

Lesson 8: Connecting Careers to Education



Overview

After students have identified potential career choices, the next step is to develop an effective career plan that outlines a path to achieving their career goals. As with career exploration, there are several critical components to a strong career plan, including education, financial resources, support services, work experience, job search strategies, and methods for maintaining motivation and drive. Each of these components play a specific role in supporting students as they progress along their career journey. To begin the planning process, it can be helpful to start with identifying appropriate education and training experiences. Most high-value careers require at least some postsecondary education, meaning that, for many students, education and training will be an essential and necessary component of their career plan.

The intention of this lesson is to introduce the career planning process and help students connect their career choices to education pathways. Students are encouraged to explore other elements of effective career plans (e.g., financial resources, support services, etc.) when they are ready to step beyond the career exploration process and become fully immersed within the career planning process.

This lesson contains....

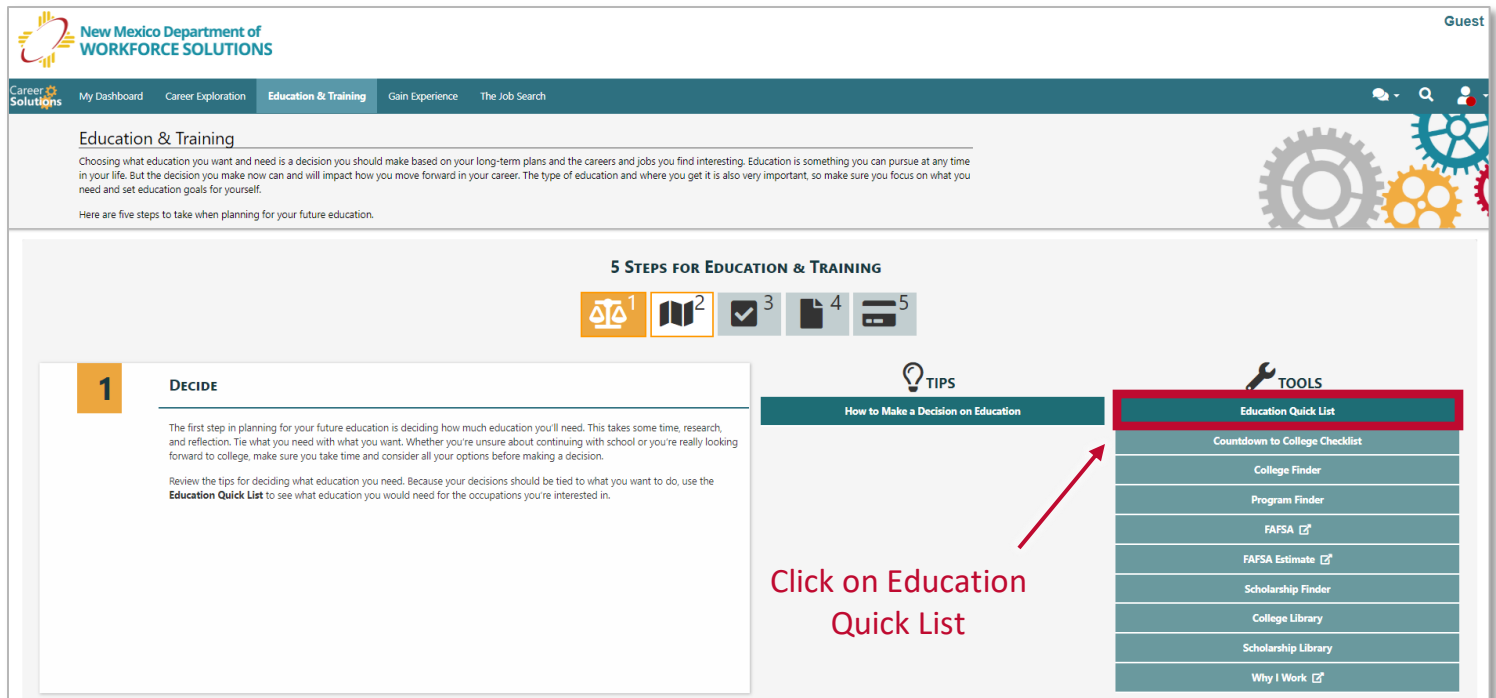
- Information on how to access and use the Education and Training section.
- A review of the components of an effective career plan.
- Methods for helping students start the career planning process.
- Strategies for searching for and identifying appropriate education programs.
- A review of next steps for students using insights gained from this lesson.

How to Use This Tool

Before beginning, be sure to sign into the system. The Education and Training tab is located on the homepage for Career Solutions. Simply click the Education and Training link at the top of the page.



Once within the Education and Training section, a page similar to the one below will appear. A list of links to the right of the page provide access to several helpful tools. The Education Quick List is a good place to start.



5 STEPS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

1. **DECIDE**
The first step in planning for your future education is deciding how much education you'll need. This takes some time, research, and reflection. Tie what you need with what you want. Whether you're unsure about continuing with school or you're really looking forward to college, make sure you take time and consider all your options before making a decision.
Review the tips for deciding what education you need. Because your decisions should be tied to what you want to do, use the **Education Quick List** to see what education you would need for the occupations you're interested in.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

TIPS
How to Make a Decision on Education

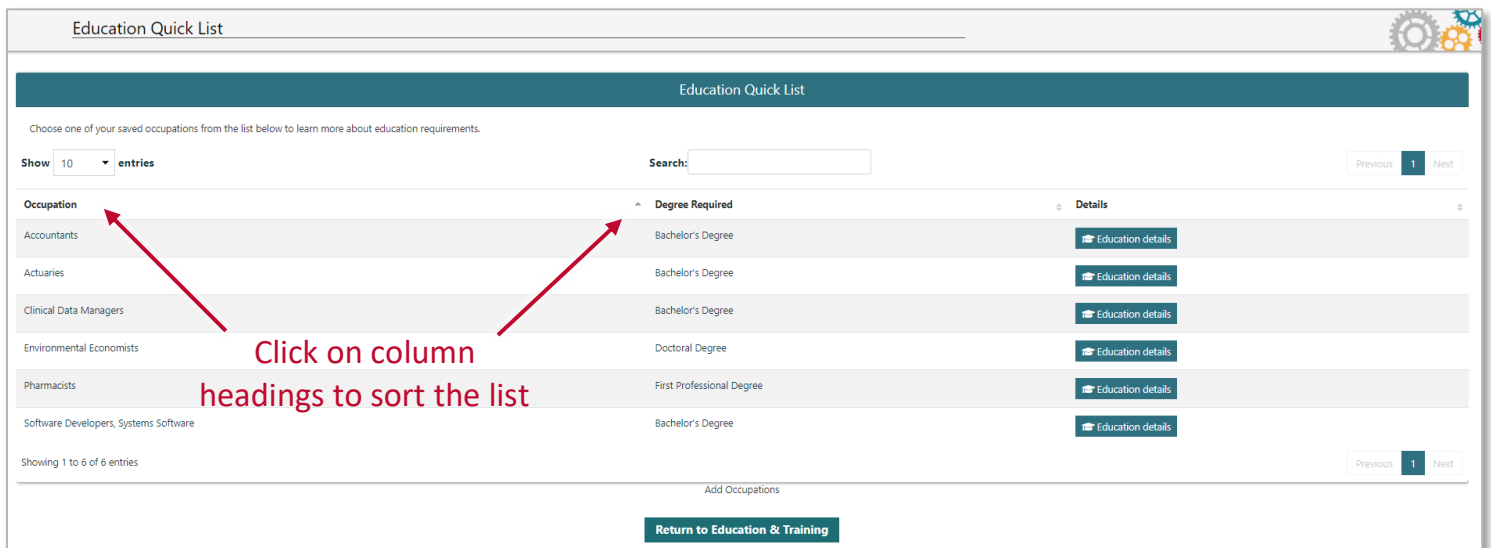
TOOLS
Education Quick List

- Countdown to College Checklist
- College Finder
- Program Finder
- FAFSA [↗](#)
- FAFSA Estimate [↗](#)
- Scholarship Finder
- College Library
- Scholarship Library
- Why I Work [↗](#)

