Investigating Postsecondary Options

If you think of some of the most interesting and famous people you know, you will agree they likely worked very hard in their lives, making the most of each day.

Work really does add to your life, if you have the right attitude. Many people dream about having time to sleep in, and not having to go to work or school, or having no responsibilities to take care of; however, without a purpose and something to drive them, they become lazy and unproductive. As Voltaire, a famous writer and philosopher once stated, “Work spares us from three evils: boredom, vice, and need.”

Choosing an occupation to focus your sights on is not an easy task. In this activity, you are going to take a deeper look at your occupations of interest so that you may have something meaningful to work toward. You will not only discover the essential skills associated with the occupations, you will also learn about employment prospects, duties, earnings, and the recommended education and training.

#### **Choosing the occupation that is right for you**

For this activity, you are going to research the [*Career Cruising* website](https://public.careercruising.com/en/). This website provides valuable information on a variety of careers.

**1.** Navigate to [Career Cruising](http://www.careercruising.com/Default.aspx), and enter your username and password, then select, “start career cruising.”

**2.**  Select “assessments” at the top of the screen, then select “career matchmaker.” You will complete an assessment that will match your interests to a variety of careers.

**3.** You will want to *start a new session*, so enter your first and last name and select “start now!”

**4.** Follow the instructions and complete the survey.

**5.** At the end of the questions you will be asked if you *want to save your Matchmaker results to your Portfolio*. Just select “No.”

**6.** You will see a list of suggested careers. Look through the list and click on the ones that interest you. Refer to the information on the left side of the screen under “general information.”

**7.** Review the information under the *Job Description, Earnings, Working Conditions, Education,* and *Sample Career Path* headings. Pay special attention to *Education* to determine what additional postsecondary education or training, if any, may be required.

**8.** If there is a particular career you wish to research that is not on this list, simply select “careers” at the top of the screen, type in the career you are interested in and select, “Go!”

#### **Assignment 1: Occupations of Interest**

Briefly identify two careers of interest based on your research and describe your thoughts and feelings about pursuing those careers.

**Assignment 2: Results of Career Search**

Summarize the results of your career search for two occupations of interest. Use the [Career Cruising](https://public.careercruising.com/en/) website or [Human Resources and Skills Development Canada](http://www10.hrsdc.gc.ca/es/English/search_occupation_name.aspx) website to find the necessary information.

For each Career/occupation, provide the following:

1. Job description
2. Earnings
3. Working Conditions
4. Required education/training
5. Essential Skills Required
6. Future Prospects

#### **Assignment 3: Education and Training**

Think about the education and/or training required for your occupations of interest. Summarize the steps you must take to ensure you have the required education and training in place for the two occupations you researched.