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| CAREER CRUISER | Analyzing Postsecondary Data |

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| **Step 3** | Explore postsecondary training. |
| **Driving Question** | How do my training options compare? |
| **Goal** | Students will compare the performance and outcome data from multiple postsecondary training options. |
| **Standard** | Describe a diversity of postsecondary pathways. (CR.1.3)  |

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| **FOR TEACHERS** |

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| **Timeframe** | 2 to 4 roughly hour-long lessons. |
| **Materials** | Internet and digital device access. This lesson can be done with print offs of the data of three local training providers, such as a technical college, a state or community college and a university. |
| **Xello** | [Xello](https://xello.world/en/florida-college-career-ready/), Florida’s official K-12 public school career planning and work-based learning coordination system, has tools you can use on this topic!  Within the system, navigate to ‘Explore’ and then ‘Schools.’ Select postsecondary training opportunities relevant to you to view their data. |
| **Overview** | **Beginning*** Students compare data in sports (touchdowns, wins, tackles), gaming (rank, score), and social media (followers, likes, shares) all the time! Draw comparisons from these familiar data reference points and let the students know that we will be comparing data from postsecondary training providers.

**Middle*** Students will compare the data from three postsecondary training providers they are most interested in attending.

**End*** Have students discuss with a partner what training provider data metric impressed them the most and which data number disappointed them the most.

**Extensions*** Have students choose one data point (e.g., graduation rate, cost, earnings) and research what factors can cause this number to be high or low for a training provider.
* Have students present to the class (PowerPoint, display board, table or other means) a comparison of the data across their three chosen training providers and explain, based on their research and best guesses, why the figures vary so much across the different training providers.
* Have students visit [Florida’s Public Higher Education Portal](https://www.floridajobs.org/wser-home/products-and-services/public-higher-education/public-higher-education-portal) to review the median starting salaries of graduates of programs offered at Florida’s public technical colleges, state or community colleges, and universities. Ask them to report the yearly salary for a program and institution they are interested in and then ask them to compare this salary at other institutions and programs that align with their career and training goals.
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| **FOR STUDENTS** |

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| **Learn** |

**Understanding Postsecondary Data**

Below is a list of common data used to understand postsecondary training providers. Read the table and then be ready to apply your knowledge to compare three institutions that you choose.

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| **Metric** | **Informal, Conceptual Definition** | **Why the Data Matters** | **Example** |
| **Average Annual Cost** | The amount most people pay out-of-pocket per year. This includes tuition, living costs, books, supplies, and food minus the average grants and scholarships for Federal financial aid recipients. This does not include non-Federal scholarships, which can be considerable.  | This can help you estimate the cost of postsecondary training. Multiply this number by the number of years you plan to attend to estimate total costs.Do not choose training solely on the price. Choose based on how much completing the training is likely to improve your career outcomes.  | $27,892 |
| **Median Total Debt After Graduation** | How much money the average student owes the Federal government after attending. | Once you are done with school, this is how much money you may owe in loans. | $18,635 |
| **Graduation Rate** | The percent of students that start a program that will finish the program.  | Graduation rate can be a measure of student satisfaction and support. | 56% |
| **Median Earnings** | What most people earn yearly after graduating. | Some postsecondary training providers do a better job of building your skills, connecting you with people that can help you get a job, and providing credentials that are sought after by industry.  | $53,449 |
| **Enrollment** | The number of students that attend the school. | Large schools can sometimes have a wider variety of opportunities. Smaller schools can sometimes have a greater sense of community. | 7,072 |
| **Acceptance Rate** | The percent of students that apply to attend that are accepted into a program. | This can measure how hard it is to get into a training program. | 33% |

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| **Do** |

**Compare Postsecondary Training Data**

* Go to the U.S. Dept. Of Education’s College Scorecard website: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>.
* Click on ‘Show Me Options’ on the right-hand side.
* Then, select ‘Schools Near Me’ and click on ‘Find Schools.’
* Then, use the filters on the left-hand side to narrow the displayed schools to just those that you are interested in.
* Click the checkbox in the upper right of the display box of three or more schools you are interested in comparing.
* In the upper-right of the website, select ‘Compare Schools.’

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| **Reflect** |
| For your top three choices in postsecondary training providers, fill in the below data chart based on data from the [U.S. Department of Education’s College Scorecard](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/) or another data source. Then, complete the reflection questions found beneath the data chart. |
| **Training Provider** | **Average Annual Cost** | **Graduation Rate** | **Median Earnings** |
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| **Costs**: For the school that costs the most, does it have higher or lower median earnings compared to the other training providers? Explain why you think that is the case. |  |
| **Graduation rate:** For the training provider with the highest graduation rate, go under its ‘Graduation & Retention’ section and list the top reasons for not graduating (transferring, withdrawing, etc.). |  |
| **Earnings**: Subtract the highest median earnings from the lowest. List factors that could contribute to this earnings difference. |  |
| **Importance:** List which data metric you think is the most important for choosing a training provider and explain why. |  |