

Student Newsletter

Spring 2018

No Time to Job Shadow? Use Online Resources

Let's face it, high school demands a great deal of time! You may have a few career ideas that spark your interest, but between homework, sports and other activities you may not have time to schedule and take part in job shadow opportunities. You may live in a rural area or simply not have access to a career that you are interested in. For example, if you are interested in oceanography, you do not have access to a job shadow opportunity since you don't live near the ocean.

The good news is that you can get this information by visiting numerous websites. YouTube provides numerous job shadowing videos that allow you to virtually see the ins and outs of specific careers. If you go to YouTube and type in "Online Job Shadowing", you can automatically view video trailers on careers. The videos are not basic; they are detailed and give you the information you need to research and decide if that could be your perfect "fit". You can find careers such as nuclear tech, forestry, law enforcement, plumbing, and community development. You may even find careers that you never heard of.

Another website for this is Lifehacker.com. This site provides in-depth interviews and career spotlights with professionals, www.lifehacker.com/tag/career-spotlight. Read about careers such as cancer researcher, 2D animator, parks and recreation officer, and more. You can even learn what it takes to be a coffee roast master. Lifehacker provides information on how professionals navigated their career path— education and certifications needed, salary information, and detailed information on exact job duties and activities.

Another great site to use as a resource is www.jobshadow.com. Go to the list of interviews and start researching the careers that interest you. This is a great site where professionals create their own job shadow and post it. You can even find information on how to become a pro golfer or an article that lists different careers in the medical field where you don't have to see blood and can still earn \$100,000 plus annually.

With this information, you can research and gain knowledge on various careers without having to physically take part in a job shadow experience. Remember that job shadowing is a tool to help you not only find careers that you are interested in, but also to help you eliminate careers that might not be a good match. It is never too early to start your personal career exploration. Good Luck!



Need help?

Attention Seniors

Deadlines are fast approaching!

Did you file your FAFSA? Did you apply for scholarships?

Call Educational Talent Search @ 1-888-533-6487 or 814-393-2071 or Call Upward Bound @ 814-393-2342.

FAFSA Completion and Scholarship Workshop—February 24 @ Cranberry High School

Call to register or for more information.

What Road Should I Take?



Some people just know what direction they are heading. Some love kids and want to be a preschool teacher; others love creating new recipes-- so off to culinary school they go. What do you do when you do not have a clue? Choosing a career is one of the biggest decisions in life. Finding which path to take requires soul searching, serious reflection, and conversations. Discovering what you really enjoy, what you are good at, and what you most value are important in exploring career opportunities. Identifying your skills, interests, values, and preferences are key factors for job selection and satisfaction. Talking with others about experiences at school and the workplace can help eliminate or hone in on a career choice.

Along the way, you have picked up abilities in many areas. Capitalize on them! Think about accomplishments or talents that led you to succeed. These skills are transferable areas of strength that you take from home, school, or extracurricular activities to work. Leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, work ethic, written and verbal communication skills, initiative, technical skills, and computer skills are just some talents that schools and employers are looking for.

For help assessing your skills, try an inventory. Self-assessment creates a profile of your strengths and weaknesses that translates into career path recommendations.

- CareerOneStop Skills Profiler is available at <https://www.careerinfonet.org/Skills/>. The more compatible your interests are with your work environment, the greater job satisfaction and success you are likely to have.
- My Next Move O*NET Interest Profiler found at <https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip> can help you identify your interests and how they relate to the work world. You identify what types of careers you might want to explore. After identifying possible careers, use the Occupational Outlook Handbook to learn more about them.

- Other interest inventories include Holland Code Career Test at <https://www.truity.com/test/holland-code-career-test> and the Career Interest Questionnaire at <http://www.wistechcolleges.org/EXPLORE-CAREERS/CAREER-INTEREST-QUESTIONNAIRE%20>.
- Values assessment determines what is important to you. Rank different aspects of work at <https://www.123test.com/work-values-test/> or <https://www.vawizard.org/wizard/assessment-combined>
- A personality test gives you a clue to careers that would be a good fit. To explore Personality assessments try any of the following:
Keirsey Temperament Sorter - <https://www.keirsey.com/sorter/register.aspx>
Type Temperament Test - <https://www.truity.com/test/typefinder%C2%AE-temperament-test>
Personality Tests - <http://www.humanmetrics.com/personality>
<http://www.personalitypage.com/careers.html>
- The Career Aptitude Test looks at skills, interests, style, and values at <https://www.whatcareerisrightforme.com>.

These career resources help point you in the right direction and lead to you discovering the perfect career path.



Like us on Facebook for current information!

