

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Career Explorations I

Career and Technical Education Series



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Career Explorations I Course Overview

The Career Explorations I course is designed to middle school students an opportunity to explore various CTE subjects. Specifically, students will be able to learn about careers involving human-related services.

Each unit introduces one particular field and explains its past, present, and future. The goal is to whet students' appetites for these careers. Students can then explore that career in more detail as a high school student.

- **Unit 1: Career Management:** This unit examines the elements of employment, from the purpose and personal benefits of work to lifelong learning and technology. Students learn about wages and employment benefits, find out how to maintain a time sheet, set lifestyle goals that match their work goals, and attain problem-solving skills. Students will also explore career clusters and begin a project that helps them which career clusters best match their talents and life goals.
- **Unit 2: Introduction to Careers in Health Sciences:** In this unit, students learn about the history of health care and its shift from a focus on religion and culture to one a more scientific approach. Students also explore important medical discoveries of the 17th and 18th centuries, and the integration of technology into medicine.
- **Unit 3: Hospitality and Tourism Systems:** Travel and tourism is the largest industry in the world, and it continues to grow each year. Employing 7.5 million people in the United States, the travel and tourism industry depends on visitors traveling to or within the United States. In 2010, sixty million international visitors came to the United States and spent \$134 billion. Travel is divided into two broad categories: leisure travel and business travel. The industry is made up of various sectors that provide services to people going on vacation, taking a business trip, or visiting an attraction. These sectors include accommodations, transportation, entertainment and attractions, sightseeing and guide services, dining services, and shopping and retail. Within the travel industry, the types of vacation packages or travel products people buy are either considered commodities or experiences.
- **Unit 4: Human Services:** In this unit, students will learn about the human services professional who usually works for a government agency or nonprofit organization. He or she provides assistance, counseling, and training to help people change and acquire better coping skills. These professionals do not rescue people; they empower people, and they respect people's right to self-determination. Some of the populations targeted for help by human services professionals include those living in poverty, those suffering from substance abuse and alcoholism, the homeless, victims of domestic abuse, the mentally or physically disabled, and the elderly. Organizations that seek to help such people and employ human services professionals include federal and state agencies, drug and alcohol treatment centers, nursing homes and elder care facilities, women's shelters, hospitals, psychiatric facilities, schools and universities, police departments, prisons, courts, and many others.
- **Unit 5: Consumer Services:** Consumer services organizations are those that provide services to individual consumers, as opposed to businesses. There are many industries represented in consumer services, offering careers in fields such as advertising, apparel, consulting, entertainment, health care, hospitality, law, personal services, online services, real estate, and travel. The largest part of any consumer services job is working well with people to solve problems, which requires a positive attitude and good communications skills. Because of the wide range of opportunities and types of jobs in consumer services, educational requirements can vary from a high school diploma and on-the-job training to internships and graduate degrees. Some consumer services career paths, particularly in counseling or sales, require licenses or certifications.

Unit 1: Career Management		
Career Explorations I	Assignments	
	1. Course Overview	14. Project: Basic Employability Skills*
	2. The Purpose of Work	15. Problem Solving
	3. Personal Benefits Of Work	16. Project: Problem Solving*
	4. Wages and Employment Benefits	17. Lifelong Learning and Technology
	5. Project: Time Sheet	18. Career Clusters
	6. Project: Earnings Statement	19. Project: Career Clusters Research Tri-fold Brochure*
	7. Lifestyle Goals	20. Quiz: Elements of Work
	8. Project: Lifestyle Budget	21. Special Project*
	9. Societal Benefits of Work	22. Review
	10. Quiz: What is Work?	23. Test
	11. Basic Work Qualifications	24. Glossary and Credits
	12. Work Environment	
	13. Basic Employability Skills	

Unit 2: Introduction to Careers in Health Sciences		
Career Explorations I	Assignments	
	1. Medicine From Ancient Times Through the Middle Ages	8. Advances in Medical Imaging
	2. Medicine in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries	9. Innovations in Transplantation
	3. The Rise of Modern Medicine	10. Project: Genetics
	4. Project: Ancient vs. Modern Medical Practices	11. Project: How Technology is Used in Medicine
	5. Project: Different Health Career Possibilities	12. Quiz: Recent Advances in Science and Technology
	6. Quiz: History of Medicine and Medical Discovery	13. Special Project*
	7. Molecular Technology: Gene Chips	14. Test
		15. Glossary and Credits

Unit 3: Introduction to Hospitality and Tourism Systems		
Career Explorations I	Assignments	
	1. Travel Terms	9. The Countries We Visit — Part 2
	2. Segments of the Travel Industry	10. Project: Geographic Basics and Where We Travel
	3. Travel Product Distribution and Why We Travel	11. Project: The Countries We Visit
	4. Project: Travel Terminology	12. Quiz: The Geography of Travel
	5. Project: Segments of the Travel Industry	13. Special Project*
	6. Quiz: The Foundations of Travel	14. Test
	7. Geographic Basics and Where We Travel	15. Glossary and Credits
	8. The Countries We Visit — Part 1	

Unit 4: Introduction to Human Services		
Career Explorations I	Assignments	
	1. Solving Problems vs. Teaching Problem-Solving Skills	8. Policy and Program-Planning Interventions
	2. Types of Populations, Services, and Fulfilling Needs	9. Project: Designing A Human Services Organization
	3. Project: Let's Get Happy and Let's Get Rich	10. Administration
	4. What Human Services Organizations Do	11. Project: Life After High School
	5. Project: Know Your Surroundings	12. Quiz: Providers of Human Services
	6. Quiz: History, Standards, and Overarching Mission	13. Special Project*
	7. Direct Service Interventions	14. Test
		15. Glossary and Credits

Career Explorations I	Unit 5: Introduction to Consumer Services	
	Assignments	
	1. What are Consumer Services?	8. Safety Within the Organization
	2. Customer Service And Consumer Advocacy	9. Project: Drafting a Safety Policy
	3. Project: Personal Skills Evaluation	10. External Influences on Consumer Services
	4. Professional Organizations, Certifications, and Resources	11. Project: Interview-based Article on Sustainability
	5. Project: Building a Portfolio	12. Quiz: Organizational Structure
	6. Quiz: Introduction and Basic Competencies	13. Special Project*
	7. Organizational Structures	14. Test
		15. Glossary and Credits
CE I	Unit 6: Course Review, Project, and Exam	
	Assignments	
	1. Course Project: Decisions, Decisions*	3. Exam
	2. Review	

(*) Indicates alternative assignment