

SCOIR



Scoir Career Readiness Curriculum

8th Grade Lesson Plans

Scoir Career Readiness Curriculum

Course Objective & Overview

The Scoir team's vision is a world where every student understands, appreciates, and values their unique talents and pursues career paths strongly matched to their interests and abilities.

The Scoir Career Readiness Curriculum is a comprehensive set of lessons created to support school counselors as they help students transition into adulthood, post-secondary education, and the world of work.

This curriculum is designed to build in complexity and detail as students progress through grades 6-12. Each lesson can also stand alone, which allows counselors to choose specific topics based on preferences and needs for grade level or individual students.

Scoir is focused on providing counselors with valuable materials that are easy to implement and promote and support student success.

This curriculum guides and supports the work you do in preparing students for post-secondary pursuits and provides lessons related to the following areas:

- Career Exploration
- Goal Setting & Academic Planning
- Financial Literacy & Planning
- Developing Workplace Skills
- In-depth Career Research
- Resume Development
- Internship & Work Experience Opportunities
- Networking & Professional Development
- Transitioning to College & Career

ASCA Student Standards are aligned within individual lessons to clearly outline how the Scoir Curriculum supports the academic achievement, attitudes, and skills students need for college and career readiness.

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Lesson 8.1

Learning from Professionals in Fields of Interest

Overview

In this lesson, students will gain insights from professionals working in various fields of interest. Students will learn about day-to-day realities, challenges, and rewards of different careers. By engaging with professionals, students can deepen their understanding of different industries, gain practical advice, and build their network for future opportunities.

Learning Objectives

- Gain firsthand insights into various careers by hearing from professionals in different fields
- Understand the day-to-day responsibilities, challenges, and rewards associated with specific professions
- Identify potential career paths aligned with personal interests, skills, and values through exposure to diverse professional experiences

ASCA Standards & Competencies

B-LS 3. Time management, organizational and study skills

B-LS 7. Long- and short-term academic, career, and social/emotional goals

B-LS 6. High-quality standards for tasks and activities

B-SMS 6. Ability to identify and overcome barriers

B-SMS 1. Responsibility for self and actions

M 3. Positive attitude toward work and learning

Suggested Grade Level 8

Time Required 30 minutes

Materials

- Projector and screen, or interactive whiteboard
- Laptops, tablets, or Chromebooks with internet access
- Resources on various careers (Scoir Account)
- Recorded videos of professionals (Scoir)



Instructions

Classroom Work

1. Provide an overview of the session's purpose.
2. Introduce the guest speakers or videos recorded by professionals and explain their expertise in their respective fields.
3. Show students how to access videos by going to **Discover > Careers > Selecting a Career > Requirements > More Information > Occupational Outlook Handbook**.

Individual Work

1. Note-taking:
 - Encourage students to take notes during the guest speakers' presentations, jotting down key insights and reflections.
 - Prompt students to write down questions for the guest speakers to ask during the Q&A session.
2. Reflection:
 - Allocate time for individual reflection after the guest speakers' or video presentations.
 - Prompt students to reflect on their learning, considering how it aligns with their interests and aspirations.

Small Groups

1. Discussion:
 - Facilitate small group discussions following the guest speakers or video presentations.
 - Encourage students to share their thoughts and insights with their peers and discuss how the information relates to their own career interests.
2. Collaborative Activities:
 - Assign group activities that encourage students to collaborate and apply the information learned from the guest speakers.
 - For example, students could work together to create presentations or posters highlighting different career paths discussed during the session.

Lesson 8.2

High School Classes

Overview

Students will explore the variety of high school classes available to them as they transition to the next stage of their education. This lesson aims to provide students with insights into the different types of courses offered in high school, including core subjects, electives, and advanced placement options.

