

Career and College Exploration Assignment

Much of your work in this course has hopefully increased your level of self-awareness about your personal strengths, interests, and goals. Now comes the time to pull all of that newly-acquired knowledge together and apply it towards investigating some potential career goals. Deciding on a career is a big step, so it's important to make sure you are making a well-informed decision. Career Cruising is a great place to start, and a wonderful resource to continue revisiting even after this assignment is completed. You can access Career Cruising from home or from any of the computers on campus. If you need any assistance with navigating the site, just stop by the Student Success Center or the Counseling and Testing Office on your campus.

- First step: Go to www.careercruising.com. Enter the log-in name: NCTC, and the password: gocenter. Once you are logged in, click on the link on the left-hand side that will allow you to create your own portfolio.
- Once you have created your own personal log-in and portfolio, then click on the tab at the top that says **"Matchmaker"**. Follow the instructions to complete the first phase of questions.
- Once you have completed the first set of questions, click on the link that says **"Answer more questions to improve my results"**.
- Once you have completed these additional inventory questions, then click on the link that says **"My Skills"**.
- After completing all these assessments, you will be able to view a list of occupational titles that also rank how well your skills match up with these occupations. PRINT THESE PAGES AND ATTACH IT TO THIS ASSIGNMENT.
- Next, go through the list of suggested occupational titles and click on those that seem most interesting to you. For each occupation you click on, you need to read through all the tabs listed on the left-hand side of the screen to gather enough information about these fields (i.e. "Job Description", "Working Conditions", "Earnings", etc.).
- Once you have researched the occupational titles that seem most appealing to you, answer these questions:
 - What is your top career choice based on your assessment results?

 - List three reasons this career is appealing to you:
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - What type of training or education would you need to earn in order to pursue this career choice (ex. certificate, Associate's, Bachelor's, etc.)? _____
 - What are the suggested college majors that relate to this career choice?

 - List three colleges that would offer the college major and/or training you would need in order to pursue your chosen career choice:
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - What courses, certifications, and/or degree(s) could you pursue at NCTC that would help you work towards this future educational or career goal? _____
 - Is there anything else you would need to do, in addition to training or education, to prepare for this particular career field? _____
- Do you agree with the suggested career choices you received as a result of your Career Cruising assessments? Why or why not? _____
- Are there other occupations/careers you have considered that were not included in your Career Cruising results? If yes, what are they? _____
- Who can you talk to or what resources can you utilize in order to get a better understanding of your interests, abilities, and career options? _____
- Finally, what did you learn from this assignment? _____

