

Career Exploration as a Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Educator

Lesson Overview

FCS educators work with students who are enrolled in grades six through twelve. There are also some FCS instructors at the post-secondary level. Understanding the types of career opportunities and the content that instructors teach is important for students interested in this career path.

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Better understand what FCS educators do in their job
- Compare the roles and requirements of careers at various educational levels
- Discuss the impact of FCS educators

Lesson at a Glance

Activity	Materials	Preparation	Approximate Class Time
FOCUS	• <i>Teacher for a Day</i> worksheet • <i>Career Exploration as a FCS Educator</i> slide presentation • Internet access • FCS educator videos • <i>Being a FCS Educator Is/Is Not the Career for Me</i> worksheet	1. Print the <i>Teacher for a Day</i> and <i>Being a FCS Educator Is/Is Not the Career for Me</i> worksheets (one of each per participant). 2. Prepare the slide presentation and videos for viewing.	60 minutes
LEARN	• Middle School Teacher or High School Teacher videos • <i>Pros and Cons</i> worksheet	1. Print the <i>Pros and Cons</i> worksheet (one per participant). 2. Prepare the videos for viewing.	30 minutes
REVIEW	• <i>FCS Teacher Investigation Station</i> worksheet • <i>Creating an Infographic: What's the Educator Buzz?</i> worksheet	1. Print the <i>FCS Teacher Investigation Station</i> and <i>Creating and Infographic</i> worksheets (one of pear per participant).	50 minutes

Career Exploration as a FCS Educator

FOCUS: FCS Teacher for a Day

60 minutes

Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to have participants better understand what FCS educators do.

Materials

- *Teacher for a Day* worksheet
- *Career Exploration as a FCS Educator* slide presentation
- Internet access
- FCS educator videos
- *Being a FCS Educator Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me* worksheet

Facilitation Steps:

1. Guide students through a discussion of about a career as a FCS educator. Share the slide presentation: *Career Exploration as a FCS Educator*.

Slide 1: Introduction slide

Slide 2: What Is FCS Education?

- Field of study focused on the science and the art of living and working well in our complex world
- Considered “people-centered sciences”

Slide 3: Primary Areas of Focus

- Culinary arts, hospitality, and tourism
- Education and training
- Food science and nutrition
- Health management and wellness
- Housing and interior design
- Human/child development and family relations
- Personal and family finance
- Textiles, apparel, and retailing

Slide 4: Value of FCS Education

Through research, experiential education, and technology, FCS educators help people develop the essential knowledge and skills to:

- Lead better lives
- Be work and career ready
- Build strong families
- Make meaningful contributions to our communities

Slide 5: Where Do FCS Professionals Work?

You will find FCS professionals in:

- Academic education at the early childhood, elementary, secondary, and higher education levels
- Community education for adults and youth, including cooperative extension programs
- Business and industry
- Government
- Health and human services

Slide 6: What Does a FCS Teacher Do?

- Provide students with skills they can use in the adult world relating to the content areas they teach (culinary, childcare, interior design, textiles, and fashion etc.)
- May teach students how to handle relationships, finances, health, and time management
- May also teach in non-traditional classrooms, such as 4-H programs or other extension programs in the community

Slide 7: FCS Careers Overview

2. To help students learn more about what FCS educators do, share one or more of the following videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-m8KZPa90w> (1:04)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EI_CWJhOARE (2:13)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITrnk4U9fL4> (5:07)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ha8oGInLTSU> (1:51)

3. Distribute the *Teacher for a Day* worksheet.

4. Explain to students that, using the Internet and their personal knowledge, they are going to create a detailed journal for what their day might be like as a FCS teacher.

They may choose to be a general FCS teacher, who teaches a variety of topic areas. Alternatively, they may choose to be a specialist, such as culinary, child development, interior design, etc.

5. Encourage participants to make sure their detailed journal entries contain accurate information for the FCS educator career they would be interested in.
6. Divide students into groups of four and have them discuss their detailed journal entries.
7. Using what they have learned so far and knowing they will do more research, students should do complete a self-evaluation.
8. Distribute the *Being a FCS Educator Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me* worksheet and instruct participants to review it.
9. As participants think about the information shared in the slide presentation, they should complete the worksheet.
10. Once participants have completed the worksheet, provide an opportunity for them to discuss what they recorded in each section.
11. Allow participants to share their thoughts about a career in FCS education before wrapping up this portion of the lesson. Specific questions might include: What would you enjoy? What would you find the most challenging?
12. Explain that they will have opportunities to take a deeper dive into life as a FCS educator.

