

Career Exploration Project: What kind of career do I want to have, and how do I get there?

- Research a career of your choice
- Construct a research report on a career, and create a personal career plan
- Interview someone in the field of your interest

You are at an age where if you try hard enough you can become whatever you wish. There is no better time to start setting your long-range goals than now. We will apply research to your goal-setting through a Career Exploration Project. To successfully complete this project, you will be required to incorporate all of the following: *Research, Writing and Oral Communications*. By the end of the process, you will write a research report about a chosen career including: a **career interest bio**, an **interview of a person** in that career, a **resource page** about your career, a **resume**, a **bibliography** page for the sources you used; you will also present your findings to the class. All products will be gathered together in a professional looking portfolio.

PART I. Finding a Career:

How do I find a career I am interested in? What are my interests, skills, work habits, etc? Go to www.collegeincolorado.org and fill out "Career Cluster Survey" under Career Planning. How to get there: click Learn About Yourself and then complete Career Cluster Survey. After you've finished and gotten feedback from the survey you may click on Explore Careers if you need more information.

PART II. Career Interest Bio (100 points):

Use the College in Colorado surveys (on the same page as the Career Cluster Survey) and the Career Cluster survey to discover what your interest(s), values and skills are. Write **one to two paragraphs** that **introduce your career** and **why you think it fits your personality**. Questions to think about: What are you looking for in a career and why? What are your strengths and weakness, likes and dislikes, intelligences and skills, goals and needs? What extracurricular activities have you been involved in during high school and how does that play into your career choice? (150-200 words)

PART III. Interview (100 points):

Interview one person working in your desired field. Write a formal paper about the interview experience. What did you learn about the person, job, salary, education requirements and working conditions? Include direct quotes from interview and cite properly using MLA format. Include a photo of the person and their contact information. (300 words minimum)

PART IV. Research (100 points):

Describe the career.

Create a resource page.

- Requirements: What are the educational requirements for the job? Coursework/classes, certifications, licenses, tests/board exams, graduate or post-graduate studies, degrees, and the time required to complete the degrees.
- Where to receive education and/or training: Where does one receive training for such a career? How many credits/hours does it take to finish program? How much does it cost? Find the schools, training facilities, vocational and academic where you would most likely get the education or training you need. When researching, look for the best schools in your special area, even if they are not local. Don't list all the schools, just give examples.
 - What index score do you need to get into the school?
 - What are financial costs (room and board)?
- Recertification and Professional Development: Do you need to get recertified in this field? What are three related fields? (For example an EMT has to retake with CPR.) Write about what experience, coursework, advanced degrees, internships, etc. that are required for advancement **financially**.
- Salary and Advantages: What are the benefits of this job? What's the salary to start and after you have experience? See the example on the next page

PART V. Resume (50 points):

- A) Print and upload a complete resume to College in Colorado, and B) include it in your portfolio.

PART VI. Bibliography (50 points):

Follow MLA rules for in-text citations, and for your bibliography page – a separate page that will appear at the end of your portfolio. Page will include interviews, websites, college in Colorado, and all other resources that you use.*

Use handout (also on missbass.yolasite.com), and *Writer's Inc.*

Sample of PART IV, Resource Page

Career: High School Teacher

The teaching profession varies from working with daycare and preschool students to being a college professor. A teaching degree does not only find teacher's in the classroom, but also in other entities of education. Teaching can also encompass working as a teacher's aide, in an afterschool program, or for a variety of other educational programs. In addition, one with a teaching degree can write and edit curriculum, textbooks, testing programs, etc. Successful teachers enjoy working with students and have a passion for what they do. They work directly with both, students and other teachers.

Requirements: Teaching requires a Bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) and a teaching certificate in a specific subject(s) and grade levels. A teaching certificate can be gained either during or after you earn a Bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.). Some people complete a twelve month or multi-year graduate/Master's program (M.A. or M.S.) in education or a specific field. While obtaining a teaching certificate, students take such classes as teaching methods, classroom management, education and law, pedagogy, differentiation, assessment, and methods for teaching specific subjects/age groups. Also, while taking classes a student must complete classroom observations and student teaching as well as have professors observe their teaching.

Certifications and Tests: All teachers must be certified to teach in the state they are teaching. A teacher can carry licenses for multiple states or content areas. In Colorado and many other states in order to obtain a license a teacher must pass PRAXIS in their subject area and grade level. Some states use other exams that are equivalent to the PRAXIS. Fingerprints and a background check are necessary to receive a certification or gain any position at a school.

Where to receive education and/or training:

(We would like you to have at least three schools listed in this section.)

University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO (especially for Special Education)

- Apply during college sophomore year
- 2.5 college GPA
- Full-time tuition (13-16 credit hours) would cost between \$3,288.10 to \$3,323.20 per semester just for classes (University of Northern Colorado). To find more information go to: <http://www.unco.edu/costs/>
- It is extremely likely to get into UNC with an index scoreⁱ (combined ACT and GPA) of 101 or higher (University of Northern Colorado). To find more information go to: <http://www.unco.edu/admissions/matrix/matrix.asp?resident=y>
- 122 Credits to graduate with a Bachelor's (BA) in English

University of Colorado at Denver, CO

- Please complete (as above) for each school.

Teacher's College at Columbia University in New York City, NY

- Please complete (as above) for each school.

Recertification and Professional Development:

Teachers must renew their teaching license every five years (Colorado Department of Education). This requires taking 6 semesters of college credit or 90 hours of professional development, and it costs \$80. Many teachers, like us, are constantly learning about their profession and earning credits through classes, workshops, conferences, teaching other teachers, and reading.

Salary and Advantages:

The average Colorado teacher makes \$49, 000. The average Salida teacher makes \$35, 000.

Teaching allows you to:

- Work with other educated people who care about the future.
- Work in a variety of settings.
- Have flexibility to move wherever you can get a job.
- Inspire young minds.
- Constantly be learning and changing
- Challenge yourself.
- Work one-on-one or in groups.

ⁱ <http://staffweb.psdschools.org/jmorrell/CCHE%20Index.pdf>