STUDENT LEARNING PLAN

# Lesson 3-1: Invest in Yourself

**OVERVIEW**

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

In this lesson you will explore the payoffs of investing in yourself through education and by continually developing skills. Along the way you will:

* Discuss the value of investing in yourself, now and throughout your work life.
* Identify how education can impact your future earnings.
* List strategies to minimize the costs of advanced education.

Use what you learn to outline a career training and preparation plan.

Working full time may seem a long time from now. But what you do today can greatly expand or limit the options you will have for many years to come. Every- one has skills and talents to make the most of in a career. Your potential is determined by you.

Continuing your education is your best chance for securing a good job so you can live a life you want. Investing in training and education throughout your career can pay off in salary increases and promotions as well as give you fallback options should you encounter a work interruption such as a layoff.

This lesson will help you maximize your future earning potential so you can achieve your dreams and live a life you enjoy.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **LEARNING TASKS**  These tasks match pages 3-20 in Student Guide 3. | |
| 1. | Make a list of everything you feel you are successful at or have done successfully at some time in your life—small things and big things. Include all areas of your life, not just work. |
| 2. | Gina makes good pay in her Uncle’s shop but knows it’s in her best interest to finish high school.  Prove to her she’s right! Complete the What is it Worth to be in Class? task to find out how much your time is worth while you are in school today. |
| 3. | Before you decide on a college, it helps to have a sense of what your first career might be so that any education and training after high school has a purpose and will help you towards your career goal.  Think of two different possible careers that sound interesting to you. Fill out the Building a Path to My Career task to map out information that will help you plan your path forward. |
| 4. | A college education may be one of the most important (and expensive!) investments you will ever make. Review the Building a Path to My Career task to determine what type of advanced education best fits your needs. Then complete the Compare Options task to compare at least two options that meet your criteria. Use this information to complete Activity 3.5: What is the Cost? and Activity 3.6: Worth the Cost? |
| 5. | Consider the best type of training option(s) for you. Complete Challenge 3-A: My Education Options. |

**FURTHER STUDY:**

Are you college ready? Check to see how well you perform on a college placement test, and then calculate the cost of remediation, if needed.

**FURTHER STUDY**

Consider two possible careers for yourself—one that represents your passion and one that would make a good fallback option. Research the two current fastest growing industries. How can you apply your chosen career options to each growing industry?

# Activity 3.1: What do YOU Think?

## NAME:       DATE:

1. What type of life do you see yourself living the year after high school?

1. Now, jump ahead a few years to your life at age 25. How will your life be different?

1. Finally, what will your life be like when you’re the same age as your parents are now?

# Activity 3.2: My Interests

## NAME:       DATE:

Directions:

In the space below, write words or draw pictures for 10 things that you like to do in your free time, in school, or on the job.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Things I Like to Do** | |
|  | |  |
|  | |  |
|  | |  |
|  | |  |
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# Activity 3.3: Worth Checking Out

## NAME:       DATE:

### Directions:

1. Review your interests list from Activity 3.2 and the results of any career interest surveys that you have completed in the past two years.
2. Identify two careers you are interested in learning more about.
3. Choose one that represents your passion and one that might be a good fallback option, or Plan B.

Go to the American Job Center Network (jobcenter.usa.gov), a one-stop website where you can do the following:

* take an interest assessment
* explore careers
* research education opportunities
* plan a job search

Plan A:

Plan B:

# Activity 3.4: My Investment in Me

## NAME:       DATE:

### Directions:

List three ways that you have already invested in building skills and planning for a job or career. How else can you invest in yourself over the next one to three years?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Already Invested** | **Next Investment Strategies** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

# Activity 3.5: What is the Cost?

## NAME:       DATE:

### Directions:

Compare the most recently published annual costs to attend and live on campus at three different colleges. Tip: You can find the estimated cost of attendance on college websites.

Research costs of a college from each one of the following categories:

* + private nonprofit college
  + in-state public college
  + out-of-state public college

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **College Type** | **Private** | **In-State** | **Out-of-State** |
| College Name |  |  |  |
| Annual Costs | $ | $ | $ |

# Activity 3.6: Worth the Cost?

## NAME:       DATE:

### Directions:

* Look up the average annual salaries for the careers you listed in Activity 3.3: Worth Checking Out.
* Use the college cost amounts from Activity 3.5: What is the Cost to compare the average salaries with four years of average college costs at private and public schools.

Based on your comparison, which school options seem financially reasonable for the careers you are considering? Be prepared to defend your response.

**Activity 3-12: Advice for Kevin**

## NAME:       DATE:

### Directions:

Imagine that Kevin lives and attends school in your community. Recommend three strategies he can use to learn more about careers in the health care industry.



