

# CAREER READY CHECKLIST

*Achieve more.*



Some high school students choose to enter the workforce right after high school graduation instead of continuing their education. There are some excellent career possibilities when you make this choice. It is a good idea to research your options and prepare for expenses and decisions you will need to make if this is the path you choose.

## Research

- Complete career interest surveys at **RUReady.ND.gov** to assess your personal strength and interest areas that may lead to a career.
- Visit Job Service North Dakota at **jobsnd.com** and click on Labor Market Profiles under the menu options to learn about careers that don't require degrees, what they pay and where job opportunities are located.
- Look into what it will cost you to live if you plan to move away from home right after high school. Basic expenses you'll need to pay may include rent, cellphone, food, and insurance for health care, automobile and renters.
- Start to learn about and practice budgeting. Bank of North Dakota's College Handbook at **bnd.nd.gov** has information to help you get started.
- Ask your parents, counselors or friends to introduce you to people in careers you are interested in. Make an appointment with them and go prepared with questions:
  - Why did you choose this career?
  - What do you enjoy about it?
  - Has the career changed?
  - What classes or training did you need?
  - What is the pay scale?
  - What are the opportunities for advancement?



## Classes and grades

- Concentrate on language arts courses to improve your writing and communication skills. If you have the ability to present yourself well, more doors will open for you.
- Make sure you have basic computer and math skills.
- Take as many career and technical education classes as possible.
- Do your best to get good grades because they are still important. You may choose to attend trade school or college when you are older, so you want to make sure you have the basic skills needed if you take that path.
- Start a resume and practice interviewing.

## Outside-of-school activities

- Participate in groups like National FFA Organization and DECA.
- Seek leadership opportunities like coaching or lifeguarding.
- Get a job during high school. Ask your manager questions about their career path and what it takes to be successful in that area.
- Start saving money for an apprenticeship program if you're going into a field that requires one. Fees, books, supplies, and equipment for certain apprenticeship programs are considered qualified expenses under the College SAVE 529 plan. If you don't have a College SAVE 529 account, ask an adult family member to start one.
- Use social media responsibly. A misguided post could affect your ability to qualify for a job or be accepted into a future professional program.



Point your phone or tablet camera at QR Code to access more helpful information

