



## Mini-Unit Associate Degrees

Student Activity Packet

UNIT: ALTERNATIVES TO 4-YEAR COLLEGE

Name:

### Students will be able to:

- Describe what an associate degree is and how it can further a person's education/career path
- Compare different types of associate degrees
- Analyze a specific associate degree career path
- Research how to obtain an associate degree



### INTRO

#### **QUESTION OF THE DAY:** What percent of college graduates earn associate degrees?

Answer the question on the first slide in the space below. Then, compare your answer to the answer on the second slide. Finally, follow your teacher's directions on how to answer the follow-up questions on the last slide.

#### **1. What percent of college graduates earn associate degrees?**



### LEARN IT

#### **INFOGRAPHIC:** Is an Associate Degree Right for You?

It's important to know what an associate degree entails, the benefits it can offer, and the diverse career paths it can open up, setting the foundation for a well-informed decision about your educational journey. Review the infographic to learn more. Then, answer the questions.

#### **1. In your own words, provide a brief description of an associate degree.**

#### **2. Create a list of goals a student might have that would lead you to believe an associate degree is the right path for them.**

---

**VIDEO: [Discover Associate Degrees: Get Career Ready!](#)**

Now that you understand the basics of the associate degree, let's delve into the specifics. Watch this video break down the different types of associate degrees—Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), and Associate of Applied Science (AAS)—helping you understand which pathway aligns best with your academic and professional goals. Then, answer the questions.

- 1. Which type of associate's degree (Arts, Science, Applied Science) best aligns with your own interests and skills? Explain why.**
- 2. Discuss the potential financial costs and benefits of pursuing an Associate of Arts or Science degree with the intention of transferring to a four-year university, versus directly entering the workforce with an Associate of Applied Science degree.**

---

**ARTICLE: [Highest Paying Associate Degree Jobs](#)**

You are now ready to explore how these degrees can translate into successful and fulfilling careers. Review the article highlighting high-quality career paths that begin with an associate degree. Then, answer the questions.

- 1. Choose one of the jobs discussed in the article that intrigues you the most. Explain why that degree and/or its career path is interesting to you.**
- 2. Using what you've learned about associate degrees, how would pursuing that same career be different with an associate degree compared to a high school diploma? Consider things like your time, cost, and whether you'd even be able to pursue that career without a degree.**



## DO IT

### **ACTIVITY:** **RESEARCH: Associate Degree and Trade School Programs**

It's time for you to take the reins and conduct your own investigation. In this activity, you will perform in-depth research into an associate degree career path that sparks your interest. Follow the directions on the worksheet to complete this activity.



## EXIT TICKET

Follow your teacher's directions to complete the Exit Ticket.