Learning Objectives

- **Identify Academic Interests:** Students will explore their academic interests and strengths to discern potential areas of focus within high school course offerings
- **Understand Graduation Requirements:** Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of high school graduation requirements, including core subject mandates and elective options, ensuring they are equipped to make informed decisions when selecting courses
- **Navigate Course Selection Process:** Students will develop the skills necessary to navigate the high school course selection process
- **Plan for College and Career Readiness:** Students will begin to consider how their chosen high school courses can contribute to their college and career readiness, identify pathways that align with their aspirations, and understand the importance of selecting courses that meet college admissions and career requirements

ASCA Standards & Competencies

B-LS 1. Critical thinking skills to make informed decisions

B-SMS 2. Self-discipline and self-control

B-LS 2. Creative approach to learning, tasks, and problem solving

B-LS 4. Self-motivation and self-direction for learning

B-LS 7. Long- and short-term academic, career, and social/emotional goals

M 6. Understanding that post-secondary education and lifelong learning are necessary for long-term success

Suggested Grade Level 8

Time Required 30 minutes



Materials

- Projector and screen, or interactive whiteboard
- Laptops, tablets, or Chromebooks with internet access
- College and career resources
- Course catalogs
- Graduation requirement information
- [Empty course plan worksheet](#)*

Instructions

Classroom Work

1. Introduction:
 - Welcome students and discuss the purpose of exploring high school classes and graduation requirements.
 - Emphasize the importance of thoughtful course selection in shaping their high school and post-secondary experience.
2. Presentation and Discussion:
 - Present information about high school course offerings and graduation requirements.
 - Facilitate a discussion to engage students in exploring their interests and goals for high school.
 - Project the list of required high school classes and electives for the students.

Individual Work

1. Hand out an [empty course plan worksheet](#)* to students.
2. Ask them to fill out the required classes for each high school year.
3. Ask students to fill out the electives for each high school year based on their career and post-secondary interests and goals.

Small Groups

1. Divide students into small groups to discuss their interests and potential course selections.
2. Encourage peer interaction and collaboration as students share their thoughts and insights about high school classes.

**Scoir does not own or maintain this resource. It is publicly available and can be referenced as you customize the lesson for your classroom.*

Lesson 8.3

Utilizing Online Career Exploration Platforms

Overview

Students will explore an online career exploration platform like Scoir to gain insights into various career pathways. By engaging with the online platform, students will develop essential skills for self-directed career exploration and decision-making, empowering them to make informed choices about their future educational and career paths.

Learning Objectives

- Learn how to navigate an online career exploration platform to research different career options
- Explore various career pathways aligned with personal interests, skills, and values
- Understand the educational requirements, job profiles, and salary information associated with different careers
- Develop skills for self-assessment and reflection to identify potential career interests and goals

ASCA Standards & Competencies

B-LS 1. Critical thinking skills to make informed decisions

B-SMS 2. Self-discipline and self-control

B-LS 2. Creative approach to learning, tasks, and problem solving

B-LS 7. Long- and short-term academic, career, and social/emotional goals

B-SMS 6. Ability to identify and overcome barriers

Suggested Grade Level 8

Time Required 30 minutes

Materials

- Projector and screen, or interactive whiteboard
- Laptops, tablets, or Chromebooks with internet access
- College and career resources
- Online career exploration (Scoir account)



Instructions

Classroom Work

1. Introduction:
 - Introduce the purpose of the lesson and the importance of career exploration.
 - Explain how Scoir will assist students in researching career options.
2. Guided exploration:
 - Demonstrate how to navigate the platform's features, including job profiles, income and outlook, and educational requirements.
 - Go to **Discover > Careers**, and filter based on Career Clusters, Education Needed, Income, and Outlook. Click on the title of career interest to see more details.
 - Guide students through an initial exploration of the platform, encouraging them to search for careers of interest.

Individual Work

1. Allow time for students to explore the platform independently.
2. Encourage students to complete career assessments and research careers aligned with their interests.

Small Groups

1. Facilitate group discussions where students can share their findings and insights.
2. Encourage peer collaboration and exchange of ideas about different career paths.

Lesson 8.4

Introduction to Basic Financial Concepts

Overview

Students will be introduced to fundamental financial concepts such as budgeting, saving, and responsible spending. This lesson aims to provide students with essential knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions and develop healthy financial habits as they transition to high school and beyond. Through interactive activities and discussions, students will learn the importance of budgeting, the benefits of saving money, and strategies for managing expenses.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the concept of budgeting and its importance in managing personal finances
- Learn strategies for creating and maintaining a budget to achieve financial goals
- Explore the importance of saving money and different methods for saving
- Identify common expenses and develop strategies for managing and prioritizing spending
- Understand the concept of financial responsibility and impact of financial decisions on personal well-being

ASCA Standards & Competencies

B-SMS 6. Ability to identify and overcome barriers

B-LS 8. Engagement in challenging coursework

B-SS 8. Advocacy skills for self and others and ability to assert self, when necessary

Suggested Grade Level 8

Time Required 30 minutes

Materials

- Projector and screen, or interactive whiteboard
- Laptops, tablets, or Chromebooks with internet access
- [Money savvy worksheet](#)*

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Instructions

Classroom Work: Group Activity

1. Introduction:
 - Welcome students and introduce the activity.
 - Explain to students that they will work in teams of 3 or 4 to make specific decisions for finding the best solution.
2. Guided discussion:
 - Facilitate a discussion on the concept of budgeting, asking students to share their understanding and experiences.

