

GLE3OR Unit 3: Exploration of Opportunities

Activity 4: After High School Destinations

Overview

In this activity, students will explore learning opportunities available to them in their school and community. Through specific research techniques, students will effectively look for post-secondary learning opportunities to help them further develop their interests and skills.

Lesson

"After High-School" Destinations

As you make your way through high school working toward your OSSD, you should also be making a conscious effort to become well informed about all the possible options that are available to you when you graduate.

The Ontario Curriculum allows a student in Grade 9 and 10 to move freely between applied and academic courses. This approach allows you to discover your strengths in a variety of subject areas and experiment with other courses in preparation for Grade 11. When you are in Grade 11, it is recommended that your pathway focus on a particular destination, be it workplace, college, or university. This approach allows you to prepare for your post-secondary options more effectively.

Let's take a look at the scenario below, which will help you to discover what "after high-school" options are available and which ones best apply to you.

You find yourself in a very awkward situation. You suddenly realize that you are in Grade 12 and will be graduating from high school in one more semester. It certainly is late for you to realize this; however, there is still time for you to gain an understanding about your options after graduation.

Apprenticeship



An apprenticeship is a practical way for you to learn specific job skills. During an apprenticeship you will observe the work of a journeyman and apply those skills you learned on the job. While you are in an apprenticeship, you are earning money for the work that you do. Once you have finished the required number of hours, you will receive a Certificate of Qualification. The hours that are required vary depending on the apprenticeship you are involved with. It is possible for you to start accumulating hours toward your certificate while you are still in high school through the OYAP program. If this is something that you are interested in, you should check out the **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program** website (google it). For most apprenticeships you will need an OSSD, and it is your responsibility to find an employer who will take you on as an apprentice.

College



A community college is a post-secondary institution that provides job-related programs that combine theory and practical experience. The majority of programs offered through the colleges allow students to graduate with either a 2-year certificate or a 3-year diploma. Recently colleges have begun to participate in articulation programs, in conjunction with universities, which allow the colleges to grant degrees. Colleges have also started offering specialty degrees in selected technical areas. Students also have the opportunity to apply to any number of private colleges which offer similar programs, often in a specialized field. If you are considering applying to college, you will be responsible for covering all the costs associated with your program. Some of these costs include: tuition, residence/accommodations (if you are living away from home), books, food, entertainment, clothing, and transportation. The requirement for being accepted into college is an OSSD, perhaps with certain high school courses as prerequisites, depending on the program to which you are applying.

University

A university is a post-secondary institution that grants 3-year general or 4-year honours degrees upon completion of a program. Universities are set up to provide an environment of academic learning through study and research. This experience will also prepare you for life-long learning. Many degree areas that you may wish to pursue are made up of courses similar to those offered to you in high school. For example, you may wish to continue studies in mathematics, English, or French. As well, you could study in subject areas such as geology, sociology, and psychology, just to name a few.



Along with these various degrees, there are also opportunities for you to study in professional schools such as engineering or nursing. Once you have completed a portion of or all of your undergraduate degree, you can pursue studies in professional schools such as medicine, dentistry, law, and teaching. Studying in these areas will require extra years of university above your undergraduate requirements. If university is your passion, it is also possible to continue studies in any of the areas already mentioned and receive a master's degree (one to two years) or even a doctorate (up to five years beyond a master's degree).

If you are considering applying to university, you will be responsible for covering all the costs associated with your program. Some of these costs include tuition, residence/accommodations (if you are living away from home), books, food, entertainment, clothing, and transportation. There are certain opportunities for you to apply to co-op programs, depending on the university you apply to. If you are accepted into a co-op placement, you will work within your area of interest and get paid while you are gaining valuable work experience. The requirement for being accepted into university is an OSSD including certain prerequisite high school courses, depending on the program to which you are applying.

Work



Work is the ultimate goal for everyone. After high school, some students will choose to pursue further training or education, while others will choose to go directly to the workplace. Many occupational fields offer entry-level positions for students with a high school diploma. Using the results of earlier activities identifying interests, values, skills, and occupational information, you should decide on the field of work you would like to pursue. Next, research the companies in your area.

Interested in sales? What type of product would you want to sell? What companies or stores in your area sell this product? This will allow you to target the sector of the job market that most suits your skills and personality, a key factor in job satisfaction.

In many cities, there are agencies or help centers where you can get assistance in your job search preparation. Websites such as Mazemaster.ca and Next Steps.org also provide help on all aspects of looking for work. **If you are proceeding on your own you need to be prepared by having the following documents: social insurance number, resume (updated and error free), as well as a cover letter and possibly a thank-you letter.** As you begin your job search; you should be making personal contacts (networking), trying to discover the hidden job market and any possible leads. You will also need to prepare for an interview to increase your chances of making a good impression and getting that job. Some of the things that you might want to consider in preparation for the interview are interview do's and don'ts, knowing how important first impressions are, understanding the strengths that the employer will be asking about in the interview, and perhaps practicing answers to some commonly asked questions in a mock interview with someone you know.

Assignment

Now that you have had an opportunity to experience a brief introduction to post-secondary options, it is time to gain more of an understanding through participation in a research activity.

1. Complete the following worksheets.
2. Identify 3 pros and 3 cons for each post-secondary option – apprenticeship, work, college and university.
3. What do you think would be the best post-secondary option for you? Why?

Apprenticeships

Visit apprenticesearch.com and click the **About Trades** tab at the top of the webpage to complete the following questions. Choose any **two** apprenticeships and compare them using the chart below.

What does a _____ do?	What does a _____ do?
What are the job related skills and interests?	What are the job related skills and interests?
What preparation and training do you need?	What preparation and training do you need?
Expected Salary?	Expected Salary?

Jobs

Choose any 2 jobs that might interest you that **do not require any post-secondary education**, found on the online **Job Bank** at <http://www.jobbank.gc.ca> and complete the organizer below.

Job #1:	Job #2:
Employer:	Employer:
Job Description:	Job Description:
Wage rate:	Wage rate:
Skills, Experience, Requirements:	Skills, Experience, Requirements:

College and University

Visit the St. Clair College and University of Windsor websites to learn more about a specific program being offered at each institution that may interest you. Complete the chart below.

	College	University
Destination	St. Clair College www.stclaircollege.ca	University of Windsor www.uwindsor.ca
Program Name		
Program Admission Requirements	Required Courses: Other required documentation & notes: Admission average(s): Factors other than grades that may be considered? (e.g., portfolio, references, experience):	Required Courses: Other required documentation & notes: Admission average(s): Factors other than grades that may be considered? (e.g., portfolio, references, experience):
Program Length		
Total Cost of Program	Annual Cost: Number of Years = Estimate Total Tuition: Add books + supplies x number years Total Cost of Program: _____	Annual Cost: Number of Years = Estimate Total Tuition: Add books + supplies x number years Total Cost of Program: _____