

WHAT CAN I DO WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL?

Preparing for a career is not an event; rather, it is a process over time. Now is the time to start.

Take Career/Interest Inventories

You wouldn't choose the first mobile electronic device you saw or heard about, would you? You would likely research what each has to offer and how it would suit your needs and wants. The same goes for choosing a house, car or spouse. So why would choosing a career be any different? We are talking about the next 30-40 years of your life here. There are many resources available, free online career assessments and your guidance counselor who may have other resources. This information will help you narrow the thousands of choices down to those which match your interests and your skills.

Spend Time with People in Areas That Interest You

Regarding that same mobile electronic device, wouldn't you ask people who own one how they like theirs before you buy your own? The same holds true for career choices. Spend time with those who are already in the areas that you have identified as possible interest areas. Find out what they like most and least about the job. Ask them what opportunities exist to move up in this area, pay ranges, work/life balance, and if this is a growing area or one where opportunities are declining due to technology changes. Not sure where to find someone to talk to? Ask around your neighborhood, school, church or teachers at your school.

Begin Your Career Training in High School

Once you have an area of interest, then see if your school has a PATHWAY or CAREER CLUSTER that offers specific training. Great way to try something out and still allows you time to change if it isn't right for you.

Gain the TRIPLE THREAT

For recruiters who hire for companies, the TRIPLE THREAT is a term used for candidates who stand above the crowd and possess:

1. GPA of 3.0 or higher;
2. Work experience (the more related to the career you are pursuing the better);
3. Leadership experience (companies are losing top notch employees to retirement and need to hire those who have demonstrated they can lead ... not the ones who just say they can)

Research Educational Programs / Training Opportunities

Once you have your career interests narrowed down, begin researching institutions that offer programs in those areas, whether it is a technical college, apprenticeship program, military or four-year university.



Visit <http://www.southerncompany.com/careers/high-school.html>
for more information

