Career Exploration
Choosing a career is one of life’s big decisions. Will a future career be exciting and fulfilling? Will it pay enough to support a family? Will there be opportunities to grow? Deciding on a career to pursue is exciting. But because there are so many career paths, it can be hard to choose.

Help your teen by encouraging him or her to explore options now.

1. **Ask your child to think about his or her interests.** Need help? Have your child try a career quiz at [www.careerbridge.wa.gov](http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov).

2. **Consider how to get there.** It’s good to know what skills, classes and degrees different jobs require. Get information about education requirements for different jobs.

3. Help your teen choose some of these ideas or come up with his or her own:
   - Volunteer where you’re likely to meet someone who has one of the jobs you’re interested in.
   - Look into a paid or unpaid internship.
   - Job-shadow for a day.
   - Conduct research at the library or online.
   - Find a mentor who can give you perspective and advice.
   - Talk to family members and friends who work in those careers or know others who do.

Teens might feel pressured to plan their whole lives before they even begin to apply to colleges. That’s not necessarily the best approach. Though some people have well-focused career goals early in life, other’s don’t – and they still find their way to the right job. Staying flexible can be helpful when it comes to thinking about the future.

**Did You Know?**

According to a recent Gallup & Lumina poll, **84 percent of business leaders said** the amount of knowledge of potential hires is very important, **28 percent said** a candidate’s college major is important, and **9 percent said** the college where the candidate received a degree is very important.
**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** Your child should be roommates with a friend from high school.

**REALITY:** If your teen goes to college with a high school friend, it can be tempting to forgo the random roommate selection process. They might claim to know everything about each other, so why risk living with a complete stranger, right? Your child will soon find out that living with a friend is very different than hanging out with him for a few hours a day. Sharing a small space, means your teen will learn so much about their friend, which often includes nasty habits and mood swings.

Encourage your teen to take a chance and get a random roommate; even if he or she doesn’t end up being a best friend, it’s a learning experience nonetheless.

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**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

− Family Event:

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**Student Checklist**

- Review PSAT/NMSQT or Aspire results with your family. If you took the PSAT/NMSQT, log in to My College QuickStart to get personalized feedback based on your PSAT/NMSQT score report.
- Start thinking about ways to pay for college. Read 7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid to learn more.
- Discuss next year’s classes with your family and guidance counselor. Learn more about the high school classes that colleges look for.

**Family Checklist**

- Review PSAT/NMSQT or Aspire results together. Your child’s score report indicates his or her academic strengths and weaknesses. Review the report together and talk about ways to improve in areas that need attention. If your child took the PSAT/NMSQT, help him or her log in to My College QuickStart to get personalized feedback based on his or her PSAT/NMSQT score report.
- Start thinking about ways to pay for college. Most families get help paying for college costs. Read 7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid to learn more.
- Discuss next year’s classes. Make sure your child will be challenging him- or herself and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see.

Visit readysetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.