

WhatThis activity provides students with various questions that they should consider when beginning to plan for their future and focuses on how students will make their post-secondary transition. Students will be encouraged to complete two helpful checklists to ensure they are prepared for their post-secondary transition: *5 things to do before you leave high school & 5 things to do in the summer before you head out to post-secondary*.

Teacher Led		Requires Computer	X	Requires myBlueprint.ca	X
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LEARNING GOALS:

1. Students will identify goals and skills for success in post-secondary opportunities.
2. Students will explore and compare different pathways based on personal interests and strengths.
3. Students will work through two (2) checklists to ensure they are taking the right steps and reviewing their plans for post-secondary.

MATERIALS:

- Computer, tablet, or mobile device
- **Handout [A] - Post-Secondary Transition**
- **Handout [B] - Preparing for Post-Secondary Checklist**

GETTING STARTED:

1. Have students visit www.myBlueprint.ca, click **Log In** in the top right corner, and enter their email and password.
 - **Forgotten password?** Students can reset their passwords by clicking on the 'Forgot password?'
 - **Forgotten email?** As a teacher/counsellor, you can reset your students' emails and passwords in your **Student Manager** or **Classes**.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. As a class, go over the *discussion questions* listed below about post-secondary.
2. Provide students with **Handout [A]** and have them follow instructions and complete both pages using myBlueprint Education Planner
3. Provide students with **Handout [B]** and review the checklist items as a group. You may wish to refer students to this checklist throughout the year and before the summer months.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What images/ideas/expectations do you have of post-secondary?
2. What common skills do you think will be very important to have as you move on to post-secondary, no matter the pathway you choose?
3. Do you already have an idea of what you would like to do? If not, what kind of information do you need to help you plan/choose?

HANDOUT [A] - POST-SECONDARY TRANSITION

AM I READY FOR POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES?

1. Brainstorm some of the things you would like to do in post-secondary (i.e. join a club or committee at your school or workplace, improve on your habits or skills, etc.) and **choose one of them**
2. From the navigation menu on the left hand side of your screen, select **Home**. Choose the **Goals** tab and click the button on the right hand side of your screen that says **+ Add Goal**
3. For the one thing you chose, add it as a goal and create an action plan

GOAL: _____

TASKS:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. From the navigation on the left hand side of your screen, click on the **Work** feature and select **Resume**.
5. Add **ONE (1)** Skill or Ability

SKILL: _____

How do you see this skill or ability helping you in a post-secondary opportunity?

What skill could you develop further to be better prepared for a post-secondary opportunity?

"If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else."

— Yogi Berra

EXPLORING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

1. Select **Post-Secondary** from the navigation menu on the left hand side of your screen.
2. Select a Pathway (e.g., apprenticeship, college, etc.)
3. Enter an opportunity name or keyword, and explore your options OR use the smart filters to refine your search

Which post-secondary pathway did you select? Why?

How does this pathway meet your interests and needs?

4. You can **compare TWO (2) different programs** by selecting the three dots at the top right of the program box and selecting **Compare**. You will need to repeat these steps for the second program. Once both programs have been selected, click the blue **Compare** button at the top right of your screen.

What programs did you choose to compare and why?

What are the main educational similarities/differences between these programs?

What steps can you take to go down the future path you chose (hint: What courses can you take in high school? How will you plan your finances?)

HANDOUT [B] – PREPARING FOR POST-SECONDARY CHECKLIST

Time sure flies by when you're having fun!

Before you know it, you'll be graduating from high school and making your transition to Post-Secondary.

As your Grade 12 year unfolds, work through these **two (2) checklists** to ensure you are ready for your transition to Post-Secondary education, training, and life next fall!

