# Activity: Planning for My Career

Now that you have explored how earning power impacts your ability to earn an adequate income for financial stability and long-term financial health, use what you have learned to start preparing for life on your own after high school. Use the SMART guidelines to write goals that will lead you on the path to achieving the career and lifestyle you want. Your goals should specify what you need to do, starting now, to proactively boost your earning capacity. As you plan, think about actions you can take now, and in the future, to enable you to cover your expenses, live comfortably, and plan for the future.

Add your goals to your personal financial planning portfolio. As your life circumstances change, refer to your goals to check progress, modify the goals, or write new goals.

**Directions:**

Apply what you have learned about goal setting as you complete this challenge. Write at least one short-term goal, one medium-term goal, and one long-term goal related to enhancing your ability to earn an adequate income. Be sure to create goals that have meaning to you based on your current circumstances and values.

1. Preview the criteria listed in the Scoring Guide to plan for your assessment.

2. Brainstorm ideas for personal financial goals that can be classified as short-term, medium-term, and long-term.

3. Review the SMART Goals chart to establish goal details. You’ll find that back at the Course, Money Management.

4. Write your SMART goals taking into consideration how you will prioritize your actions as you work to achieve all of the goals at the same time.

5. Self-assess your work using the Scoring Guide. Optional: Ask a classmate or family member to peer assess your work using the Scoring Guide to evaluate your work.

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| Short-Term |       |
| Medium -Term |       |
| Long-Term |       |

# Activity: Planning for My Career Scoring Guide

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| **Required Criteria** | **Status** |
| Content |
| 1. | You list one short-term skill-development or career-related goal. (zero – three months) | [ ]  acceptable [ ]  not acceptable |
| 2. | You list one medium-term skill-development or career-related goal. (three months – one year) | [ ]  acceptable [ ]  not acceptable |
| 3. | You list one long-term skill-development or career-related goal. (more than a year) | [ ]  acceptable [ ]  not acceptable |
| **Status Rating Key: “A” = Acceptable / “NA” = Not Acceptable** | Short Term | Medium Term | Long Term |
| 4. | Each goal states one specific outcome with specific actions to carry out to fulfill the outcome. |  |  |  |
| 5. | Each goal states benchmarks and the expected evidence to measure when the goal has been achieved. |  |  |  |
| 6. | You justify that each goal is attainable and realistic based on your current circumstances and the resources that you expect to be available. |  |  |  |
| 7. | You summarize how each goal is relevant and meaningful to your current life situation and values. |  |  |  |
| 8. | Each goal includes a timeline with a target completion date and milestone dates for any significant mid-point actions. |  |  |  |
| General |
| 9. | Documentation is neat and easy to read. | [ ]  acceptable[ ]  not acceptable |
| 10. | Your calculations are accurate. | [ ]  acceptable[ ]  not acceptable |

Totals:

 Acceptable Not Acceptable

Feedback: