

Demand Planning: Additional Scenarios

If you wish to practice your inquiry and research skills by investigating additional emerging-occupation scenarios on your own later, here are some possibilities:

Alternative Scenario Option 1: Electric vehicle repair

With the proliferation of electric vehicles in North Carolina, state legislators have been eager to see the state's community college system offer new certificate programs in electric vehicle repair. The college's auto mechanic certification program focuses primarily on internal combustion engines. The college will need instructors in electric vehicle repair and maintenance. With that in mind, it is expected that developing a new EV repair program would require not only a new curriculum, but also new staff expertise, the adaptation of existing garage facilities, and the addition of electric vehicles to the FTCC training fleet.

If you were asked to advise on whether FTCC should create and/or bolster its EV training, what concerns would you raise as an adviser to the college president?

Potential questions this might raise include:

- What is the actual hiring and wage outlook for the occupation?
- What skills are the local employers hiring EV mechanics looking for?
- How do they already train their mechanics on staff to repair EVs?
- What internships/partnership options (if any) are available? How uniform are the required skills?
- Given that some auto brands (e.g., Tesla) involve more computer integration than other EV brands, would a single manufacturer require a different skill set?
- An additional wrinkle: Auto dealers are seeking increased electric-vehicle adoption and are looking for a local solution to provide electric vehicle repair certification. Tesla just announced that its electric charging stations nationwide will no longer work for non-Tesla EVs. How might this development affect the college's decision making?)

Alternative Scenario Option 2: Climate change analyst

There is growing community interest in climate sustainability. Rising tides, local flooding, and an increased number of hurricanes have raised the visibility of climate issues impacting government and the private sector. More businesses are concerned about integrating these challenges into their business operations, including developing risk management plans. While there may be more interest in the topic, it is not clear whether more jobs are available. Certainly, young adults are much more aware and are much more interested in job dedicated to combating climate change. Given the increased interest, does it make economic sense for the college to offer an associate's degree program in climate change analysis and risk management? What are the job prospects for graduates and what skills would be needed? Is this a feeder program for baccalaureate degrees or are their technical careers that students could pursue to help local employers reduce their carbon footprint and either make or save money.

In your role as an advisory committee member, what additional information would you seek before determining how the college should respond to the community stakeholders?

Potential questions this might raise include:

- Activism aside, what kind of staffing commitment do local employers have to hiring climate change analysts?

- If they are hiring, what are the characteristics of new hires? For instance, do they tend to staff with new employees or promote from within (e.g., a communications/marketing person with interests in science and sustainability).
- Since gen ed students often express interest in the field, what required skills is the college already developing through its core and elective course offerings? (e.g., writing, public speaking, research/analysis, environmental science)
- Since this is an emerging field, how can this be researched/determined?
- An additional wrinkle: If the 2020 elections result in a new Congress that promises to enact more stringent environmental regulations and perhaps even a federal carbon tax, how might that impact the field? Under a carbon tax, for instance, companies contributing to climate change would be taxed, based on their carbon footprint, but they could earn credits if they reduce their footprint, creating a financial interest for businesses in further reducing their footprint. How might this scenario affect your analysis?