

# Career Launcher

## The Integrated Career Pathways Curriculum

### Pricing Information

Single CD: \$395  
5-Pack: \$595  
10-Pack: \$695  
Site License: \$995

*Career Launcher* divides the U.S. economy into six pathways and provides exploratory information and academic lessons for 40 individual jobs in each pathway. Students search for careers by pathway, education level required, or academic subject. *Career Launcher* contains four applied academic activities per career.

## Bring practical exposure to 240 careers!

*Career Launcher* gives the student a real life look at 240 careers, including:

- What I do everyday
- The best and worst part of my job
- What I need to know and be able to do
- Salary Range and Education Needed
- Related Jobs

## Explore 40 Careers in Each of Six Pathways!

Each pathway includes 40 careers. Each career contains four lessons for a total of 960 applied lessons.

1. Communications and the Arts
2. Health and Medicine
3. Human, Personal, and Public Service
4. Business and Marketing
5. Scientific and Industrial Technology
6. Environment and National Resources

Download six FREE Lessons at our Website  
[www.careersolutionspublishing.com](http://www.careersolutionspublishing.com)

*Career Launcher* is presented on a student-friendly CD-ROM. The Instructor's Guide provides comprehensive materials including a teaching plan, suggestions on involving the community, useful handouts, solutions for all 960 activities, perspectives on each career and attention getting transparencies.

## CNC Operator and Programmer



Photo: Corel

# Career Launcher

No. 168

*“Look at the metal and plastic pieces of your radio or hair dryer. I run the computer numerical control (CNC) machine that forms, shapes, and cuts all the different pieces. If your radio is stored in a wooden or plastic cabinet, a CNC machine might have cut the wood also.”*

## *What I do every day*

Machines that used to be run by motors or were operated manually have been adapted so they can be controlled by computers. They're now called computer numerical control machines (CNC). I set up and run a CNC machine installing a software program that tells the machine what part to make and what size and shape it should be. Software programmers write most of the programs I use, but sometimes I write the program myself. If you're wondering why the word number is in the term CNC, it's because a lot of geometry is used in programming CNC machines.

## *The best part of my job*

My job is easy on me physically. People joke with me and ask, "Are you tired from pushing buttons today?" Although I work around a lot of machines, everything is clean and neat. The environment suits me.

## *The worst part of my job*

Running a CNC machine is a big responsibility. If I'm not careful, I can crash a program or wreck a machine by choosing the wrong software or making an improper adjustment. It can take hours to get an expensive CNC machine up and running again. Concentrating can be difficult in a noisy shop.

## *What I need to know and be able to do*

CNC operators and programmers must follow directions, know geometry, and read blueprints. When a new part is to be formed and cut, they have to make a trial production run and perform adjustments or rewrite part of the software, so they need to have confidence in themselves. Being flexible and willing to learn is very important because CNC machines evolve and change very quickly. If CNC operators want to grow in their career, they must possess cutting-edge technology skills.

## *How I prepared to be a CNC operator and programmer*

After graduating from a vocational-technical school, I enrolled in a trade school to learn to operate and program CNC machines. When I was hired by a plastics company, my employer gave me several weeks of on-the-job training to learn about production.

## *How I could have prepared better*

Taking more math courses in high school would help me now when I read blueprints and operate the CNC equipment.

**Education needed:** Technical certificate or associate's degree

**Salary range:** \$250 – \$700 per week

**Related jobs:** Extruding and forming machine operator, metal patternmaker, tool and die maker, plastics-working machine operator

## Highway Patrol Officer



**Career  
Launcher**

*"If you were ever speeding on a state highway, I might have pulled you over and given you a ticket. I patrol the highways, enforcing criminal laws and making sure motorists obey traffic laws."*

## *What I do every day*

Some people call me a state trooper or a state police officer. I enforce the state's motor vehicle laws and issue citations when motorists disobey the law. I also investigate burglaries, assaults, and other crimes that are committed in my jurisdiction. When a motor vehicle accident occurs, I go to the scene and give first aid, direct traffic, and call for ambulances, fire trucks, and other emergency equipment. I also call for road service when highway motorists have mechanical trouble.

## *The best part of my job*

As a highway patrol officer, I protect the people in my territory and keep them safe. It's a big responsibility that I take seriously.

## *The worst part of my job*

I spend long hours sitting and driving in my car, which can numb my brain. But to do my job well, it's important for me to stay alert.

