



# Exploring Careers

Use this handout to research and reflect on the careers that interest you.

**Applicable Majors:** There is generally more than one path that leads to a career. You can find the different majors you can pursue to get you to your career goal.

What are the majors that will make you a qualified candidate for your career? Do you see yourself pursuing these majors?

**Level of Education:** Different careers will require various levels of education. Learning whether your profession requires a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree will help you plan your future.

What is the level of education your career requires? How many years of education are you willing to pursue? (Does the second question sound negative?)

**Salary:** Different settings within a career field might vary in compensation. Be sure to review this information to get an idea of the average salary range someone in your career earns.

What is the pay you hope to earn in your future profession? What job benefits are important for you?

**Related Degrees and Occupations:** When you are researching career options, you can also look into related occupations to see if any of those options interest you. Perhaps you might find that some of those careers require similar degrees. If you use ONET and the Occupational Outlook Handbook, for example, to research a specific job, you will notice a section titled "Related Occupations." You can click on the occupation and view the work tasks and activities, and requirements to learn more about that job.

Are there other occupations within your career field that interest you?

**Hard skills** are acquired through knowledge, experience, and training and are easy to quantify. Examples include computer skills, being bilingual or multilingual, and knowledge gained from a degree or certificate program.

**Soft skills** are interpersonal skills or individual characteristics and are not easy to quantify. Communication skills, organization, time management, flexibility, leadership, and problem-solving are considered soft skills.

**Transferable skills** can be applied across various employment settings. You can develop these skills through education, work experience, and training, encompassing either hard or soft skills. Examples of transferable skills include communication, teamwork, professionalism, and technical skills.

	Research Career(s)	Self-Reflection
Applicable Major(s)		
Level of Education		
Salary		
Related Occupations		
Hard Skills		
Soft Skills		
Transferable Skills		