# Task: What is it Worth to Be in Class?



## NAME:       DATE:

Directions: Calculate how much getting that high school diploma is worth.

*Given the average lifetime earnings fori:*

Professional Degree $4,159,000

Doctoral Degree $3,525,000

Master’s Degree $2,834,000

College graduate with bachelor’s degree $2,422,000

Two-year college associate’s degree $1,813,000

High school diploma (or GED) $1,371,000

Less than high school ................................................. $ 936,000

1. Figure the difference in potential income between a high school graduate and someone who did not go to school beyond the ninth grade:

$ 1,371,000 Average lifetime earnings (high school diploma)

– $ 936,000 Average lifetime earnings (ninth-grade education or less)

= $      (A) Potential additional future earnings for a high school graduate

1. Divide the potential additional future earnings for a high school graduate (A) by the number of years typically spent in high school:

$      (A) Potential additional future earnings for a high school graduate (A) ÷ 4 years

= $      (B) Potential additional future earnings associated with each year of high school

1. Divide the potential additional future earnings per school year (B) by the average number of school days per school year (C):

$      (B) Potential additional future earnings per school year (for a high school graduate)

(B) ÷ 180 days per school year

### = $      (C) Approximate value of a day’s education for a high school graduate

i Note: Based on the sum of median 2011 earnings of workers aged 25 to 64 who maintain full-time, year-round employment over a 40-year time period. No allowance is made for the shorter work life resulting from time spent in college or out of the labor force for other reasons. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Study.

Additional Source: Sandy Baum, Jennifer Ma and Kathleen Payea; Education Pays 2010: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society, College Board Advocacy & Policy Center.

# Task: Building a Path to My Career

## NAME:       DATE:

Directions:

Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook and/or labor market and occupational data from your state to research information for your top two career choices. Then, compare your answers to a classmate’s. Two examples are done for you.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Occupation** | **Hairdresser\*** | **Architect\*** |
| Employment Outlook | *better than average (20 percent growth)* | *better than average (16 percent growth)* |
| Expected  Entry-Level Wage (hourly or annually) | *about $10 per hour plus tips* | *About $60,000 per year* |
| Possible Concerns | * *44 percent are self-employed* * *competition for higher paying openings is high* | * *About 21 percent are self-employed* * *Stiff competition, for jobs in most prestigious firms.* * *Many work more than 50 hours per week* |
| Hiring Requirements | *License, post-high school training* | *To get licensed: 5 yr. professional degree, 3+ years of practical work, training, and pass license exam* |
| School or College Where I Can Train | *Diva Hairdressing Academy* | *XXX State University* |
| Length of Training | *1,000 hours* | *Minimum 6 years* |
| Cost of Training | *Approximately $11,857* | *Approximately $132,744* |
| Three Skills I Can Develop Now to Prepare | * *build communication skills* * *learn budgeting* * *develop marketing skills* | * *research (Where is new construction?)* * *time/stress management* * *computer-aided drawing* |

\*Occupation data is based on 2011 available data.

# Task: Building a Path to My Career

Now it’s your turn. Gather information about two careers that are interesting to you.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Occupation** |  |  |
| Employment Outlook |  |  |
| Expected  Entry-Level Wage (hourly or annually) |  |  |
| Possible Concerns |  |  |
| Hiring Requirements |  |  |
| School or College Where I Can Train |  |  |
| Length of Training |  |  |
| Cost of Training |  |  |
| Three Skills I Can Develop Now to Prepare |  |  |
|  |  |  |

# Task: Compare Options

## NAME:       DATE:

Directions: Compare at least two post-secondary education or training options based on your future career interests. You may find one of the following websites helpful in your search.

* + College Search feature, [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org/)
  + Community College Finder, [www.aacc.nche.edu](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/)
  + Potential Apprentices—An Introduction, [www.dir.ca.gov/Apprenticeship/ApprenticeshipIntro.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/Apprenticeship/ApprenticeshipIntro.htm)
  + Join Armed Forces info, [www.military.com/join-armed-forces](http://www.military.com/join-armed-forces)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Feature** | **Option A** | **Option B** |
| College or Program Name |  |  |
| Location (City, State) |  |  |
| Internship opportunities |  |  |
| Work-study opportunities |  |  |
| Study abroad opportunities |  |  |
| Job placement rate |  |  |
| Cost per year |  |  |
| Cost for degree or program  (if tuition rates and fees remain stable) |  |  |
| Potential cost of 15-year  student loan (assume four years of college and a loan  with 8 percent interest) |  |  |
| Monthly student loan payment |  |  |
| Potential career(s) with this degree or certificate |  |  |
| Average annual salary |  |  |
| Monthly salary |  |  |
| Percent of monthly salary  required to pay back student loan (if applicable) |  |  |