Individual Work

1. Hand out the [money savvy worksheet](#)* to students to complete independently.

Small Group

1. Divide students into small groups to discuss the activity.
2. Encourage collaboration and peer learning as students share their ideas and experiences with saving.

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Lesson 8.5

Exploring the Connection Between Education, Career Choice, and Income

Overview

The lesson aims to help students understand how their educational decisions and career choices can impact their future earning potential. By gaining insight into this connection, students will be better equipped to make informed decisions about their education and career paths, ultimately empowering them to pursue opportunities that align with their interests, goals, and financial aspirations.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the relationship between education, career choice, and income
- Explore different career pathways and the educational requirements associated with various occupations
- Examine potential income levels and earning opportunities across different career fields
- Identify personal interests, skills, and values to make informed decisions about education and career paths
- Recognize the importance of setting educational and career goals to achieve financial success

ASCA Standards & Competencies

B-LS 1. Critical thinking skills to make informed decisions

B-LS 4. Self-motivation and self-direction for learning

B-LS 5. Media and technology skills to enhance learning

B-SS 6. Effective collaboration and cooperation skills

B-LS 7. Long- and short-term academic, career, and social/emotional goals

Suggested Grade Level 8

Time Required 30 minutes



Materials

- Projector and screen, or interactive whiteboard
- Laptops, tablets, or Chromebooks with internet access
- Scoir accounts

Instructions

Classroom Work

1. Start with guided discussion:
 - Facilitate a discussion on the relationship between education, career choice, and income, asking students to share their thoughts and observations.
 - Use real-world examples to illustrate how educational decisions can impact future earning potential.

Individual Work

1. Ask students to log in to their Scoir accounts and search within the Career tab.
2. Guide students through the process of identifying their top three career choices.
 - For each of the three occupations, ask students to identify the associated educational requirements and income levels.

Small Groups

1. Divide students into small groups to discuss the three careers they conducted research on.
 - Specifically, discuss whether the income range matches their expected living expenses from the previous lesson.

Lesson 8.6

Financial Planning and Management: Video From the Experts

Overview

Students will be introduced to the principles of financial planning and management through videos featuring experts in the field. Through watching the videos, interactive discussions, and guided activities, students will learn about budgeting, saving, investing, and responsible spending. By hearing from experts, students will gain practical knowledge and strategies for making informed financial decisions and building a secure financial future.

Learning Objectives

- Gain insight into the principles of financial planning and management from experts in the field
- Understand the importance of budgeting, saving, investing, and responsible spending in achieving financial goals
- Learn practical strategies and tips for managing money effectively in everyday life
- Explore the concept of financial goal-setting and develop a plan for achieving personal financial goals
- Develop critical thinking skills to evaluate financial information and make informed decisions about money management

ASCA Standards & Competencies

B-SS 5. Ethical decision-making and social responsibility

B-SS 9. Social maturity and behaviors appropriate to the situation and environment

B-SS 8. Advocacy skills for self and others and ability to assert self, when necessary

B-LS 1. Critical thinking skills to make informed decisions

Suggested Grade Level 8

Time Required 30 minutes



Materials

- Projector and screen, or interactive whiteboard
- Laptops, tablets, or Chromebooks with internet access
- Handouts or worksheets for guided activities
- Videos featuring financial experts discussing topics such as budgeting, saving, investing, and responsible spending

Instructions

Classroom Work

1. Select videos featuring experts discussing various financial planning and management aspects
 - Example video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4j2emMn7Ual>*
2. Encourage students to take notes and pay attention to key points shared by the experts.
3. Encourage students to reflect on the advice and strategies shared by the experts and how they can apply them to their own lives.