Click on Education Quick List

The Education Quick List displays all saved occupations within the Occupation Library and the required degree for each occupation. This page can be used to quickly compare requirements and get a general sense of education that may be needed for students' top occupation choices.

Clicking on the column headings will sort the list alphabetically or from lowest-highest (or vice versa).



Education Quick List

Choose one of your saved occupations from the list below to learn more about education requirements.

Show 10 entries Search: Previous 1 Next

Occupation	Degree Required	Details
Accountants	Bachelor's Degree	Education details
Actuaries	Bachelor's Degree	Education details
Clinical Data Managers	Bachelor's Degree	Education details
Environmental Economists	Doctoral Degree	Education details
Pharmacists	First Professional Degree	Education details
Software Developers, Systems Software	Bachelor's Degree	Education details

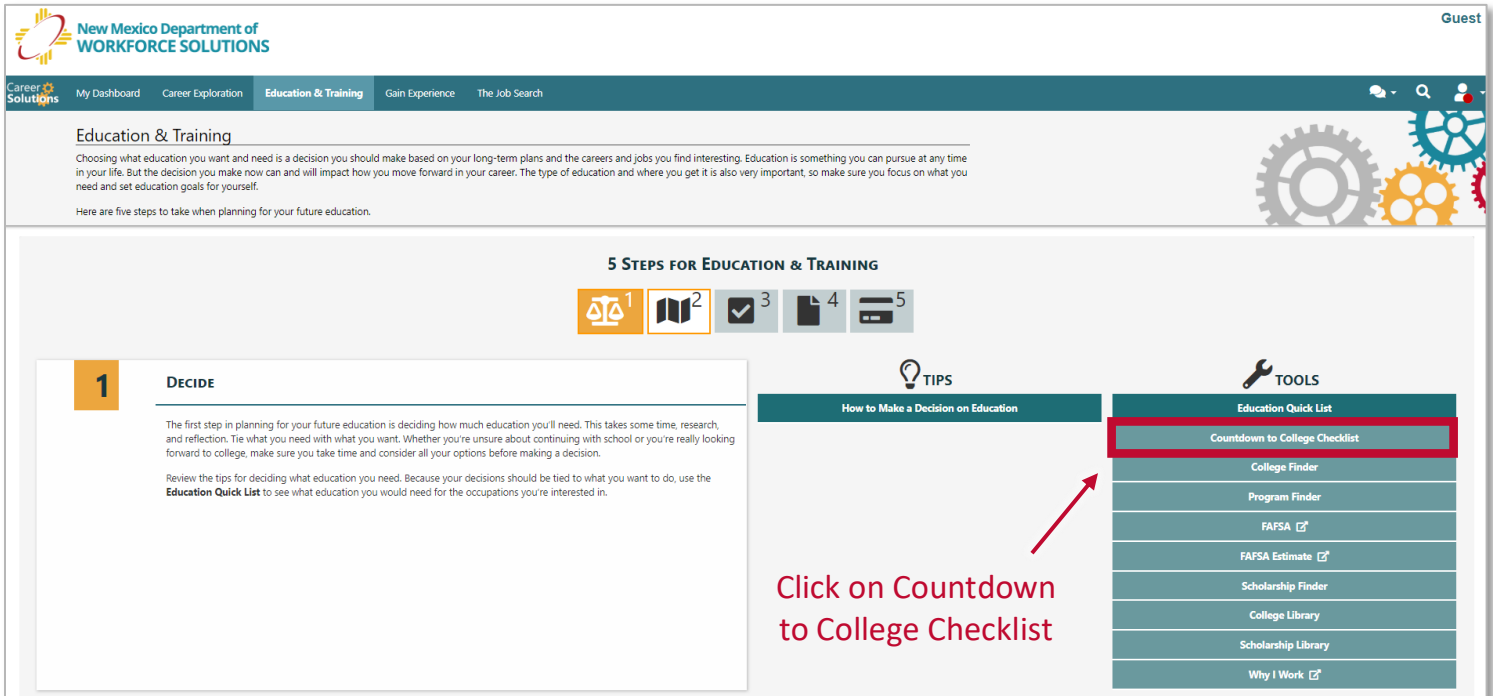
Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries

Add Occupations

[Return to Education & Training](#)

Click on column headings to sort the list

An additional helpful tool is the Countdown to College Checklist. This page contains worksheets that guide students through the tasks they need to complete as they move through grades nine through twelve.



Education & Training

Choosing what education you want and need is a decision you should make based on your long-term plans and the careers and jobs you find interesting. Education is something you can pursue at any time in your life. But the decision you make now can and will impact how you move forward in your career. The type of education and where you get it is also very important, so make sure you focus on what you need and set education goals for yourself.

Here are five steps to take when planning for your future education.

