
N A V I G A T I O N 1 0 1

GRADE: 6 LESSON: 10

THEME: PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL



LESSON GOALS:

- Help students learn about different postsecondary options.
- Discuss the connections between student’s interests and educational needs.
- Help students understand how they can prepare for postsecondary success.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What will I do after high school?
- How can I plan?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- **Postsecondary Information Handout** (*located on the next page of this lesson plan*)

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

- 1. Introduce postsecondary options.** Distribute the **Postsecondary Information Handout** and review it with your students. The most important points for them to remember from this handout are that: (a) nearly every career requires some type of education after high school; and (b) there are many different postsecondary options – really something for everyone. *(5-10 minutes)*
- 2. Discuss educational needs for different careers.** Next talk about the careers students are interested in. What type of postsecondary education do different careers require? How can students find out what they need to do? You might want to help students by sharing your expertise or use an on-line resource (your lead advisor will have ideas) to help. *(5-10 minutes)*
- 3. Finally, discuss how students can prepare for postsecondary education.** Ask your students what they think they’d need to know to do well in postsecondary education – no matter what choice they make. (*HINT: Lots of math and science in high school, and the most advanced courses they can take.*) Talk about how important middle school and high school are in preparing for their dream careers. *(10-15 minutes)*

STUDENT PRODUCTS:

Nothing to write during this lesson. Students should be encouraged to share the handout with their parents.



POSTSECONDARY INFORMATION



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

What do you dream about doing? No matter what you want to do, you'll probably need to stay in school after you graduate from high school. That's because nearly every job today requires "postsecondary" (after high school) education.

There are many different options for postsecondary education... it just depends on what you want to do!

APPRENTICESHIP. Do you want to earn a paycheck while you learn a job? Would you like to work one-on-one with someone who's experienced? In an apprenticeship, you learn a highly skilled job (in manufacturing or high tech, health care, public safety, cooking, or construction) by working with a skilled expert. Apprenticeships usually last two to four years. They combine on-the-job training with classroom work. Apprentices earn a paycheck the entire time.

COMMUNITY OR TECHNICAL COLLEGE (TWO-YEAR, ASSOCIATE DEGREE). Many students go to community or technical college to earn a career certificate or to get a two-year (Associate) degree. You can earn an Associate degree to transfer into a four-year university and continue on toward a four-year degree. Or you can go straight into the workplace after earning your Associate degree. Careers include Cosmetology, Computer-aided Drafting and Design, Diesel and Heavy Equipment Tech, Medical Office Clerk, or Culinary Arts.

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY (FOUR-YEAR, BACHELOR'S DEGREE). Students who need more education usually attend a four-year college or university. You can earn a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. You might continue on to graduate or professional school. Or you might use your degree to go right into the workplace. You can earn a Bachelor's degree in nearly any subject imaginable, from Asian Studies to Chemistry or Engineering.

MASTER'S DEGREE. A Master's degree lets you move directly into a management-level career in a specialized field. A Master's degree usually requires at least two years of study beyond a Bachelor's degree. You can study for a Master's degree in Business (called an MBA) or in many other fields.

DOCTORATE DEGREE. A Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Medical Doctor (M.D.), Juris Doctor (lawyer, or J.D.) degree usually requires at least three years of school after college and sometimes many more. A Doctorate degree allows the holder to practice a highly skilled profession.

MILITARY. Some students join the military after high school. You can join the military right away, or you can join the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) while you are in college and then be commissioned as an officer after college graduation. The military offers many different career and training opportunities... meaning that you still need to decide what you want to do before you join.