Teacher for a Day

Instructions: Use the space provided to record the details of your day as a FCS teacher. Use personal knowledge and Internet information to make your journal sound as interesting and accurate as possible.

[illegible]

Being a FCS Educator Is/Is Not the Career Field for Me

Instruction: Record information from the video(s) and presentation in the spaces provided.
Circle in the title if this career is or is not for you.

This is interesting!	Shocking Info?!?!?!?	Is this for real?
I want to know more about this:	This sounds like something I would like:	I am not too sure about this:
I have a question:	I want to remember this:	Other (you choose):

Career Exploration as a FCS Educator

LEARN: Middle school vs High School - How Different Can It Be?

30 minutes

Purpose:

FCS educators work with students who are enrolled in grades six through twelve. Participants gain an overview of a career as a FCS educator. Understanding the types of content and skills needed for the job is important as a focus point.

Materials:

- [Middle School Teacher or High School Teacher](#) videos
- *Pros and Cons* worksheet

Facilitation Steps:

1. Share these statistics with the participants:
 - There are about 13,400 middle schools in the United States. Some of these schools are private; others are public.
 - There are about 24,000 high schools in the United States. Some of these schools are private; others are public.
 - There are about 627,000 lower secondary (middle school) teachers in the United States.
 - There are about 900,000 high school teachers in the United States.
2. Now consider how these statistics apply to FCS teachers at these levels.
 - There are 23,107 FCS teachers
 - There are 5,787 FCS teachers in middle school/junior high
 - There are 13,624 high school FCS teachers
 - There are 2,072 FCS teachers in other types of schools
 - PLUS, thousands of teachers specializing in child development, culinary, interior design, and more

3. Ask participants how they think being a middle school FCS teacher differs from being a high school FCS teacher. Working with students of different ages and stages of life brings its' own challenges and rewards. Is there one level of education that you think you gravitate towards?

4. Distribute the *Pros and Cons* worksheet.

5. Play the *Middle School or High School Teacher* video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=6C5zOTd12AE&feature=youtu.be>

The playing time is less than 10 minutes. It may be useful to preview the questions on the *Pros and Cons* worksheet before watching the video.

Here are a few alternative video clips to consider:

A Day in the Life of a Middle School Teacher
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Gw8A4KK4_s

Life as a Middle School Teacher
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6hqCCWKpkY>

First Year Teacher Advice and Tips
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99z22DHak5Q>

A Day in the Life: High School Teacher
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kn2eJYSsKM>

4. After the video is done, go through the *Pros and Cons* worksheet and ask participants to share answers.

Pros and Cons

Middle or High School FCS Teacher

Instructions: Record pros and cons for each career in the respective spaces.

Middle School FCS Teacher	
Pros:	Cons:
High School FCS Teacher	
Pros:	Cons:

Career Exploration as a FCS Educator

REVIEW: Reflection

50 minutes

Purpose:

Participants will reflect on the different opportunities in FCS education. They will complete a short research project to learn more about a career in as a FCS educator.

Materials:

- *FCS Teacher Investigation Station* worksheet
- *Creating an Infographic: What's the Educator Buzz?* handout

Facilitation Steps:

1. Distribute the *FCS Teacher Investigation Station* worksheet.
2. Instruct participants that they are going to complete a short research project to learn more about a career in FCS education.
3. Have students search for job listing for FCS educators. Another good source is the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
4. Once students complete the *FCS Teacher Investigation Station* worksheet, provide opportunity for them to discuss what they recorded in each section of the worksheet.
5. Allow students to share their thoughts about a career in secondary education before wrapping up this lesson. Specific questions can be: What would you find most interesting? What would be the most challenging for you?
6. If time allows, share additional videos on careers in teaching.
Teaching Career Pros and Cons
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1qp6iU4rZo>

25 Things You Should Know About Becoming a Teacher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukEKu3b2FD8>

7. Distribute the *Creating an Infographic: What's the FCS Educator Buzz?* worksheet. Explain to participants that they will make a digital infographic about this career field using what they have learned.
8. Share a sample infographic so they understand the look and feel of a typical infographic.

[Infographic: Increasing Access to Child Care - Durham's Partnership for Children \(dpfc.net\)](https://www.dpf.net/infographic/increasing-access-to-child-care-durham)

[2018 Early Child Workforce Index Infographics - Center for the Study of Child Care Employment \(berkeley.edu\)](https://www.berkeley.edu/employment/2018-early-child-workforce-index-infographics)
9. Encourage participants to make sure their infographics include the required information. Using color, images, and a unique layout will make the infographic visually appealing for others.
10. Have participants print and post their infographics in a conspicuous location. Allow time for participants to view infographics created by their peers.
11. If you would like to spend even more time investigating career opportunities in FCS education, there is an excellent resource you should investigate. Say YES to FCS Toolkit can be found here:

<https://virginiafccla.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/say-yes-to-fcs-recruiting-toolkit.pdf>

FCS Teacher Investigation Station

Instructions: Use the Internet to research more about a career as a FCS teacher.