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TIPS

How to Make a Decision on Education

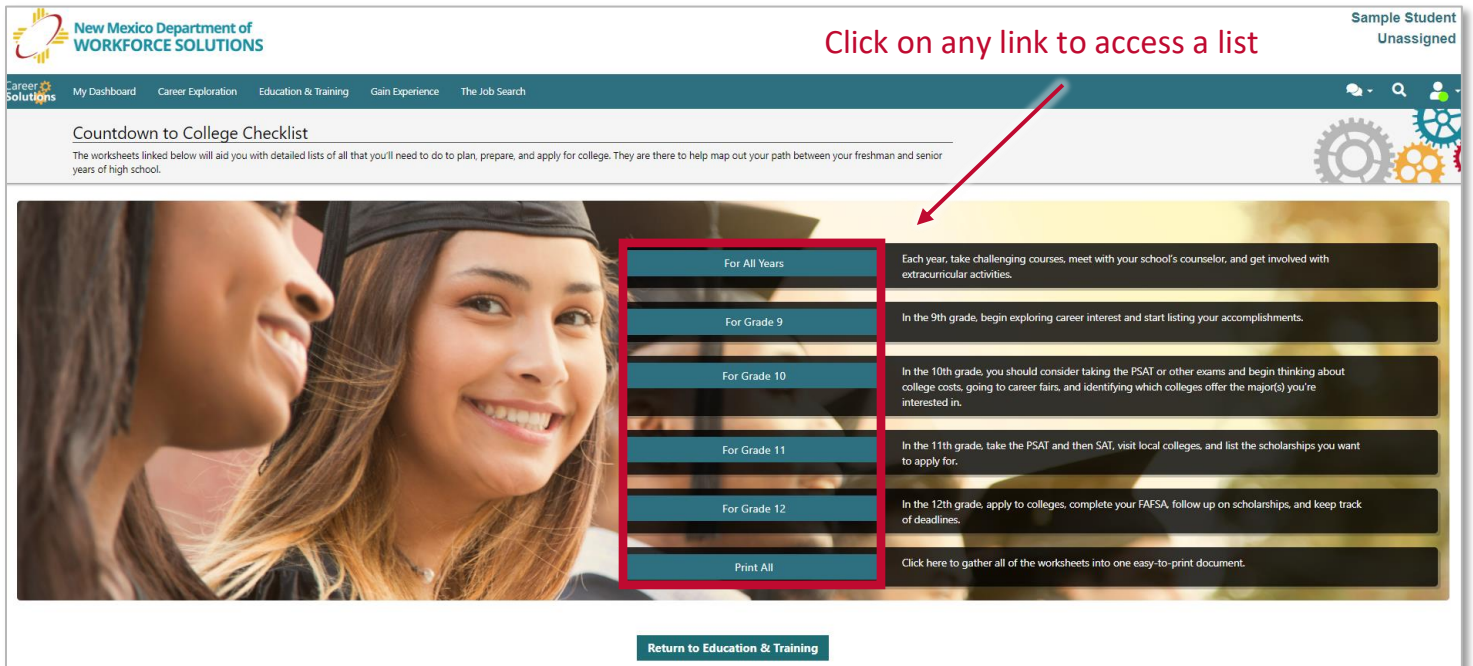
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Click on Countdown to College Checklist

The first worksheet is for all years and should be reviewed by all students, regardless of year. The remaining lists are for specific years. Clicking on any link will reveal the list for the selected year.



Countdown to College Checklist

The worksheets linked below will aid you with detailed lists of all that you'll need to do to plan, prepare, and apply for college. They are there to help map out your path between your freshman and senior years of high school.

Click on any link to access a list

- For All Years
- For Grade 9
- For Grade 10
- For Grade 11
- For Grade 12
- Print All

Each year, take challenging courses, meet with your school's counselor, and get involved with extracurricular activities.

In the 9th grade, begin exploring career interest and start listing your accomplishments.

In the 10th grade, you should consider taking the PSAT or other exams and begin thinking about college costs, going to career fairs, and identifying which colleges offer the major(s) you're interested in.

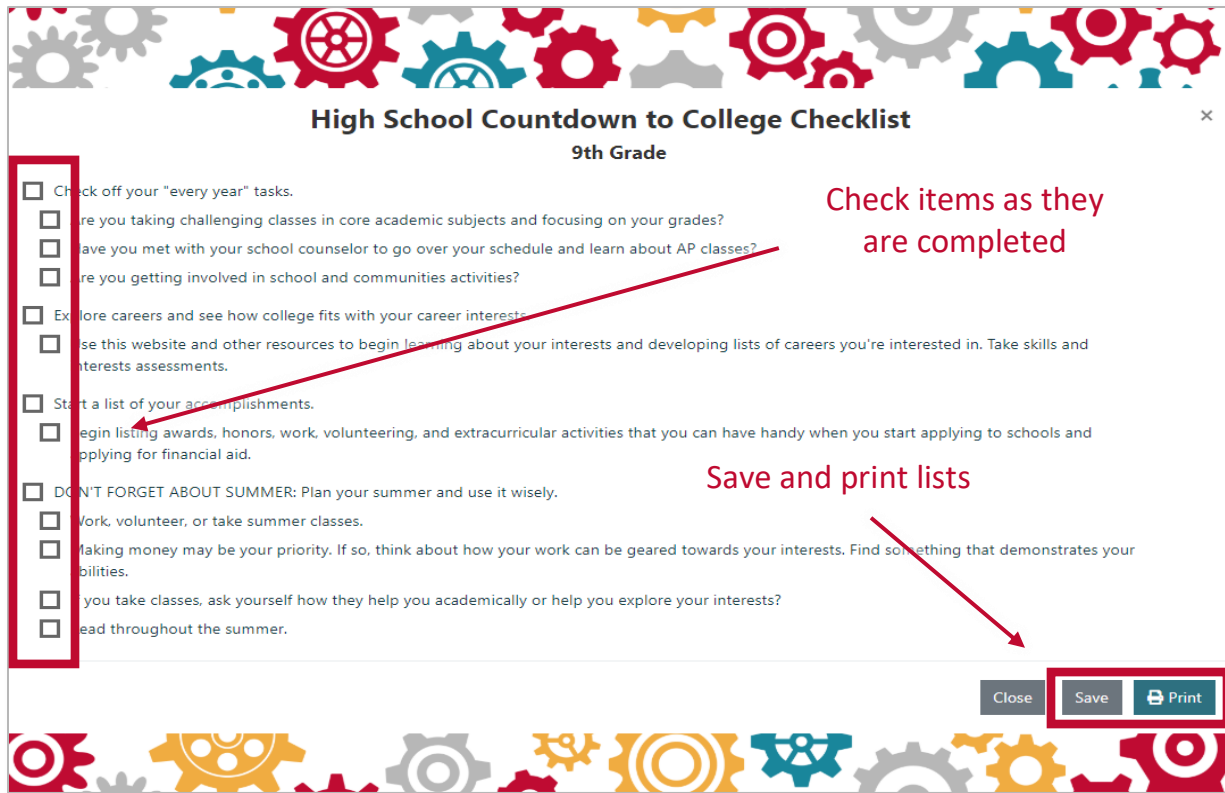
In the 11th grade, take the PSAT and then SAT, visit local colleges, and list the scholarships you want to apply for.

In the 12th grade, apply to colleges, complete your FAFSA, follow up on scholarships, and keep track of deadlines.

Click here to gather all of the worksheets into one easy-to-print document.

[Return to Education & Training](#)

Each worksheet can be completed online and saved at any time. There is also the option to print each worksheet so that it can be completed outside of the system.



