

# Learning Activity: Career Evaluation Worksheet

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For a detailed description of this activity and a link to standards, please visit <https://www.stlouisfed.org/education/learning-activity-career-evaluation-worksheet>.



**LEARNING** Activity

## Compelling Question

What factors, in addition to income, should you consider when making a career choice?

## Procedure

1. Ask students to raise their hand if they have thought about what job they want to enter after high school. (*All or most students will raise their hand.*)
2. Ask students to name the factors they considered when thinking about the job they wanted. List student responses on the board. (*Answers may include salary, lifestyle, or family connections.*)
3. Once you've generated a list, tell students there are numerous factors to consider when deciding on a career, including those listed on the board.
4. Provide each student a copy of *Handout: Job-Comparison PACED Chart*. Tell students they will evaluate three careers they might be interested in based on the factors listed on the handout.
5. Instruct students to choose three jobs/careers they have considered and to write them in the first column of the handout.
6. Display *Visual: QR Code* and assist students in accessing the online BLS handbook.
7. Referring to the first three instructions on the handout, model for students' ways in which they can search and gather the information they need to decide how each alternative meets their criteria. (NOTE: Students may have to generalize or slightly adjust their choice based on the labeling/available data in the BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook.)
8. Allow students to work through the comparison chart on their own.
9. When students have completed the chart, instruct them to answer the reflection questions on the handout.
10. Debrief the questions from the handout with students.

## Post-Activity Discussion

(*Responses to the following questions will vary. Students should reference their research from the handout.*)

- How does education or advanced training create a barrier to your selected job?
- Could experience in this career affect your income or job flexibility over time?
- How do factors beyond income impact your future lifestyle if you selected this career?

## Handout Answer Key

(*Answers in the job-comparison charts will vary, but students should have noted something in each box.*)

1. *Answers will vary, but students should provide reasonable support for their preference.*
2. *Answers will vary but should provide some rationale behind the scale rankings they provided in each category above. This will also demonstrate which factors the students prefer or give more weight.*
3. *While answers will vary, possible obstacles identified by students could include the availability of training, time, cost, family obligations, or responsibilities.*
4. *Answers may include looking for scholarships/apprentice programs or finding entry-level openings to gain experience.*

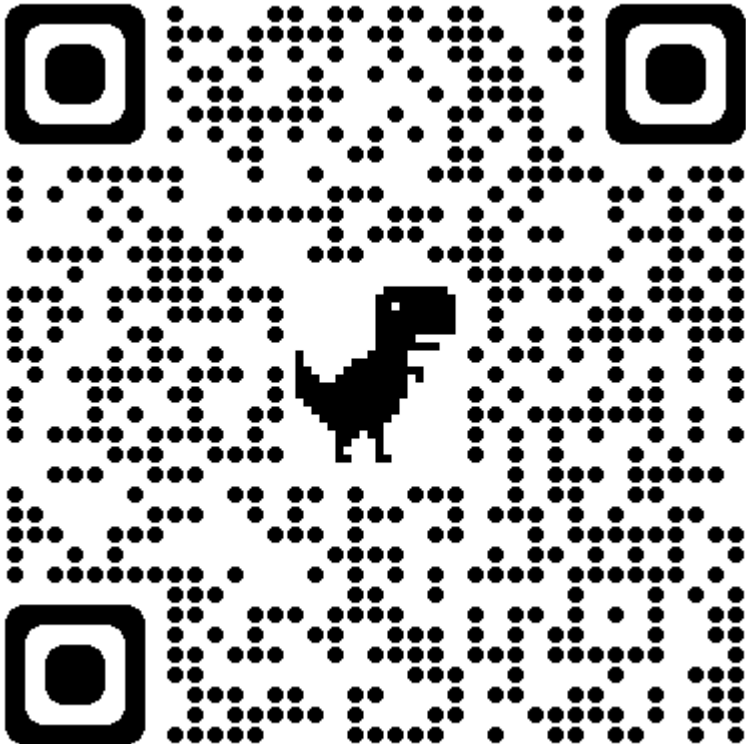


Activity **MATERIALS**

Activity materials are on the following pages.

**Visual: QR Code**

Go to [bls.gov/ooh](https://bls.gov/ooh) or scan the code below.



**Handout: Job-Comparison PACED Chart** (page 1 of 2)



Instructions

- Use the BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook (bls.gov/ooh) to search for information related to each of the careers/jobs you selected.
- You can search for a career by key word(s), the A-Z index, or occupation groups.
- Once you have found the occupations, be sure to click on each of the tabs to read more about what they do, the work environment, how to become one, pay, job outlook, state & area data, and similar occupations. This will help you make a more-informed decision when filling out the decisionmaking chart.
- Using the information you found in the BLS handbook for the three jobs you chose, place a positive (+), negative (-), or neutral (\*) symbol based on your personal preferences in each shaded category.
- For the category that matters to you the most (choose one), you will double the mark. For example, if independence in the job is most important to you and working in career option 1 would give you great satisfaction, then you would put “++” in the corresponding box in the chart.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Career option 1:</b>	<b>Career option 2:</b>	<b>Career option 3:</b>
<b>Income range</b> (Low: <\$30,000; Medium: \$30,000-\$79,000; High: ≥\$80,000)			
<b>Education/training</b> needed for entry			
<b>Job satisfaction</b>			
<b>Independence</b> (level of control/autonomy you would have over task selection and daily work)			
<b>Risk</b> (ability to find and keep a job in this field)			
<b>Location</b> (Are jobs in this field in areas you'd like to live and work?)			
<b>Family</b> (proximity to family, scheduling flexibility, compatibility with future family goals)			
<b>Other benefits</b> (retirement, insurance coverage, etc.)			

