
Lesson Plan: Career Finder, Part I*

Computer Lab/Group Guidance Activity
Grades 9–12

Time Allotted: 40–45 minutes

Roadtrip Nation® and the College Board have partnered to build Career Finder™, a career exploration tool that helps students make informed academic and career decisions based on their interests. Through Career Finder, students can access interactive videos from the Roadtrip Nation video archive. Real people with successful careers in diverse industries share stories and help students make informed decisions and take actionable steps to dig deeper.

This lesson plan provides students with an overview of the **FREE features** of Career Finder by encouraging them to explore careers, leaders, and majors that match their interests. Users of the free version only need to use Part 1 of the Career Finder lesson plan. (Premium users should begin with Part 1 of the lesson plan and follow with Part 2, which focuses on the Premium features.)

Student Objectives

Counselors will outline:

1. Key features of the free version of Career Finder.
2. How students can explore careers by identifying their interests.
3. How students can explore careers, leaders, and majors related to their interests.

Before You Begin

1. Ensure that students should have access to a computer or device with internet access.
2. Make sure students log in to their existing College Board account or create an account if they don't have one.
3. Designate an area on the board or wall for "Interests" and "Careers."
4. Give each student 5 sticky notes.

Lesson Plan Steps

1. **INTERESTS:** After logging in, students will be asked to identify 3 career-related interests.
 - a. Ask each student to write one interest per sticky note (so each will complete 3 sticky notes).
 - b. Have students place sticky notes in the designated area labelled "Interests."
 - c. Categorize sticky notes based on similarities. Share the most popular interests. This allows students to see what they have in common with others.
 - d. Request a few students to volunteer to share their interests.

2. **CAREERS:** After identifying their interests, Career Finder will provide a list of careers that match those interests. Give students time to explore the **Careers** section.
 - a. Students can explore the following:
 - i. How the career matches their interests
 - ii. National data on salary median, projected job growth, and level of education needed
 - iii. A typical day at work for that career
 - iv. What steps they can take now to prepare for that career
 - b. Have students identify and save 2 careers that pique their interest. Students should write them on sticky notes and place them on the designated area for “Careers.”
 - c. Categorize the sticky notes by similar careers and discuss the careers of interest.
 - d. Request student volunteers to share their career choices.

3. **LEADERS:** After exploring the **Careers** section, allow students time to explore the **Leaders** section. In this section, students can read about individuals working in industries that match their careers of interest.
 - a. Encourage students to explore the following:
 - i. Day-to-Day tasks
 - ii. Skills and Qualities Beyond School
 - iii. Advice for Getting Started
 - iv. Hurdles
 - v. Milestones
 - a. Instruct students to select at least one leader with a video.
 - b. Have students review the leader’s profile and listen to the leader’s video with headphones.
 - c. Request student volunteers to share what they found interesting or surprising about the leader’s pathway, especially regarding Milestones and Hurdles.

If time permits, students can explore and save majors.

Supplemental idea: Group students based on their identified interests, careers, or majors. Have them share what they found most interesting while exploring.

Supplemental Resources

Majors and Career Search: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/majors-careers

Hottest Careers for College Graduates:

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/careers/hottest-careers-for-college-graduates

*To learn more about how to provide your students with the PREMIUM Version of Career Finder, go to: www.collegeboard.org/careerfinder