High School Countdown to College Checklist
9th Grade

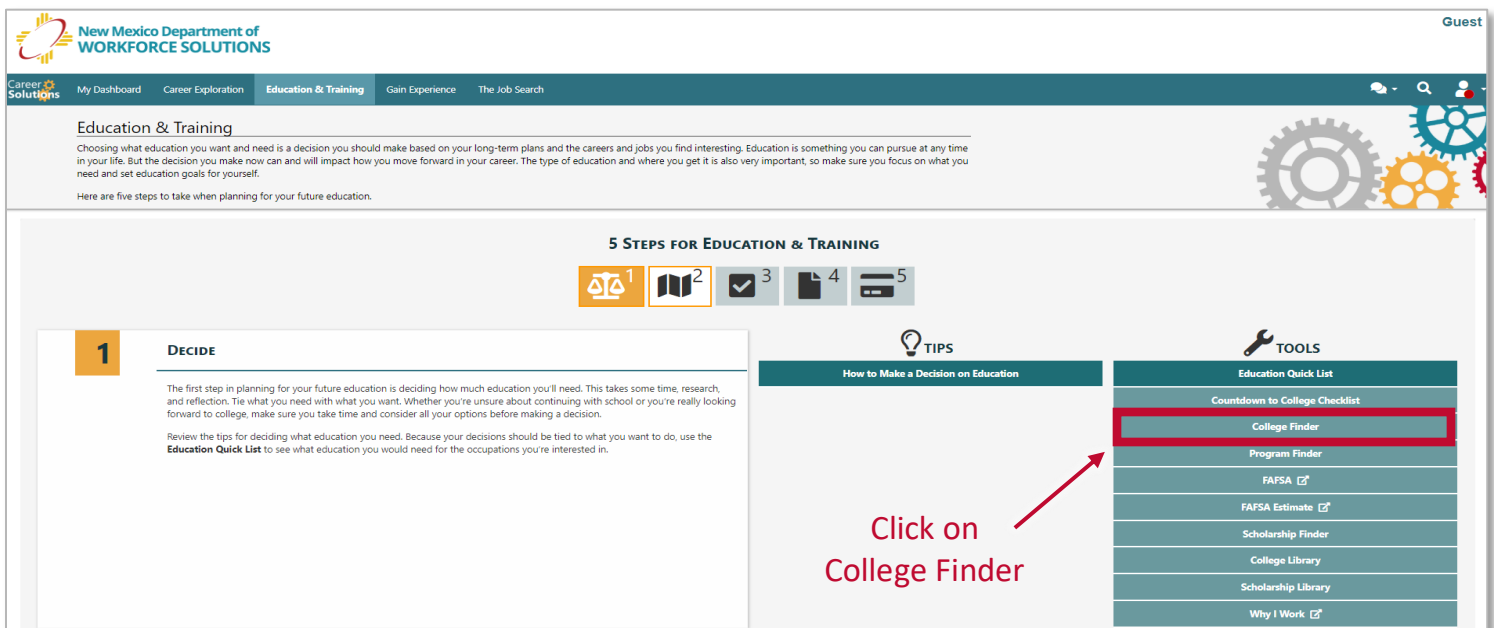
- ☐ Check off your "every year" tasks.
 - ☐ Are you taking challenging classes in core academic subjects and focusing on your grades?
 - ☐ Have you met with your school counselor to go over your schedule and learn about AP classes?
 - ☐ Are you getting involved in school and communities activities?
- ☐ Explore careers and see how college fits with your career interests.
 - ☐ Use this website and other resources to begin learning about your interests and developing lists of careers you're interested in. Take skills and interests assessments.
- ☐ Start a list of your accomplishments.
 - ☐ Begin listing awards, honors, work, volunteering, and extracurricular activities that you can have handy when you start applying to schools and applying for financial aid.
- ☐ DON'T FORGET ABOUT SUMMER: Plan your summer and use it wisely.
 - ☐ Work, volunteer, or take summer classes.
 - ☐ Making money may be your priority. If so, think about how your work can be geared towards your interests. Find something that demonstrates your abilities.
 - ☐ If you take classes, ask yourself how they help you academically or help you explore your interests?
 - ☐ Read throughout the summer.

Check items as they are completed

Save and print lists

Close Save Print

One of the more robust tools in the Education and Training section is the College Finder. This tool lists several colleges in the state and provides the ability to explore education options using filters and sorting features.



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Here are five steps to take when planning for your future education.

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- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

TIPS
How to Make a Decision on Education

TOOLS
Education Quick List

Education Quick List	
Countdown to College Checklist	
College Finder	
Program Finder	
FAFSA [?]	
FAFSA Estimate [?]	
Scholarship Finder	
College Library	
Scholarship Library	
Why I Work [?]	

Click on College Finder

For each institution listed, a summary is provided that displays the highest degree offered, as well as whether the institution is public or private, and the number of students enrolled. Additional helpful information includes the number of degree programs, the faculty-to-student ratio, locale, and tuition rate.

University of New Mexico-Main Campus Albuquerque, NM

PhD	Public	26,221	373	1:16	City	\$5,961

<http://www.unm.edu>

To explore programs offered and specific college details, click on the Programs or College link to the right of the summary. There is also the option to share or save the college in the College Library.

Programs	College
Share	Save

Given that many students will have already identified potential occupations by this point, they will likely find this tool most useful to explore academic institutions that offer degrees and programs that align with their career choice.

To do this, they will want to use the filters focused on programs and degrees.

College Finder
Explore educational institutions by making selections in the category filters below and browsing the results.

Filters

- Search by college name here...
- Area: New Mexico
- Occupation Family
- Programs/Majors Group**
- Degree Level
- Average Annual Tuition
- Institution Types
- Locales
- Residencies

Results 47 of 47

Click on filters for programs and degrees

Display 5 records per page

Sort By: Enrolled Students

College	Programs	College
University of New Mexico-Main Campus Albuquerque, NM http://www.unm.edu PhD Public 26,221 373 1:16 City \$5,961		
Central New Mexico Community College Albuquerque, NM http://www.cnm.edu AO Public 24,442 352 1:23 City \$1,296		
New Mexico State University-Main Campus Las Cruces, NM http://www.nmsu.edu/ PhD Public 14,432 280 1:17 Suburb \$5,323		
New Mexico State University-Dona Ana Las Cruces, NM http://dacc.nmsu.edu/ AD Public 7,917 128 1:21 Rural \$1,096		
San Juan College Farmington, NM http://www.sanjuancollege.edu AO Public 7,030 212 1:17 City \$1,104		

Using these filters, students can select the academic program/major group associated with their career choice and the degree level they need to achieve to prepare for their career.

▼ Programs/Majors Group Select a program

Select Program or Major

All

Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences

Architecture and Related Services

Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies

Basic Skills and Developmental/Remedial Education

Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services

Citizenship Activities

Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs

Communications Technologies/Technicians and Support Services

Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services

Construction Trades

Education

Engineering

▼ Degree Level Select a degree level

All

Award of less than 1 academic year

Award of at least 1 but less than 2 academic years

Associate's degree

Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years

Bachelor's degree

Postbaccalaureate certificate

Master's degree

Post-master's certificate

Doctor's degree

Postbaccalaureate or Post-master's certificate

First-professional certificate

Doctor's degree - research/scholarship

Doctor's degree - professional practice

Doctor's degree - other

The list that will emerge will consist of academic institutions that offer programs within the selected program/major group. These institutions will also offer degrees within the selected degree type.

Initially, the list will be sorted by the number of enrolled students. To sort by other categories, such as tuition rates or number of programs offered, use the dropdown menu in the upper right corner.




Results 17 of 36

Display 5 records per page

Use the dropdown menu to sort by a specific data category

Sort By: Enrolled Students

First Previous 1 2 3 4 Next Last

	New Mexico State University-Dona Ana Las Cruces, NM AD Public 7,917 128 1:21 Rural \$1,896 http://dacc.nmsu.edu/	Programs College
	Santa Fe Community College Santa Fe, NM AD Public 4,581 217 1:14 Suburb \$1,800 https://www.sfcc.edu	Programs College
	Clovis Community College Clovis, NM AD Public 3,114 115 1:17 Town \$1,296 http://www.clovis.edu	Programs College
















When students have found an institution that fits their needs, they can save the college in their College Library by clicking Save.

