



### **Using the MASN Resource Library to Prepare Students for Their Future Career**

Detailed below is an example of an easily implemented, multi-day career exploration unit that shows how the [MASN Resource Library](#) can be used to promote career awareness. There is plenty of room for instructors to modify, add, or remove websites and activities. Instructors will need to do their own research and flesh out the activities to fit their program's needs.

*Note: Some websites in the Resource Library may require a user login and/or charge a fee for services.*

#### **Activity 1: Discover Career Interests**

- Begin by watching [The Fantasy, The Ideal and The Reality of Career Exploration](#) video and lead a discussion about the experience of finding a job and suitable career. Share your journey to your current position and what your students think they might want to do after graduation.
- Watch the [6 Career Personalities video](#) together and discuss.
- Have students take the [Holland Codes quiz](#) and use it to decide where to focus their career exploration.
- Lead a discussion about the quiz results and [Holland Codes](#) (what did they find interesting, were they surprised by their results, what questions do they have). Instruct students to use what they learned about themselves to think about what career they might want to pursue.

#### **Activity 2: Learn More About Careers**

- Have students complete the Reality Check assessment from [Missouri Connections](#) to see what salary they need in order to maintain their preferred lifestyle and keep the results in mind as they move forward.
- Ask students to use careers associated with their [Holland Code\(s\)](#) as a jumping off point, then watch [videos](#) about careers that match their interests and talents on [CareerOneStop](#) and/or any of the other sources in the library.
  - Have students make a list of the careers they think they would enjoy most. Allow them to add careers they find interesting as they explore.

#### **Activity 3: Research Careers of Interest**

- Using their career list, have the students research each using the [occupational outlook handbook](#). Show this [video](#) on how to use the handbook and go through an example with them.
  - Let students reduce their list to a more reasonable number of careers if their lists are especially long or encourage them to consider more options if they are short.
  - Have students write down important information such as required education, median pay, and job outlook.

#### **Activity 4: Zero in on Careers**

- Have students assess what they've learned about the careers they have researched and choose their 2 favorites then dive deeper into them.
  - Use [Missouriconnections.org](https://missouriconnections.org) to [compare occupations](#).
    - Read through each topic in the list and complete a Pro's and Con's chart for each occupation then pick the one they think fits them best.

#### **Activity 5: Future Planning**

- Using the information they've learned about their chosen occupation, have the students determine what they would need to do after graduation in order to get a job in that career. They should document what education and training would be necessary.
  - Use MoSCORES to [search](#) for education and training programs relevant to the job.
  - Use [Missouri Apprentice Connect](#) or [apprenticeship.gov](https://apprenticeship.gov) to see if an apprenticeship is offered.
  - Search [MOInternConnect](#) to see if internships are available.
- Send students to the [U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard](#), [MoSCORES](#) and [You Visit](#) to determine the best school for them. Basis for their choice can be cost, location, student life, or any other reasonable justification.

#### **Activity 6: Wrap Up**

- As a culminating project, have students creatively present what they've learned about their chosen career. Options might include a slide show, poster, or brochure.

#### **Extension**

- Further activities could include:
  - Learn how to pay for college using [ScholarPrep](#) or [Journey to College](#).
  - Research scholarship opportunities at [My Scholarship Central](#).
  - Ask a question on [CareerVillage](#).
  - Discuss with your school counselor or rootEd advisor about how you can assist them with your students' ICAP or other career exploration work.
  - Schedule visits at businesses that employ people in your students' chosen career fields, invite guest speakers, and connect with your community. Talk to your local chamber for help or ideas getting connected to businesses.
  - Tell your story! Your community is filled with people who would love to help if they knew what you were doing.
  - MASN has contracted with [220 Leadership](#) and [VentureLab](#) to offer resources and curriculum at no charge to afterschool programs. If you would like to participate in these programs, please let us know.

Have questions or need help? Contact Aaron Banks at [abanks@missouri.edu](mailto:abanks@missouri.edu).