



## Education and Career Budget Project

For this assignment, students will compare career goals through one academic route or military route and one energy and advanced manufacturing field route. After looking at the costs of attending school and the anticipated salary of each career, students will then create a budget for both career choices. Once everything is completed, students will need to pick their top career choice.

### Career Choices

**Academic Route:** When looking up your academic route, please make sure you look at all standards that the college/university will require for admittance; i.e., ACT scores, GPA, community involvement, etc.

- ✓ Where do you plan to attend?
- ✓ Will you live on campus, in an apartment or at home?
- ✓ What are the costs associated with attending college; i.e., tuition, room/board, books, etc.
- ✓ How long will it take you to complete the program? Will there be any special fees associated with it; i.e., special tests to take, etc.
- ✓ How will the cost of school be paid? With loans, grants, scholarships?
- ✓ If your career goal includes additional education such as a doctorate, then include the cost of that as well.

**Military Route:** When looking into military options, please make sure to look at all requirements for that route.

- ✓ Do you plan to enter the military as an enlisted or officer corps?
- ✓ Have you taken the ASVAB? What is your score? This will help guide you in the options that are available. Talk to your counselor about test availability.
- ✓ What branch of enlistment would you like to join?
- ✓ Is there a specific specialization that you would choose? If so, is there anything you can do now to help you in that endeavor?
- ✓ What training programs do you need to complete? How long will this training last and where will you go?
- ✓ What are your goals? Four years or thirty years or somewhere in between?

**Energy and Advanced Manufacturing Field Route:** When looking at your energy and advanced manufacturing field options, please log on to [www.getonthegridms.com](http://www.getonthegridms.com) and browse through the potential choices.

- ✓ What training must be completed before entering this field?
- ✓ Are there any certifications you can earn in high school that gives you a ticket into that career field after graduation?
- ✓ What training is offered at the college level that will allow you to enter your chosen field? How long will the college training last?
- ✓ How much does the training/certification/college cost?
- ✓ Are you able to attend school longer to earn better opportunities in that field?



**Employment:** Once you have decided on your two career choices and have completed the above information, think about what you will need to start your job.

- ✓ Where will you work? Are there job openings where you live or will you need to move?
- ✓ Will you need to purchase a car or do you already own one?
- ✓ Where will you live? Do you need to rent an apartment, will you live at home or can you buy a home?
- ✓ What types of items will you need to perform your job? (This would include safety goggles, hard hats, lab coats, etc.)
- ✓ What type of salary can you expect as an entry level employee?
- ✓ Estimate what your take home pay might be minus taxes.

**Budget:** Once you have reviewed your information on your career choices and what your take home pay will be for those choices, please complete a monthly budget that should include:

- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Utilities
- ✓ Transportation costs
- ✓ Food costs (remember to include what you might eat throughout the whole day for seven days a week)
- ✓ Personal care products
- ✓ Home care products
- ✓ Insurance (health, dental, vision, etc.—some employers will provide it, but some won't—count your costs!)
- ✓ Medicines
- ✓ Entertainment (Netflix, movies, dining out, etc.)
- ✓ Will you have any student loan debt?
- ✓ Set aside a portion for savings of either 5 or 10%

**Presentation:** Now that you have completed your career choices and budget, now it's time to put everything together in one of two ways: a PowerPoint or Prezi for the digital version OR you can complete a paper version by using Word or Google docs.

- ✓ Please present information in a logical order. For your academic or military choice, include all educational costs and budget together; then follow up with your energy and advanced manufacturing field related choice information.
- ✓ Please include a reference page at the end detailing sites visited.

**Career Choice:** Now is the time to make a career choice! Which career choice do you choose?

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**Optional Extensions:**

- ✓ Students could write a reflection essay comparing the two choices and what finally sold them on the choice they made.
- ✓ Students could discuss in class the choices made and why.
- ✓ Students could job shadow in their chosen career choice and report back to the teacher what they have learned.