Results 17 of 36

Click Save to store in the College Library

Sort By: Enrolled Students 1

Display 5 records per page

College Logo	College Name	Location	AD	Public	Enrollment	Faculty	Ratio	Setting	Tuition	Programs	College
	New Mexico State University-Dona Ana	Las Cruces, NM			7,917	128	1:21	Rural	\$1,896		
	Santa Fe Community College	Santa Fe, NM			4,581	217	1:14	Suburb	\$1,800		
	Clovis Community College	Clovis, NM			3,114	115	1:17	Town	\$1,296		

Another helpful tool within the Education and Training section is the Program Finder. This tool is useful for identifying programs that are associated with specific career fields. Students who want a postsecondary experience, but have not made a final career choice, can use this tool to explore postsecondary programs that match their broad career interests.

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Guest

My Dashboard Career Exploration Education & Training Gain Experience The Job Search

Education & Training

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5 STEPS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

1. DECIDE
2. RESEARCH
3. EVALUATE
4. APPLY
5. ENROLL

TIPS

How to Make a Decision on Education

TOOLS


Education Quick List

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- Scholarship Library
- Why I Work

Click on Program Finder

To use this tool, students first need to select a career cluster and pathway that aligns with their work interests (see Lesson 2).

Helpful Tip: Students may find it helpful to review information about career clusters and pathways in the [New Mexico Career Clusters Guide](#).



Program Finder
College degree programs, by design, will equip you with a wide range of valuable employability skills. Hone in on a major via your interest in a particular field.

Career Cluster
Please select a Career Cluster from the list below

Career Pathway
Please select a Career Pathway from the list below

Program
Click here to search by program

Search

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Cluster
The production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities and resources including food, fuel, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products/resources.


Architecture and Construction Cluster
Careers in designing, planning, managing, building and maintaining the built environment.

Select this Cluster +

Select this Cluster +

Click on the + to select a cluster and pathway

Once a cluster and pathway have been selected, a list of related programs will appear. Students can review the list and select a program based on their interests.



Program Finder
College degree programs, by design, will equip you with a wide range of valuable employability skills. Hone in on a major via your interest in a particular field.

Career Cluster
Business, Management and Administration Cluster

Career Pathway
Business Financial Management and Accounting Pathway

Program
Please select a Program from the list below

Search

Computer and Information Sciences, General
Computer and Information Sciences, General. A general program that focuses on computing, computer science, and information science and systems as part of a broad and/or interdisciplinary program. Such programs are undifferentiated as to title and content and are not to be confused with specific programs in computer science, information science, or related support services.

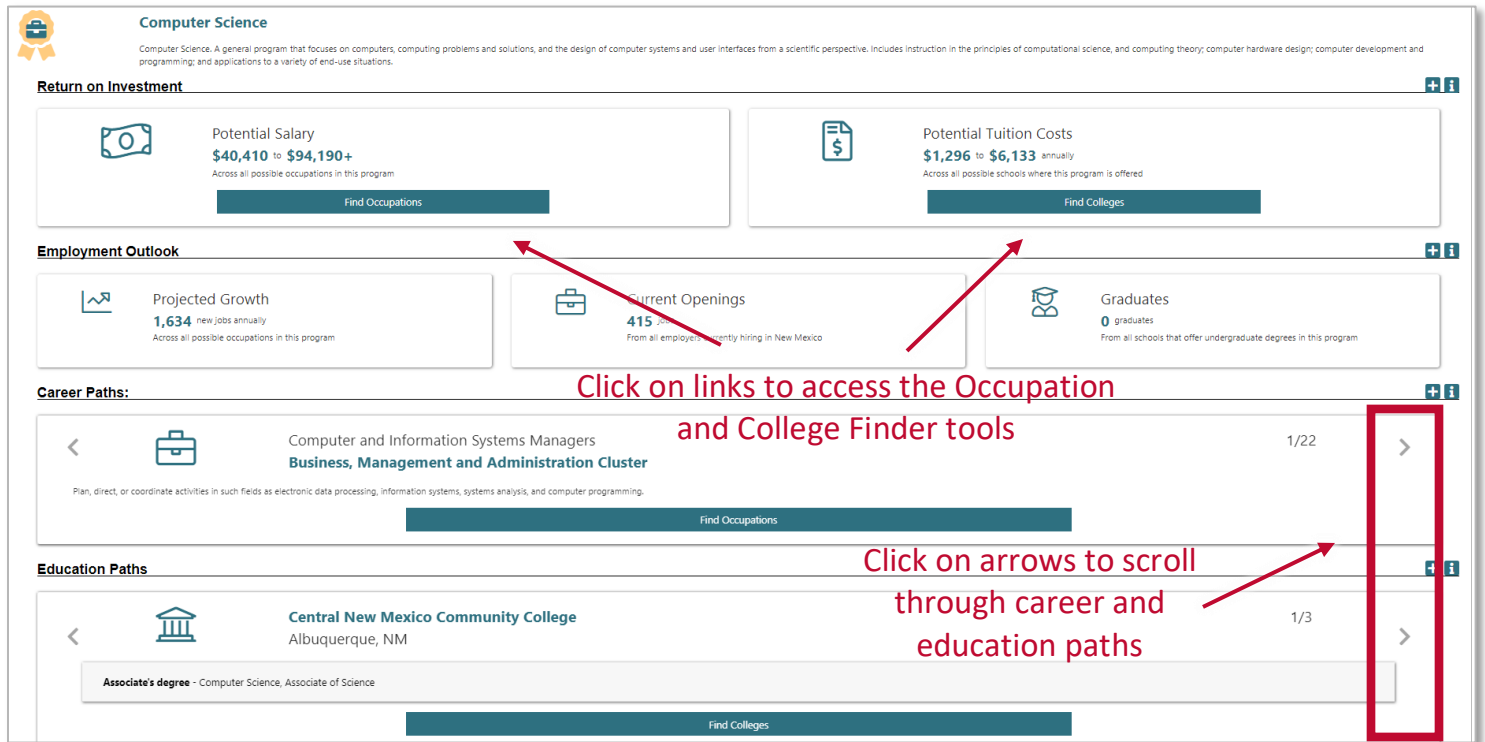
Computer and Information Systems Security (NEW)
Computer and Information Systems Security, (NEW) A program that prepares individuals to assess the security needs of computer and network systems, recommend safeguard solutions, and manage the implementation and maintenance of security devices, systems, and procedures. Includes instruction in computer architecture, programming, and systems analysis; networking; telecommunications; cryptography; security system design; applicable law and regulations; risk assessment and policy analysis; contingency planning; user access issues; investigation techniques; and troubleshooting.

Select this Program +

Select this Program +

Click on the + to select a program

For each program, there is an information page that displays potential salary and tuition costs, along with associated career paths and education options. Some helpful features are identified below.



Computer Science
Computer Science. A general program that focuses on computers, computing problems and solutions, and the design of computer systems and user interfaces from a scientific perspective. Includes instruction in the principles of computational science, and computing theory; computer hardware design; computer development and programming; and applications to a variety of end-use situations.