Individual Work

1. Provide handouts with guided questions for students to complete individually after watching each video.
 - What habits can I start now as an 8th grade student?
 - What short-term goals can I achieve based on the expert's opinion?
 - What long-term goals can I achieve based on the expert's opinion?

Small Groups

1. Divide students into small groups to discuss their thoughts and insights from the videos.
2. Encourage collaboration and peer learning as students share their perspectives and experiences with managing money.

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Lesson 8.7

Role-Playing Common Interview Scenarios

Overview

This lesson aims to prepare students for future academic and professional opportunities by developing their interview skills and confidence. Through interactive role-playing activities, students will learn how to effectively communicate their strengths, experiences, and qualifications professionally. By receiving constructive feedback and practicing responses to common interview questions, students will gain valuable experience and insight into the interview process, empowering them to succeed in future interviews.

Learning Objectives

- Understand common interview questions and how to prepare thoughtful responses
- Practice active listening and engaging with interviewers to demonstrate interest and enthusiasm
- Receive constructive feedback and guidance on interview performance to identify areas for improvement
- Build confidence and self-assurance in navigating interview situations and presenting oneself professionally

ASCA Standards & Competencies

B-SMS 1. Responsibility for self and actions

B-SS 8. Advocacy skills for self and others and ability to assert self, when necessary

B-LS 8. Engagement in challenging coursework

B-LS 5. Media and technology skills to enhance learning

M 3. Positive attitude toward work and learning

M 4. Self-confidence in ability to succeed

Suggested Grade Level 8

Time Required 30 minutes



Materials

- Interview scenario cards with common interview questions and scenarios
- [Interview question handout \(page 8\)](#)*

Instructions

Classroom Work

1. Introduce the lesson's purpose and the importance of developing interview skills for future academic and professional opportunities.
2. Explain the format of the role-playing exercises and expectations for student participation.

Small Groups

1. Role-playing exercises:
 - Divide students into pairs or small groups and distribute interview scenario cards.
 - Encourage students to take turns playing the role of the interviewer and interviewee, practicing responses to common interview questions.
 - Provide guidance and support as students engage in role-playing exercises, offering feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Individual Work

1. Provide handouts or worksheets for students with various interview questions, such as this one on page 8: https://www2.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/adulted/Manufacturing%20Curriculum/Supplements/26_Job_Interview_Worksheets.pdf*
 - Where do you see yourself in five years?
 - What are your strengths/weaknesses?
 - Why should I hire you?
 - Tell me about yourself/your achievements.
 - Why do you want this job?
 - What are your salary expectations?
 - Why are you the right fit to succeed in this role?
2. Encourage students to reflect on responses to the interview questions, keeping in mind their strengths, experiences, and qualifications.

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Lesson 8.8

Express Yourself

Overview

Students will develop communication skills for the workplace and the ability to identify different types of communication. Students will also reflect on previous communication experiences and evaluate themselves.

Learning Objectives

- Compare the differences between verbal and written communication
- Assess whether they communicate better verbally or in writing
- Evaluate previous miscommunication experiences

ASCA Standards & Competencies

B-SMS 1. Responsibility for self and actions

B-SMS 6. Ability to identify and overcome barriers

B-SMS 4. Delayed gratification for long-term rewards

B-LS 7. Long- and short-term academic, career, and social/emotional goals

M 4. Self-confidence in ability to succeed

Suggested Grade Level 8

Time Required 30 minutes

Materials

- Writing utensils

Instructions

Classroom Work

1. Facilitate a class discussion about communication skills and the different ways people communicate.
 - Ask students for examples of when they would communicate verbally or in writing.
 - Ask students which type of communication they prefer.
 - Tell students it is important for them to be able to communicate both verbally and in writing, no matter which style they prefer.
 - Explain that there will be circumstances in school and in their careers where they cannot choose how they communicate.
 - Give students examples of scenarios at school or work when they cannot choose how they communicate.
 - Oral projects (verbal) and responding to emails sent by teachers or employers (written).

Individual Work

1. Ask students to answer the following questions individually and write down their answers.
 - Are you better at expressing yourself verbally or in writing? Provide examples of times you have used your preferred communication style.
 - Why do you think a person might be more comfortable expressing themselves either verbally or in writing?
 - Think of a time when someone misinterpreted what you said. Describe the situation.
 - Why do you think there was miscommunication? What could you have done differently to make yourself understood?

