Exploring Careers in Skilled Professions

It's never too early to take time to think about a career or occupation you'd like to pursue after high school. It can help to explore careers that are related to subject areas you like in school and then research what those careers involve, what opportunities may be available in your area, and what education or training you might need to set you up for success after you graduate.

Today you will be exploring careers in the skilled trades that may relate to career and technical education classes, internships, or apprenticeships you may have had (or will have) during high school. These careers include (but are *definitely* not limited to) the following:

- airplane mechanic
- construction manager
- crane operator
- electrician
- commercial truck driver
- electrical lineworker
- welder
- plumber
- mechatronics tech
- CAD Drafter
- Machinist
- HVAC/Refrigeration Tech

Instructions

1. Begin by visiting Be Pro Be Proud SC's website at www.beprobeproudsc.org.
2. Click on the Professions tab at the top to begin exploring some in-demand fields in South Carolina.
3. Click on an occupation to see a description of the key job responsibilities, general salary information, and projected job outlook for that profession in SC.
4. Visit www.careeronestop.org/toolkit and click Occupation Profile to search for more details about the profession that interests you.
5. Review the occupation profile and answer the questions below.

Exploring a Career

What career did you choose? _____

Briefly describe this career below. Include some basic details about some activities you might do as part of this career. What types of knowledge, skills, and abilities do you need to be successful in this career? List at least five. How much education do most people in this career usually have? What education and job experience might you need to get started in this career? What is the typical pay for this career? Given the typical pay in this career, would you be willing to pay the education and training costs this career requires? Why or why not? Does it seem like you'd have good opportunities to get jobs in this career field in your area? Are there likely to be more or fewer job opportunities in the future for this occupation? Complete the following questions to aid you in your assessment of this career.

Responsibilities/Tasks (Daily and Project-Based):

_____

_____

_____

Knowledge/Skills Required:

_____

_____

_____

Education/Licensing Required:

_____

Experience Required to Start: _____

Average Pay: _____

Projected Job Growth: _____

Digging Deeper: Exploring Colleges and Training Institutions

Now it's time to get information about the training opportunities available for your chosen field. There are many resources that can assist you with finding training and apprenticeship programs that will get you started in your career. The instructions below will point you to some helpful websites. These resources are only the beginning, however; continue to do your research – both online and through your counselors --to get the most thorough picture of your options.



Instructions

1. Begin by visiting Be Pro Be Proud SC's website at www.beprobeproudsc.org.
2. Click on the Find Training tab at the top to see certification and degree programs available in South Carolina.
3. Click on the Resource Center tab to see apprenticeship and scholarship opportunities available from South Carolina employers.
4. Visit www.careeronestop.org/toolkit and click Training to search for even more details about training, certifications, and scholarships available in your field.
5. Visit https://www.apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-job-finder to see jobs and programs available in your chosen field and in your local area.
6. Gather information to answer the questions below.

Local Training Programs/Sites:

_____

_____

_____

National Training Programs/Sites:

_____

_____

_____

Scholarships Available:

_____

_____

_____

Apprenticeship Opportunities:

_____

_____

_____

Congratulations!

You are now on your way to creating a successful career in a high-paying, in-demand field!

Enjoy the fruits of your labor – *less* debt, *more* financial freedom, and *consistent* personal satisfaction at seeing the tangible results of the work you have chosen!

Worksheet courtesy of:

BE PRO BE PROUD

BEPROBEPROUDSC.ORG