Return on Investment

- Potential Salary:** \$40,410 to \$94,190+
Across all possible occupations in this program
[Find Occupations](#)
- Potential Tuition Costs:** \$1,296 to \$6,133 annually
Across all possible schools where this program is offered
[Find Colleges](#)

Employment Outlook

- Projected Growth:** 1,634 new jobs annually
Across all possible occupations in this program
- Current Openings:** 415
From all employers currently hiring in New Mexico
- Graduates:** 0 graduates
From all schools that offer undergraduate degrees in this program

Career Paths:

Computer and Information Systems Managers
Business, Management and Administration Cluster
Plan, direct, or coordinate activities in such fields as electronic data processing, information systems, systems analysis, and computer programming.
[Find Occupations](#)

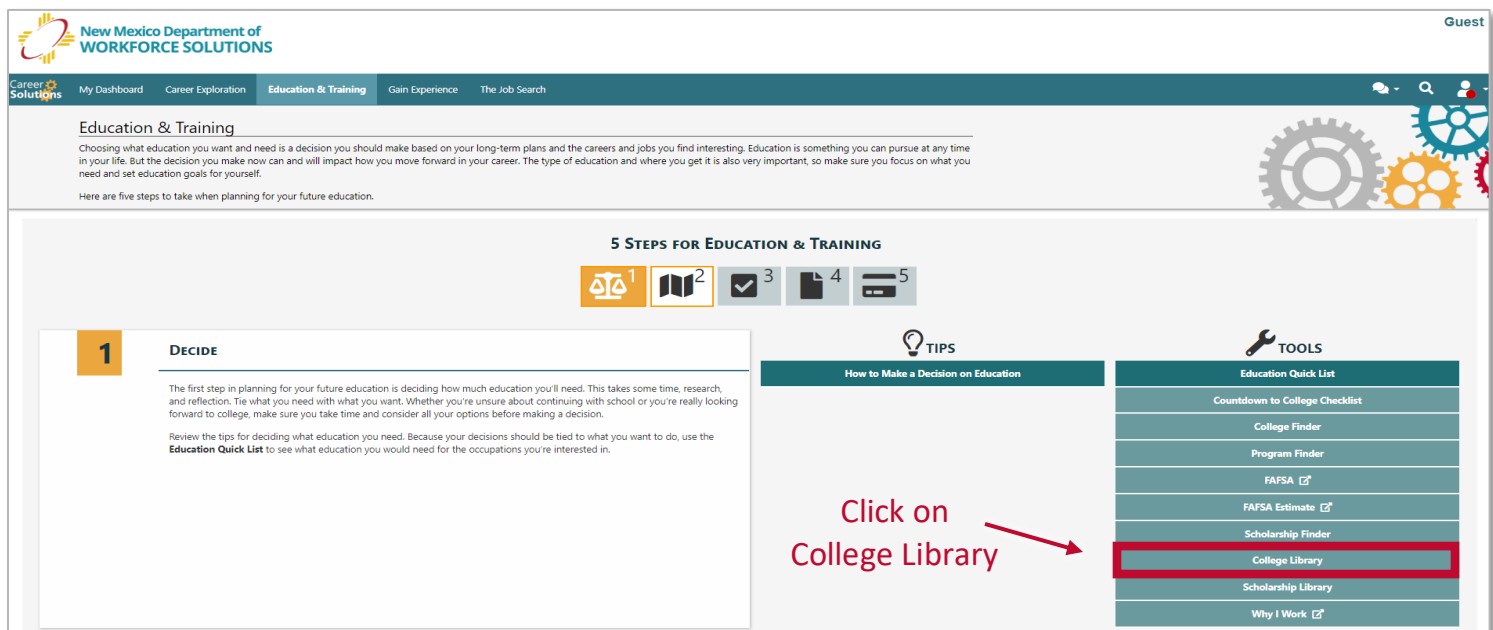
Education Paths:

Central New Mexico Community College
Albuquerque, NM
Associate's degree - Computer Science, Associate of Science
[Find Colleges](#)

Annotations:

- Red arrows point from the "Current Openings" and "Graduates" boxes to the "Find Occupations" button.
- Red arrows point from the "Find Occupations" and "Find Colleges" buttons to the "Click on links to access the Occupation and College Finder tools" text.
- Red arrows point from the "Find Occupations" and "Find Colleges" buttons to the "Click on arrows to scroll through career and education paths" text.
- A red box highlights the navigation arrows on the right side of the "Career Paths" and "Education Paths" sections.

The final feature that students will find useful at this early stage of the career planning process is the College Library. This library functions much like the Occupation Library, providing a quick rundown of saved colleges with a brief snapshot of what each institution offers.



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- 5**

TIPS

How to Make a Decision on Education

TOOLS

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- Scholarship Library
- Why I Work

Annotation:

- Red arrow points from the "Click on College Library" text to the "College Library" link in the Education Quick List.

The College Library page provides a place for students to review and compare potential college choices. The summaries can help students quickly identify major distinguishing features between each education option. To delve further into each college, students can click on the Programs or College links to the right.

My Libraries

Review and manage your favorites.

Occupation Library College Library Scholarship Library Job Library

Search school by name e.g. University of New Mexico

Display 5 records per page

Summaries provide the ability to do quick comparisons

Click the Programs or College links for additional information

School	AO	Public	Students	Faculty	City	Cost
Central New Mexico Community College Albuquerque, NM http://www.cnm.edu	AO	Public	24,442	352	City	\$1,296
New Mexico State University-Main Campus Las Cruces, NM http://www.nmsu.edu/	PhD	Public	14,432	280	Suburb	\$5,323
San Juan College Farmington, NM http://www.sanjuancollege.edu	AO	Public	7,030	212	City	\$1,104

Programs College

Share Remove

Share Remove

Programs College

Share Remove

The other tools presented in Education and Training section, including the FAFSA links and the scholarship tools, focus on how to access financial resources. These tools will be most useful after students have made a college selection. It is recommended that students explore these areas at a later date when they are ready to enter the financial stage of the career planning process.

New Mexico Department of WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

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Career Solutions My Dashboard Career Exploration Education & Training Gain Experience The Job Search

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1 2 3 4 5

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FAFSA Estimate

Scholarship Finder

College Library

Scholarship Library

Why I Work

Financial tools can be explored after potential colleges have been identified

Connecting with Students

Learning Objectives

In this lesson, students will be given the opportunity to...

- Discuss the components of an effective career plan.
- Identify the benefits of exploring postsecondary education options.
- Examine the education requirements for their selected career(s).
- Evaluate potential education institutions that align with their career goals.
- Determine next steps in developing a career plan.

Classroom Discussions and Presentations

Introduction

The career selection process can be an exciting time for students. To help them continue this momentum and build resources that create a bridge to their career, they will need assistance in developing an effective career plan. This is where many students experience frustration that centers largely around unfamiliarity with career preparation processes. Providing a streamlined approach to navigating career resources can significantly enhance students' chances of achieving employment success. Because the education component is often the most complex and requires a fair amount of preliminary planning to meet deadlines, this is a good place to begin. In starting this step, students will first need to examine potential career choices and identify the education requirements. Once identified, they can seek postsecondary institutions that will help them attain the necessary degrees and certificates. Ultimately, their education choice will be a driving mechanism that directs many of the remaining components of their career plan.

