



chapter
8

Career
Preparation Choices

Investigating Your Career

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CHAPTER 8

Career Preparation Choices

Goals

- * Explain how your goals influence your choice of education and training.
- * Describe the education and training options available to you.
- * Describe several ways to research your career area.

Finding the Right Path

- When do I want to start working?
- When should I begin the education and training necessary for my career choice?
- How long will my education and training take?
- How will I pay for my education and training?
- Do I want to combine work with education?
- How much money do I want to make to meet my lifestyle goals?
- Can I continue my education and training after I begin working?

Education and Training Options

- High school options
- Specialized options for high school
- Options beyond high school

High School Options

- High school, including Post-Secondary Education Options (PSEO)
- Career and technical school, including PSEO
- The Tech-Prep approach (2 + 2 program) usually for students with the following characteristics:
 - Interest in technology and science
 - Average or better math skills and successful completion of Algebra I
 - A 2.0 or higher grade point average
 - Preference for hands-on learning

Specialized Options for High School

- Certification course or program
- Internship
- **Cooperative (co-op) program**
 - Combines studies with paid work experiences in a specific career field
 - Involves a formal agreement between the student, the school, and the employer
- **Apprenticeship**—a program in which a person works for a skilled worker to learn a trade
 - Most are registered state or federal government programs
 - Most are union agreements
- **Virtual learning**—sometimes called distance learning, takes place primarily over the Internet.

Options beyond High School

- **Gap year**—a year between high school graduation and the start of college.
- Straight to career
- Military service
- **On-the-job training**—learn skills while working under the supervision of an experienced worker
- **Associate degree**—requires the equivalent of two or more years of full-time study
- **Bachelor's degree** (issued by a college or university to a person who has completed undergraduate studies) and beyond

Planning Your Path

- Find all of the ways people prepare for a career in your cluster.
- Check with employers to find out what they look for when evaluating job candidates in your career cluster.
- Ask successful people in your career field which parts of their education and training were most helpful and what they would change.

Summary

- I can explain how my goals influence my choice of education and training.
- I can describe the education and training options available to me.
- I can describe several ways to research my career area.