

20 Years from Now—Career Exploration Activity

Objective: To make mentees aware of how much life costs and why it is so important to go to college and get a higher education degree.

List of Supplies

1. Cost of Living Spreadsheet (attached)
2. Annual Salary by Career Spreadsheet (attached)
3. 20 Years From Now Handout (attached)
4. Pens/pencils
5. Calculator
6. Internet Access (optional)

Steps for the Activity

1. Have mentees close their eyes and picture themselves in 20 years getting up in the morning.
 - Prompts: Where are they living? What does their house/apartment look like? What clothes are they putting on? Are there children in the room? What kind of transportation do they own?
2. Give mentees the “20 Years From Now” handout and have them fill it out. Do not show any costs or salary amounts at this point in the activity.
3. Have your mentees share with you what they wrote down.
4. For each option your mentees picked from the worksheet, tell them how much that part of their life would cost. Use the “Annual Cost of Living” information sheet (attached). Go through the spreadsheet with the mentee so they know what they’re paying for.
5. Once you have estimated all of the costs, add them up to get an estimate for yearly spending.
6. Explain to your mentee that more education usually leads to higher annual (and lifetime) earnings.
7. Look at the 1-3 careers your mentee selected and fill in the annual salaries from the “Annual Salaries by Career” information sheet. If your mentee writes a career that is not on the spreadsheet, go online to BLS.gov/OOH or Salary.com to look up the information for that career.
8. Discuss with your mentee which career paths would allow them to live their “dream life”. Ask the follow questions:
 - Are you surprised by the total amount your dream life costs?
 - Are there any changes you would make to your original plan now that you know the actual cost?
 - What job do they need to support their lifestyle?
 - How much education is required for that job?And most importantly:
 - Is there anything you could be doing now to make this lifestyle a reality?
9. Discuss with mentees how you can make more money in a particular career by having a higher degree or working harder because you love what you do.
10. If there is time, go online to look at more information on their proposed career, including education requirements, benefits, and peek earnings.

Adapted by Kelsey Olesen, Spring 2013 from Holly Blevins, Fall 2012

20 Years from Now

Where do you live?

Are you renting a place in....

	Arizona?	a big city?	somewhere else?
1 bedroom?			
2 bedrooms?			
3 bedrooms?			

OR do you own a...

House in the suburbs?	Condo in the big city?	Townhouse?	Big Rural house?

Price of house: \$_____ +

Cost per month: \$_____

How do you get around?

Do you have a...

Car?	Truck?	Van or SUV?	Motorcycle?

Is it...

New?	or Used?

Price of Vehicle: \$_____ +

Cost per month: \$_____

Do you have any kids?

How many? _____

How old are they?

Kid #	Age	Cost per month
1		\$
2		\$
3		\$
4		\$
5		\$
6		\$

Total cost per month: \$_____

Did you go to college?

Did you attend...

a Private College?	a Public University (as an in-state resident)?	a Community College for 2 years & a Private College for 2 years?	the U of A?

Total price for 4 years of higher education (loans): \$_____

Cost per month (to repay loans): \$_____

What job do you have? (Choose 1-3)

Career	Education Required	Annual Salary
		\$
		\$
		\$

Examples: vet, doctor, lawyer, accountant, manager, artist, CEO, high school teacher, college professor, nurse, architect, engineer, surgeon, etc.