Talking Points

Below are some helpful comments to share with students.

- Having identified some potential career choices, the next task is to develop a career plan. (**Helpful Tip:** *Print and share the diagram below. Use this to introduce the components of an effective career plan.*)
- Career plans are made up of various important components that can support your journey to employment success. Getting your education and training in place can be an important first step.
- It can be challenging to identify the type of education you need and where you will go.
- Because the process can be complex, it is a good idea to start the education search early to ensure you have ample time to make the best decision possible, as well as meet any admissions requirements.
- Developing basic strategies to navigate the education search process can help you quickly identify the tools and information that are most useful.
- Finding the right academic institution that meets your education needs, as well as your personal and financial goals, can be just as important as your career choice.
- Taking time now to research education choices can help ensure you achieve your education goals.

Components of an Effective Career Plan



**Education and
Training**



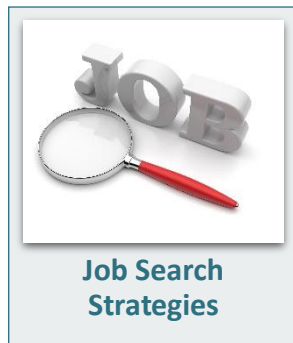
**Financial
Resources**



Support Services



Work Experience



**Job Search
Strategies**



**Motivation and
Drive**

Discussion Questions

As a class or in small groups, have students reflect on the following questions. Help students talk about and work through their positive and negative feelings regarding career planning.

- Have you done any career planning yet? That is, have you started to think about what needs to be done to achieve your career goals?
- What do you think will be most exciting part about preparing for your new career?
- When you think about preparing your career, what do you think will be the most challenging task? How might you deal with this challenge?
- How important do you think education and training will be in helping you attain your career goals?
- What potential roadblocks do you see in getting the education and training you might need? Do you think these roadblocks can be overcome? Why or why not?
- What do you hope to get out of your education and training experience?
- What type of academic institution do you hope to attend (community college, trade school, university, etc.)? Why?

Exploring the System

After discussing the components of effective career plans and helping students work through their positive and negative perspectives on the career planning process, they can be introduced to the Education and Training section in Career Solutions.

The “How to Use this Tool” section above provides a summary of useful information to share with students.

It is recommended that teachers and instructors...

- Encourage students to sign into the site to ensure they can save data.
- Help students locate the Education and Training section.
- Review the basic features of this tool, including how to access checklists and locate colleges.
- Assist students in identifying information that is most useful to explore in this section.
- Discuss how to use the information displayed to connect with colleges.

Classroom Activity

Connecting Careers to Education

In achieving their career goals, students will have to navigate a great deal of unfamiliar territory, most of which centers around the education and training requirements they need to attain to gain entry into their desired occupation. As such, they will need a fair amount of assistance in exploring their career choices and the education requirements associated with these choices. Fortunately, there are several online systems, including Career Solutions, that identify requirements for occupations, as well as academic institutions that offer programs that can help students meet these requirements. Connecting students with these systems and helping them navigate the tools within them, can help streamline the process and promote informed education decisions. This can be incredibly valuable in removing a common roadblock that students encounter in not knowing where to go next or even where to start looking.

To locate the Education and Training section, review the “How to Use this Tool” section above.

It is recommended that teachers and instructors...

- Discuss the importance of understanding education requirements and locating academic institutions.
- Review the Education and Training section in Career Solutions.
- Identify the purpose of this section as a place to explore education options and resources.
- Provide an opportunity for students to explore this tool in the classroom or at home.
- Encourage students to complete the Connecting Careers to Education sheet (see below).
- Assist students in understanding the benefits and limitations of using the strategies outlined in the worksheet to explore education requirements and academic institutions.

Exploring the Results

The purpose of this activity is to help students become familiar with the process of identifying education requirements and locating academic institutions that can help them achieve these requirements. Upon completion of the worksheet, they will have had the opportunity to compare requirements for various occupations and explore options for meeting these requirements. Ultimately, their efforts will culminate in the selection of at least one potential school that offers programs and degrees related to their chosen occupation. Students will have also reviewed college checklists and assessed their progress in completing the steps needed to prepare for postsecondary education.

The outcome of this activity is likely to be the generation of more questions than answers. As students begin to connect with schools, they will naturally be interested in learning more. At this point, it can be helpful to advise students to visit school websites and make plans to visit schools in person. Another likely outcome can be anxiety as students begin to think through the necessary steps to gain admission to their desired school. It will be important to remind students that is best to focus on one step at a time and tackle small pieces each day/week. Also, sharing resources that can help support them through the process, such as counselors and coaches, can reassure students they are not alone and others are available to help.

Overall, the point of this activity is to help students get started in the career planning process by opening the door to their academic journey. This is a powerful first step that can begin to bring their career goals into focus. Moving from what they need to how to get it can be a significant leap that provides the critical momentum needed to continue to the finish line – employment success!

Connecting Careers to Education

Instructions: Use the information and tools presented in the Education and Training section in Career Solutions to answer the questions below.

Identify the What and Where – *What education do you need and where can you get it?*

Before you begin exploring education options, it can be helpful to get a sense of the type of education you will need for your chosen career path. Once you know what you will need, you can begin the process of locating appropriate academic institutions. The questions below will help you work through these steps.

1. Visit your occupation library and review the education requirements for your top career three career choices. Complete the table below. List the occupation titles in the top row. (**Helpful Tip:** Education information is displayed within each occupation profile.)

Education/Training Requirements	Occupation 1	Occupation 2	Occupation 3
Most Common Degree Requirement			
Most Common Certificate Requirement			
Most Common Training Program			
Typical Amount of Work Experience			

2. Review the table above. Which of the three career choices seems most appealing, now that you have the education and training requirements listed? Why?

3. Choose one of the three occupations that you explored above. Use the College Finder in Career Solutions to find three academic institutions you might like to attend that fit the education requirements for the occupation. Complete the table below. (**Helpful Tip:** Using the program and degree filters will help focus the list on institutions that meet minimum requirements.)

Occupation Title:		Degree:	
Program:		Certificate:	
	Academic Institution 1	Academic Institution 2	Academic Institution 3
Number of Students Enrolled			
Number of Degree Programs			
Location (city, suburb, rural, etc.)			
Tuition			

4. Review the table above. Which of these three academic institutions would you be most likely to choose? Why?
5. What other factors might you want to consider before making a final decision about a school?

Identify the How – *How will you achieve your education goals?*

Exploring education options and navigating the application and funding process can be somewhat challenging. To help you keep focused and on track, there are checklists available in Career Solutions. Take time to review these checklists and answer the questions below.

1. Review the check list for All Years, as well as the checklist for your current year. How many of the items on the All Years list have you completed? How many for your current year list?
2. Did you encounter any items that you have questions about? Where might you go to get additional information or assistance?
3. What important deadlines are coming up? What might you need to focus on now to be sure you're ready for the next step or submission date?
4. Review the checklist for next year. What would you consider as the top three tasks that you need to complete that year? If there is not a list for the next year, look ahead and generate these items on your own.

