



COLLEGE FORWARD MATERIALS

CAREER EXPLORATION GUIDED ACTIVITY

Follow the steps in this workbook for a guided activity to help you choose your major or next career step.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EARNING A DEGREE?

Are you unsure about your major? Do you know what career you would like to pursue, but don't know what degree or certification you'll need to receive first? Or maybe you know earning a degree is a valuable investment, but aren't quite sure how a degree correlates to career opportunities?

Many students begin their journey towards earning a college degree or certificate with lost of questions about their career path. And that's okay! Choosing a degree or certificate program at a college or university is a big decision, and knowing your career path first will allow you to choose the right program.

If you are able to identify a handful of career paths that interest you, you will be able to select a postsecondary program that matches your career goals. This career exploration guided activity will help you narrow your scope of interests before you transition into a postsecondary program.



USE THE O*NET INTEREST PROFILER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES THAT ALIGN WITH YOUR INTERESTS.

Step 1:

Go to www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip and select "Next."

Step 2:

- Answer questions to learn your interest profile!
- You will rate 60 areas of interest on a scale from Strongly Dislike to Strongly Like. There are no right or wrong answers and don't take into account whether you know how to perform the task or how much you would be paid to complete the task. Simply rate your interest in performing each of the tasks.



Step 3:

- Review your interest profiler results, and learn more about what each area of interest means!
- You will receive a score in six areas of interest: Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional.

Step 4:

- Explore five different job zones. Each zone represents a different level of training, experience, and education that is needed to perform the responsibilities of these careers.
- Don't be deterred by jobs that require higher levels of education.
- Keep in mind that By 2030, 60% or more of all new jobs will require some level of higher education.
- While, today, only 42% of Texans between the ages of 25 and 34 have an associate's degree or higher. This means that earning a postsecondary education is an investment in your job security.

Step 5:

- Explore your career list!
- Check out the career summary pages for careers from all five job zones. Each career summary page will provide information about what you would do in that career, the knowledge, skills, and abilities you would need, as well as the education level required, and the job outlook.
- Reference back to the [College Forward Personality Type Guided Activity](#) to connect your personality type with different careers.
- Reference back to the [College Forward Texas Reality Check Guided Activity](#) to connect your desired lifestyle with the expected salary for different occupations.



Step 6:

Complete the My Next Move Career Matrix using the chart on the next page. Identify four different careers that especially interest you, and complete the chart.

- **Career**
 - Insert the career name
- **Why this career?**
 - What stands out to you about this career?
This response should be personal to you.
- **What knowledge, skills, or abilities stand out to you?**
 - Review each of these sections on the career summary page, and list anything that stands out to you.
- **Personality**
 - Reference back to the College Forward Personality Test Guided Activity to connect your personality type with different careers.
- **Job Outlook**
 - Are new job opportunities in this career very likely, average, or below average?
- **Median Salary**
 - Reference back to the College Forward Texas Reality Check Guided Activity to connect your desired lifestyle with the expected salary for different occupations.
- **Required Education or Training**
 - What are the degree requirements for this career? Keep in mind that degree requirements that are listed, are often the minimum requirements, and attaining a higher level of education can correspond to a higher salary in the same career field.

My Next Career Matrix

Career	Why This Career?	What Knowledge, Skills, or Abilities Stand Out to You?	Personality	Job Outlook	Median Salary	Required Education or Training