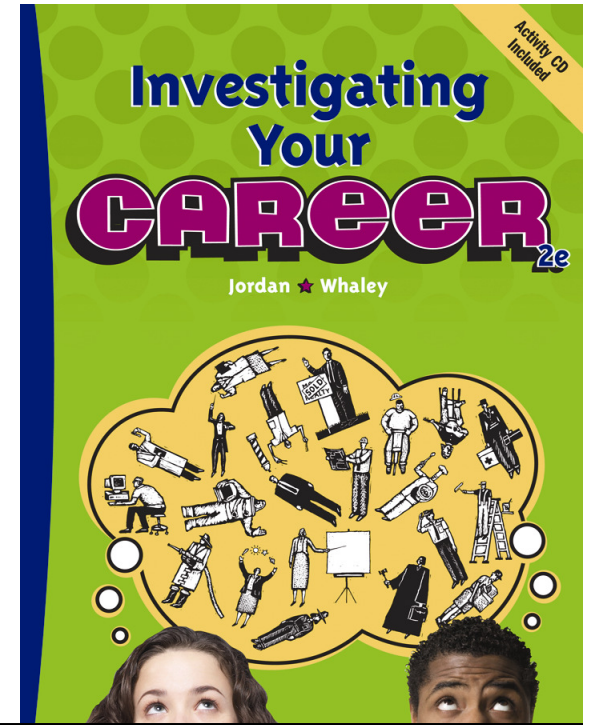


chapter

4

Looking into the Future



Investigating Your Career

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CHAPTER 4

Looking into the Future

Goals

- * Describe how trends can affect future careers.
- * Explain how past and present changes in career fields can affect future careers.
- * Examine how workplace and workforce trends, including entrepreneurship, are changing the ways people work.
- * Research sources to make predictions based on trends.

Futurecasting

- A **trend** is a general direction or tendency based on data over the course of time.
- Making predictions based on trends is called **futurecasting**.

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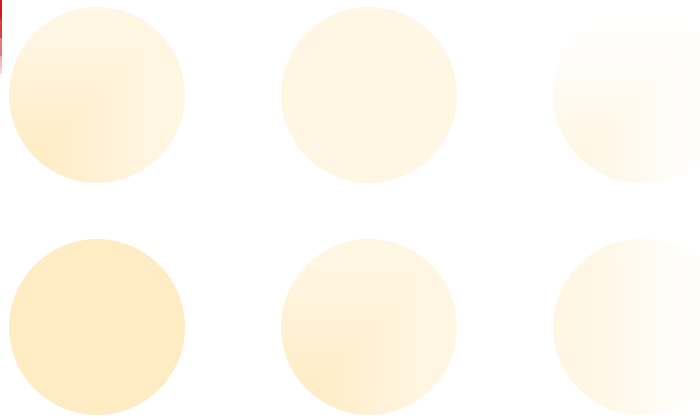
Futurecasting

- Recognizing career trends may help you make predictions in the following areas:
 - Whether your career will exist when you begin working
 - Whether there will be a need for your career throughout your employment future
 - How your career might change in the next 10 or 20 years

Changes in Career Fields

Frequent and rapid changes in employment outlooks worldwide will influence your career.

- Technological changes
- Demographic changes
- Occupation changes



Technological Changes

- Over the past 40 years, the employment world has evolved from the industrial age—based on machines—to the digital age—based on computer technology.
- Technology breakthroughs continue at a rapid rate.
- New technologies let businesses increase productivity and lower costs to meet competition.
- Prepare for the future with math, science, and technology classes.

Demographic Changes

Demographics are information about a population, such as ethnic background, age, and education.

- Age-related changes
 - Longer life expectancy
 - New career opportunities
- Changes in families
 - Two-career families
 - Single-parent families
- Ethnic diversity

Occupation Changes

- Demographics and technology are the major reasons occupations are constantly changing.
 - Agriculture was once the largest industry; people lived and worked on farms.
 - After WWII, manufacturing became the largest employer; people moved from farms to cities for jobs.
 - Now growing populations and advancing technologies are increasing service jobs; people need higher reading, communication, technology, and math skills.

Trends in Career Fields

- Workplace trends are changes *employers* make to be more competitive.
- Workforce trends are changes *employees* make to allow them to meet personal and professional goals and responsibilities.

Workplace Trends

- The global marketplace means that U.S. businesses have fierce competition from countries all over the world.
- Teams
 - Complete specific tasks as a group and identify and solve work-related problems.
 - Receive cross-training for several workplace roles.
- Digital-age employment requires:
 - Adaptable **skill sets**—groups of skills where individual skills within a group relate in some way.
 - A positive attitude.

Workforce Trends

- Transferable skills apply to more than one career and help you adapt well to change.
- **Lifelong learning**, constantly improving your education and training, prepares you for change.
 - Traditional schools
 - **Virtual learning**, using educational materials and courses available on the Internet
- Work scheduling alternatives are now less unusual.
 - **Telecommuting**—a company links from an employee's home to the office
 - **Job sharing**—two employees split a full-time job and pay

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Workforce Trends

- Entrepreneurship is a way to combine your passions, skills, and values into a career. Entrepreneurs share common characteristics:
 - Motivation to set goals and create the steps to reach them
 - Willingness to ask for advice
 - Good organizational skills
 - The ability to see problems as challenges and a willingness to develop alternative solutions
 - Enthusiasm and persistence and optimism
 - Belief in their business

Futurecasting Revisited

For the next decade, the BLS predicts:

- The U.S. economy will remain healthy with moderate growth.
- Workers over age 50 will account for a growing share of the labor force.
- The female workforce will continue to increase. The male workforce will continue to decrease.
- The workforce will be more ethnically diverse.
- Service occupations will have the most job openings.
- The two fastest-growing fields will be health- and computer-related careers.
- Careers requiring higher levels of education will grow the fastest. However, most careers will not require a bachelor's degree.

Summary

- I can describe how trends can affect my career.
- I can explain the past and present changes in career fields that may affect my career.
- I have studied how workplace and workforce trends are changing how people work.
- I continually research so I can futurecast trends.