## *What I need to know and be able to do*

Highway patrol officers enforce both criminal laws and motor vehicle laws and should know and understand these laws. They must know how to operate and maintain firearms. They need to be able to investigate crimes, respond to emergencies, and offer assistance to other local law enforcement agencies when called upon.

## *How I prepared to be a highway patrol officer*

Ever since I was a teenager, I wanted to go into the field of law enforcement. After I graduated from high school, I enrolled in a 2-year program and earned my associate's degree in criminal justice. To become a highway patrol officer, I passed written and physical examinations and met strict physical and personal requirements.

## *How I could have prepared better*

When I'm out on the highway, I often encounter people who don't speak English. Knowing Spanish or another second language would make it easier for me to communicate with them.

**Education needed:** Associate's degree in criminal justice, police science, or related field

**Salary range:** \$25,000 – \$65,000

**Related jobs:** Correctional officer, detective, FBI agent, fire marshal

## Horticulturist



## Career Launcher

No. 222

*"You may have eaten one of the new varieties of peaches I developed last year. Now I'm working to develop more disease-resistant and pest-free strawberry plants. Reducing disease and pest damage is one way to increase crop yield and feed more people."*

## *What I do every day*

Throughout the year I breed new plant varieties and look for better ways to harvest, ship, store, and process horticulture crops. I work 40 hours a week for the county agricultural service. Each day I divide my time between the office and the field. In the field I often work alone, which is good, because then I can concentrate on what I'm doing. I'm busy during the growing season answering questions from gardeners and farmers about their crops.

## *The best part of my job*

Breeding stronger plants is rewarding. So is finding better ways to increase crop production. I also like learning about the newest gardening products from chemical and equipment manufacturers. When a new plant fertilizer or insecticide is developed, I'm one of the first to know.

## *The worst part of my job*

It's frustrating when plants die for no apparent reason or when pests destroy an abundant crop. I also get tired from all the stooping and kneeling I do, even though I'm in good physical condition. Working outside in inclement weather is really a drag, too. But I can't avoid it with my job.

## *What I need to know and be able to do*

My research in plant development requires me to perform very precise work. That means I keep detailed notes. One skill I've learned from breeding new plant varieties is patience; you can't make plants grow quickly.

## *How I prepared to be a horticulturist*

To become a horticulturist I completed a 4-year college degree in horticulture. In high school, I took advanced math, biology, and chemistry classes. I'm working toward my master's degree in agronomy and crop science. My employer pays for my continuing education.

## *How I could have prepared better*

Community groups often ask me to write articles about gardening topics for the local paper or to speak at local functions. Since I don't have a background in English and public speaking, I'm not too comfortable. If I had taken advanced English and public speaking courses my communication skills would be better.

**Education needed:** Bachelor's degree in any field; graduate degree depending on the employer

**Salary range:** \$20,000 – \$40,000

**Related jobs:** Agronomist, animal scientist, biochemist, ecologist, farmer, forester, landscaper, soil conservationist

## Hotel Convention Manager



Photo: PhotoDisc

# Career Launcher

No. 140

*“When a convention takes place at a large hotel, I’m the one who coordinates all the details — from getting someone to fill the water pitchers to making sure the microphones are in working order and the guests have rooms. Supervising everyone on my staff is my biggest task.”*

## *What I do every day*

I spend my time planning, organizing, and directing all the services needed for a convention to run smoothly. It's my job to decide how much space we'll use in the hotel and determine what types of food are needed. I hire and supervise staff, order stock and supplies, plan budgets, determine work schedules, develop policies and procedures, and keep business records. When a convention's in town, I work long hours trying to keep track of what's going on.

## *The best part of my job*

Every day is a challenge in this business and I'm glad. I like to do new and different things each day. It keeps me from getting bored. I also like monitoring our hotel's web site on the Internet and handling any convention requests that come in by e-mail. Advertising on the net is a great new way to let people know what our hotel has to offer.

## *The worst part of my job*

Dealing with angry customers still makes me nervous, and this is a skill I'm learning. Employees get upset, too. It's tough making employee work schedules that satisfy everyone.

## *What I need to know and be able to do*

Organization is very important because I have to keep up with a lot of details. If there's a problem to solve or a decision to make, I try to do it quickly. Talking over ideas and listening to others' opinions is a big part of my job, so I must get along well with everyone.

