

Pre-Launch Lesson Plan

GRADE 4, PLANET A | TWO-YEAR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES

Objectives

- Students name and describe six different kinds of training and education: apprenticeships, advanced degrees, associate's degrees, certificates and specialized career credentials, bachelor's degrees, and technical training.
- Students can describe a range of career training programs and education pathways.
- Students will identify the kinds of programs or institutions that offer particular types of training and education.
- Identify additional occupations that are typical of each of the six Holland work environments.

Preparation & Materials Needed

- Copies of the *Associate's Degree Checklist* for each student or student team.
- Chalkboard/whiteboard and markers.

Lesson Plan

Total Time: 16-20 minutes

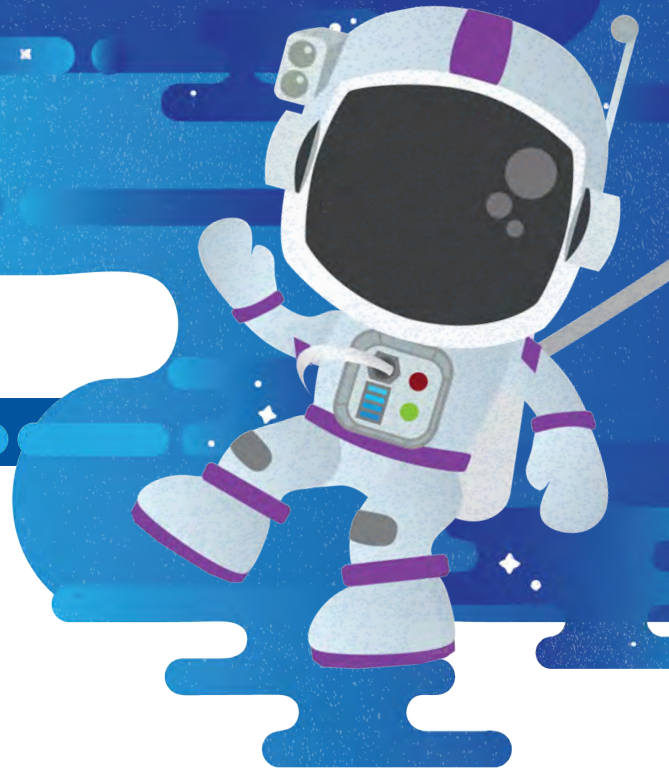
INTRODUCTION

3-5 Minutes

Begin the lesson by asking the class if they have an older sibling or know of an older friend who is going to college. Ask students if they know the name of the college or university the individual attended or is attending. Typically, the colleges and universities students know most about are four-year institutions.

Explain to students that while many colleges and universities offer four-year degrees and advanced degrees, other institutions — such as community colleges and technical schools — offer two-year degrees. Ask students if they know the names of any community colleges or institutions that offer two-year degrees. If possible, share with students actual names of regional two-year community college or technical training academies. Assess whether the names of these institutions are familiar.

Share with the class that today they will be travelling to Planet A to explore, not only artistic careers, but an education and training option called an associate's degree or two-year degree. Write the term "associate's degree" on the chalk/whiteboard or on chart paper. Explain that some high school graduates, who know what work they want to do, will complete two years of college so they can start their career as soon as possible.



DISCUSSION**4-6 Minutes**

Explain that some high school graduates are unsure of what careers they want to pursue, so they enroll in a two-year associate's degree program to "try out" or explore a certain occupational area.

Ask students if they ever started something just to see if they liked it before going further. Discuss student answers. Prompt the discussion, if needed, with the following:

- *Which of the following have you tried in order to see if you liked it?*
 - *A television program*
 - *A computer game*
 - *A sports team or dance/music program*
- *How many of you found out that you liked it?*
- *How many of you discovered you disliked it?*
- *Is it okay to try something out to see if you like it?*

ACTIVITY**8-10 Minutes**

Introduce the activity by sharing that there are many high-paying and high-demand occupations that require no more than a two-year associate's degree. Explain that these occupations are sometimes "hidden" because many people think more than a two-year degree is required to enter the career.

Distribute the *Associate's Degree Checklist* to students individually or in small teams. Ask students to read through the occupations on the left side of the worksheet and then mark one or both of the columns on the right side if they think the career "Requires an Associate's Degree" or "Requires More Than an Associate's Degree." Encourage students to make their best guess even if they do not know what the occupation is.

Review the answers with the entire class. Ask students:

- *Were you surprised by the number of occupations that require no more than an associate's degree?*
- *What occupations surprised you the most?*
- *Which of the occupations listed would you see on Planet A which features individuals with artistic career interests?*

CONCLUSION**1-2 minutes**

After processing the activity, share that students will learn more about these careers and more about associate's degrees in their upcoming visit to Planet A!

4A ACTIVITY | TWO-YEAR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES

Associate's Degree Checklist

My Name: _____

Occupation	Requires Two-Year Associate's Degrees	Requires More Than an Associate's Degree
1. Dental Hygienist		
2. Air Traffic Controller		
3. Web Developer		
4. Heart Surgeon		
5. Police Officer		
6. Computer Network Specialist		
7. Chemical Technician		
8. Funeral Service Worker		
9. Veterinarian		
10. Child Care Specialist		
11. Videographer		
12. Lawyer		
13. Telecom Installer		
14. Graphic Designer		
15. Paralegal		
16. Radiation Therapist		
17. Registered Nurse		
18. Aerospace Engineering Technician		

4A ACTIVITY | TWO-YEAR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES
ANSWER KEY

Associate's Degree Checklist

Occupation	Requires Two-Year Associate's Degrees	Requires More Than an Associate's Degree	Planet A
1. Dental Hygienist	X		
2. Air Traffic Controller	X		
3. Web Developer	X		(some*)
4. Heart Surgeon		X	
5. Police Officer	X		
6. Computer Network Specialist	X		
7. Chemical Technician	X		
8. Funeral Service Worker	X		
9. Veterinarian		X	
10. Child Care Specialist	X		(some*)
11. Videographer	X		X
12. Lawyer		X	(some*)
13. Telecom Installer	X		
14. Graphic Designer	X		X
15. Paralegal	X		
16. Radiation Therapist	X		
17. Registered Nurse	X		
18. Aerospace Engineering Technician	X		