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| CAREER CRUISER | Choosing High School Courses & Extracurriculars |

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| **Step 4** | Make a Personalized Career and Academic Plan (PCAP). |
| **Driving Question** | What courses and extracurricular activities will help get me ready for my career? |
| **Goal** | Plan which courses and extracurricular activities you would like to participate in. |
| **Standard** | Describe which courses and extracurricular activities are in alignment with and preparatory for their chosen career pathway. (CR.2.5) |

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| **FOR TEACHERS** |

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| **Timeframe** | 1 to 2 roughly hour-long lessons.  |
| **Materials** | Course catalogue or equivalent that contains local high school courses available. Internet and digital device access for searching for extracurricular activity ideas. |
| **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! Within the Xello system, navigate to ‘Plans’ and then ‘Course Planner’ to have students plan future high school coursework.  |
| **Overview** | **Beginning*** College and career readiness involves engaging in activities and building skills relevant to college and career. Draw parallels between a coach preparing athletes for a game or a band director having band members practice music prior to an event.

**Middle*** Learn about options related to schools, courses and extracurricular activities.
* Develop a prioritized list of courses and extracurricular activities relevant to college and career readiness.

**End*** Have students discuss with a partner what courses and extracurricular activities they are interested in participating in to prepare for postsecondary or career.

**Extension*** Have students research a student club or organization that they could start. Have the student explain in an essay why the club or organization is worth starting at their school and how it could be set up.
* Have students present what courses and extracurricular activities they plan on participating in. Show in a table, flow chart or other graphical means what courses and activities they would like to participate in by grade.
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| **FOR STUDENTS** |

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| **Learn** |

**School Choice**

In Florida, students have options when it comes to choosing the school you attend, which affects which courses and opportunities are available to you. Below are just some of the examples of schools that you can choose to enroll in, at no cost:

* **Magnet schools** arepublic schools that offer special programs that students and families can choose to enroll in (there sometimes are wait lists to enroll). These programs may include a particular theme or focus such as a career academy that helps students prepare for specialized careers, early college credit programs, mathematics, science, technology, communications, international affairs, business or performing arts.
* **Charter schools** are public schools of choice that often offer innovative approaches to education.
* **Virtual education** is offered in Florida through the Florida Virtual School and some districts also offer virtual schools.
* **Dual enrollment** is an acceleration program that allows students to take courses at eligible technical colleges/centers, state/community colleges and universities. You will earn both high school credit and postsecondary credit at the same time and work your way towards one or more industry-recognized credentials that can help you get a job.

The Florida Department of Education’s School Choice website has much more information on options, including for private schools: <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/>. In addition, your local school district will have information on local options and explain application processes. List of school district schools and websites: <https://web03.fldoe.org/Schools/schoolmap_text.asp>.

**Course Options**

What courses are available to you will vary based on what school you go to. Below are a few courses relevant to career preparation and you could talk to your school or district staff to see if you can locally enroll.

* **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** programs offer courses that prepare you for careers that require specialized skills, pay well, and are in large or growing industries. You can also earn one or more industry-recognized certifications in these courses, which employers value and can help you get a job!
* **Work-based learning courses** give you first-hand experience with the tasks of a career and let you meet people from industry. These experiences help you build skills, meet people that can help you get a job, and give you experience that you can put on a resume or college application. Examples include: internships, on-the-job training, clinicals, practicums, pre-apprenticeships, service learning and more.
* **Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)** is a federal program sponsored by the United States Armed Forces in high schools and also in some middle schools. The program can include precision and exhibition military drill competitions, air rifle competitions (optional), Raider Challenge competitions, JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl (JLAB), Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Camp, and a physical fitness competition known as JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC). Learn more at: <https://www.todaysmilitary.com/education-training/rotc-programs>.
* **Early college credit courses** that allow you to earn both high school and college credit, such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) or dual enrollment.

**Extracurricular Activities**

There are many other activities that can help you build skills, build relationships, and build a competitive resume or application. Below are a few extracurricular activities ideas to consider. Check with your school on what is currently offered and, if it isn’t yet offered, see if there is a way you can help start something!

* **Join an academic club and competition**
* **Gain job skills and experience** through:
	+ Career and Technical Student Organization ([CTSO)](https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7515/urlt/CareerTechStudentOrg.pdf) is an extracurricular group for students on career pathways to further their knowledge and skills by participating in activities, events and competitions.
	+ [Civil Air Patrol](https://flwg.cap.gov/) Cadet Program is a program offered through the U.S. Air Force where students can build leadership, aerospace knowledge, fitness and character.
	+ [Junior Achievement](https://jausa.ja.org/), which provides experiential learning opportunities for entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial literacy.
	+ Employment – work part time during school or full time over the summer.
	+ Entrepreneurship/Freelancing – making goods or providing services on your own to earn money.
* **Develop leadership skill** through:
	+ Student government.
	+ Model UN.
	+ The American Legion’s Boys and Girls State.
	+ Speech or debate club.
	+ [Beta Club](https://www.betaclub.org/) provides opportunities to build leadership skills and serve community needs.
* **Engage your community** through volunteering, community service, religious activities, community-based organizations and/or faith-based organizations.
* **Take up a hobby**, such as sports, scouting, 4-H, art, music, social media and/or performance.

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| **Do** |

**Review Local Course Offerings**

Review a copy of your local curriculum guide. Identify what courses you would be interested in enrolling in to prepare for postsecondary training and career.

**Research and Brainstorm Extracurricular Ideas**

Review what clubs and organizations are available through your school. Identify which you are interested in joining, learning more about, or, if necessary, starting.

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| **Reflect** |
| **School Choice**: Are there other schools in your area or online that align with your postsecondary and career goals that you are interested in? What interests you about the school?  |  |
| **Courses**: Based on your research, which courses offered at your school align with your postsecondary or career goals? |  |
| **Extracurricular Activities**: Based on your research, what extracurricular activities are you interested in joining, learning more about, or starting? |  |