

# Career Research Project: College Research: Student Worksheet

**Goal:** You will conduct a college search in order to learn about certificates and degrees that support your career aspirations.

## Part I: Introduction – Bell Work

What types of degrees do colleges offer? What do you know about the type of education you need in order to pursue one of your career interests?

## Part II: Activity

1. Sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**. Hover on **My Plan** at the top of the page, and then click on **My Career Plan**. Review your **Career List**.
  - If you do not have careers in the list, conduct a career search before moving on to #2. To do this, hover on **Career** at the top of the page and click on **Career Search Tool**. There are three ways to research careers: Search by Keyword, Select Bright Outlook Occupation, and Select Industry filter.
  - Use any of the methods to search careers. When you find careers you like, you can ♥ (favorite) them either from your results list or at the top of career factsheets – this will save careers to your **My Plan**.
2. Your **Career List** helps you better understand each of your favorite careers by allowing you to sort your careers by education level, national median salary, and bright outlook.
3. Understanding required education levels for careers is an important step in beginning your planning after high school, also called postsecondary planning. The key education levels for you to understand are: certificate, associate degree, and bachelor's degree. Use the search bar and the keyword "degrees" in order to read **California Colleges Degrees and Certificates**. Discuss what you learn with an elbow partner.
4. Now that you understand these education levels, look at your **Career List** again. What are the required education levels for the careers on your list? Is this surprising? Some careers list more than one education level because earning more degrees may expand your career opportunities.
5. Click on the name of one of your careers. This will take you to the career factsheet. Scroll down to the section titled Education Level. There, you will see what you have to study (also called programs and majors) for that career. Hover on the name of a program or major and you can read a short description.

6. Next, click on **View Colleges** next to one of the programs or majors. This will give you a list of colleges where you can study to earn the appropriate credential.
7. Narrow your list of colleges by selecting filters on the left-hand side. Keep in mind, the more criteria you enter, the shorter your results list will be. Click on the name of one of the colleges in your results list. Review the college factsheet.
8. Pay special attention to the **Degrees and Majors** tab. There is where you can learn more about certificates and degrees offered by each college.
9. When you find colleges you like, you can ♥ (favorite) them either from your results list or at the top of college factsheets – this will save colleges to your **My Plan**.
10. Continue to find colleges and ♥ (favorite) at least three. You can return to your **Career List** and find colleges based on careers you already know you like. Or, you can also maximize the **College Search Tool**. Try these search methods:
  - Search for colleges using the **Programs/Majors** or **California College Type** filters.
  - Search schools nationwide or only in California.
  - Search by typing the name of a career in the search bar. Add any additional filters, and you will see a list of colleges that offer programs related to your search term.

### Part III: Reflect

- Go to **My Plan** and then **My Journal**. In the **College Journal** section, find **prompt #15**:  
*“Which of the different credential options: certificate, associate degree, or bachelor’s degree, feels like the best fit for you? Explain.”*
- Respond to the above prompt. Follow your teacher’s instructions if they assign a different prompt.

### Part IV: Project Prompt

Using the data from both your career and college search, write an argument suggesting the best path for attaining your career goal based on your research. What steps will you need to take in order to reach this goal? What is the preferred timeline? What choices does one have to make, and what are the mandatory requirements? What will YOU do? Begin with a strong claim defining your goal and be sure to cite your evidence (for help, visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>). No counterargument is necessary in this instance.

- Your teacher may also give you directions to prepare a presentation to share your career research.