

learn more *find out as much as you can about careers and what they involve*

Computer resources

Use online career information resources. You may be able to access a computerized career exploration resource at your school, library or Department of Labor and Regulation job service office. These resources let you explore careers of interest and help you match occupations to your personal characteristics.

Books and periodicals

There are thousands of books on occupations. Some, like encyclopedias, will provide information on a wide variety of careers. Others, such as trade journals, will give you specific information on a particular career.

Information interviewing

Interview workers who are employed in a career you are interested in. Most people like talking about their work. Prepare questions ahead of time to keep the conversation focused. Use the questions at the bottom of the page to start!

Job shadowing

Job shadowing goes beyond informational interviewing by observing people at their jobs.

Ask them to explain what they are doing and how it contributes to their workplace. Some fields with legal and safety restrictions limit job shadowing activities.

Participating

When you're old enough, learn about jobs by participating in a school-to-career work-based program, technical education program or a cooperative education program. Part-time and summer jobs also provide ways to learn about career options.

If you can't find a job, consider volunteering. Any exposure to careers that interest you is beneficial. Remember, it is important to discover which careers you *do not* like, too. It is better to find out now rather than after you have spent several years and thousands of dollars in college!

Ask your school counselor, teachers or someone at the nearest South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation job service office which career exploration tools are available and work best for you. Also look for opportunities on your own!

Career exploration questions

What cluster(s) does the job fall in?

What do workers in the occupation really do?

What are the working conditions — work environment, hours, etc.?

What skills and knowledge are needed?

What level and area of education are needed?

What experience is required?

How much does it pay?

What is the projected outlook for the career?