CAREER AND COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

LESSON 10-15 ▲ DEFINING CREDENTIALS

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* Identify the types of credentials associated with the different postsecondary paths.
* Identify occupations associated with different postsecondary credentials.
* Select one career possibility and identify the needed postsecondary path and credentials.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handouts:**
* Credentials by Path
* Careers and Credentials Worksheet
* Journal Page
* **Blank paper and writing utensils**

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Students identify the career and credentials of an adult.** Divide students into five different groups. Ask each student to think of an adult they know – it could be a parent, an older sibling, a neighbor, an employer, or a teacher. Have each student write down that person’s career and then write down what type of post-secondary education they think the adult needed to get his or her job. (More than 4 years of college, 4 years of college, 2 years of college, CTE training, no college required). After students have had a minute or so to record this information on one sheet of paper, ask each group to discuss the information. If group members don’t agree on the type of post-secondary education needed for a job (for instance, to become a teacher) they can debate and adjust. They might have their own credentials already (Lifeguard, Babysitting Certified, Ski Patrol).
2. **Students discuss their knowledge of the credential requirements for a career.** Call the groups together and ask for one volunteer in each group to provide a few examples of the career and possible post-secondary education/credentials they listed. Students should note if their group was unsure or disagreed about the needed credentials. Discuss what students believe about post-secondary education and the need for post-secondary credentials (such as certificates or degrees) to get a certain type of job. Tell students that it is okay not to know the required credentials for someone else’s job but that it is very important that they learn what type of post-secondary education and credentials they will need for their own career choice.
3. **Students identify the types of credentials associated with the different post-secondary paths.** Ask students to identify the five post-secondary paths: (1) Workplace, (2) CTE (Technical) college, (3) Two-year college, (4) Four-year college, and (5) Military. Tell students there the four-year college path has an extension called graduate studies for degrees a person can earn after completing four years of college education. Write the following words on the board: Workplace, CTE, Two-Year, Four-Year, and Graduate Studies. Explain to students that this lesson will not cover credentials or rank in the military but that each branch of the military offers all levels and types of education.

Write the following words somewhere else on the board: Apprenticeship, Associate’s Degree, Bachelor’s Degree, Certificate, Doctorate Degree, Master’s Degree. Ask students to decide in their groups which type of credentials can be obtained from which type of post-secondary paths. Tell students that some post-secondary paths offer multiple types of credentials.

When students have finished, discuss their conclusions. Distribute the *Credentials by Path* handout. Answer any questions students may have about credentials and the path to follow to get them.

1. **Students learn how different credentials can be earned at the same workplace.** Explain to students that, in many categories of careers, there are opportunities for people with different levels of credentials. For instance, an Emergency Medical Technician may need from six months to two years of training, depending on the level of certification. Teachers may start work with a Bachelor’s degree, but many earn a Master’s degree to demonstrate more expertise in their subject area. Many types of careers offer opportunities for workers to earn additional training and skills as they move up. Discuss the value of earning different types of credentials or credentials at different levels.
2. **Students select a career possibility and identify needed post-secondary path and credentials.** Distribute the *Careers and Credentials Worksheet* and ask each student to complete it based on a career they think they might be interested in pursuing. Assure students that it is okay if they do not know exactly what type of credential they might need… but explain that this is important information they can learn from your school’s Career Center or online. Tell students there is space on the bottom of the handout for additional notes on the credentials required to pursue their career of interest. After students have completed their work, ask for several volunteers to share a career possibility and needed credential. Discuss the work students must do during high school to prepare.
3. **Students set a credential goal.** Ask students to write a credential goal on their Journal Page by answering these questions:

* What will I be doing in ten years?
* What post-secondary credential will I earn?
* What three things can I do during high school to prepare?

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

* **Completed *Career and Credentials Worksheet***
* **Completed *Journal Page***

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LESSON 10-15 STUDENT HANDOUT

CREDENTIALS BY PATH

The different post-secondary paths offer different types of credentials. You may need one (or several) of these credentials depending on your career interests.

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| --- | --- |
| **Workplace** | People who go straight into the workplace usually do not have any formal credentials beyond a high school diploma. However, some people in this path might complete an apprenticeship or other form of on-the-job training.   * Certificate for completion of training * Apprenticeship |
| **CTE (Technical) College** | Most technical colleges award a certificate to demonstrate completion of a program of study. Some also award Associate degrees.   * Certificate or certification for completion of program (one year or less) * Associate degree (two years) |
| **Two-year College** | Most community colleges award certificates or Associate degrees, depending on the program. At some colleges, students can continue on for four years to earn a Bachelor’s degree. In two years, students typically earn an Associate degree.   * Associate degree |
| **Four-year College** | Most four-year college award Bachelor’s degrees. The two most common types of Bachelor’s degrees are a B.S. (Bachelor of Science) or a B.A. (Bachelor of Arts)   * Bachelor’s degree |
| **Graduate  studies** | Many careers require specialized training and education beyond college. Students attend graduate or professional school to receive this training and earn a graduate or advanced degree. Some advanced degrees include:   * Master’s degree: most common are M.S. (Science) or M.A. (Arts) * Business degree (M.B.A. for Master of Business Arts) * Medical degree (M.D. for Medical Doctor) * Law degree (J.D. for Juris Doctor) * Doctorate degree (Ph.D. for Doctor of Philosophy) |

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LESSON 10-15 STUDENT HANDOUT

CAREERS AND CREDENTIALS WORKSHEET

**Name:**

What do you want to do? What will your desired career require in terms of education and credentials? Indicate a career of interest below, then indicate the post-secondary path you believe you will need and list the type of credential (degree or certification) you will need.

**A career that interests me:**

**The post-secondary path I plan to follow for this career** (circle one)

Workplace CTE/Tech college Two-year college Military Four-year college Graduate degree

**The credential (degree or certification) I will need**:

**What I need to do during high school to prepare**:

*If you don’t know what credentials you will need, where could you go to learn more? You might consider visiting your school’s Career Center, or checking online.*

**OPTIONAL**

I’ve done more research about credentials for this career possibility and I’ve learned that:

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JOURNAL PAGE

**DATE:**

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***Q1:*** What will I be doing in ten years?

***Q2:*** What post-secondary credential will I earn?

***Q3:*** What three things can I do during high school to prepare?

***Answers:***