

NEW MEXICO 4-H

Aggie Next Step

My Career Interests



Post Secondary Pathways



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INTRODUCTION

Exploring career interests helps students identify paths that align with their passions, skills, and values. In this lesson, participants will examine opportunities that inspire them, develop their strengths, and connect personal goals to meaningful career choices.

SET UP

Review lesson materials and determine which worksheets and handouts you will use for the lesson. Print enough pre/post assessments, worksheets, and handouts for each participant.

ACTIVITY

1. Have participants complete the *Pre-assessment*.
2. Begin with a group discussion: *Why do people choose different careers? What factors influence these choices?*
**(Optional video opener: "How to Choose the Right Career Path in 7 Simple Steps" – 4:05 – see link in the Resources section)*
4. Distribute *My Dream Job*. Instruct participants to complete **only** Part 1. Prompt: *Write down your dream job. Be honest, even if you are unsure.*
5. Distribute the *Career Clusters Interest Survey*. Read the instructions as a group and guide participants through completion.
6. Distribute the *Career Clusters Descriptions* handout. Participants should read their top 3 clusters and highlight options that stand out. If time allows, participants should use the *Reflection Section* to learn more about careers in their top clusters.
7. Instruct participants to return to the *My Dream Job* handout and complete *Part 2: A New Career Idea I Discovered* and compare it with their original idea.

Supplies

- Worksheets
- Handouts
- Pens/Pencils

OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

- **Set** short- and long-term goals for career exploration.
- **Demonstrate** leadership and collaboration by sharing findings and ideas with peers.
- **Identify** personal interests, strengths, and values for career decision-making.
- **Connect** career paths to purpose and community impact.
- **Compare** careers within top interest clusters and evaluate how well they match personal goals.



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8. Group students in pairs or small groups. Facilitate group discussions with these prompts:

Q. How did your ideas shift after completing the survey?

Q. What surprised you most?

Q. Did you confirm your original dream job or discover new career paths?

9. *Exit Ticket* – depending on time, this can be done as a class discussion, or students can complete the worksheet in class, as homework, or in the following class.

10. Have participants complete *Post-assessment*.

WRAP UP

Your career journey is a path of discovery and growth. Use today's insights to explore possibilities, set meaningful goals, and take action toward a career that inspires you, serves others, and helps you thrive in life and work.

Explore
THE
Possibilities



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RESOURCES

NM Standards:

NM PED Standards: Career and Technical Education (CTE):

CTE 1.1.2: Demonstrate knowledge and skills in language arts required to pursue the full range of postsecondary education and career opportunities

CTE 2.1.9: Listen to and speak with diverse individuals to enhance communication skills

CTE 9.1.1: Identify and demonstrate the use of positive work behaviors and personal qualities needed to be employable

CTE 9.1.2: Develop a personal career plan to meet career goals and objectives

Common Career Technical Core (CCTC) Standards: Career Ready Practices (CRP):

CRP-10. Plan education and career path aligned to personal goals

Optional ELA Alignment (Grades 6-12)

SL1: Participate in a range of conversations

W7: Conduct short research projects

Video Resources: Note: Please preview all videos before showing them to students to ensure they are age-appropriate, relevant, and aligned with your classroom needs.

How to Choose the Right Career Path in 7 Simple Steps (4:05)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhpcgpqWc1Q>

Exploring Careers (3:40)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2345VNkAyY>