Program prospects

10 Recommended:
10th grade

Length:
95 minutes

About this lesson

To reflect on their strengths, academic interests, and career interests when developing and revising their postsecondary goals students will research education and training pathways for careers of interest, distinguish between different types of postsecondary programs, such as apprenticeships and degree programs, and create a tool to help them identify preferred education pathways.

Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- identify education programs toward their preferred destinations
- distinguish between different types of postsecondary programs, such as apprenticeships and degree programs
- explore career options related to different types of programs
- evaluate their program options in terms of their strengths, academic interests, and career interests

Driving question

Which type of program works best with my career and education goals?

Future-ready skills

Research   Evaluating   Reflecting

Lesson breakdown

20 minutes

Activity 1: Program pros and cons

In this activity, students will research the education and training pathways for 2 saved careers, identifying pros and cons for at least 4 **Programs** they think are a good fit for after high school.

55 minutes

Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Program prospects

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson titled **Program prospects** where they'll distinguish between different types of postsecondary programs, such as apprenticeships and degree programs and explore career options related to different types of programs.

20 minutes

Activity 3: Rank program factors

In this activity, students will create a program ranking tool to help them with the process of identifying preferred education pathways that lead to saved career destinations.

⬡ Xello entry point

In the first activity students will save at least 3 **Programs** as it is a prerequisite for Xello's **Program prospects** lesson. It is also recommended they have saved careers and completed the **Explore career matches** lessons.

Vocabulary

- University
- College
- Degree program
- Graduate program
- Certificate
- Diploma
- Applied degree
- Apprenticeship
- Specialized program
- Co-op program
- Internship program
- Concurrent program
- Transfer program
- Joint program
- Online program

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Activity 1: Program pros and cons

10 Recommended:
10th grade

Length:
20 minutes

Inquiry prompts

- What are the education and training pathways for careers I like?
- What kind of education programs interest me?

Before you begin

- Students will save at least 3 **Programs** as a prerequisite for the lesson. It is also recommended they have saved careers and completed the Explore career matches lesson.

Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will research the education and training pathways for 2 saved careers, identifying pros and cons for at least 3 **Programs** they think are a good fit for after high school. By completing this activity students will fulfill the prerequisite for the **Program prospects** Xello lesson and be prepared to reflect on their program preferences with greater detail.

1 Provide the instructions on the next page to your students.

Materials required

- Student instructions
- Computer or tablet with internet access

Artifacts

Students will create 2 career-based goals in Xello, identifying 2 **Programs** they'd want to study if they pursued this preferred destination.

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Program pros and cons

Student instructions

Once you have a career in mind, you can plan for the education and training you'll need after high school. Having career goals can help you pick a program that fits and further evaluate the **Important factor** of education; are you interested in completing the required education or training for this career? In this activity you'll decide which type of program works best for 2 saved careers by creating a career-based goal in Xello.

1 For 2 saved careers read the **Education & training** section and review the list of **Related programs** on the career profile.

2 Access and read the program profiles and see if you can identify different education pathways for each career. Save at least 2 **Programs** for each career (4 total) that you think are a good fit:

- How would this program prepare you for a career you like?
- Will you be on the right path for a career you like once you finish your studies?
- What are the benefits and challenges of the program?

3 Under **Goals & plans** in Xello, select Add a Plan. Enter one of the careers you researched as the title, and then choose A School Choice for Step 2. Click through Step 3, then scroll down to Pathways on the next page, select Add School/Program next to A School Choice, and follow the prompts to add two **Related programs**. You may also add a school or schools to this pathway if you'd like.

4 Under Careers, add the career. In the text field underneath, add your thoughts about both programs you saved related to the career:

- What are 2 pros and 2 cons for each program?

5 Create a second career-based goal under **Goals & plans** for the other career you researched.

Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Program prospects

10 Recommended:
10th grade

Length:
55 minutes

About this activity

In Activity 1, students researched the education and training pathways for 2 saved careers, identifying pros and cons for at least 4 **Programs** they think are a good fit for after high school.

In this activity, which includes completing the **Program prospects** lesson in Xello, students will distinguish between different types of postsecondary programs, such as apprenticeships and degree programs, explore career options related to different types of programs, and evaluate their program options in terms of their strengths, academic interests, and career interests.

Inquiry prompts

- Are there any subjects you're thinking about studying after high school? What drew you to those subjects?
- Where could you study these subjects? What kinds of schools/training programs can you enter after high school?
- What might you think about when choosing a program in college or university? What's important to you in a program?
- Which do you think you should pick first: career, program, or college or university? Why?

