

# Program prospects



Recommended:  
10th grade



Length:  
95 minutes

## About this lesson

To reflect on their strengths, academic interests, and career interests when developing and revising their postsecondary goals students will research education and training pathways for careers of interest, distinguish between different types of postsecondary programs, such as apprenticeships and degree programs, and create a tool to help them identify preferred education pathways.

## Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- identify education programs toward their preferred destinations
- distinguish between different types of postsecondary programs, such as apprenticeships and degree programs
- explore career options related to different types of programs
- evaluate their program options in terms of their strengths, academic interests, and career interests

## Driving question

Which type of program works best with my career and education goals?

## Future-ready skills

Research

Evaluating

Reflecting

## Lesson breakdown



### Activity 1: Program pros and cons

In this activity, students will research the education and training pathways for 2 saved careers, identifying pros and cons for at least 4 **Majors** they think are a good fit for after high school.



### Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Program prospects

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson titled **Program prospects** where they'll distinguish between different types of postsecondary programs, such as apprenticeships and degree programs and explore career options related to different types of programs.



### Activity 3: Rank program factors

In this activity, students will create a program ranking tool to help them with the process of identifying preferred education pathways that lead to saved career destinations.

## Xello entry point

In the first activity students will save at least 3 Majors as it is a prerequisite for Xello's **Program prospects** lesson. It is also recommended they have saved careers and completed the **Explore career matches** lessons.

## Vocabulary

- Postsecondary program
- Major
- 2-year college
- 4-year college
- Bachelor's degree
- Masters degree
- Associate degree
- Certificate
- Diploma
- Apprenticeship
- Co-op program
- Internship program
- Dual degree program
- Transfer program
- Online program

## Activity 1: Program pros and cons



Recommended:  
10th grade



Length:  
20 minutes

### Inquiry prompts

- What are the education and training pathways for careers I like?
- What kind of education programs interest me?

### Before you begin

- Students will save at least 3 Majors as a prerequisite for the lesson. It is also recommended they have saved careers and completed the Explore Career Matches lessons.

### Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will research the education and training pathways for 2 saved careers, identifying pros and cons for at least 3 **Majors** they think are a good fit for after high school. By completing this activity students will fulfill the prerequisite for the **Program prospects** Xello lesson and be prepared to reflect on their program preferences with greater detail.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students.

### Materials required

- [Student instructions](#) (also available in [Spanish](#))
- Computer or tablet with internet access

### Artifacts

Students will create 2 career-based goals in Xello, identifying 2 **Majors** they'd want to study if they pursued this preferred destination.

## Program pros and cons

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### Student instructions

Once you have a career in mind, you can plan for the education and training you'll need after high school. Having career goals can help you pick a program that fits and further evaluate the **Important factor** of education; are you interested in completing the required education or training for this career? In this activity you'll decide which type of program works best for 2 saved careers by creating a career-based goal in Xello.

- 1 For 2 saved careers read the **Education & training** section and review the list of **Related majors** on the career profile.
- 2 Access and read the program profiles and see if you can identify different education pathways for each career. Save at least 2 **Majors** for each career (4 total) that you think are a good fit:
  - How would this program prepare you for a career you like?
  - Will you be on the right path for a career you like once you finish your studies?
  - What are the benefits and challenges of the program?
- 3 Under **Goals & plans** in Xello, select Add a Plan. Enter one of the careers you researched as the title, and then choose A College Choice for Step 2. Click through Step 3, then scroll down to Pathways on the next page, select Add School/Major next to A College Choice, and follow the prompts to add two **Related majors**. You may also add a school or schools to this pathway if you'd like.
- 4 Under Careers, add the career. In the text field underneath, add your thoughts about both programs you saved related to the career:
  - What are 2 pros and 2 cons for each program?
- 5 Create a second career-based goal under **Goals & plans** for the other career you researched.

## Ventajas y desventajas de programas

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### Instrucciones para estudiantes

Una vez que tengas en mente una profesión, puedes planificar la educación y capacitación que necesitarás después de la secundaria. Tener metas profesionales puede ayudarte a elegir un programa adecuado y evaluar más el **Factor importante** de la educación; ¿te interesa completar la educación o capacitación requerida para esta profesión? En esta actividad, definirás el tipo de programa que funciona mejor para 2 profesiones guardadas creando una meta basada en profesiones en Xello.

- 1 Para las 2 profesiones guardadas, lee la sección **Educación y capacitación** y revisa la lista de **Programas relacionados** en el perfil de profesiones.
- 2 Accede a los perfiles de programas, léelos e intenta identificar trayectorias educativas diferentes para cada profesión. Guarda al menos 2 **Asignaturas principales** por cada profesión (4 en total) que consideres adecuados:
  - ¿De qué manera este programa te prepararía para una profesión que te guste?
  - ¿Seguirás el camino correcto para la profesión que te guste una vez que termines la secundaria?
  - ¿Cuáles son los beneficios y desafíos del programa?
- 3 En **Objetivos y planes**, dentro de Xello, elige + **Nuevo plan** y comienza con Profesión. Comienza con una de las 2 profesiones que investigaste antes y sigue las indicaciones seleccionando 2 **Asignaturas principales** que guardaste para esta profesión.
- 4 En el campo de texto, agrega tu opinión sobre ambos programas:
  - ¿Qué 2 ventajas y 2 desventajas tiene cada programa?
- 5 Crea una segunda meta basada en profesiones en **Objetivos y planes** para la otra profesión que investigaste.

## Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Program prospects



Recommended:  
10th grade



Length:  
55 minutes

### About this activity

In Activity 1, students researched the education and training pathways for 2 saved careers, identifying pros and cons for at least 4 **Majors** they think are a good fit for after high school.

In this activity, which includes completing the **Program prospects** lesson in Xello, students will distinguish between different types of postsecondary programs, such as apprenticeships and degree programs, explore career options related to different types of programs, and evaluate their program options in terms of their strengths, academic interests, and career interests.

### Inquiry prompts

- Are there any subjects you're thinking about studying after high school? What drew you to those subjects?
- Where could you study these subjects? What kinds of schools/training programs can you enter after high school?
- What might you think about when choosing a program in college? What's important to you in a program?
- Which do you think you should pick first: career, program, or college? Why?

### Before you begin

Before diving in with your students:

1. Create a copy or download the [Program prospects slide presentation](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) to use as a helpful teaching aid before and after the Xello lesson.
2. Review the slides (including the speaker notes section) for suggested discussion strategies and prompts.
3. Update slide 5 of the presentation with your students' Xello sign in format. If you don't know your students' Xello login format check out [Sign in to Xello](#) for support.

### Teaching strategies

Use the following strategies to set your students up for success:

- 1 Before students start the Xello lesson, take 5 minutes to have them review and consider the inquiry prompts from the **Warm up** activity slide of the [Program prospects slide presentation](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)), or choose your own. Advise students to keep these questions in mind as they complete the lesson. You will revisit these questions with them in the **Exit activity** afterwards.
- 2 Help your students log in to their Xello account. Project your screen as you model how to navigate to the lesson using your demo student account. From the student dashboard, click on a lesson to get started. If the lesson you want isn't visible, access it by selecting **View all lessons** below the lesson shown,

### Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- [Program prospects slide presentation](#) (also available in [Spanish](#))

### Prerequisites

- Save 3 **Majors**

### Artifacts

Students will complete the Xello lesson: **Program prospects**.

## Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Program prospects

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or **View lessons** on the left of your screen.

- 3 Students finished early? If students have time after completing the Xello lesson, encourage them to update their **After high school goal** on **About me**. Have them reconsider the 3 options (**Not sure yet, More school or training, or Alternate route**) taking into account their recent research into the education and training pathways for 2 saved careers.
- 4 They can also explore their dashboard feed where they'll find content related to their saved careers.
- 5 Once students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the [Program prospects slide presentation](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) to have students revisit the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.
- 6 **Classroom discussion strategy: Round robin:** Lead a round robin style discussion in which each person shares their answer to the following inquiry prompt: Which do you think you should pick first: career, program, or college? Why?

**OPTIONAL:** Document the responses. What observations can be drawn about them? What conclusions can be made?

## Activity 3: Rank program factors



### Inquiry prompts

- What matters most to you in a program, and why?

### Before you begin

- Students will need to have 1 saved program in Xello.
- Create a Xello **Assignment** asking students to upload both their **Program ranking tool** and completed ranking for 1 saved program.

### Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will create a program ranking tool to help them with the process of identifying preferred education pathways that lead to saved career destinations.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students.

### Materials required

- [Student instructions](#) (also available in [Spanish](#))
- Computer or tablet with internet access

### Artifacts

Students will upload both their **Program ranking tool** and completed ranking for 1 saved program and submit in a Xello **Assignment**.

## Rank program factors

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### Student instructions

Your priorities may change as you learn more about **Careers, Majors, and Schools**. If you know what's important to you in a program after high school, you'll find it easier to narrow your postsecondary education options. In this activity, you'll create a tool to help you identify preferred education programs to help you attain your postsecondary goals.

In Xello's **Program prospects** lesson you were introduced to a list of factors to help you select programs that best suit your postsecondary goals. Reflecting on these factors as you research programs can be an effective strategy when making postsecondary decisions.