5 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU LEAVE HIGH SCHOOL:

- ☐ Review your **Resume** on myBlueprint to ensure it includes up-to-date contact information, skills you developed during high school, work and volunteer experiences, extra-curricular activities, achievements, an objective statement, and references.
- ☐ Read the **Paying for Post Secondary Guide** to start researching scholarships, bursaries, and student loans that you may be eligible for. Create a **Scholarship & Bursaries Portfolio** on myBlueprint to add website links for student funding programs and scholarships that interest you.
 - ☐ **TIP:** Get a head-start and begin to fill out and submit applications as early as possible. You may wish to personalize your applications by creating custom Resumes/Cover Letters/Portfolios on myBlueprint for each application.
 - ☐ **TIP:** Continue to look up scholarships from both public and private sources, such as churches, community groups, the government, or minority organizations. You may also wish to speak to your school's guidance counsellor about scholarship opportunities in your community!
- ☐ Check to see if your favourite **Post-Secondary Institutions** are hosting an **Open House and/or Campus Tour** for prospective students. Many institutions have an annual Open House in the fall, so this is a great opportunity for you to visit the campus, speak with faculty, staff and student representatives, and learn more about your program options.
 - ☐ **TIP:** You can explore **Post-Secondary Institutions** on myBlueprint from the *Post Secondary > College & University > Institutions* tab. To visit an institution's website from an overview page on myBlueprint, click the "Visit Institution Website" button and look for upcoming Open House dates and Campus Tour opportunities.
- ☐ Update your **Career Portfolio** on myBlueprint to showcase your career pathway(s) of choice (i.e., occupation and related post-secondary program/training) as well as all of your accomplishments in school and in your community, volunteer work, jobs, hobbies, and extra-curricular experiences (i.e., sports teams, arts programs, clubs you are part of, camps you attended, etc.).
 - ☐ **TIP:** Not sure what to include in your Career Portfolio? Check out this helpful [portfolio checklist](#) to build up your Career Portfolio!
- ☐ Review the **Paying for Post Secondary** and **Budget and Finances Guides**. Create a **Post-Secondary Budget** on myBlueprint (in the *Money* section) as you begin to finalize your plans with your family about how you are going to pay for post-secondary education, training, or work.
 - ☐ **TIP:** Consider the following income/expenses to add to your Post-Secondary Budget:

- ☐ Living expenses (Will you be living in a student residence or apartment next year? Meal plan (Will you be responsible for buying weekly groceries or paying for a meal plan?))
- ☐ Transportation (Will you be using public transportation or a personal vehicle to travel to work or school? How much does a monthly student public transportation pass cost? How much does your monthly car insurance/car payment/gas cost?)
- ☐ Moving costs (If you are moving away from home, how will you be paying for your moving expenses?)
- ☐ Scholarship income (Have you applied for scholarships and/or bursaries?)
- ☐ Student loan/financial aid (Have you applied for a student loan to help you pay for post-secondary training and/or education?)

5 THINGS TO DO DURING THE SUMMER BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT TO POST-SECONDARY:

- ☐ Check out your post-secondary institution's website and/or new student orientation documentation to see if they have an **Orientation Day** that you can attend over the summer. These are often held during the month of August or early September.
- ☐ Think about ways to earn and save money for your post-secondary education, training or work.
 - ☐ **TIP:** You may wish to explore potential **summer job opportunities** or part-time work during your post-secondary education/training using **Job Search** on myBlueprint.
- ☐ Set time aside to explore and select your **Post-Secondary courses** for the first term/semester of your education or training program. Most Post-Secondary institutions will give you access to a student portal for you to select courses online.
 - ☐ **TIP:** Check with your institution's advising office (or admissions) to see if you need to make an appointment to select courses and review the course handbook, etc.
- ☐ If you are moving away from home for Post-Secondary, seek help from family and friends to **practice common household chores** to prepare for everyday living (i.e., doing laundry, cooking simple meals, going grocery shopping on a budget, using public transportation or being responsible for maintenance on your personal vehicle, personal hygiene, etc.)
 - ☐ **TIP:** Speaking of budgeting, you can create a sample budget for your monthly groceries on myBlueprint. Try it out during one of the summer months, and make adjustments to your budget accordingly!
 - ☐ **TIP:** If you are moving away from home, make sure to set aside time during the summer to purchase items you may need (e.g., bedding, school supplies, toiletries, etc.) and confirm your moving plans (i.e., How will you move your personal items in to residence?)
- ☐ Check out your Post-Secondary institution's website and/or new student orientation documentation to **mark down important dates and information for new students** in your personal calendar (i.e., student residence moving date, first day of classes, new student orientation, where to get ID card, where to purchase textbooks, etc.)