

Pre-Employment Transition Services: Job Exploration Counseling

Job Exploration Counseling is one of the [five pre-employment transition services \(pre-ETS\)](#). It involves ongoing discussions between the student and an informed career professional. The career professional helps students match their strengths, interests, and preferences to potential careers and identify career paths. This ongoing process intends to increase a student's motivation, expand potential career opportunities, and connect educational activities to future careers.

Activities

Ideally, students will engage with a variety of people proficient at job exploration counseling. Counseling activities, such as researching careers, helping students understand labor market trends, and understanding assessment results, will involve a variety of professionals offering their expertise. When professionals collaborate and share results of these activities it provides a richer, more comprehensive view for the student as they move toward making informed career decisions. Job exploration counseling may also involve developing career awareness through exposure to speakers who work in various career fields and to career-related student organizations.

School

- Administer interest inventories
- Invite employers to speak to students
- Share information about career-related student organizations offered in the school setting

Pre-ETS Providers

- Research industries, occupations, and labor market trends with students
- Explore skill and school requirements for specific career fields
- Share information on in-demand careers in the community

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors

- Review vocational interests inventory results with the student and family
- Provide information on nontraditional employment
- Discuss career pathways and help students identify career pathways of interest

Families

- Collaborate with professionals on identifying the student's strengths and interests that relate to particular careers
- Listen and encourage the student to explore careers of interest
- Encourage student participation in career-related student organizations

Conclusion

Pre-Employment Transition Services provide an opportunity for students to receive early access to instruction on job exploration counseling, workplace readiness skills, postsecondary education counseling, work-based learning, and instruction in self-advocacy. In the area of job exploration counseling, the activities provide valuable information and guidance to assist students as they explore their interests and skills related to careers. Coordinated services across home, school, and community settings allow students to build skills that they can generalize across environments as they prepare for life after high school.

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