Dual Enrollment Opportunities

Dual Enrollment is an opportunity to take college courses while in high school. Dual Enrollment courses provide an opportunity to gain college experience and credits prior to entering college. From 100 level introductory courses to higher level specialty courses, dual enrollment is a great way to test the waters and gauge your academic interests. Consider taking advantage of the opportunity to work ahead of your peers in your college preparedness. Below are two opportunities available in this area.

Butler County Community College

Contact: Erin Cioffi at 724-287-8711 x8254 or erin.cioffi@bc3.edu

<http://www.bc3.edu/admission/high-school-programming/college-pathways.html>

College Pathways:

Approval from your school and BC3 is required. As a College Pathways student, every class is open to you! You can take classes online or at any BC3 location. BC3 offers credit classes in over 50 subjects. Fourteen week courses are offered in the following formats: face-to-face, online, hybrid.

Academic Requirements:

The following cumulative Grade Point Average at your high school is required to qualify for College Pathways: Sophomores – 3.25 GPA, Juniors – 3.00 GPA, Seniors – 2.75 GPA.

Enrollment:

BC3 application completion and official transcript from your high school and the College Pathways Agreement and Student Information Release Authorization are required. A placement test (if an English or math prerequisite) is required.

Fees: \$25 nonrefundable fee with application (TRIO UB fee waiver can be applied). Tuition: \$208 per credit, \$624 per course.

Clarion University of Pennsylvania

Contact: Lacy Nettleton at 814-393-2306 or lnettleton@clarion.edu

<http://www.clarion.edu/admissions/undergraduate/dual-enrollment.html>

Dual Enrollment:

Approval from your school district and Clarion University is required. Visit <http://www.clarion.edu/admissions/undergraduate/dual-enrollment.html>. Classes are offered in the following formats: online, Clarion or Venango College/Oil City.

Academic Requirements: Sophomore through Senior status with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Students must meet standardized tests scores: Keystone/PSSA at the proficient or advanced range for math and/or reading and/or writing tests, PSAT/SAT 1030 or ACT 22. Courses are chosen from as approved course list.

Enrollment:

Complete application. Submit an official transcript with GPA, and SAT/ACT test scores, PSAT, or PSSA/Keystone Exam results for evaluation. Obtain signatures from your principal, guidance counselor and parents.

Fees: One-time \$50 nonrefundable records fee. Tuition: Funding exists to reduce the cost of a course for students meeting program requirements, \$115 per credit (up to three credits per semester).

Career Considerations



Choosing a career path can be a difficult decision, complicated by unseen or unclear variables. Variables range from the idealistic pursuit of one's passions to the hard reality of the constraints of our modern economy. The pressure associated with the decision can be stifling, frightening and potentially overwhelming. Few decisions in life, after all, will have more impact on the foundation of your quality of life than the decision made regarding career path selection and how to educationally support that path.

One strategy in reducing the stress associated with a decision of this magnitude is to dive head first into the sea of possibility and to do so with a clear motive. Clear motive is an impartial, unfettered exploration of present and future employment trends. Consider the old saying that if you give a person a fish you feed them for a day, but if you teach them how to fish, where to fish, and the best bait to use then you feed them for life.

Secondly, keeping an open mind in this career exploration process is essential, because most of us have a very limited idea of what a given career consists of in terms of actual day-to-day duties. What you tend to do when under pressure and the resulting stress is to decide to do what you know. Doing what you know or think you know, i.e. electing to go down the path to become a teacher simply because of frequent interaction with teachers is not a well-informed decision. Teaching as a profession has many elements and requirements that at the very least need explored in determining if the match is one that will produce career satisfaction long term. Turning this decision from a pressure based, stress-induced nightmare to a conscious, well-informed choice that will produce a sense of control and reassurance is a critical step on the path to a fulfilling, successful vocation.

Now that you have laid the foundation for your research, moving forward it is important to consider some variables that are clear and measurable. Overall employment is projected to increase by 11.5 million jobs over the 2016-26 decade as reported by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. This projected increase is influenced by many factors. The better understanding of those factors, the more effective you will be in seeing future trends. Take for example, the aging population of "baby boomers" (adults born between 1940 and 1960). The influence of that group on employment trends is significant. Baby boomers leaving the work force to retire will produce employment opportunities. Furthermore, as this large group ages their needs create an increase in support requirements. The resulting employment impact on the health care industry is projected to grow by four million jobs by 2026. Assisted living and related career fields will continue to outpace most areas of health care in terms of vocational opportunities. The resulting increase for skilled nursing, social workers and medical technicians with varying specializations will be in high demand. Advances in medical treatment will also result in a boom for pharmaceutical support, as well as the inevitable growth in the technology field which is required to support that growth.