Broadening Your Scope – *What other types education programs might you be interested in?*

Identifying the type of education you will need and where you will get it is one way of selecting an academic institution. Another method is to explore programs of study that fit your interests and determine which institutions offer these programs. This approach often works best if you are struggling with an occupation choice and would prefer to study within a particular field before making a career choice. The questions below will walk you through this process.

1. Use the [New Mexico Career Cluster Guide](#) to select a career cluster and pathway the fits your work interests. List your selected cluster and pathway below. (**Helpful Tip:** *Your work interests were identified using the Work Interests Assessment in Career Solutions and should be saved in the system.*)
2. Use the Program Finder in Career Solutions to select your cluster and pathway. Once these have been selected, choose a program that you think would be a good fit. List your chosen program below.
3. What are some occupations associated with this program of study?
4. What academic institutions offer this program of study?
5. Does this approach to exploring education options and careers work better for you? Why or why not?

Next Steps

At the end of the lesson, take a moment to review and assess the learning objectives. Engage students in a brief discussion of the learning opportunities that were made available in the classroom.

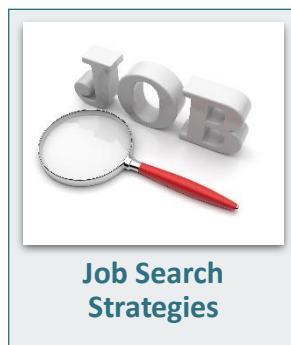
In this lesson, students were provided the opportunity to...

- Discuss the components of an effective career plan.
- Identify the benefits of exploring postsecondary education options.
- Examine the education requirements for their selected career(s).
- Evaluate potential education institutions that align with their career goals.

After providing a brief overview, encourage students to...

- Continue their reflection on the career planning process.
- Connect with potential academic institutions to get additional information.
- Explore resources that can help them navigate entry into postsecondary opportunities.
- Prepare for future planning activities that can help outline their career pathway.

Components of an Effective Career Plan



Additional Resources



Additional national and state-based resources that support career exploration activities are provided below.



O*NET Online

onetonline.org



O*NET Resource Center

onetcenter.org



My Next Move

mynextmove.org



CareerOneStop

careeronestop.org



**Occupational Outlook
Handbook**

bls.gov/ooh/



**Bureau of Labor Statistics
Career Clusters**

bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/career-clusters.htm



**National Career Clusters
Framework**

careertech.org/career-clusters



New Mexico

Career Awareness Websites and Resources



Career Resources



The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions strives to be a gateway to employment. This site presents links to multiple resources, including: career systems, planning tools, education options, and more.



Career Solutions is an online career exploration and planning website for youth and young adults. The website provides access to interactive tools that assist individuals in exploring careers and planning their future.



The New Mexico Workforce Connection Online System is New Mexico's official online portal to virtual job matching services, employment resources, the Unemployment Insurance System, labor market information, and more.

Career Guides



The New Mexico Career Clusters Guide is designed to be a tool for planning and preparing for a career. It provides a structure for selecting careers based on linking personal attributes to occupations and training requirements.



The New Mexico Career Guide is an all-in-one job seeker resource. It includes sections on career exploration, planning, experiences, education, the job search, and school listings.

Labor Market Tools



New Mexico Career Pathways displays regional labor market information for school districts organized around the National Career Clusters Framework. The site includes interactive tools, regional reports, podcasts, and more.



The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions site offers a Labor Market menu. This menu presents links to data, statistics, dashboards, resources, and publications related to labor market information.



LASER is a comprehensive labor market information system. Several search tools and functions are available that allow current and historic labor market data to be customized to meet individual needs.

Plans and Pathways



The Next Step Plan is a personal, written plan developed by each student at the end of grades 8-11 and during grade 12. The purpose of the plan is to target students' postsecondary interests and outline studies for high school.



New Mexico Career Awareness Websites and Resources



Work-Based Learning Experiences



The New Mexico Internships / Student Work site connects individuals to practical work experiences in their local community. Helpful guides and information pages are available to explain and direct the process.



The Career Technical Leadership Project (CTLP) manages organizations that engage students in career and technical education activities as an integral part of the instruction program to meet the needs of a well-trained workforce.



The New Mexico Agricultural Education & FFA Association provides opportunities for leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



Educators Rising cultivates highly skilled educators by guiding young people on the path to becoming accomplished teachers, beginning in high school and extending through college and into the profession.

Postsecondary Education



The purpose of this site is to display information related to New Mexico's higher education institutions, including: key performance indicators, institution facts, contact information, and location map.



The New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation provides resources for financial planning to fund higher education. This site presents several tools and information pages related to funding higher education.

For additional information,
please visit:

NMPED
College and Career Readiness Bureau
ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/college-career-readiness

Target Audience				User Level			Career Exploration					Career Planning					Labor Market Information (LMI)					Support Services				
Youth and Young Adults	Adults and Jobseekers	Educators and Policymakers	Employers	Easy	Moderate	Advanced	Career Exploration Assessments	Career Cluster/Pathway Overviews	Job Descriptions	Work-Based Learning Experiences	Save, Review, and Compare Tools	Resume and Interview Tools	Local Job Listings	Local Career Events and Services	Education and Training Information	Financial Planning Tools	LMI for Career Clusters	Local/Regional Focus	State Focus	Regional Reports and Analyses	LMI Guides and Resources	Youth services	Disability Services	Family Services	Financial Assistance and Services	Career Guidance / Counseling

Career Resources

Department of Workforce Solutions	•	•		•						•				•	•	•						•	•			•
Career Solutions	•				•			•		•	•	•	•		•	•			•						•	
Workforce Connection		•		•		•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•	

Career Guides

Career Clusters Guide	•	•			•			•	•	•					•		•		•							
Career Guide	•	•			•					•		•			•	•			•							

Labor Market Tools

Career Pathways			•		•				•								•	•	•	•	•					
Department of Workforce Solutions Labor market Information		•		•		•												•	•	•	•					
LASER		•		•		•												•	•	•						

Plans and Pathways

Next Step Plan	•		•		•									•												
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Target Audience				User Level			Career Exploration					Career Planning					Labor Market Information (LMI)					Support Services				
Youth and Young Adults	Adults and Jobseekers	Educators and Policymakers	Employers	Easy	Moderate	Advanced	Career Exploration Assessments	Career Cluster/Pathway Overviews	Job Descriptions	Work-Based Learning Experiences	Save, Review, and Compare Tools	Resume and Interview Tools	Local Job Listings	Local Career Events and Services	Education and Training Information	Financial Planning Tools	LMI for Career Clusters	Local/Regional Focus	State Focus	Regional Reports and Analyses	LMI Guides and Resources	Youth services	Disability Services	Family Services	Financial Assistance and Services	Career Guidance / Counseling

Work-Based Learning Experiences

Internships / Student Work	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•													
Career Technical Leadership Project	•		•	•	•			•		•				•											•	
Agricultural Education & FFA	•		•		•		•	•	•	•				•	•										•	
Educators Rising	•		•		•					•				•	•										•	

Postsecondary Education

Higher Education Dashboard	•	•	•			•									•											
NMEAF	•	•			•											•									•	