

# Getting Experience



Recommended  
9th Grade



Length  
105 Minutes

## About This Lesson

To understand how getting experience can help students achieve their career goals, they will reflect on skills they are developing now as valuable experiences for their future success and explore different ways they can get work-related experience while still in school.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- identify skills they'd like to use in their future careers
- explore different ways they can get work experience now
- identify several ways to get experience while still in school
- assess which type of experience is best suited for their career interests and goals
- generate a list of school offerings, including courses or specialized programs, that provide an opportunity to gain work-related experience

## Driving Question

How can I get work-related experience while still in school?

## Future-Ready Skills

Self-knowledge

Evaluating

Research

Collaborative

## Lesson Breakdown

30  
minutes

### Activity 1 - Skills Lab

In this activity, students will complete the **Skills Lab** assessment to identify how often they'd like to use various skills in their future career and update their **Skills** section. Following the assessment, students will review their updated career matches based on their skill preferences.

25  
minutes

### Activity 2 - Work-related Skills

In this activity, students will use their **Skills Lab** results to review their saved careers and add at least 3 experiences that demonstrate how they are practicing those skills today.

25  
minutes

### Activity 3 - Xello Lesson: Getting Experience

Direct students to complete Xello's lesson **Getting Experience** where they will explore different ways they can get work experience now, identify several ways to get experience while still in school, and then assess which type of experience is best suited for their career interests and goals.

## Xello Entry Point

Students will complete the Skills Lab assessment and update their saved careers based on skills they'd like to use always or often in the future. Using their **Skills Lab** results, students will review their saved careers and add at least 3 experiences to the **Experiences Timeline** to fulfill the prerequisites for Xello's lesson **Getting Experience**. It is also recommended students complete **Matchmaker** and Xello's lesson **Explore Career Matches** prior to this lesson.

## Vocabulary

- Work experience
- Volunteering
- Skills
- Job shadow
- Co-op or work placement
- Summer or part-time job
- Internship

Continued on next page

Lesson Overview

# Getting Experience



Recommended  
9th Grade



Length  
105 Minutes

25  
minutes

## Activity 4 - Work-related Opportunities

In this activity, students will explore school offerings, including courses or specialized programs, to learn more about the opportunities available to them to gain work-related experience.

# Activity 1 - Skills Lab



Recommended  
9th Grade



Length  
30 Minutes

## Inquiry Prompts

- What skills do I desire to use always or often?
- Which careers match my skill desires?
- Why do I desire to use these skills?

## Teaching Strategies

In this activity, students will complete the **Skills Lab** assessment to identify how often they'd like to use various skills in their future career. Students will use their assessment answers to update their **Skills** section. Then, students will explore their updated career matches based on their skill preferences.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students.
- 2 As an activity wrap-up, share the top 5 saved skills from the **Student Work Report** from your Xello Educator account. Use the group filter to show the results for just your list of students.
- 3 Ask the students to discuss in small groups or share as a class: why do you think these are the top identified skills? Which of these skills appeared in your career exploration and how do they relate to tasks within that career?

## Materials Required

- [Student Instructions](#)
- Computer or tablet with internet access

## Artifacts

Students will complete the **Skills Lab** assessment, save at least 3 careers related to their skill preferences, and identify career related skills they like for each.

Continued on next page

## Skills Lab

---

### Student Instructions

Your preference to use certain skills over others may help you discover careers that you have not considered before. If you're interested in using a skill always or often in your career, you'll want to make sure that skill is used in your career journey.

