

# ABOUT EDUCATION AND CAREERS

## WHY MORE EDUCATION?

- Because the world is rapidly changing and many jobs rely on new technologies and skills that require education beyond high school.
- Because the average person with some level of post-secondary education will earn more money than the person who has none.
- Because you'll gain a wide range of knowledge that will help you succeed, both on and off the job.

Below are some of the most common myths that exist in the employment world today. *Don't buy into them!*

## MYTHS

- **There's only one right job for me.** On the contrary, there are numerous occupations in which your talents can be equally applied. The nature of these possibilities will expand as your work experiences accumulate.
- **Most people start their career at age 21 and proceed in a straight line toward their career goals.** The career paths of most people are filled with zigs and zags and changes in direction.
- **There are specific job responsibilities for every occupation.** On the contrary, people in positions with the same title often perform different tasks. Duties may vary according to an individual's interests and capabilities, as well as employer's needs.
- **You must have work experience to find a job.** Often you're hired for your aptitude or potential to learn & advance in an organization rather than for your existing work capabilities or experiences.
- **A four-year college degree guarantees a well-paying job.** The truth is, no college degree "guarantees a stable, good paying job. The key is obtaining technical skills, education & training that strengthen your opportunities for finding a great-paying job.
- **If I'm smart, go to college, study hard and graduate, I'll get a job in my chosen occupation.** Not necessarily. Getting a job in your chosen occupation depends on many factors, such as the U.S. economy, downsizing, competition, advancements in technology, etc. Again, you may have to be patient and very persistent in your job search.
- **Choosing an occupation is difficult.** While choosing an occupation takes time, patience, and research, it can be a satisfying experience under the guidance of your family, teachers, and counselor.
- **Everyone should go to college.** Everyone probably needs some training beyond high school. Think first about what occupation you want, and then find out about what education is necessary to do the job. Remember that both desire and effort are necessary to be successful in post-high school education.

# CAREER DECISION CHECKLIST

## KNOW YOURSELF

Keep a current list of personal skills, interests, strengths, weaknesses, goals, and values.

- PSAT results
- College Board - [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- Nebraska Career Connections – [www.nebraskacareerconnections.org](http://www.nebraskacareerconnections.org)
- ASVAB results

## RESEARCH

Investigate and explore occupational information regarding the career you are considering. Learn whether it's a growing or stable field to go into, what the average "Joe" earns, and if it's a good match for you.

- Nebraska Career Connections – [www.nebraskacareerconnections.org](http://www.nebraskacareerconnections.org)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics – [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

## LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Become aware of different labor market information – like up-to-date wages or employment projections for the various career paths available for your consideration.

- Nebraska Career Connections – [www.nebraskacareerconnections.org](http://www.nebraskacareerconnections.org)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics – [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

## REALITY TESTING

Talk to experts, interview people, perform volunteer work, job-shadow or take a part-time job in the career field you are considering. The reality is, if you enjoy volunteering, job shadowing or part-time work in your chosen field, chances are you've found a good match.

## REVIEW

Periodically review your decisions and revise them as necessary. Make sure to position yourself for new opportunities.

\* These codes will change for the 2016-2017 school yr.



2015 - 2016

### Individual Login Instructions

Please follow the login instructions below to begin using Nebraska Career Connections. Customer Support provided by Visions Unlimited, Inc at 866.993.2052 or [support@visions-unltd.com](mailto:support@visions-unltd.com).

#### Registration

- Step 1:** Go to [www.nebraskacareerconnections.org](http://www.nebraskacareerconnections.org).
- Step 2:** Select **Login** in the upper left corner.
- Step 3:** New users register by selecting **New Users Register Here**. (Returning users may enter in their user name and password, and click Login.)  
If you are a new user, indicate the type of user that best describes you and select a grade level, if you are a student.
  - a. **Parents:** You will not log in. Take a virtual tour of the system, learn how careers are presented to students, and get suggestions on how to help your child with career planning. You can also view your child's portfolio, if they have provided you with their user name and password.
  - b. **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders:** You will not log in. Begin exploring the six career fields.
  - c. **7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Create a unique user name and password. Be sure to write down your user name and password in the space below.

User Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

School Access Code:           N3927877ZQV          

School Zip Code:           68066          

- Step 4:** As a new user, complete the registration information and then click **Register**.

#### Take An Assessment

- Step 5:** Select the **My Interests and Skills** menu tab and choose the assessment you want to take.
- Step 6:** Enter the appropriate **Batch Code** (if required) for the assessment you plan to take. (Batch Codes will be provided by your Administrator/Instructor/Counselor).

Kuder Career Search with Person Match

          I 39-278 82 SKY          

Kuder Skills Assessment

          S3927879 GNV          

Super's Work Values Inventory-revised

          V3927878 STS          

- Step 7:** Enter your current grade level, select a language, and click GO!
- Step 8:** Explore other resources within the system

#### Re-Entering the System

To re-enter Nebraska Career Connections, go to [www.nebraskacareerconnections.org](http://www.nebraskacareerconnections.org), select Login, and enter your user name and password.



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