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*.

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.

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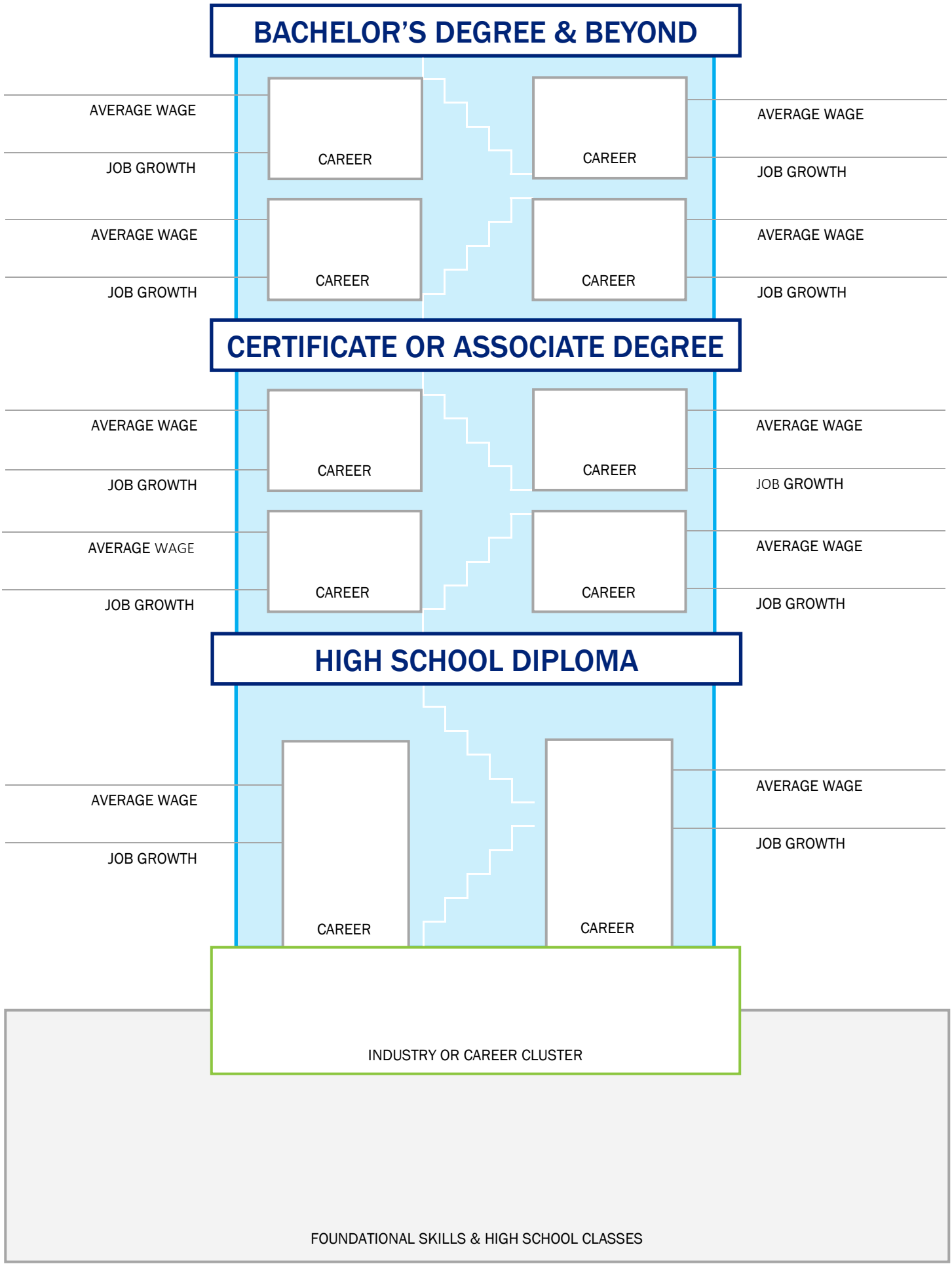
BACHELOR'S DEGREE & BEYOND
AVERAGE WAGE
JOB GROWTH
CAREER
CAREER
AVERAGE WAGE
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AVERAGE WAGE
JOB GROWTH
CAREER
CAREER
AVERAGE WAGE
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CERTIFICATE OR ASSOCIATE DEGREE
AVERAGE WAGE
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AVERAGE 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 RESPONSIBILTIES	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?