



CAREER EXPLORATION NAVIGATION TIPS

Start here to find action items and recommended next steps for the Career Exploration content.

1. Need a reality check? Spend about 5 minutes on [the SD Dept. of Labor's tool](#) to learn what you need to make to afford the lifestyle you want. Or if you already have a dollar amount in mind, go right to the [Future Salary](#) box and drop it in with a few other preferences to see your options.

2. Now that you have an idea of how much money you need to make, explore the more than 900 career options on the [My Next Move website from O*NET](#) (by the US Dept. of Labor). Search by key words, browse careers by industry, or answer questions about the type of work you might enjoy.

Action item: [Take the O*NET Career Interest Profiler.](#)



3. **6-12 STUDENTS:** Spend a little more time on [SDMyLife](#) and check out the [Prepping for Career](#) tab. If you don't already have an account, contact your school counselor or principal.

Action item: [Take the Career Matchmaker career interest inventory. Also, talk with your family and your school counselor about taking a pre-career test such as the National Career Readiness Certificate.](#)

FAMILIES: Browse the [EducationQuest® blog just for parents](#). These blog posts provide advice to parents in the areas of helping students choose a career, planning for college, asking career questions, and many other areas of parents' concerns.

Quick tip: [See the tags on the right side to jump to a topic that is on your mind.](#)

TEACHERS & SCHOOL STAFF: Make yourself more familiar with the [SD Dept. of Labor's Career Interest Survey and resources](#) and SDMyLife's Career Matchmaker.

Action item: [Download or bookmark the Career Interest Survey excel spreadsheet and go through it with a student together.](#)

*Special note: The O*NET Career Interest Profiler, the SDMyLife Career Matchmaker career interest inventory, and the SD Dept. of Labor's Career Interest Survey are similar. A student can take one or all three to help you find out what your interests are and how they relate to the world of work.*

4. Buckle up and check out [Roadtrip Nation](#), an interactive website where you will "Start your road trip" by selecting three areas of interest to you. Different videos of people with those same interests will tell you how they got to that point, their milestones, and their challenges.