

Finding a Career That Fits

Part 3 - Digging into Occupational Research

Objective: This lesson will help students narrow down career options by completing in-depth career research on 3-5 of their top occupational interests. During this activity students will be take a deeper dive into occupational titles, dispel myths about careers, and discern factors of compatibility based on Department of Labor information. Performing career research can help students weigh all of the factors and options to help make an informed decision.

Time Required: 20 – 30 minutes

Materials Required:

- Occupations that Interest Me handout
- Occupations Research Notes Handout
- Access to Onetonline.com (ideally)
- Michigan 50 Hot Jobs brochure (for those without internet access)

ENGAGE

Key Questions:

- Which 3-5 careers match up to my personal goals and ambitions?
- What are some of the specific tasks and skills that make this a good match for me? Why?
- What is the job outlook for the next 10 years?
- What education steps will be needed to pursue these careers? Do these align with my goals?

EXPLORE

With the previous list of “Occupations that Interest Me” in hand, have students open their browsers and to back to onetonline.org and research each of their occupational titles, one at a time. Do this by having them enter each title into the “Occupation Quick Search” box at the upper right-hand side of webpage. Encourage them to take their time reading over the details, checking them against their interests, skills, values, and personal style. Use the Occupations Research Notes handout as a place to capture detailed notes. As they sift through the list, be sure to have them consider the education and salary levels. Let them know that they are the one that decides if the occupations stays on their career list, or gets marked off.

ELABORATE

To help students connect their career research to current opportunities, have them use a job search engine (like Indeed.com) to look up a job posting for one of their preferred occupational titles. This will

help them verify whether or not the required education, experience requirements and salary are aligned with the research tool, [onetonline.org](https://www.onetonline.org). By engaging in this extended learning activity, students will also develop an understanding of an actual career ladder due to the information outlined in the job postings.

EVALUATE

Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of occupational requirements by a brief writing assignment. With students as the main character, they will develop a story based on the prompt "A day in the Life of a _____ (occupation title of choice)". They should use at least 6-8 facts about the occupation in their story.

Occupation Research Notes

*As you review 3-5 occupations that stand out on your **Occupations that Interest Me** handout, document the career information, along with your personal insights, in the boxes below. Taking notes will help you compare and contrast the similarities and differences as you move through the decision making process. These notes will also be very helpful as you consider a future informational interview or job shadow.*

Occupation #1

Name of Occupation	
What are the basic job duties?	
What is the median salary?	
How do you get into this job? (Education)	
What is the job outlook? (Is it going to be in demand?)	
What type of skills are needed to do this job?	
What are some pros/cons of this job?	Pros: Cons:
Are there any red flags (concerns) about this job?	
What people, websites or books can provide me with more information about this career?	
Are there any "related" occupations listed that would be worth researching?	

Occupation #2

Name of Occupation	
What are the basic job duties?	
What is the median salary?	
How do you get into this job? (Education)	
What is the job outlook? (Is it going to be in demand?)	
What type of skills are needed to do this job?	
What are some pros/cons of this job?	Pros: Cons:
Are there any red flags (concerns) about this job?	
What people, websites or books can provide me with more information about this career?	
Are there any "related" occupations listed that would be worth researching?	

Occupation #3

Name of Occupation	
What are the basic job duties?	
What is the median salary?	
How do you get into this job? (Education)	
What is the job outlook? (Is it going to be in demand?)	
What type of skills are needed to do this job?	
What are some pros/cons of this job?	Pros: Cons:
Are there any red flags (concerns) about this job?	
What people, websites or books can provide me with more information about this career?	
Are there any "related" occupations listed that would be worth researching?	

One suggested next step is to conduct an **Informational Interview**. This is when you talk with a person that works in one of the occupations you are exploring. These invaluable step will help give you an inside perspective that can't be found through traditional career research. Check out <https://www.careeronestop.org/JobSearch/Network/informational-interviews.aspx> for informational interview steps.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
Department of Technology,
Management and Budget
Bureau of Labor Market Information
and Strategic Initiatives

HOT 50

MICHIGAN'S HIGH-DEMAND,
HIGH-WAGE CAREERS

**MICHIGAN'S HIGH-DEMAND,
HIGH-WAGE CAREERS**

**PROJECTED ANNUAL
JOB OPENINGS** **HOURLY WAGE
RANGE** **JOB GROWTH
2016-2026** **TYPICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING
BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL**