- 1 Create a document for your personalized Program Ranking Tool
- 2 Review the list of program factors and narrow it to your top 7 to 10. What matters most to you in a program?
  - **Career opportunities:** Will this program help me enter a career I like? Will there be jobs in this field of study when I'm done?
  - **Interests:** Does this program reflect my interests? Will I enjoy learning about topics in this field?
  - **Graduate success:** How do people typically fare after graduating from this program? Do they find jobs in the field?
  - **Hands-on learning:** Will I be able to take part in hands-on learning opportunities, like co-ops or study abroad programs?
  - **Cost:** What is the tuition like for this program? What about costs for supplies, or other fees?
  - **Prerequisites:** Will I have the courses, marks, or experience required to enter this program?
  - **Length:** How long does it take to complete this program? Does the timeframe work for me?
  - **Difficulty:** Will this program provide the level of academic challenge I'm looking for? Can I handle the workload?
  - **Reputation:** What is the program's reputation like? How is it perceived by employers and others?
  - **Curriculum:** Will I like the courses in this program? Will I have the flexibility to take electives in other fields?
  - **Availability:** Is this program available in my area, or at a school I want to attend?
  - **Class size:** Does the typical class size in this program work for me?
  - **Flexible study:** Does this program offer flexible study options, such as online classes or a part-time option?
  - **Financial aid:** Are there any financial incentives, like bursaries or scholarships, offered to people who enroll in this program?
  - **Student satisfaction:** How happy are current (and former) students in this program with their experience?
  - **Earning potential:** How much do graduates of this program typically earn?
- 3 Prioritize your list in order of importance. What makes this factor a priority for your program choice?
- 4 Create a scale to evaluate each factor. For each scale, define the highest and lowest ends. How can you decide whether a program meets this factor?
- 5 Test your tool. Select one of your saved **Majors** and rank each factor. How does this program fit with your education or life goals?
- 6 Upload both your **About me** and completed ranking for 1 saved program as requested in your Xello **Assignment**.



## Clasificar factores de programas

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### Instrucciones para estudiantes

Tus prioridades pueden cambiar a medida que conozcas más las **Profesiones**, los **Asignaturas principales** y las **Universidades**. Si sabes lo que es importante para ti en un programa después de la secundaria, te resultará más fácil reducir tus opciones de educación después de la secundaria. En esta actividad, crearás una herramienta para identificar tus programas de educación preferidos y alcanzar tus metas después de la secundaria.

En la lección **Posibles asignaturas principales**, de Xello, se te presentó una lista de factores para ayudarte a seleccionar programas que respondieran más a tus metas para después de la secundaria. Reflexionar sobre estos factores mientras investigas programas puede ser una estrategia efectiva al tomar decisiones para después de la secundaria.

- 1 Crear un documento para tu herramienta personalizada de clasificación de programas
- 2 Revisa la lista de factores de programas y redúcela hasta que queden los 7-10 que más te importen. ¿Qué te importa más de un programa?
  - **Oportunidades profesionales:** ¿Este programa me ayudará a ingresar en la profesión que me gusta? ¿Cuándo termine habrá puestos de trabajo relacionados con esta área de estudio?
  - **Intereses:** ¿Este programa refleja mis intereses? ¿Disfrutaré aprendiendo temas de esta área?
  - **Éxito tras la graduación:** ¿Cómo les va normalmente a los graduados de este programa? ¿Encuentran trabajos relacionados?
  - **Aprendizaje práctico:** ¿Podré participar de programas de aprendizaje práctico, como los de educación cooperativa o estudio en el exterior?
  - **Costo:** ¿Qué matrícula tiene este programa? ¿Qué costos tienen los materiales y otros elementos?
  - **Requisitos previos:** ¿Tendré las asignaturas, las calificaciones o la experiencia que se necesitan para participar en este programa?
  - **Duración:** ¿En cuánto tiempo se completa este programa? ¿El plazo funciona en mi caso?
  - **Dificultad:** ¿Este programa tendrá el nivel de desafío que busco a nivel académico? ¿Puedo manejar el volumen de trabajo?
  - **Reputación:** ¿Qué reputación tiene el programa? ¿Cómo lo ven los empleados y otras personas?
  - **Plan de estudios:** ¿Me gustarán las asignaturas de este programa? ¿Habrá flexibilidad como para tomar opciones de otras áreas?
  - **Disponibilidad:** ¿Este programa está disponible en mi área o en una institución a la que quiero ir?
  - **Cantidad de alumnos por clase:** ¿El número típico de estudiantes por clase de este programa resulta en mi caso?
  - **Flexibilidad para el estudio:** ¿Este programa ofrece opciones de estudio flexibles, como clases en línea o una opción a medio tiempo?
  - **Ayuda financiera:** ¿Se ofrecen incentivos económicos, como subsidios o becas, a quienes se inscriben en este programa?
  - **Satisfacción del estudiante:** ¿Qué grado de satisfacción tienen los estudiantes actuales (y los ex estudiantes) con respecto a su experiencia en este programa?
  - **Posibilidad de obtener buenos ingresos:** ¿Qué ingresos tienen normalmente los graduados de estos programas?
- 3 Aplica prioridad a tu lista por orden de importancia. ¿Qué convierte a este factor en una prioridad al elegir tu programa?
- 4 Crea una escala para evaluar cada factor. Para cada escala, define los extremos más altos y bajos. ¿Cómo puedes decidir si un programa cumple con este factor?
- 5 Prueba tu herramienta. Selecciona uno de tus **Asignaturas principales** y clasifica cada factor. ¿En qué aspectos este programa se relacionaría con tu educación o tus metas en la vida?

Posibles programas

## Clasificar factores de programas

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- 6 Carga tu herramienta de clasificación de programas y la clasificación completa para 1 programa guardado en tu **Tablero de Acerca de mí**, en Xello.