

Exploring Options for After High School

This lesson is designed to help students use their interests, goals, and skills to explore their postsecondary options.

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

1. Learn about the various postsecondary pathways available
2. Understand the differences between postsecondary programs
3. Explore career options related to different types of postsecondary programs
4. Evaluate their desired postsecondary pathway based on their interests, skills, and goals.

ACTIVITIES

PART 1

Content Knowledge

Have students split up into small groups to discuss the differences between the postsecondary pathways listed below:

- Career
- Certificate Program
- 2-Year College (Community College/ Associate Degree)
- 4-Year College (Undergraduate School/ Bachelor's Degree)
- Master's Degree (Graduate School)
- Doctorate Degree

For students not interested in pursuing a 4-year college degree, have them read MEFA's blog post, [What are My Alternatives to a 4-Year College?](#)

PART 2

Applying Information

For this activity, students will navigate to the *Discover Careers* tab and select *My Career List*. Have students take some time to review their career list before selecting two of their saved careers. Upon selecting two of their saved careers, instruct students to click on each of the saved careers and make note of the required education level as well as the program(s) of study/college majors. Have students document their research in the attached *Postsecondary Pathway* sheet.

Grade Level: 10

MEFA PATHWAY SECTIONS WITHIN THIS LESSON:

- Digital Portfolio
- Goals/Strategies

DOMAIN:

- College & Career Exploration
- Academic Skills

TIME:

- 45 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Internet connection to work with the MEFA Pathway website
- [What are My Alternatives to a 4-Year College?](#) blog post

FUTURE READY SKILLS:

- Evaluating
- Critical Thinking

VOCABULARY:

- Postsecondary pathway

Email any questions to:
info@mefapathway.org



LESSON PLAN

PART 3

Evaluating Information

Once students have taken time to research their desired careers, they should understand the educational requirements for each chosen career. With educational requirements in mind, instruct students to fill out the Pros and Cons sections of their *Postsecondary Pathway* sheet. When evaluating pros and cons, students should consider their interests, skills, and career goals. Ask students:

- What are the benefits and challenges?
- Does this career align with your skills and interests?
- Do you know much about the majors related to the career?
- What questions do you have about the career and pathway to achieve it?

Then, have students think about whether or not they would like to complete the required training/education for their selected careers and explain why or why not.

PART 4

Critical Thinking/Creative Application

Have students navigate to *Goals & Strategies* under the *Build Career Plan* tab. Instruct them to create a new career goal based on one of their selected careers by clicking the "ADD GOAL" button. When adding the goal, students should include the required education/postsecondary pathway, major, and strategy to achieve the career goal.

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Postsecondary Pathway

	CAREER 1	CAREER 2
Name of the Career		
Education Level		
Program of Study/ Major(s)		
Pros		
Cons		