

Chapter 3 – Researching Careers

I-Study

The U.S. Department of Education's 16 career clusters can help you explore careers. You can use primary and secondary sources to research careers. Informal career research can include observing the world around you and talking to people. Formal research can include libraries, print and Internet resources, exploratory interviews, and also work experience, which includes temp work, cooperative programs, job shadowing, volunteering, internships, and community service.

Determining what you need to know about a career will make your research more productive and help you make good career decisions. Start by researching and defining a career in terms of characteristics such as values, tasks and responsibilities, work environment, and education and training required. Then compare the characteristics of the career with your own expectations to determine if the career is right for you. Awareness of different career outlooks can help you plan for the future.

I-Quiz

1. What is a career cluster?
 - A. groups of people who work in your field
 - B. lists of jobs in alphabetical order
 - C. groups of related occupations
 - D. processes for helping you choose a career

2. Volunteering, internships, temp work, and job shadowing are all examples of:
 - A. experience
 - B. exploratory interviews
 - C. ethics
 - D. occupations

3. Some careers allow flexible scheduling, which is called
 - A. temp work
 - B. flextime
 - C. benefits
 - D. internships

Answer Key

1. C
2. A
3. B