

Exploring Postsecondary Options



Grade Level:

 7, 9, 10, 11

Domain:



College & Career Exploration

TIME:



45 Minutes

This lesson is designed to help students explore, assess, and compare postsecondary options. Students will match options to their own criteria to determine the best fit for them.

Objectives

Students will:

1. Identify and compare several postsecondary options.
2. Choose a postsecondary option based on their criteria that fits with their interests, experiences, and needs.
3. Develop criteria for analyzing postsecondary options.
4. Discuss criteria needed for making educational decisions.

MEFA Pathway Activities

- My Digital Portfolio
- My Goals

Materials Needed

- Internet connection
- EdNavigator's article, [6 Options to Consider for After High School](#)
- *Postsecondary Options Cards* (attached)

Lesson Prerequisites

1. Students should complete the **Making Goals and Action Plans** lesson.
2. Students should read the article, [6 Options to Consider for After High School](#) before the lesson starts. As they read, they should highlight or underline sections that are new information for them and mark any terms they need to understand better. When they come to class, they should be prepared to discuss the article and their own postsecondary preferences and career goals.
3. Students should create a list of criteria they can use for analyzing postsecondary options. This list will vary depending on each student's needs. You may wish to create a sample list to give students ideas. For example, student athletes will want to attend a school that offers their sport. So schools offering that sport would be part of the criteria used by student athletes.

Vocabulary

- Postsecondary Options
- Career Goal
- Future Path

Future Ready Skills

- Decision Making
- Evaluating
- Critical Thinking

PART 1

APPLYING INFORMATION



Ask the students to log in to MEFA Pathway and click on **My Goals** under the *Self-Discovery* tab to review their saved career goals and strategies from the *Making Goals and Action Plans* lesson.

As a class activity, have each student share two truthful statements about their interests, strengths, talents, or current plans, and one dream or goal for life after high school. For example, "I love drawing, I'm considering studying animation, and I dream of working for Pixar." Go around the class and have each student share their two truths and a dream.

PART 2

EVALUATING INFORMATION

Students should log in to MEFA Pathway and click on **My Digital Portfolio** under the *About Me* tab. Within their **My Digital Portfolio** have them select an option in the *FUTURE PATH* box based on their current career goals. Remind students that this selection could potentially change as they grow and their interests shift.

PART 3

CRITICAL THINKING/CREATIVE APPLICATION

Divide students into six groups and assign each group one of the postsecondary options from the article they read (4-year college, 2-year college, technical or vocational training, online degree program, military service or training, or gap year).

Using the *Postsecondary Options Cards* (attached), hand out the appropriate card to each group. Each group will create a visual representation of their assigned option. This should be a digital presentation (using a tool like PowerPoint or Google Slides), a poster, or even a short video. The presentation will highlight the focus of each option, the benefits, considerations, and career examples.

Recap for students that they learned to create personalized criteria for identifying the best postsecondary option to support their career goals. Encourage students to review and revise their criteria as their postsecondary plans take shape.