Leading opportunities in employment trends for the next decade are presented by worldwidelearn.com and Career-cast.com are:

Engineering: Those with some experience can expect to find a very favorable job market. Unemployment rates for this group are generally less than 5%. Jobs in the (STEM) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fields are the most plentiful nationally and offer better salaries than other disciplines.

Computer Programmer: This area will be heavily impacted by the need for increased security and the current trend of using overseas sources for many of these roles will be diminished. The need for more national support will be increased as these security considerations (Computer Forensics) grow.

Health Care and Social Assistance: This field is also projected to add more than four million jobs by 2026 (Nursing, Social Service).

Child Care/Day Care Providers: The increasing need for high quality childcare has resulted in increased education requirements and improved salaries. A professional in this industry can command a higher salary with a degree in early childhood special education.

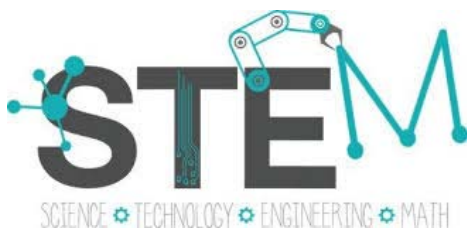
Elder Care Specialist: This is additional fallout from the baby boomers. Professionally operated assisted living facilities offer many opportunities beyond skilled nursing. These elder communities rely on teams of qualified health care specialists (Health Information Technology).

Employment Specialist: The professional employment placement specialist as cited by the US Dept. of Labor is one of the fastest growing specialties for the next decade. Connecting employers with qualified employees requires a special desire to use one's interpersonal skills as well as networking skills (Human Resources Management Degree).

Obviously, these career trends only scratch the surface of the issue of career exploration. The point is not to help one decide what path to follow; the point is to start that internal process of making an informed decision that connects the dots between one's career end goal and the educational foundation necessary to support that end goal. Exploring the possibilities and consciously considering real world factors goes a long way to determining a reasonable conclusion in terms of career construction.

The research is the easy part of your journey. There is virtually no limit to career exploration available to anyone with the insight and desire to ask the question.

Careers of the 21st Century



Saturday, March 10, 2018

STC, Clarion University

Registration required.

Lunch provided—Transportation available.

Call 814-393-2071 to register or UB students return your permission slip.

Career Spotlight: HVACR Technician

If you are considering a technical career, look into the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR) field. Working as an HVACR Technician is an option for a long-lasting rewarding profession.

Quick Facts: HVACR Technician		<i>-- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics</i>
2016 Median Pay	\$45,910 per year, \$22.07 per hour	
Typical Entry-level Education	Postsecondary non-degree	
On-the-job Training	Long-term on-the-job training	
Number of Jobs, 2016	332,900	
Job Outlook, 2016-2026	15% (Much faster than average)	
Employment Change, 2016-2026	49,100	

HVACR Technicians work on heating, ventilation, cooling and refrigeration systems that control the temperature and air quality. They work in homes, schools, hospitals, offices, and factories. Job responsibilities include:

- Install, clean and maintain HVACR systems
- Install electrical components and wiring
- Inspect and test HVACR systems and components
- Discuss system malfunctions with customers
- Repair or replace worn or defective parts
- Recommend maintenance to improve system performance
- Keep records of work performed

Most HVACR Technicians receive instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges for six months to two years, resulting in a certificate or associate's degree. High school students should take courses in math and physics. Knowledge of plumbing or electrical work and a basic understanding of electronics is also helpful. Here are a few schools in Pennsylvania that offer HVACR programs:

- Butler County Community College – <https://www.bc3.edu>
- Pennsylvania College of Technology – <https://www.pct.edu>
- Pittsburgh Technical College – <https://www.ptcollege.edu>
- Triangle Tech Inc. – <http://triangle-tech.edu/>

Some Technicians receive training through an apprenticeship. Apprenticeship programs last three to five years, and technicians learn about heating and cooling systems, safety practices, blueprint reading and tools. Several groups, including unions and contractor associations, sponsor apprenticeship programs. For more information contact Associated Building and Contractors (ABC) – Western PA Chapter – <http://www.abcwpa.org>.

Two lists of scholarships are available online—“20 Great HVAC Scholarships” can be found at <https://www.hvacclasses.org/blog/20-great-hvac-scholarships>. The second list is specifically for women— Ten Scholarships for Women in HVAC” at <https://www.hvacclasses.org/blog/hvac-scholarships-for-women>.

If you truly are considering this field, check out the resources above and do your research. Talk to your TS or UB Counselor for more information and assistance, and always be on the lookout for upcoming campus visits.

TRIO Educational Talent Search, 814-393-2071 and TRIO Upward Bound, 814-393-2342

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