Where Are You?

Objectives
Students will be able to:

- Assess where they are in the career planning process
- Understand that career planning is a multi-step process
- Understand the importance of longer term planning and goal setting
- Get to know their fellow students, practice communication skills

Materials Needed

- Handout of a multiple-step or layered career planning model
  - “Prepare for a Career Interactive Chart” on MCIS: [http://mncis.intocareers.org](http://mncis.intocareers.org) {subscription required}
- White board or poster paper and markers for large group discussions
- Name tags

Instructions
This ice breaker can be used for teens or adults at the beginning of a new class or workshop.

1. Each student will say their name and indicate which step they think they are on in the career planning model and why. They can also briefly state what they hope to accomplish from this class or workshop, their education or work background, and any career goals.
2. The facilitator can use the career planning model to describe the importance of career planning and as a needs assessment.
   a. If students focus on the “Find a Job” section for example, then the facilitator could gently probe by asking what occupations they are targeting. What do they know about their target occupation’s entry requirements, certification/licensing requirements, projected growth, or other labor market information or hiring procedures, etc.?
   b. If the student does not have a target occupation or career pathway, ask them if they might be in the Assessment, Exploration, or Gain Skills step.

3. As a group, discuss the activities and thought processes related to each career planning step.

4. Introduce the materials and topics that will be covered in the class or workshop and how they will help students to move through the career planning steps.

**Evaluation of Learning**

- Monitor students’ familiarity with career planning concepts.
- Assess students’ activities in their respective career step.
- Activities needed to progress through the career planning steps can be included in an Individualized Learning Plan or portfolio.

**Enhanced Learning**

- Revisit the career planning model mid-way through the course and at the end to help students identify the knowledge and awareness they have gained.
- Develop class/workshop activities based on student responses. If most students said they were in the Gain Skills step, for example, bring in more information about college planning and job training.
- Lead a discussion about the importance of career management as a life-long process ([www.jobseekersguide.org/US/what-is-career-management](http://www.jobseekersguide.org/US/what-is-career-management)).
- Share with class how you proceeded through each step of career development and where you are in your process.
- Invite guest speakers to talk about their career journeys and the importance of goal setting.