Estimated Monthly Spending: \$_____ **× 12 =**

Estimated Yearly Spending: \$_____

Estimated Yearly Salary: \$_____

Amount You Have Extra/

Extra Amount You Need Per Year: \$_____

Annual Salary by Career *Data from 2010-2012; Average salaries*

Job	Education Level	Years	Annual Salary	Job Outlook	Highest Level	Education Level	Years	Annual Salary	Job Outlook
Waiter/Waitress	Less than High School	0	\$ 18,330	9%	Bartender	Less than High School	0	\$ 18,680	9%
Fast Food Cook	Less than High School	0	\$ 18,491	unknown	Cook, Short Order	High School	0	\$ 32,217	unknown
Childcare Worker	High School	0	\$ 19,300	20%	Special Ed Teacher	Bachelors	4	\$ 53,220	17%
Veterinarian Technician	Associates	2	\$ 29,710	52%	Veterinarian	Doctorate	8	\$ 96,188	36%
EMT/Paramedic	Postsecondary (non-degree)	1	\$ 30,360	33%	Physicians Assistant	Masters	6--7	\$ 86,410	30%
Carpenter	High School	0	\$ 39,530	20%	Construction/ Building Inspector	High School	0	\$ 52,360	18%
Musician	High School	0	\$ 22.39 per hour	10%	Music Director/ Composer	Bachelors	4	\$ 45,970	10%
Craft/Fine Artist	High School	0	\$ 43,470	5%	Art Director	Bachelors	4	\$ 80,630	9%
Athlete	High School	0	\$ 43,740	22%	Michael Jordan	Bachelors	4	\$ 30,000,000	unknown
Firefighter	Postsecondary (non-degree)	1	\$ 45,250	9%	Fire Inspector	High School	0	\$ 52,230	9%
Film & Video Editor/Camera Operator	Bachelors	4	\$ 45,490	4%	Producer or Director	Bachelors	4	\$ 68,440	11%
Paralegal	Associates	2	\$ 46,680	18%	Lawyer	Doctorate	8	\$ 112,760	10%
Food Service Manager	High School	0	\$ 48,130	-3%	Sales Manager	Bachelors	4	\$ 98,530	12%
Police Patrol Officer	Postsecondary (non-degree)	1	\$ 50,512	7%	Sherriff/Police Chief	Postsecondary (non-degree)	1	\$ 96,762	unknown
High School Teacher	Bachelors	4	\$ 50,950	7%	Principal	Master	6--8	\$ 86,970	10%
Writer	Bachelors	4	\$ 55,420	6%	Senior Editor	Bachelors/ Masters	4--7	\$ 74,915	1%
Multimedia Artists/Animators	Bachelors	4	\$ 58,510	8%	Art Director	Bachelors	4	\$ 80,630	9%
Accountant	Bachelors	4	\$ 61,690	16%	Financial Manager	Bachelors	4	\$ 103,910	9%
Professor	Masters/ Doctorate	6--8	\$ 62,050	17%	Professor of Law	Doctorate	12	\$ 150,003	unknown
Civil Engineer	Bachelors	4	\$ 68,666	19%	Specialist Civil Engineer	Bachelors/ Masters	4--8	\$ 110,636	19%
Chemist	Bachelors	4	\$ 69,790	4%	Chemical Engineer	Bachelors	4	\$ 90,300	6%
Nurse	Associates/ Bachelors	2--4	\$ 69,803	26%	Director of Occupational Medicine	Bachelors/ Masters/ Doctorate	4--10	\$ 95,776	unknown
Mechanical Engineer	Bachelors	4	\$ 72,330	9%	Mechanical Engineer-- Specialist	Bachelors/ Masters	4--8	\$ 113,488	9%
Architect	Bachelors	4	\$ 72,550	24%	Architectural/ Engineering Manager	Bachelors	4	\$ 119,260	9%
Administrative Services Manager	High School	0	\$ 77,890	15%	CEO	Bachelors/ Masters	4--8	\$ 726,091	5%
Mathematician	Masters/ Doctorate	4--8	\$ 99,380	16%	Physicist or Astronomer	Doctorate	8	\$ 105,430	14%
Dentist	Doctorate	10	\$ 146,920	21%	Orthodontist	Doctorate	10	\$ 166,400	unknown
Doctor	Doctorate	11	\$ 173,253	24%	Anesthesiologist	Doctorate	12	\$ 337,345	unknown
Surgeon	Doctorate	12	\$ 320,000	24%	Heart Transplant Surgeon	Doctorate	12	\$ 513,986	unknown

For more occupation info go to: Salary.com or the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook at BLS.gov/OOH

Cost of Living Spreadsheet *Based on 2009-2013 Statistics; Middle Class Average*

Living

		1 bedroom	2 bedroom	3 bedroom	<i>Utilities</i>	<i>Insurance</i>	Total per Month	
Renting	Nationwide	\$ 600	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 204	\$	6	\$ 210
	Metropolitan	\$ 750	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 200	\$	6	\$ 206
	Arizona	\$ 700	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,750	\$ 275	\$	6	\$ 281
		Price	<i>Montly Cost</i>	<i>Utilities</i>	<i>Upkeep</i>	<i>Household</i>	Total per Month	
Owning	Suburb	\$ 225,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 300	\$ 100	\$	125	\$ 2,025
	City	\$ 225,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 250	\$ 100	\$	100	\$ 1,450
	Townhouse	\$ 260,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 250	\$ 100	\$	100	\$ 1,450
	Rural (big)	\$ 250,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 300	\$ 150	\$	150	\$ 2,600

Transportation

	Price (New)	Price (Used)	Gas	Insurance	Upkeep	(New) Total/Month	(Used) Total/Month
Car	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 60	\$ 35	\$ 50	\$ 592	\$ 145
Truck	\$ 30,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 60	\$ 35	\$ 50	\$ 615	\$ 145
Van/SUV	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 80	\$ 35	\$ 50	\$ 635	\$ 165
Motorcycle	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 40	\$ 20	\$ 50	\$ 210	\$ 110

Life

	Food	Clothing	Health Insurance	Other	Total per Month
<i>Per Month</i>	\$ 300	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 50	\$ 500

Family

Age of Child	Cost per Month
0-2	\$ 914
3--5	\$ 941
6--8	\$ 928
9--11	\$ 911
12--14	\$ 975
15-17	\$ 1,003

Education

	Cost	Years to Repay	Payment per Month
Private College	\$127,100	25	\$ 423
Public/University (in-state resident)	\$37,800	25	\$ 126
2 Years Community College & 2 Years			
Private College	\$73,700	25	\$ 245
U of A (4 Years)	\$33,000	25	\$ 110