

Rank program factors

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**.