## *How I prepared to be a hotel convention manager*

After I graduated from high school, I completed a 2-year college degree in hotel and restaurant management at the local community college. My first job was as a trainee assistant manager. Because of my initiative and enthusiasm, I advanced quickly. I've heard of other convention managers who never went to college, but most hotels prefer employees with at least a 2-year degree.

## *How I could have prepared better*

If I had taken more courses in psychology and human behavior I could supervise my workers better and discipline employees when they don't follow the rules. Knowing how to use different computer programs would make it easier for me to manage my business records.

**Education needed:** Associate's degree or bachelor's degree in hotel management

**Salary range:** \$22,000 – \$35,000

**Related jobs:** Food service manager, housekeeper, concierge, chef, hotel clerk, hotel manager



## Veterinary Assistant

# Career Launcher

No. 79

*“Getting bitten by a dog wasn’t how I planned to begin my day, but as a veterinary assistant, I’ve learned that all animals are unpredictable in the clinic. Whether I’m shaving a cat before surgery or walking a dog, I need to be ready for the unexpected.”*

## *What I do every day*

I spend my time working directly with animals and treating them according to instructions the vet gives me. Sometimes it's my job to vaccinate animals and take blood samples. I'm also responsible for preparing animals for surgery, assisting the vet during surgery, dressing wounds, and feeding and exercising the animals. I also answer the telephone and make appointments.

## *The best part of my job*

Watching the vet diagnose medical problems is what I like best. It's amazing to watch her analyze a pet's condition and reach a conclusion about the treatment needed. I've always liked working with animals, so this is a great job for me.

## *The worst part of my job*

I'll never get used to seeing animals that have to be euthanized. It really bothers me. Cleaning the animal cages and sterilizing the laboratory equipment and surgical instruments gets a little boring, too. The clinic is noisy with hissing cats, barking dogs, screeching birds, and ringing telephones. Sometimes it can be hard to talk, let alone think about what I need to do next.

## *What I need to know and be able to do*

To be a veterinary assistant, a person must like animals, have a good work ethic, and follow directions well. Understanding something about animal anatomy and behavior, medical technology, and diagnostic procedures is important, too.

## *How I prepared to be a veterinary assistant*

I began working part-time for a vet as soon as I turned 16. In high school, I took applied math and applied biology, along with my other requirements. After graduating, I started working for my boss 40-plus hours a week. She trained me on the job, and I've learned a lot in the 2 years I've been working here.

