MEFA pathway™

Exploring Trending Careers
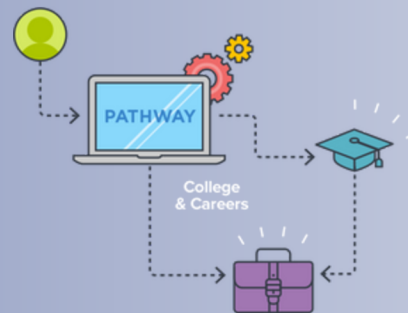
Grade Level:	**Domain:**	**TIME:**
10, 11	College & Career Exploration	45 Minutes

This lesson is designed to help students explore different careers based on their career cluster.

Objectives

Students will:

1. Learn about career clusters and in-demand careers.
2. Identify top skills required for certain career clusters.
3. Explore top companies hiring for specific career clusters.

MEFA Pathway Activities

- My Journal
- Now Trending
- My Careers

Materials Needed

- Internet connection
- LinkedIn's article, *Build Your Professional Profile—A Guide for High School Students on LinkedIn*

Lesson Prerequisites

Students need to save at least three careers to their **My Careers** list under the *Discover Careers* tab in MEFA Pathway before starting this lesson.

Vocabulary

- In-Demand careers
- LinkedIn

Future Ready Skills

- Professional Networking
- Critical Thinking
- Decision Making

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

Lead a class discussion about in-demand careers and skills required to succeed in those careers.

Ask students:

1. What does an in-demand career mean?
2. Why is it important to understand the skills that top careers are seeking?
3. Do you think location impacts what careers are considered "in demand"?
4. How can you figure out what careers are in demand?
5. Encourage students to take notes. They can use these notes to write their reflection.

APPLYING INFORMATION

Have students log in to MEFA Pathway and click on **My Careers** under the *Discover Careers* tab. Students should select three different career clusters from their list (e.g. Health Science, Education & Training, etc.). Once students have selected their three career clusters, they should click on **Investigate Your Future** under the *Discover Careers* tab and then click GO in the **Now Trending** box.

Within **Now Trending**, students should review careers and skills that are in demand. Students should adjust the filter location to the state in which they wish to live after high school or college and click on one of the career clusters they selected from their list. Once the filters are applied, have students look at the top careers.

Students should pay attention to the skills and technology skills for the career cluster. Students should also pay attention to the companies that are hiring. Have students repeat this with each of their chosen career clusters. Encourage students to make a note of the career cluster that seems to most align with their skills.

EVALUATING INFORMATION

After students have completed the Now Trending activity, have them click **My Journa**l under the *About Me* tab and create a journal entry in which they answer the following questions:

1. What did you learn about in-demand careers?
2. Were there any in-demand careers that surprised you?
3. Did the list of in-demand careers change based on location?
4. Were you interested in any of the top companies that are hiring for in demand careers?

CRITICAL THINKING/CREATIVE APPLICATION

Have students read the article, *Build Your Professional Profile—A Guide for High School Students on LinkedIn* and then create a LinkedIn account. Then, in the **Now Trending** activity, have students click on the magnifying glass next to a few of the top trending careers to be brought to open positions for that career on LinkedIn.

GRADING RUBRIC FOR JOURNAL ENTRIES

CATEGORY	EXCELLENT	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
`	4	3	2	1
Description	Offers a vivid, detailed, and insightful description of the experience, setting the stage for deeper reflection.	Provides a clear and detailed account of the experience, including relevant details.	Clearly describes the experience, event, or learning.	Offers a limited description of the experience.
Analysis	Engages in critical thinking, questioning assumptions, and demonstrating a thorough understanding of the learning.	Connects the experience to personal learning and raises some insightful questions.	Attempts to analyze the experience but may lack depth or clarity.	Superficial analysis, lacking deeper thought.
Future Application	Formulates clear, actionable plans for utilizing new insights and knowledge in future learning and experiences	Identifies specific ways to apply the learning to future situations or goals.	Suggests some possible connections to future learning or practice.	Makes no clear connection to future learning/action.