NEW MEXICO 4-H

Aggie Next Step

Tomorrow's Careers



Post Secondary Pathways



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AGGIE NEXT Soar Prosper Empower Thrive Post Secondary Pathway Program

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College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
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Extension 4-H Youth Development

Tomorrow's Careers

Lesson Focus

The workplace is changing faster than ever. Technology, automation, AI, and global challenges are reshaping nearly every industry. Many future careers will require both technical knowledge and strong transferable skills like problem-solving and adaptability. In this lesson, participants will investigate emerging careers and analyze what it takes to succeed in a rapidly changing environment.

Supplies

- Internet access (*optional)
- Worksheets
- Handouts
- Pens/Pencils

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- **Describe** the responsibilities of an emerging career.
- **Identify** both technical and transferable skills needed for success.
- **Explain** how technology is influencing careers across multiple industries.
- **Reflect** on skills they can begin developing now to prepare for the future workplace.

Preparation

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

Activities

1. Have participants complete the *Pre-Assessment*.

2. Activate prior knowledge with these questions:

Q: Think about a job that probably did NOT exist 25 years ago. What created that job? (Technology? Social change? A new need?)

Transition to the activity: *Today, we are going to explore careers that are growing or changing because of technology, innovation, and global shifts.*

3. This next activity can be completed individually or in small groups of 2-3. Distribute the ***Emerging Career Exploration*** worksheet to each participant or group along with one ***Emerging Career Card***. Participants complete the worksheet using their own knowledge and/or the internet (optional).

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At this point, students can either complete the quick share and whole-class discussion below to finish the activity within one class period, or move to the optional extension activities (poster/gallery walk) if additional time is available.

4. Quick Share: Put participants into small groups (3-4) of mixed careers. Each participant gets 1 minute max to share:
   - Career title
   - 2 key responsibilities
   - 2 important skills
   - 1 way technology impacts the job.

5. End with a whole-group discussion:
   Q: What skills showed up in multiple careers?
   Q: Did technology impact every career in some way?
   Q: Which career seems most stable? Why?
   Q: Which career surprised you?

6. ***Exit Ticket*** – Depending on time, this can be done as a class discussion, as an individual worksheet, as homework in class, or during the following class.

7. Have participants complete the *Post-Assessment*.

Reflection

Emerging careers aren't just about coding or robotics – they exist in healthcare, energy, sustainability, and community work as well. Technology is influencing nearly every career field, but soft skills remain essential. Preparing for the future workplace means developing both technical awareness and strong transferable skills.



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Extensions

1. Participants create *Career Spotlight Posters* to teach about their emerging career.
2. Participants participate in a *Gallery Walk* to compare emerging careers.

*Both extension activities can be found in the lesson activities.

Differentiation

Content Support: Provide pre-filled examples of skills or tools for one career to model how to complete the worksheet.

English Language Learners: Allow verbal responses in place of written ones and pair students with a supportive English-speaking peer.

Complete the worksheet in 3 chunks over a period of time.

Processing Time: Provide additional think time before students respond or share.

Visual Support: Allow visual learners to draw icons or diagrams for tools, tech, and skills on the worksheet.

Use the optional poster extension to visually illustrate their career.

Interest-Based Differentiation: Let participants choose which emerging career card, if possible, so they engage with something that sparks curiosity.

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Resources

Optional Videos

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

What is the Future of Work? | World Economic Forum
https://youtu.be/EuDnSqAo784?si=xxHPxNcS_KHlApw8

The Future of Work 2030: Top Jobs, Skills & Career Trends You Need to Know
https://youtu.be/RL2-xR-k7DE?si=_DK2GT6YqrDFb4Ae

The Future of Jobs: Emerging Career Trends of the 21st Century
https://youtu.be/_pgN81dyohQ?si=NUdwP5FLUsFXFc1u

NM Standards:

NM PED Standards: Career and Technical Education (CTE):
2.1.6: Develop and deliver formal and informal presentations
2.1.9: Listen to and speak with diverse individuals to enhance communication skills
9.1.1: Identify the use of positive work behaviors and personal qualities needed to be employable
9.2.4: Identify and explore career opportunities in one or more career pathways
10.2.1: Understand technical skill requirements within the career field's techniques

Optional ELA Alignment (Grades 6-12)
SL1: Participate in a range of conversations and collaborations