DIGITAL CAREERS TOOLKIT

BY

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Lesson Ideas
Postsecondary Planning

Lesson: Postsecondary Planning for Tech and Digital Careers
Suggested Grades: 12 / Postsecondary Planning
Lesson Length: 2 - 4 sessions
Learner Needs: Connected Device

Lesson Ideas

These lessons are designed for students who have identified interest in tech as a postsecondary field, and have worked through the Digital Careers Toolkit or another resource to understand the vast array of tech careers available.

These lessons are best facilitated in small group sessions or one-on-one with students.

➔ Students login: *toolkit.sharedlane.co*
  ◆ *It's Free!*
  ◆ *It takes less than 30 seconds to log in - the only information users provide is email address, institution (School Name) and role (Student)*
  ◆ *Users create a password, but it's easy to save and/or reset*
  ◆ *Users will never be spammed*

➔ Have students click around for a few minutes. The introductory pages give an overview of tech and careers. There is a short video on the Dashboard page.

➔ Once you/students have researched careers, begin to focus on postsecondary planning. The following approaches can be helpful to support student planning.

Framework for Guiding Student Planning
Suggested approaches for one-on-one or small group discussion with learners who are leaning towards tech / digital postsecondary paths of study:

Area of Study	
● What general area of tech do you want to pursue? In broad categories: ○ **Software** - Software Developer, UX Designer, Software Engineer ○ **Data** - Data Analyst, ETL Developer, Data Scientist ○ **Infrastructure** - IT Support, Cloud Engineering, Cybersecurity ○ **Business** - Business Analyst, Project Manager, Digital Marketing, Sales/Customer Success	*The Digital Careers Toolkit has pages on each career. It is useful to group them and have students review a few pages.* *Tech is truly a field where you can 'start anywhere and go everywhere' because jobs are related and cross-functional. Entry-level jobs can evolve along many different paths.*

● For each category, students research:
   ○ 2-3 Entry Level Careers
   ○ Career Paths from an Entry Level Job
   ○ For each: Where You Can Work / How much you can earn	

Path of Study
 	
How do people get jobs in tech? What are employers looking for when hiring entry level talent? Students use the Toolkit to research:
 	
  ○ Demonstration of Knowledge:
    ■ Why are certifications often used in tech as demonstration of knowledge and skill?
    ■ What certifications are needed for the area of study you picked above?
    ■ How do bootcamps prepare their graduates for certifications and employment? What should you look for in considering a bootcamp?
 	
  ○ Demonstration of Attainment:
    ■ How are degrees part of a tech career ladder? At what point do employers expect candidates to have a degree?
    ■ What degrees are most helpful for the area of study you picked earlier? What are common majors?
    ■ What is the path to and through an Associate degree for a career you selected above? What are some degree and continuing education options at your local community college?
	The 'Plan Your Path' tab in the [Digital Careers Toolkit](#) provides resources for learners to research and respond to these questions. The pages can be reviewed in any order.
	
	● *How Certifications Fit in*
	● *Navigating Training Pathways*
	
	Additional research about colleges can be found:
	
	● [*CUNY Techworks*](#)

Choose Your Path Lots of factors go into deciding which postsecondary path is right for you. For most people, the cost plays a big part. As you decide on a college or workforce training path, consider your 'Return on Investment'. Work through the questions in the 'Return on Investment' page of the Toolkit to calculate what makes sense for you and your family. Remember - finances are only one consideration.	*Suggestion: Print the 'Return on Investment' pages so that the reading process is more interactive. Use the template for learners to make their own ROI calculation.*

Make Your Plan Download and work through the 'Make a Plan' Guide.	*Suggestion: Print the 'Make Your Plan' page. Refer to the Facilitator Resources page of the Toolkit for a guide on using this plan with learners.*