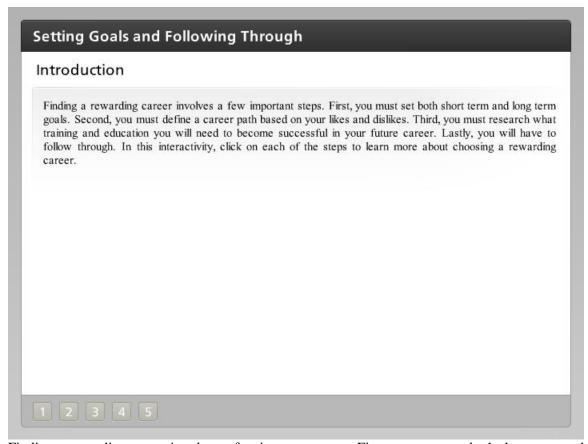
Topic 2 Content: Setting Goals and Following Through

Introduction



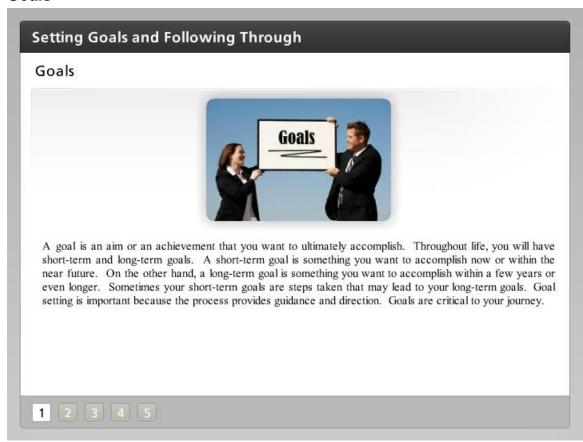
Finding a rewarding career involves a few important steps. First, you must set both short term and long term goals. Second, you must define a career path based on your likes and dislikes. Third, you must research what training and education you will need to become successful in your future career. Lastly, you will have to follow through.

In this interactivity, click on each of the steps to learn more about choosing a rewarding career.



Topic 2 Content: Setting Goals and Following Through

Goals

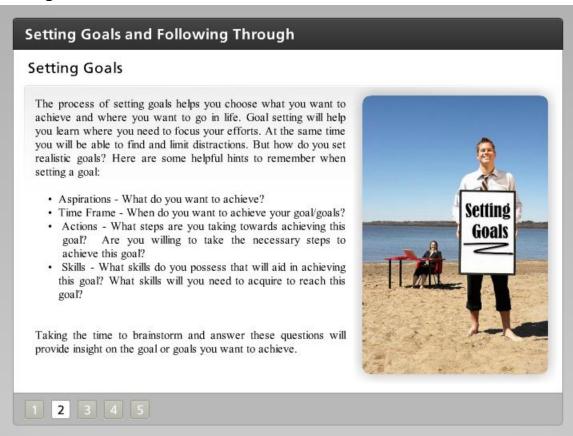


A goal is an aim or an achievement that you want to ultimately accomplish. Throughout life, you will have short-term and long-term goals. A short-term goal is something you want to accomplish now or within the near future. On the other hand, a long-term goal is something you want to accomplish within a few years or even longer. Sometimes your short-term goals are steps taken that may lead to your long-term goals. Goal setting is important because the process provides guidance and direction. Goals are critical to your journey.



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Setting Goals



The process of setting goals helps you choose what you want to achieve and where you want to go in life. Goal setting will help you learn where you need to focus your efforts. At the same time you will be able to find and limit distractions. But how do you set realistic goals? Here are some helpful hints to remember when setting a goal:

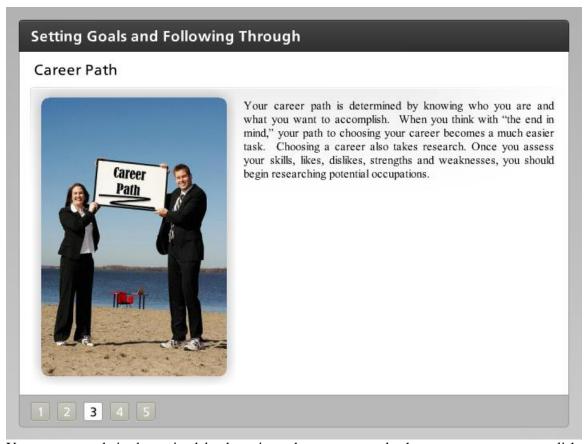
- Aspirations What do you want to achieve?
- Time Frame When do you want to achieve your goal/goals?
- Actions What steps are you taking towards achieving this goal? Are you willing to take the necessary steps to achieve this goal?
- Skills What skills do you possess that will aid in achieving this goal? What skills will you need to acquire to reach this goal?

Taking the time to brainstorm and answer these questions will provide insight on the goal or goals you want to achieve.



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Career Path

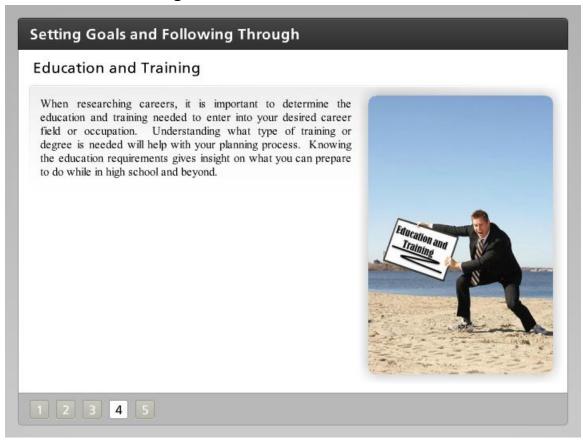


Your career path is determined by knowing who you are and what you want to accomplish. When you think with "the end in mind," your path to choosing your career becomes a much easier task. Choosing a career also takes research. Once you assess your skills, likes, dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, you should begin researching potential occupations.



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Education and Training

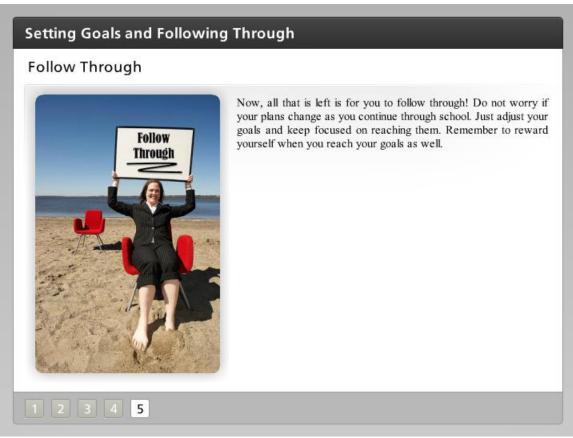


When researching careers, it is important to determine the education and training needed to enter into your desired career field or occupation. Understanding what type of training or degree is needed will help with your planning process. Knowing the education requirements gives insight on what you can prepare to do while in high school and beyond.



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Follow Through



Now, all that is left is for you to follow through! Do not worry if your plans change as you continue through school. Just adjust your goals and keep focused on reaching them. Remember to reward yourself when you reach your goals as well.

