

## Introduction to Career Search

Your students have spent the last few weeks in hands-on experiences within this career cluster gaining an understanding of and an appreciation for various occupations. They should also have gained some understanding of what knowledge and skills are needed to enter these occupations. This unit of study is intended to help the student gain more detailed information about specific occupations that interest them. Before attempting the search, your students should take an interest survey to give them insight and direction. Your students will then be ready to select their occupations of interest and complete the career search. Remember, a major objective of this course is for your students to gain an educated understanding of career options within specific clusters.

### *Teacher Preparation*

There are several references available for teachers and students. You will want to view these references before finalizing your lessons and before your students begin their career search. You should visit with your guidance counselor(s) at the beginning of this course to coordinate your efforts and arrange time for the counselor to help. You should also contact your Area Career Center to arrange class presentations and/or a tour of the center facilities and programs.

**Note:** Your enthusiasm for this unit will be a huge encouragement for your students. Help them understand that good planning now will save them time and money later. You will also want to express the fact that plans can change and what they select now can be altered at any point in their high school and/or college life. Additionally, encourage your students to share their findings with their parents or guardians.

Although there are many resources available in print and online which you and your students can use, Missouri Kuder (<http://mo.kuder.com/>) is the official college and career planning program recognized by Missouri Guidance & Placement Services of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Career and Technical Education Division. Your guidance counselor will be able to help you access the website if you have not done so.

Prepare a bulletin board that displays various educational options after high school in this career cluster. Be sure to include both local and distant schools as well as low to high costs schools.

### Resources:

- Missouri Kuder, <http://mo.kuder.com/>
- Missouri Guidance and Placement Services, [http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/career\\_plan.htm](http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/career_plan.htm)
- Explore Careers, <http://www.iseek.org/sv/10000.jsp>
- Gettech, <http://gettech.org/default2.asp>
- Vocational Information Center, <http://www.khake.com/>
- Technology Careers, <http://www.pathwaystotechnology.org/>
- Career Voyages, US Government, <http://www.careervoyages.gov>

## ***Suggested Activities***

### 1. *Interest Assessment* (if not taken previously)

(This activity will only need to be completed once in the semester.) Take the interest assessment (Kuder® Career Search with Person Match), the skills inventory (Kuder Skills Assessment), and print out the Composite Report from these two. If possible, enlist the help of your guidance counselor. Go to <http://mo.kuder.com/> to find the assessment documents.

### 2. *Career Search Identity*

You will want to make sure your students have the *STEM Pathways* chart available so they can select occupations relevant to this career cluster search. You will need to decide how many searches you want your students to complete. It is suggested that they complete one search for each of the occupational levels, Technician, Technologist, and Professional. You may ask them to complete more if time permits.

#### Handout: *Definitions of the Three Levels of Occupations*

This handout will give the students a brief description the three levels of occupations students might find in any career pathway. This is a way of recognizing different levels of education and skills needed for an occupation.

#### Handout: *MLA Citation Style Information*

Your students will be asked to cite their sources of information. This handout will give them the correct format for citing different sources. It is suggested you review this with them. You may also want to check with your English teachers and/or librarian to confirm the style(s) being taught in your building

### 3. *Career Center Presentation* (if not completed previously)

Contact your career center director or guidance counselor and make arrangements for a tour of the center facilities and a presentation of the programs the center offers. If it is not possible to tour the facilities, arrange for presentations by career center faculty in your classroom or lab. Make sure the presentations include photos. If possible, make a video tour of the center with interviews by faculty and students.

Handout: *Career Center Information* (teacher designed) Design an information sheet with appropriate questions about the various programs offered by your career center in the cluster area of *Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*. Include such topics as the type of activities for students, certifications available, types of jobs after the program, transferability to college, characteristics students should possess in order to be successful in each program, etc.

### 4. *Four-Year High School Plan*

Enlist the assistance of your guidance counselor. You will want your students to identify courses that will prepare them for post high school employment and/or higher education programs. Use Missouri Kuder and the *Missouri Educational Career Plan* (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) form found at [http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/career\\_plan.htm](http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/career_plan.htm).