## *How I could have prepared better*

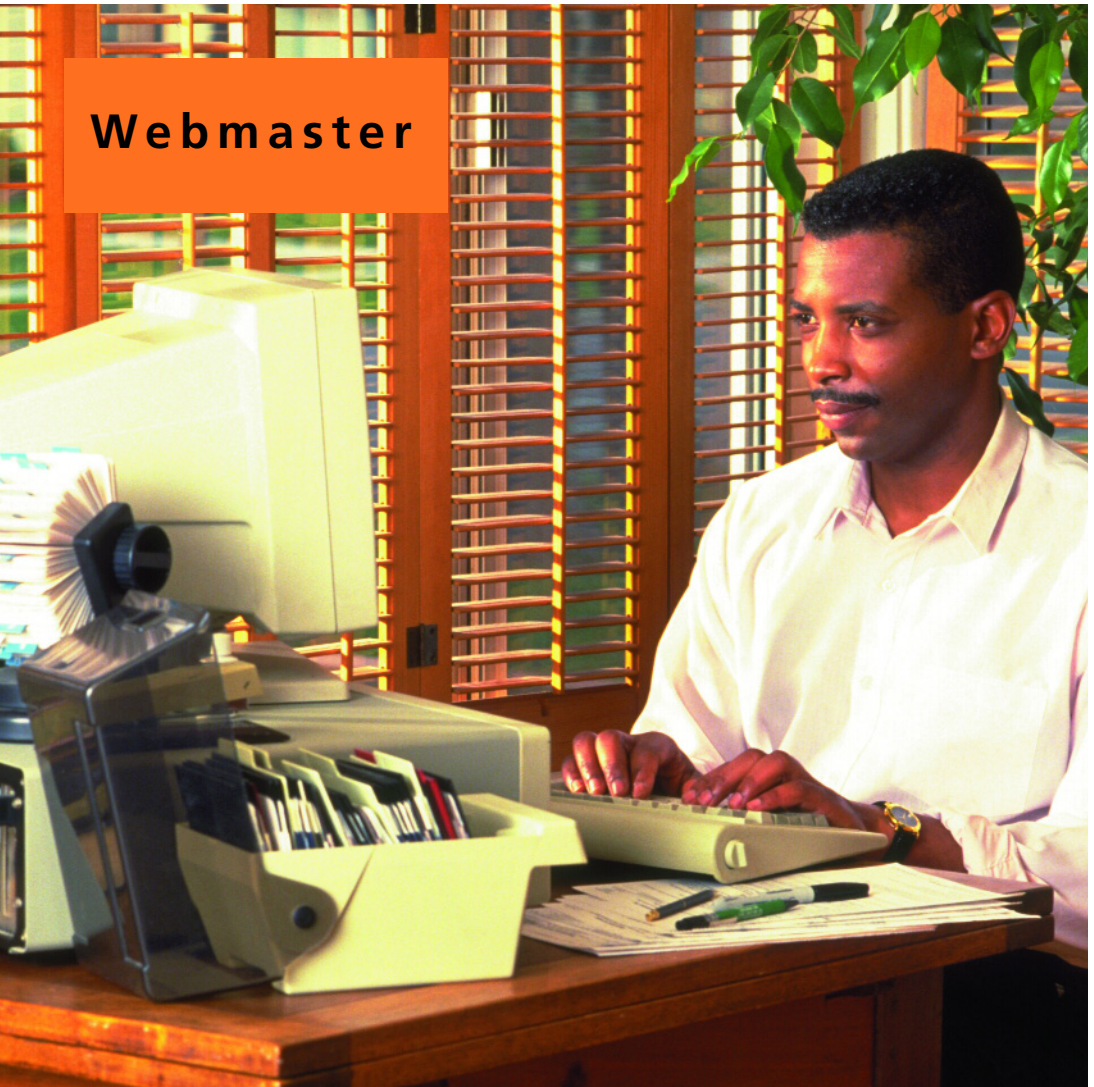
Our community college offers a veterinary technology program that includes courses on animal anatomy. I'm planning to attend part-time. Knowing more about computers would really help me, too, since our clinic just started using a computer program to keep track of our billing and inventory.

**Education needed:** High school diploma; some veterinarians prefer vocationally trained assistants, others train assistants on the job.

**Salary range:** \$13,000 – \$20,000

**Related jobs:** Animal breeder, animal handler, groomer, veterinarian, veterinary office manager

## Webmaster



## Career Launcher

No. 40

*"It takes a lot of people working hard to publish a web site on the Internet. Webmasters work with authors, artists, and web page designers to create exciting web sites. When a web site is colorful and interesting and can be used easily, a webmaster has done a good job."*

## *What I do every day*

The organization I work for has a site on the World Wide Web. As the webmaster, I approve all the information found on our web site, and I decide which pictures to publish. If our web site doesn't look good or has mistakes, I'm the person responsible. Since I'm so busy managing, I assign graphic artists to design the art work and authors to write and update the material, which I edit for content and style. I work closely with web page designers to make our site easy to navigate. It's my job to make sure everyone gets the work done.

## *The best part of my job*

In our organization, I'm the one who knows the most about the World Wide Web and electronic publishing. I like being the expert. Each day, I'm doing something different. The variety keeps my job interesting and exciting.

## *The worst part of my job*

In any kind of publishing business, meeting deadlines is stressful. I don't like pushing artists and authors to meet their deadlines. When I have piles of copy to edit, my eyes get extremely tired.

## *What I need to know and be able to do*

Webmasters must have exceptional writing and editing skills. They need to communicate ideas through words and pictures. They also should be good managers. Webmasters need to know how to delegate jobs and supervise others as they complete their work.

## *How I prepared to be a webmaster*

After graduating from high school, I earned my bachelor's degree in English. Before I became a webmaster, I edited textbooks for a small publishing company. That's where I improved my editing skills. I learned some of my technology skills on the job, but I took 3 continuing education courses to learn more about the World Wide Web and the specific technology I need to do my job well.

## *How I could have prepared better*

I wish I had taken some courses in public speaking so that I would be more comfortable speaking in front of groups. Since I'm the expert on electronic publishing, my company wants me to speak at seminars, but I'm not ready yet.

<b>Education needed:</b>	Associate's or bachelor's degree in English, communications, journalism, marketing, or computer science
<b>Salary range:</b>	\$35,000 – \$95,000 per year
<b>Related jobs:</b>	Graphic artist, systems administrator, web page designer, writer