College & Training Exploration

Work | Life

Learning Outcomes: Students will identify at least one career, one major, and one college/post-secondary training to meet their goals. Students will describe entry requirements and occupational outlook for that career.

Alignment with Standards:	**Essential Academic Learning Requirements Grades 9/10 Grade Level Expectations:** This lesson is aligned with Writing 1.5.1 and Educational Technology 1.3.2 and 1.3.3. Students will develop materials in an appropriate format for a college search. They will locate, analyze, and use information from college web sites and a career database.		
	Common Core State Standards Grades 11-12: This lesson is aligned with English Language Arts Writing 4, 7, and 8. Students will prepare a short writing exercise and conduct a focused research project using college web sites and a career database.		
	American School Counselor Association National Standards: This lesson is aligned with ASCA Academic A1.2, A2.1, and B1.3. Students will display an interest in learning, demonstrate task management skills, and apply the skills needed for academic success.		
	21st Century Skills:		
	• **Self-direction:** Systematic and comprehensive planning, Self-instruction, Resources, Effective and sustained effort, Self-monitoring and reflection, Results are valuable		
	• **Digital Communication:** Electronic environments, Conventions and etiquette in media, Design elements, Responsible behavior		
	• **Problem Solving:** Identifying and addressing obstacles, Identifying solutions, Solving the problem, Self-evaluation and reflection		
Materials:	• **Teacher Lesson**	• **Copies of hand outs:** *Areas of Study _EntryReq.St.Handout* *College_Inquries.St.Handout*	• **Computer/Internet Access** • **Projector**
Implementation:	**Class Session 1:** • **Discuss** students' career interests. Have students talk in small groups. Ask them to go around the group and have each student identify one possible career. (Explain to students that they are not committing to this career – but it should be one they are interested in researching.) • **Ask** students as a whole class, what students know about the postsecondary educational requirements for the careers they have identified. • **(*You will need computers with internet access for the next part of the lesson.)** • **Distribute or Download from Moodle site** the **Areas of Study & Entry Requirements Handout** and have each student note their possible career in the space at the top of the page. • Based on their possible career choice students will complete the hand out using the following websites: • **Option 1: College Board's Major and Career Profiles** (www.collegeboard.com/csearch/majors_careers/profiles) o **Ask** them to use either the *Career Categories* or the *Major Categories* to narrow in on the career they identified earlier and find at least one possible "major" (or area of study) that would prepare them for that career. o **Ask** them to identify at least one postsecondary program that offers that major. • **Option 2: Career and Technical Education** (http://www.k12.wa.us/careerteched/Clusters/default.aspx) o **Discuss** with students in Career & Technical Education (CTE) that they might find it helpful to search by Career		

Cluster on the **OSPI CTE** web site.

- **Ask** students to go to **Career One Stop** (www.careeronestop.org) and search for their selected career. Have them complete the handout using information about that career.
- When students have completed their research they will need to <u>UPLOAD</u> it with their name to the class Moodle site.

<u>Class Session 2:</u>

- **Discuss the purpose of a college inquiry.** Ask students to work in small groups to brainstorm the answer to this question: **how can you learn more about a college?**
- After a few minutes, call the groups together and ask one volunteer from each group to <u>share</u> their ideas. Students may say that they can read a college's web site; they can visit the college; they can talk with a college admissions rep at your high school or a career fair; or they can ask the college to send them information.
- <u>Tell</u> students that this lesson will focus on the strategy of "college inquiries," or asking colleges to send information.
- <u>Discuss</u> why this would help students in their college search: by giving them more information and by indicating their interest to the college.
- **Review college information and an inquiry request.** Use your classroom projector to <u>model</u> going to one of the college inquiry pages listed on the handout (or use WSU example below).
- <u>Demonstrate</u> for students how they will complete a request for information. *For some colleges, they may need to create an account to register for information. In all cases, they will need to provide contact information, including an e-mail address.*
- After you have toured a sample inquiry form and explained how to complete it, go to the **Admissions web site** of that college and show students the type of information colleges display on their web sites: *academics and majors; visiting the college; applying; requirements to apply, etc.*
  - EXAMPLE: WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
    Request information: https://www.applyweb.com/public/inquiry?wsuuinq
    Admissions: http://admission.wsu.edu/index.html
- **Request information.** <u>Distribute or Download from Moodle site</u> the **College Inquiries Handout** *(either way, it will be preferable to have students view the handout on a computer so that they can click directly through to college web sites).*
- <u>Ask</u> them to select two colleges from the list to request information – or choose colleges of their own.
- <u>Ask</u> them to complete an inquiry form for at least two colleges and then write down at least two admissions facts from each of those colleges.
- When students have completed their research they will need to <u>UPLOAD</u> it with their name to the class Moodle site.

Additional Resources:	- **College Board Major and Career Profiles:** www.collegeboard.com/csearch/majors_careers/profiles Database that connects careers to college majors and postsecondary programs - **Career One Stop:** www.careeronestop.org U.S. Department of Labor resource with searchable database on occupations - **OSPI Career & Technical Education:** www.k12.wa.us/careerteched/ Information for students undertaking a CTE program of study or interested in a community or technical college - **Workforce Explorer:** www.workforceexplorer.com

	Washington State Employment Security Department web site on occupations • **College Board:** www.collegeboard.org College and major search, entrance exams, financial aid • **Tips for Surfing College Web sites:** www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/majors_careers/45103.html This article gives students step-by-step tips for making the most of their visits to college web sites. • **Check out a College:** www.checkoutacollege.com Community college information from Washington's Community & Technical Colleges