

My Plans After High School Graduation

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Use the PACED Decision-making Model to complete this assignment. The purpose is to help you make an informed decision about your plans after graduating from high school. You will need to determine the problem you are solving, identify possible options to help solve it, establish your personal preferences and criteria, research and review those options, and then make a decision about what you plan to do after high school graduation. Be sure to answer all questions and complete the PACED Grid on page 2 of this assignment. Remember, your goal is to find the option that provides the best path, at the lowest possible cost (total price and opportunity cost), to meet your future goals.

The PACED Decision-Making Grid

- P** State the **Problem**
- A** List the **Alternatives**
- C** Identify the **Criteria**
- E** **Evaluate** the alternatives based on the criteria
- D** Make a **Decision**

Problem: What am I going to do after I graduate from high school? Do I want to get a job? If so, where? Do I want to go to a college or university to pursue a degree? If so, where? Or, do I want to go to a technical school or other post-secondary institution for training? If so, where? What career would I want to choose? All of these are potential questions (or problems) for you to research in this assignment.

My problem/question to answer is: _____

Alternatives: List four potential options that help resolve your problem or answer your question.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

College: Where am I going to go

Criteria: List four criteria (my priorities, wants, needs) to guide you when making a choice.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Note: If choosing to attend a college, university or technical school, following are some criteria to consider: Tuition, room, board, and fees; Location (proximity to home); Academic ranking of the institution; Job placement record on awarding degrees; Transferability of knowledge and skills across occupations; Occupational outlook, and Others

Evaluate: Using the criteria you have listed, review the four options/alternatives to see how they best fit your personal preferences. Evaluate each criterion using a scale of 1 to 5. If it is a great fit or aligns well, place a 5 in the box; if it is not a fit or does not align, place a 1 in the box. Refer to the web sites on page 3 to help with your evaluations. After completing the evaluations, add up each row – giving each alternative a total. The alternative with the highest total best aligns with your preferences/criteria and should be your decision.

Decision: What have you decided to do? Why?

Criteria → ↓ Alternatives					Total

College: Where am I going to go

Some resources to help you make an informed decision:

- [College Board's College Search Portal for Students](#) (requires registration)
- [Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Handbook](#) provides a job market outlook and career training and education expectations, median annual and hourly pay, and more for thousands of occupations.
- The Niche College Rankings collects data from a variety of sources to rank colleges and universities across the United States. <https://www.niche.com/colleges/rankings/>
- Search the websites of universities, four-year colleges, and two year technical or community colleges to weigh the best options using the PACED model