Career Title:	Job Description (list at least 3 requirements): 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Required Training:	Job Outlook - What Does the Future Look Like?

Creating an Infographic: What's the FCS Educator Buzz?

What is an infographic?

An infographic is a collection of pictures, charts, and text that gives an easy-to-understand overview of this occupation.

As you prepare to make your infographic digitally, use the Internet to research the following information:

- ☐ Career as a child FCS educator
- ☐ Education requirements
- ☐ Primary duties/responsibilities
- ☐ Professional organizations
- ☐ Work environment

Other requirements:

- ☐ At least one image or chart
- ☐ Neatness
- ☐ Use of some color
- ☐ Creative layout
- ☐ Large enough fonts to easily read information



Career Exploration as a FCS Educator

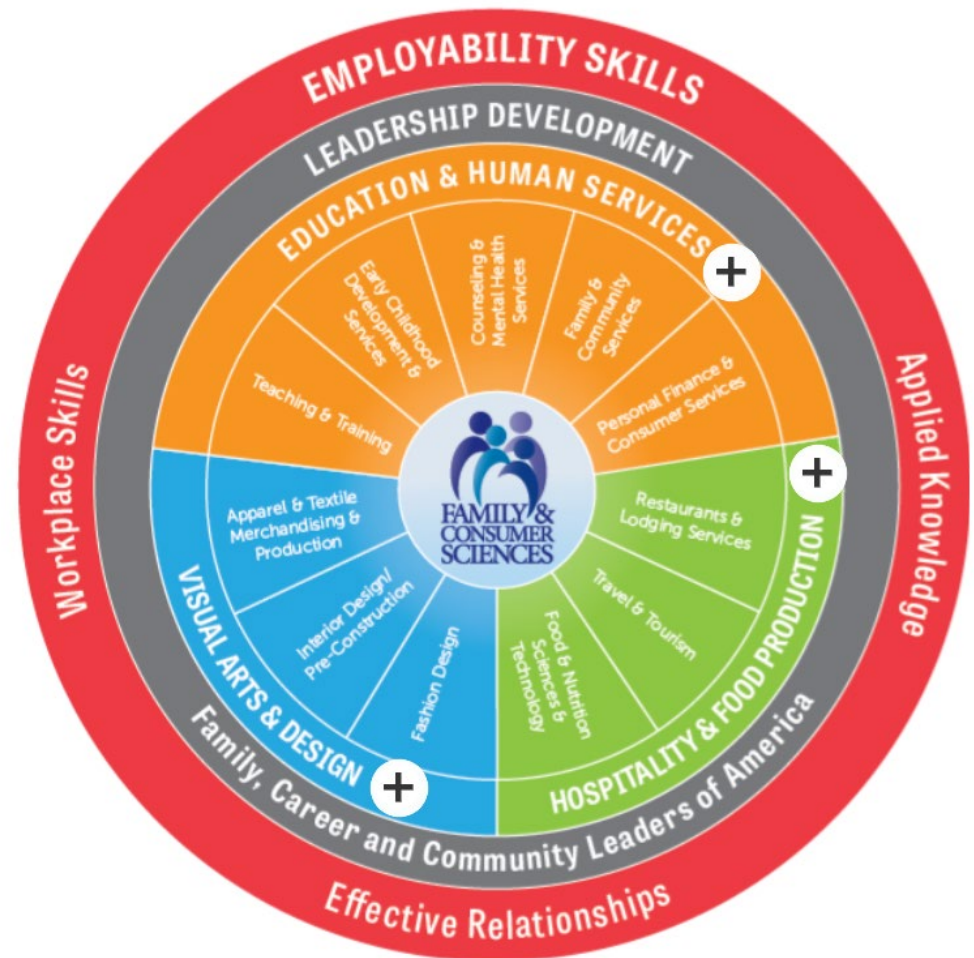
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Career-Specific Training for Many, Employability Skills for All!

Value of FCS Education



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FCS Careers Overview

Table 1. Family and consumer sciences degree, 2021

Data	Family and consumer sciences	All fields
Employment	485,650	59,687,450
Median wage	47,000	63,000
Percent employed part time	19	14
Percent employed in occupations requiring at least a bachelor's degree	52	62
Percent with an advanced degree	31	38

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

For more information please contact Realityworks, Inc.
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