

Career and College Readiness Course Fact Sheet

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS @ TRANSITION

The transition from high school into tertiary education and/or the workforce is a key turning point in the lives of young people. Every year nearly 500,000 Kenyan youths leaving secondary schools struggle with transition into what to do after secondary education. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics *Kenya Economic Survey 2019 and 2020*, over 1.4 million such youths are still struggling with what to do with their life since they left high school over the past three years.

Reports show that these struggles may be attributed to:

- Insufficient preparation for post high school options available in the country;
- Family and societal pressure to produce good grades and when grades are low, youths feel or view themselves as failures;
- Career planning beginning *after* receiving KCSE results hence the pressure to make a decision now;
- Teachers, parents and other significant others in their lives lack the information and skills to guide them on how to make decisions.

Unfortunately, if these challenges are not addressed, we will continue to see and read about:

- Youths uncertain about choices of post-secondary education characterized by frequent change of courses and sometimes hopping from one institution to another;
- Youths Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) hence an ever-growing number of unskilled and unemployed youths;
- Youths in state of despair, hopelessness and susceptible to emotional distress;
- Youths vulnerable to anti-social behavior: thievery, illicit drug use, transactional sex, sexual exploitation, unplanned pregnancies, single parenthood and political thuggery or extremist religious views;
- Youths unproductive who rob the country of their energy needed to fill skills gap for national development.

But, regardless of this state of affairs there is hope! Youths have the capacity to be what they desire to be if supported to acquire skills to identify their interests, explore options, and facilitate decision making in order to maximize their potential for professional and personal success in their chosen career path. Hence the need for these youths to go through the Career and College Readiness Course™!

CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS COURSE™

The Career and College Readiness Course™ is a transitional course for youths leaving high school into life after high school. It is a guide to help them explore various options available. This course is cognizant of the fact that most Kenyan youths do not get an opportunity to work with professionally trained and certified career counsellors when making post high school education and career choices. Benchmarked on the best practices of career guidance, the course imparts skills to navigate that turbulent stage of transition.

Intended Course Outcomes

1. Ability to advocate for their interests, passions, aspirations and skills
2. Gain understanding of post-secondary education and progression pathways.
3. Access to up-to-date information on courses, apprenticeship and entrepreneurship.
4. Ability to make informed choices on post high school options.

Target Audience

1. All students leaving high schools and preparing to enroll into tertiary institutions.
2. Any youth aspiring to join career tracks or world of work directly after form
3. Any youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in need of a new start
4. Youths living with special needs with insufficient information on career pathways

Mode of delivery: Blended – online and offline

Estimated Time: Online 4 weeks
In-person 2 weeks

Cost: Ksks.5,000/=

Certification: Certificate of Completion on Career and College Readiness

THEORY OF CHANGE

IF school leavers are trained in *Career and College Readiness Skills*, **THEN** they will be certain about their interests, talents, abilities, aspirations and passions.



IF they are confident about their personal characteristics, **THEN** they will be motivated to explore various post-secondary school options available.



AND IF they identify the options that aligns with their passions, **THEN** they are likely to make informed choices and decisions.



IF they pursue post-secondary education and training, **THEN** they are likely to enjoy their courses and develop employability skills, graduate on time and enter into their career pathways.



IF they now join the world of work, **THEN** they will contribute towards competent productive, innovative and happy workforce.



AND IF they opt for apprenticeship (learning skills from an experienced person), **THEN** they will increase their ability to be gainfully employed and earn recognized skills qualifications.



AND IF they opt for entrepreneurship (business), **THEN** they will utilize skills to identify, recognize and commercialize business opportunities thus an engaged and happier youth who are likely to positively contribute to nation building.

Career and College readiness skills can thus contribute to a smoother transition and reduce education wastage

Website: www.careerguidancecollege.com/

Facebook: careerguidancecollegekenya

Twitter: @careercollege12

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Instagram: @careerguidancecollege

Cell: 0772131180