

## Excelling

**Scenario:** You are the owner of a small restaurant. You just hired two new employees, Rob and Chelsea. Though they have been with you for only a week, you notice some significant differences between them. Rob is always on time; actually, he's always a few minutes early for work. He has challenged himself to remember all the names of your frequent customers and takes time to greet them when they come in. He is careful that all the tables are extra clean when he washes them. Rob has been asking questions about how to run the cash register and says he hopes he can learn if you are willing to train him.

Chelsea, on the other hand, is quite different. She's never been late, but she barely makes it to work on time and usually looks like her mind is really somewhere else. She cleans the tables as she is supposed to, but is rather slow and appears that she'd rather not exert herself. Customers have never complained about Chelsea, but neither have they given compliments.

You started them each out at \$6.55 per hour. Given this scenario, what would you do when it came time to offer pay raises? Why?

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If your business was growing and you needed to promote someone to a more responsible position, who would you choose?

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If your business began to decline and you had to let one person go, who would it be and why?

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## Excelling

In this scenario, Rob obviously was the person most committed to excelling. Excelling means going beyond what's expected—doing your personal best in whatever you do. Rob also challenged himself. He tackled new tasks and sought ways to learn new things.

Now think about yourself at school. Circle the most accurate answer to the following statements.

- |   |                                     |                                 |                                     |                                 |                                |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| I am on time for class and ready to begin.          | <input type="checkbox"/> Always     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly | <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Never |
| I don't just try to pass each course; I do my best. | <input type="checkbox"/> Always     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly | <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Never |
| I want to take courses that challenge me.           | <input type="checkbox"/> Definitely | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe  | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Really |                                 |                                |
| I enjoy learning new things.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Definitely | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe  | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Really |                                 |                                |

How did you do? Are there any changes you should consider?

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## Dreams for the Future

If you could have your choice of any job, which one would you pick? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you enjoy about this career? \_\_\_\_\_

Excelling and challenging yourself in school greatly increases the likelihood that your dreams for the future will come true. Let's consider, for instance, the importance of taking challenging courses. The following table lists high school courses that are useful for people entering several different careers.

Circle any subject that you see three or more times:

Doctor	Detective	Engineer	Architect	Teacher
Biology	Biology	Biology	Biology	Biology
Calculus	Chemistry	Calculus	Calculus	Chemistry
English	English	Economics	Design	English
History	Forensic Science	English	Economics	History
Psychology	History	History	English	Physics
Sociology	Psychology	Physics	History	Psychology
Statistics	Statistics	Statistics	Physics	Statistics

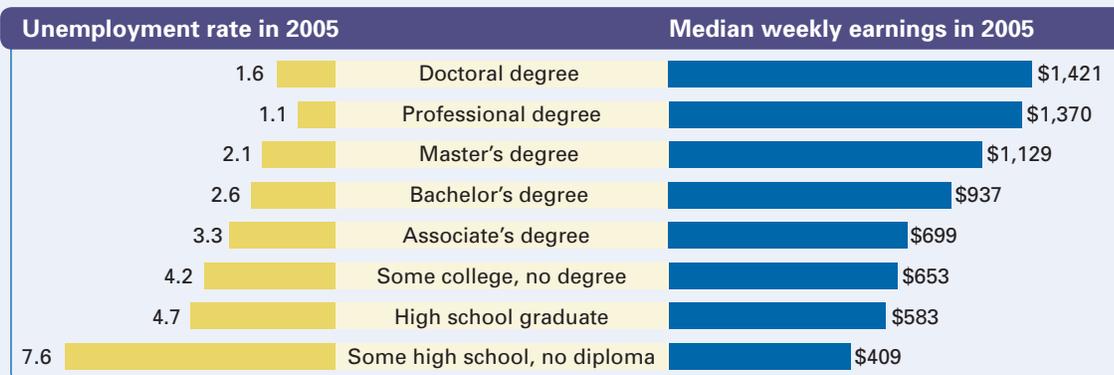
Did you make a lot of circles? Even though these jobs are very different, people take many of the same courses to prepare for them. Most of these courses are considered advanced and you may need teacher recommendations to take them.

## Online

Go to [CFNC.org/MS](http://CFNC.org/MS) for a link to view a list of programs within career clusters. Choose a few that interest you and select High School Courses in the left navigation bar to see suggested courses.

## Challenging Yourself in Math

You may have noticed Calculus on several lists. Calculus is a type of advanced math. High school students often take the following courses so that they can study Calculus during their senior year or in college.



*Education makes a big difference in both your opportunity to find a job and how much you earn.*