

Applying Skills to a Career Cluster



Grade Level:



Domain:



Academic Skills



College & Career Exploration

TIME:



45 Minutes

This lesson is designed to help students understand how learning about their skills in high school can help lead them to potential career.

Objectives

Students will:

1. Learn the difference between skills and technology skills.
2. Complete the Skills Assessment in MEFA Pathway.
3. Use their Skills Assessment results to explore careers and identify a career cluster suited for them.

MEFA Pathway Activities

- Skills Assessment
- My Careers
- My Journal
- My Profile

Materials Needed

- Internet connection

Vocabulary

- Skills
- Technology Skills

Future Ready Skills

- Evaluating
- Time Management
- Communication

PART 1

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE



Developing skills is important for students because it prepares them for postsecondary success.

Have a class discussion around the difference between skills and technology. skills. Explain to students that skills are interpersonal or people skills—they often relate to one's personality and ability to relate to others. Technology skills are measurable and teachable and include specific technical knowledge and ability.

Ask students why it's important to develop various types of skills. Answers may include:

- Amplifies employment and career development opportunities
- Helps you grow as an individual
- Helps you stand out from the crowd
- Helps you gain insight on achievement and capabilities

PART 2

APPLYING INFORMATION

Have students log in to MEFA Pathway and navigate to the *Self-Discovery* tab. Students should then click *Skills Assessment* and complete the assessment by rating their level of experience with each skill. Remind them to save and review the results of the assessment once they finish.

If they have already completed the assessment, they can skip the assessment and instead go back and review their results.

On the results page, students can click the green *ADD TO MY SKILLS* button. They will receive a pop-up box listing their skills. They can remove any skills they don't want to keep and then click the green *YES, ADD TO MY SKILLS* button to add the skills to their *My Skills* list on their **My Profile**, which can be found by clicking the *About Me* tab.

PART 3

EVALUATING INFORMATION

Students will now determine which careers share a similar skill set to those they desire to use.

Students should navigate to *Career Search* under the *Discover Careers* tab. Review how the filters work. Using the filters on the left navigation bar, students should click *USE MY SKILLS* in the *SKILLS* and/or *TECHNOLOGY SKILLS* section to populate a career list based on their assessment results.

Direct students to click on careers of interest to learn more about a particular career. Students should save up to three careers to their **My Careers** list by clicking on the green *SAVE* button.

Students should think about the following questions:

1. Does the projected growth of the career favor well? If not, what factors might be influenced by this outlook, and how might you need to differentiate yourself within a competitive job market?
2. Do the daily tasks and work activities align with your interests and values?
3. Does the median wage (annual/hourly) meet your lifestyle goals?
4. After saving at least three careers to your **My Careers** list, is there a career cluster that is consistent?

PART 4

CRITICAL THINKING/CREATIVE APPLICATION

Instruct students to create an entry in their **My Journal** found under the *About Me* tab, answering the following questions:

1. What is the career cluster appearing most on your **My Careers** list?
2. What skills may you need someday in a career?
3. Are there skills you are practicing today that you may use in your future career?
4. What is an experience you've had that has helped you develop a work related skill?
5. What is a current or upcoming experience that has allowed or will allow you to practice this skill?

Make sure to explain what you are learning or hope to learn about this skill and justify how it relates to your saved careers.

GRADING RUBRIC FOR JOURNAL ENTRIES

CATEGORY	EXCELLENT	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
	4	3	2	1
Description	Offers a vivid, detailed, and insightful description of the experience, setting the stage for deeper reflection.	Provides a clear and detailed account of the experience, including relevant details.	Clearly describes the experience, event, or learning.	Offers a limited description of the experience.
Analysis	Engages in critical thinking, questioning assumptions, and demonstrating a thorough understanding of the learning.	Connects the experience to personal learning and raises some insightful questions.	Attempts to analyze the experience but may lack depth or clarity.	Superficial analysis, lacking deeper thought.
Future Application	Formulates clear, actionable plans for utilizing new insights and knowledge in future learning and experiences	Identifies specific ways to apply the learning to future situations or goals.	Suggests some possible connections to future learning or practice.	Makes no clear connection to future learning/action.