Accountants and Auditors	3,520	\$25 - \$42	9.4%	Bachelor's degree, license
Administrative Services Managers	630	\$35 - \$55	9.4%	Bachelor's degree, plus work experience
Architectural and Engineering Managers	800	\$51 - \$74	9.0%	Bachelor's degree, plus work experience, license
Carpenters	2,600	\$16 - \$28	7.5%	Apprenticeship, license
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	1,570	\$19 - \$28	13.6%	Bachelor's degree, license
Civil Engineers	860	\$30 - \$45	16.8%	Bachelor's degree, license
Commercial and Industrial Designers	740	\$28 - \$46	7.9%	Bachelor's degree
Computer and Information Systems Managers	830	\$46 - \$73	12.3%	Bachelor's degree, plus work experience
Computer Systems Analysts	1,200	\$31 - \$49	8.5%	Bachelor's degree
Computer User Support Specialists	1,790	\$17 - \$29	11.0%	Some college, no degree
Construction Managers	540	\$33 - \$56	9.9%	Bachelor's degree, plus moderate-term OJT
Dental Hygienists	770	\$27 - \$34	20.0%	Associate's degree, license
Education Administrators, Postsecondary	630	\$34 - \$66	10.6%	Master's degree, plus work experience
Educational, Guidance, School, and Vocational Counselors	880	\$19 - \$33	15.2%	Master's degree, license
Electrical Engineers	780	\$33 - \$50	13.5%	Bachelor's degree, license
Electricians	2,580	\$20 - \$35	6.8%	Apprenticeship, license
Elementary School Teachers Except Special Education	2,840	\$22 - \$30	5.6%	Bachelor's degree, license
Financial Managers	1,460	\$40 - \$72	18.3%	Bachelor's degree, plus work experience
General and Operations Managers	5,760	\$33 - \$74	8.8%	Bachelor's degree, plus work experience
Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	730	\$36 - \$82	25.4%	Doctoral or professional degree
Healthcare Social Workers	800	\$22 - \$31	18.7%	Master's degree, plus internship, license
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	1,020	\$17 - \$29	13.7%	Postsecondary nondegree award, plus long-term OJT, license
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	6,870	\$16 - \$24	9.7%	Postsecondary nondegree award, plus short-term OJT, license
Human Resources Specialists	1,600	\$21 - \$36	7.3%	Bachelor's degree
Industrial Engineers	2,200	\$34 - \$51	18.2%	Bachelor's degree, license
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	1,840	\$19 - \$30	10.0%	Long-term OJT
Insurance Sales Agents	1,410	\$17 - \$38	9.9%	Moderate-term OJT, license
Lawyers	940	\$33 - \$67	7.3%	Doctoral or professional degree, license
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	1,420	\$20 - \$26	10.4%	Postsecondary nondegree award, license
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	2,080	\$21 - \$40	24.0%	Bachelor's degree
Marketing Managers	450	\$42 - \$77	11.5%	Bachelor's degree, plus work experience
Mechanical Engineers	3,160	\$34 - \$53	15.2%	Bachelor's degree, license
Medical and Health Services Managers	1,180	\$35 - \$61	18.1%	Bachelor's degree, plus work experience
Nurse Practitioners	350	\$43 - \$55	34.3%	Master's degree, license
Occupational Therapists	380	\$31 - \$45	22.9%	Master's degree, license
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	730	\$19 - \$29	14.5%	Associate's degree
Personal Financial Advisors	530	\$26 - \$72	15.1%	Bachelor's degree, plus long-term OJT, license
Physical Therapist Assistants	630	\$20 - \$30	30.7%	Associate's degree, license
Physical Therapists	630	\$35 - \$48	27.4%	Doctoral or professional degree, license
Physician Assistants	440	\$43 - \$58	37.8%	Master's degree, license
Physicians and Surgeons	540	\$29 - \$100+	9.8%	Doctoral or professional degree, plus residency, license
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	1,620	\$22 - \$36	12.7%	Apprenticeship, license
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	1,330	\$22 - \$33	6.6%	Moderate-term OJT
Registered Nurses	6,650	\$28 - \$38	13.5%	Bachelor's degree, license
Sales Managers	1,000	\$44 - \$78	7.0%	Bachelor's degree, plus work experience
Sales Representatives, Except Technical and Scientific Products	5,680	\$20 - \$43	2.9%	Moderate-term OJT
Social and Community Service Managers	550	\$26 - \$38	16.3%	Bachelor's degree, plus work experience
Software Developers, Applications	2,160	\$33 - \$53	31.0%	Bachelor's degree
Software Developers, Systems Software	1,000	\$33 - \$52	15.2%	Bachelor's degree
Training and Development Specialists	690	\$20 - \$36	12.4%	Bachelor's degree, plus work experience

Source: DTMf, Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives

OJT = On-the-Job Training

LEARN MORE:

MICHIGAN.GOV/LMI

Note: This list includes occupations that show a favorable mix of projected long-term job growth, projected annual job openings, and median wages. It does not necessarily reflect current hiring demand. Hourly wage represents the 25th to 75th percentiles.

LOOKING FOR CAREER INFORMATION? NEED HELP WITH A JOB SEARCH?

MITALENT.ORG

Pure Michigan Talent Connect is your launch pad for new jobs, careers, and talent. It is an online marketplace offered by the Michigan Talent Investment Agency. It connects Michigan's job seekers and employers, and serves as a central hub linking all public and private stakeholders who support Michigan's workforce. Pure Michigan Talent Connect serves as the state's labor exchange system and provides access to thousands of jobs, as well as valuable tools and resources to help with your career exploration and job searching needs.

MICHIGAN.GOV/TED

The Talent and Economic Development Department of Michigan and its subsidiary agencies work to provide the connections, expertise, and innovative solutions to drive continued business growth, build vibrant communities, create affordable housing, generate tourism, and attract and retain key talent to fill Michigan's vast pipeline of opportunities.

MICHIGAN.GOV/TIA

Businesses need a talented workforce. Workers need the right skills to compete for available jobs. The Talent Investment Agency (TIA) was created to bridge the gap between talent and employers. This is accomplished through programs focused on job preparedness, career-based education, worker training, employment assistance and unemployment programs.

PATHFINDER.MITALENT.ORG

Michigan Talent Investment Agency is excited to introduce Pathfinder—a one-of-a-kind career exploration tool that's designed to increase the number of Michigan residents with high-quality, in-demand degrees and credentials. Pathfinder provides current Michigan labor market information to students, their parents, guidance staff, and all job seekers to help them make informed choices about education and career options, as well as guides the creation of educational development plans.

MICHIGAN.GOV/LMI

The Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives is the official source for high quality demographic and labor market information for the state of Michigan and its regions. We provide partners and customers, including job-seekers, with accurate, objective, reliable, timely, accessible, and transparent information and insights.

MICHIGANWORKS.ORG

The Michigan Works! System is the first unified workforce development system in the U.S. and an integral partner in developing Michigan's economic future. The System is demand-driven, locally-responsive and ready to meet the needs of each community.

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