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| CAREER CRUISER | Choosing a Career |

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| **Step 4** | Make a Personalized Career and Academic Plan (PCAP) |
| **Driving Question** | What career pathway is right for me? |
| **Goal** | Make a career goal. |
| **Standard** | Explain their reasoning for choosing to pursue an occupation. (CR.2.1)  |

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| **FOR TEACHERS** |

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| **Timeframe** | 1 to 3 roughly hour-long lessons, depending on the student’s depth of career knowledge. |
| **Materials** | Print copies of the “For Students” section of this document. Internet and digital device access may be necessary if students need to research careers. |
| **Xello** | [Xello](https://xello.world/en/florida-college-career-ready/), Florida’s official K-12 public school career planning and work-based learning coordination system, has tools you can use on this topic! On each career profile page you can favorite and take notes on a career by pressing the heart icon on the page. Then, you can view your full list of favorited careers by clicking the heart icon by your profile picture at the top right. Under ‘Home’ and ‘View All Lessons,’ consider having students complete the ‘Decision Making’ lesson. |
| **Overview** | **Beginning*** Choosing a career can feel overwhelming for some students – like they are being asked to make massive decisions they feel unqualified to make that will have multi-decade ramifications. Reassure your students that, in many ways, they are more choosing a direction to head towards than they are deciding their lifelong fate. It is accetable for your students to change their minds later on! In fact, the economy will change so much in their future, they will likely have to change!

**Middle*** Students will synthesize their learning about careers – career assessment, career information, career data and career information – to prioritize their top choices for a career. Your students made need access to their notes, career assessment results, a career planning system or internet access.

**End*** Have students discuss in pairs and collectively their reasoning for prioritizing their topc career over all other possibilities.

**Extension*** Have students present their top career choice to the class using PowerPoint, a display board or other means.
* Have students research and write an essay explaining five “bad” reasons people choose a career.
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| **FOR STUDENTS** |

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| **Learn** |

**Decision Making Cycle**

In this lesson, you will make a decision on which career to pursue. This is a big decision and should be made thoughtfully considering a number of factors. That said, it is always okay to change paths, especially as you learn more and as the economy evolves. Below is a simple decision cycle diagram that shows the steps you will go through to make a decision about your future career.

**Start!**

**Choose a Career, Then Choose Training**

Many students who do not know much about careers end up choosing what college, university, or other training provider to enroll in before choosing what career they wish to pursue. Some of these students will switch majors multiple times, adding to the time and cost of their schooling. It is recommended that you put effort in now to learn about careers, choose a career goal right for you, and then based on that career goal, pursue training in alignment with that goal. Starting with the end in mind – a career right for you – can save you time, money and help you choose the training best for your career goals.

**Bring It All Together**

Picking what career is the best fit for you is hard work. Breaking the task of choosing a career down into smaller, more manageable chunks can help. Consider answering each of the questions in the below diagram individually and then finding a career that overlaps with each of your answers.

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| **Do** |

**Prioritize a Career**

Fill out the below career prioritization chart based on your career assessment results, research you have conducted and your personal experiences.

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|  | **Skills**: List 3 or more careers that you think you would be good at.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | **Interests**: List 3 or more careers that you are interested in.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |
| **Values**: List 3 or more careers that align with your values.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  |  | **Lifestyle**: List 3 or more careers that you think would give you the lifestyle you want.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  | **Top Pick(s):** From the above lists, choose your top three choices for a career. For each, list its pros (the things you like about the career) and cons (the things you don’t like about the career). |  |
| **Career** | **Pros** | **Cons** |
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| **Reflect** |
| Top Choice: List your top career choice. |  |
| Reasoning: Explain why this career is your top choice. |  |
| Learn More: What are topics you would like to learn about so you feel more confident about your choice? |  |