers that require a certificate, Associate degree, or apprenticeship.
- **LEVEL 3:** Professional careers that require a Bachelor's, Master's or doctoral degree.

*Note:* While education is the main route to each level, time and experience can also advance you.



## BACHELOR'S DEGREE & BEYOND

AVERAGE WAGE

JOB GROWTH

AVERAGE WAGE

JOB GROWTH

CAREER

CAREER

CAREER

CAREER

AVERAGE WAGE

JOB GROWTH

AVERAGE WAGE

JOB GROWTH

## CERTIFICATE OR ASSOCIATE DEGREE

AVERAGE WAGE

JOB GROWTH

AVERAGE WAGE

JOB GROWTH

CAREER

CAREER

CAREER

CAREER

AVERAGE WAGE

JOB GROWTH

AVERAGE WAGE

JOB GROWTH

## HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

AVERAGE WAGE

JOB GROWTH

CAREER

CAREER

AVERAGE WAGE

JOB GROWTH

INDUSTRY OR CAREER CLUSTER

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS & HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

### STEP 3: RESEARCH

Choose the career you identified on the previous page that interests you the most.

CAREER TITLE

ANNUAL SALARY

EXPECTED GROWTH

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

NECESSARY SKILLS/ABILITIES

WORKING CONDITIONS

DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT

### STEP 3: REFLECT

**BRING IT ALL TOGETHER.** Based on what you know of yourself, your interests, and your abilities, is this the right career pathway for you? Why or why not?

**THINK ABOUT YOUR NEXT STEPS.** What can you start doing now to make this a real possibility for your future? What else can you do to explore career options?