Before you begin

Before diving in with your students:

1. Create a copy or download the Program prospects slide presentation to use as a helpful teaching aid before and after the Xello lesson.
2. Review the slides (including the speaker notes section) for suggested discussion strategies and prompts.
3. Update slide 5 of the presentation with your students' Xello sign in format. If you don't know your students' Xello login format check out Sign in to Xello for support.

Teaching strategies

Use the following strategies to set your students up for success:

1 Before students start the Xello lesson, take 5 minutes to have them review and consider the inquiry prompts from the **Warm up** activity slide of the Program prospects slide presentation, or choose your own. Advise students to keep these questions in mind as they complete the lesson. You will revisit these questions with them in the **Exit activity** afterwards.

2 Help your students log in to their Xello account. Project your screen as you model how to navigate to the lesson using your demo student account. From the student dashboard, click on a lesson to get started. If the lesson you want isn't visible, access it by selecting **View all lessons** below the lessons shown.

3 Students finished early? If students have time after completing the Xello

Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- Program prospects slide presentation

Prerequisites

- Save 3 **Programs**

Artifacts

Students will complete the Xello lesson: **Program prospects**.

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Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Program prospects

10 Recommended:
10th grade

Length:
55 minutes

lesson, encourage them to update their **After high school goal** on **About me**. Have them reconsider the 3 options (**Not sure yet, More school or training**, or **Alternate route**) taking into account their recent research into the education and training pathways for 2 saved careers.

4. Once students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the [Program prospects slide presentation](#) to have students revisit the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.

5. **Classroom discussion strategy: Round robin:** Lead a round robin style discussion in which each person shares their answer to the following inquiry prompt: Which do you think you should pick first: career, program, or college or university? Why?

OPTIONAL: Document the responses. What observations can be drawn about them? What conclusions can be made?

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Activity 3: Rank program factors

10 Recommended:
10th grade

Length:
20 minutes

Inquiry prompts

- What matters most to you in a program, and why?

Before you begin

- Students will need to have 1 saved program in Xello.
- Create a Xello **Assignment** asking students to upload both their **Program ranking tool** and completed ranking for 1 saved program.

Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will create a program ranking tool to help them with the process of identifying preferred education pathways that lead to saved career destinations.

1 Provide the instructions on the next page to your students.

Materials required

- Student instructions
- Computer or tablet with internet access

Artifacts

Students will upload both their **Program ranking tool** and completed ranking for 1 saved program and submit in a Xello **Assignment**.

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Rank program factors

Student instructions

Your priorities may change as you learn more about **Careers**, **Programs**, and **Schools**. If you know what's important to you in a program after high school, you'll find it easier to narrow your postsecondary education options. In this activity, you'll create a tool to help you identify preferred education programs to help you attain your postsecondary goals.

In Xello's **Program prospects** lesson you were introduced to a list of factors to help you select programs that best suit your postsecondary goals. Reflecting on these factors as you research programs can be an effective strategy when making postsecondary decisions.

1. Create a document for your personalized Program Ranking Tool
2. Review the list of program factors and narrow it to your top 7 to 10. What matters most to you in a program?
   - **Career opportunities**: Will this program help me enter a career I like? Will there be jobs in this field of study when I'm done?
   - **Interests**: Does this program reflect my interests? Will I enjoy learning about topics in this field?
   - **Graduate success**: How do people typically fare after graduating from this program? Do they find jobs in the field?
   - **Hands-on learning**: Will I be able to take part in hands-on learning opportunities, like co-ops or study abroad programs?
   - **Cost**: What is the tuition like for this program? What about costs for supplies, or other fees?
   - **Prerequisites**: Will I have the courses, marks, or experience required to enter this program?
   - **Length**: How long does it take to complete this program? Does the timeframe work for me?
   - **Difficulty**: Will this program provide the level of academic challenge I'm looking for? Can I handle the workload?
   - **Reputation**: What is the program's reputation like? How is it perceived by employers and others?
   - **Curriculum**: Will I like the courses in this program? Will I have the flexibility to take electives in other fields?
   - **Availability**: Is this program available in my area, or at a school I want to attend?
   - **Class size**: Does the typical class size in this program work for me?
   - **Flexible study**: Does this program offer flexible study options, such as online classes or a part-time option?
   - **Financial aid**: Are there any financial incentives, like bursaries or scholarships, offered to people who enrol in this program?
   - **Student satisfaction**: How happy are current (and former) students in this program with their experience?
   - **Earning potential**: How much do graduates of this program typically earn?
3. Prioritize your list in order of importance. What makes this factor a priority for your program choice?
4. Create a scale to evaluate each factor. For each scale, define the highest and lowest ends. How can you decide whether a program meets this factor?
5. Test your tool. Select one of your saved **Programs** and rank each factor. How does this program fit with your education or life goals?
6. Upload both your **About me** and completed ranking for 1 saved program as requested in your Xello **Assignment**.