10 TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT CAREER FOR YOU

How does a person know what career to work toward? There is no perfect answer, but the following 10 tips will get you off to a good start.

1. **Get to know yourself** – Complete more than one self-assessment test.
2. **Identify your strengths and weaknesses** – What do you do well and what do you not do well?
3. **Develop an inventory of careers** – Write down some careers that might interest you.
4. **Research different careers** – Talk to others and use the Internet.
5. **Write the pros and cons** – List positives and negatives about the careers that interest you.
6. **Network** – Discuss your ideas with others.
7. **Talk with people who work in your area of interest** – Family and friends are great resources.
8. **Find a mentor** – Find someone with whom you can discuss your career selection.
9. **Experiment** – Take a related class or part-time job.
10. **Don't give up** – "If there is a will, there is a way."

STATE CENTER CONSORTIUM
SCC
A Partnership for Success
390 W. Fir Ave, Suite 300, Bldg B
Clovis, CA 93611
Phone: (559) 324-6410 Fax: (559) 324-6489
www.statecenter.com

This material is made pursuant to agreement number 07-0170a of the CTE Community Collaborative Supplemental grant. Funds were administered by the Governor's CTE Initiative SB70/SB 1133 through the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

Activity that is the subject of this document was supported in whole or part by the U.S. Department of Education. However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and no official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education should be inferred.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN

BUILDING TRADES AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SECTOR

Plan For Success

Do you like to build things? Are you comfortable working on a project until all the pieces fit together? If you answered yes, the Building Trades and Construction Industry Sector may hold the career for you. The four pathways provide opportunities with a variety of construction skills, directly associated with completing building projects. High school curriculum in this sector integrates academic and technical preparation and leads to hands-on, work-based instruction. Project and work-based instruction offers opportunities in work experience, community classroom, or other internship types of instruction.

The **California Career Resource Network**, www.californiacareers.info, is an online resource for exploring careers, personal interests, and reality games.

Go to the **California Career Zone**, www.CACareerzone.org. The *Interest Profiler*, under *Assess Yourself*, indentifies personal interests leading to further investigation. We recommend that you spend a few minutes completing these assessments.

Career Pathways

Engineering and Heavy Construction Pathway

Typical engineering and heavy construction careers focus on the planning and construction of complex projects associated with roads, highways, and subdivisions. Creating and following specifications and blueprints, as well as complying with state and local building codes are all important elements of this career.

CAREERS/CAREER AREAS:

- *Surveying*
- *Welding*
- *Heavy Equipment Operators*
- *Cement Masons*
- *Mechanical and Civil Engineers and Technicians*
- *Iron Workers*
- *Rough Carpenters*

Cabinetmaking and Wood Products Pathway

The Cabinetmaking and Wood Products Pathway provides learning opportunities for students considering careers in cabinet construction, millwork, and wood products, and covers the construction of both custom and production products. Planning and layout, following plans, use of hand, power and stationary tools are all parts of the training process.

CAREERS/CAREER AREAS:

- *Estimators*
- *Furniture Making*
- *Rough or Finish Carpentry*
- *CNC Technician and Engineers*
- *Millwork*
- *Cabinetmaking*

Mechanical Construction Pathway

Mechanical construction is the general term used to describe the skills associated with the plumbing, electrical, heating, cooling, ventilation, refrigeration, and piping careers. Planning, fabrication, installation, and maintenance of related facilities and equipment are all part of the career skills necessary for success in this pathway.

CAREERS/CAREER AREAS:

- *Plumbers*
- *Heating*
- *Electricians*
- *Refrigeration*

Residential and Commercial Construction Pathway

Large and small residential and commercial construction projects are the bread and butter of the construction industry. Many skilled workers with diverse specialty skills take a project from start to finish. The majority of the skill areas in this pathway are classified as individual trades.

CAREERS/CAREER AREAS:

- *Carpenters*
- *Glaziers*
- *Plumbers*
- *Surveyors*
- *Roofers*
- *Structural Engineers*
- *Building Inspectors*
- *Painters and Paperhangers*
- *Brick, Block, and Stone Masons*
- *Dry Wall and Ceiling Installers*
- *Plaster and Stucco Specialists*
- *Floor and Tile Installers*
- *Insulation Workers*
- *Pipefitters*
- *Iron and Steel Workers*