Small Groups

1. Divide students into small groups to discuss their responses to the questions above.
2. Make sure the students understand they should not use anyone's real names.

Lesson 8.9

Transition to High School

Overview

This 30-minute lesson is designed to help 8th grade students prepare for their transition to high school. The lesson will provide information about what to expect in high school, how to manage the increased academic and social demands, and strategies for success. The session will include interactive discussions, a brief activity, and time for questions and answers.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the key differences between middle school and high school
- Learn strategies for managing academic responsibilities and time effectively
- Gain awareness of the social and extracurricular opportunities available in high school
- Develop confidence in their ability to navigate the high school environment

ASCA Standards & Competencies

M 4. Self-confidence in ability to succeed

M 6. Understanding that post-secondary education and life-long learning are necessary for long-term career success

B-LS 2. Creative approach to learning tasks and problem solving

B-LS 4. Apply self-motivation and self-direction to learning

B-SMS 5. Demonstrate perseverance to achieve long- and short-term goals

B-SS 1. Use effective oral and written communication skills and listening skills

B-LS 7. Long- and short-term academic, career, and social/emotional goals

Suggested Grade Level 8

Time Required 30 minutes

Materials

- Whiteboard and markers
- Pens or pencils

Instructions

Classroom Work

1. Facilitate a discussion on the difference between middle school and high school.
 - Write "Middle School" and "High School" on the whiteboard and draw a line between them.
 - Ask students to brainstorm and share differences between middle and high school (e.g., more freedom, responsibility, different social dynamics).
 - Write their responses on the whiteboard.
 - Highlight key points such as increased academic expectations, the importance of time management, and the variety of extracurricular activities available.
2. Show the following video of high school students describing their transition experiences.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kd8TMSeZMsI>*

Individual Work

1. Ask students to take a couple of minutes and reflect on their feelings about transitioning into high school.
2. Ask students to write down the key differences they noticed from the class discussion and the video between middle school and high school, such as:
 - Increased homework and study time
 - More independence and responsibility
 - Greater variety of extracurricular activities
3. Open the floor for any questions students may have about high school.
4. Answer their questions and provide reassurance about common concerns.

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Lesson 8.10

Developing a High School Road Map

Overview

Students will focus on developing a high school plan to prepare them for their transition to high school. Students will also explore their interests, strengths, and goals, and create a personalized high school plan that aligns with their aspirations. By the end of the lesson, students will have a clear understanding of their academic path for high school and be better prepared to achieve their goals.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the importance of academic planning and goal setting for high school success
- Reflect on personal interests, strengths, and goals to inform high school planning
- Explore high school graduation requirements, course offerings, and extracurricular opportunities
- Develop a personalized high school plan that aligns with academic and career aspirations
- Gain awareness of resources and support available for academic and career planning in high school

ASCA Standards & Competencies

B-LS 1. Critical thinking skills to make informed decisions

B-LS 2. Creative approach to learning, tasks, and problem solving

B-SS 8. Advocacy skills for self and others and ability to assert self, when necessary

B-LS 7. Long- and short-term academic, career, and social/emotional goals

M 5. Belief in using abilities to their fullest to achieve high-quality results and outcomes

M 6. Understanding that post-secondary education and lifelong learning are necessary for long-term success

Suggested Grade Level 8

Time Required 30 minutes



Materials

- Projector and screen, or interactive whiteboard
- Laptops, tablets, or Chromebooks with internet access
- Large sheet of paper or poster board

Instructions

Classroom Work

1. Introduce the purpose of the lesson and the importance of developing a high school plan for future success.

Individual Work

Mapping Activity:

1. Provide each student with a large sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Instruct students to draw a roadmap that represents their high school journey, starting from their current position (start point) to their desired post-secondary destination (end point). Stopping points are 9th grade, 10th grade, 11th grade, and 12th grade.
3. Encourage creativity in illustrating the pathway, including landmarks or symbols to represent key elements such as classes, extracurricular activities, leadership, electives, sports, etc.
4. Map components
 - Divide the map lines into sections representing the four years of high school (the years could vary based on acceleration programs).
 - Instruct students to label each section and identify their plans and goals for each year.

Small Groups

1. Sharing and Reflection
 - Invite students to share their high school maps with two other students, explaining their plans for each year.
 - Encourage peer feedback and discussion on similarities and differences in high school goals and action plans.

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