- 1 From your Xello **About Me** page, complete the **Skills Lab** assessment to determine your level of desire to use 35 different skills in your career.
- 2 After completing the **Skills Lab** assessment, review your results. Which skills do you want to use always or often? And which skills do you rarely or never want to use?
  - Add the top 3-5 skills that you want to use always or often to your **About Me Skills** section. Rate each skill (1 star = beginner, 2 stars = rising star, or 3 stars = master). Although you want to use these skills always or often it doesn't mean you are a master of them now. You still have lots of time to develop these skills further.
- 3 Which careers share a similar skill set to those you desire to use? From **Explore Careers** in Xello, use the **Skills Lab** filter to order the list of career matches based on your Skill Lab answers. Do any results surprise you? Remember you can always **Hide** a career from your match results, if it does not align with your personal values, future aspirations, or lifestyle goals.
- 4 Explore some career profiles with the intention to save at least 3 you'd consider as possibilities for yourself. Within each profile think about the following:
  - **Find out why** the career has been assigned the match level (excellent, good, fair, or poor) by clicking on this option at the top of the profile. Review the overall match calculation and confirm your Matchmaker and Skills Lab answers accurately reflect your likes, dislikes, and preferences.
  - Does the career projection favour well? If not, what factors might be impacting this outlook and how might you need to differentiate yourself within a competitive job market?
  - Do the core tasks and workplace description align with your interests and values?
  - Is your personality style well-suited for this career?
  - Does the mid-range salary meet your lifestyle goals?
- 5 After saving at least 3 careers, within each profile update how you feel about each career, and add why you think you like a particular skill within each career in the **Likes and Dislikes** investigate card.

## Activity 2 - Work-Related Skills



Recommended  
9th Grade



Length  
25 Minutes

### Inquiry Prompts

- What skills may I need someday in a career?
- Are there skills I am practising today one's I may use in my future career?
- What's an experience I've had that helped me develop a work-related skill?

### Teaching Strategies

In this activity, students will use their **Skills Lab** results to review their saved careers and add or update at least 3 experiences that demonstrate how they are practicing those skills today.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students.

### Materials Required

- [Student Instructions](#)
- Computer or tablet with internet access

### Artifacts

Students will save 3 careers and update their **Experience Timeline** to include 3 experiences that demonstrate how they're practising work-related skills.

Continued on next page

## Work-Related Skills

---

### Student Instructions

Knowing what skills you may encounter on the job could help you find informal and unpaid work experiences now to help you gain valuable knowledge for your career someday. Following the steps below, access Xello to **Find Out Why** certain skills are used more often than others in a career and then update or add informal or unpaid work experiences (at least 3) to your **Experiences Timeline** to demonstrate how you are already gaining valuable experience.

- 1 From your saved options in Xello, select 3 careers for this activity. If you haven't saved at least 3 careers, navigate to your **About Me** page to view your Skills Lab results. You'll find a list of **Your Career Matches** at the top of this results page. Explore the list of matches and save those you consider as a possibility for yourself.
- 2 Complete the following for 3 saved careers:
  - From the career profile, navigate to **Find Out Why** to explore how your Skills Lab answers impact your career match results. What skills would you use often or sometimes in this career?
  - Look for one skill you desire to use differently. If this is a skill that's used often or sometimes in the career does that change how you feel about the career as a possibility for yourself?
  - Select one skill from the list that is used often or sometimes that you think is important to gain more experience in.
  - On your **About Me** page update your **Experience Timeline** to show either a current or upcoming experience that has you practising this skill. Make sure to explain what you are or hope to learn about this skill and justify how it relates to the saved career.

## Activity 4 - Work-Related Opportunities



Recommended  
9th Grade



Length  
25 Minutes

### Inquiry Prompts

- How can I get work-related experience while I am still in school?

### Teaching Strategies

In this activity, students will explore school offerings, including courses or specialized programs, to learn more about the opportunities available to them to gain work-related experience.

- 1 Connect with your school counselling department to see if they'd like to speak to your class about courses or specialized programs that support work-related experiences, such as job shadowing, co-op, internship, skills trade or technology education courses.
- 2 Then give your students time to explore **Course Planner** on Xello (if your school has this feature enabled) or provide them an alternate way to explore your school's high school course guide. Have them identify at least 1 work-related opportunity they'd like to consider pursuing.
- 3 Direct them to add this work-related opportunity to the details of a career-based goal within their Xello **My Plans** section. Provide these prompts to help with their career-based goal setting:
  - What work-related opportunity at high school would help you gain experience in this career path?
  - What do you hope to gain by participating in this work-related opportunity?

### Materials Required

- Xello **Course Planner** feature or your High School course guide
- Computer or tablet with internet access

### Artifacts

Students will update one career-based goal in their Xello **My Plans** to include a work-related opportunity that would help them gain experience in the career pathway while still in school.