

# Career Backup Plans

This lesson is designed to help students explore and identify post-secondary back-up options.

## OBJECTIVES

Students will...

1. Investigate careers related to those they have expressed interest in
2. Learn about the importance of having a back-up plan
3. Research career paths as a way to identify related careers

## ACTIVITIES

### PART 1

#### Content Knowledge

*Lesson Pre-requisite:* Students need to save at least three careers to their *My Career List* in MEFA Pathway before starting this lesson. It is recommended that students have completed the *Planning for My Career* lesson.

In this activity, students will review the career profile of their dream career, investigate related careers that match with their interests, skills, values, talents, and aspirations, and determine why any of these may be a good alternative route.

Ask students:

1. Are there alternative routes to my dream career?
2. Can I feel fulfilled in more than one career?

Have students review their *My Career List* under the *Discover Careers* tab in MEFA Pathway. Based on the details of those saved careers, such as required education level, career category, projected growth, skills required, specific work activities, and wages, have students rank the careers in their order of interest.

### PART 2

#### Applying Information

Have students click on the name of the top three careers on their list. This will bring them to the details page for each career. Instruct students to scroll down to the blue box that says *More Careers like this* and review any careers that are of interest. Students should select two careers that they would consider as alternative career options and save these careers to their *My Career List* by clicking *SAVE* in the green box on the career's details page. Students should repeat the above steps for careers on their list until they find alternative career options that they like.

Grade Level: 11

#### MEFA PATHWAY SECTIONS WITHIN THIS LESSON:

- Career Search
- Career List
- Career Path

#### DOMAIN:

- College & Career Exploration

#### TIME:

- 90 minutes

#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Internet connection to work with the MEFA Pathway website

#### FUTURE READY SKILLS:

- Problem Solving
- Adaptability
- Skill Building
- Critical Thinking
- Decision Making

#### VOCABULARY:

- Career related skills
- Transferable skills
- Obstacles
- Limiting factors
- Alternative routes

Email any questions to:  
[info@mefapathway.org](mailto:info@mefapathway.org)



# LESSON PLAN

After saving these careers, have students write an entry in their *My Journal* under the *Create Profile* tab reflecting on the following questions:

- What makes this career similar to your top choice careers?
- What would be most fulfilling about working in this career?
- What would you look forward to most if you worked in this career?

### PART 3

#### Evaluating Information

Next, students will research education or training programs required for careers of interest.

In class, ask students:

1. How will post-secondary education or training influence your career opportunities?
2. How likely is it that post-secondary education or training will lead to your dream career?

Explain to students that as much as they may plan and focus on a goal, you never know what life may throw at you, sending you on a new course. For example, students may enroll in a specific program or major with one career goal in mind, but their learning and development may lead them in a different direction.

### PART 4

#### Critical Thinking/Creative Application

Instruct students to log in to MEFA Pathway and navigate to *My Career List* under the *Discover Careers* tab. Students should review the education level required for the three top choice and two back-up choice careers they selected. Have students click on each career to view the *Programs of Study/College Majors* for that career.

Next, have students click on the *SEE CAREER PATH* button to visualize a potential path to that career. Students should review careers that are listed as stepping stones and as advancements. Students can click on any careers of interest to learn more and add them to their *My Career List*.

Have students write an entry in their *My Journal* under the *Create Profile* tab reflecting on whether any of these newly added careers would make a good backup plan.

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# Career Backup Plans Grading Rubric

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CATEGORY	EXCELLENT 4	GOOD 3	SATISFACTORY 2	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT 1
Sequencing of Information	The information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Most information is organized in a clear, logical way.	Some information is logically sequenced.	There is no clear plan for the organization of information.
Effectiveness	The entry includes all material needed to give a good understanding of the topic.	The entry is lacking one or two key elements.	The entry is missing more than two key elements.	The entry is lacking several key elements and has inaccuracies.
Font Choice & Formatting	Font formats (size, bold, italic) have been carefully planned to enhance readability and content.	Font formats have been carefully planned to enhance readability.	Font formats have been carefully planned to complement the content. It may be a little hard to read.	Font formatting makes it very difficult to read the material.
Conventions. Student uses proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	The entry has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	The entry has 1- 2 misspellings, but no grammatical errors.	The entry has 1- 2 grammatical errors but no misspellings.	The entry has more than 2 grammatical and/or spelling errors.