Life After High School

Education after high school is a must-do, and there are a lot of options for you: on-the-job training, apprenticeships, community colleges, the military and four-year colleges and universities.

Career Clusters

A tool to help you explore your interests, target career areas and plan your future.

Making Money

Learn where to look to make the money you want. Learn to find the career that matches all your desires.

Plan It, Do It

We have the questions, you have the answers.

What's Your Plan?
HELPING YOU EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE

MissouriConnections.org
Connect to Your Future
**Career Clusters**

Within the six Career Paths are 16 Career Clusters to further help with career exploration and career planning. It is recommended that you select a Career Cluster of interest before or during high school to shape your plans for coursework. As a high school student, choosing a Career Cluster is about selecting an area for deeper exploration, not locking in a life-long career plan.

**Check It Out!**

- [www.missouriconnections.org](http://www.missouriconnections.org)
- [www.careerclusters.org](http://www.careerclusters.org)
- [www.missourieconomy.org](http://www.missourieconomy.org)
- [www.thefutureschannel.com](http://www.thefutureschannel.com)
- [www.acrnetwork.org](http://www.acrnetwork.org)
- [www.dreamit-doit.com](http://www.dreamit-doit.com)
- [www.dhe.mo.gov](http://www.dhe.mo.gov)

When you are ready to narrow things even further, there are two to seven Career Pathways within each Career Cluster. The Career Pathways can help you in two ways. First, if you’re sure about your Career Cluster of interest, you could select a Career Pathway of interest and hone your plans that much more. Second, exploring the skills and occupations in each pathway can give you a better understanding of the cluster and whether it is a good match for you.
Making Money and Living Your Dreams

Whether you have known since the first grade that you want to be a doctor or you have no idea what work you might do after high school, taking a closer look at the careers in your community can be a great benefit.

How much do people with that career make a year?
Are people hiring in this field now, and do they expect to be hiring in the future?
How many openings are expected in the area?
What are the best paying, most available jobs in the state and in your region?

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center offers wonderful information about all manner of jobs in our state. You can find the answers to these and other questions at the Missouri Connections website, www.missouriconnections.org or the MERIC website, www.missouri.economy.org

While you are exploring career options, remember to go beyond the virtual. Nothing compares with the first-hand information you can get by talking with someone in your Career Cluster of interest.

Participate in job shadowing or an internship, complete a project at school that simulates work in your chosen field, volunteer in your community for first-hand exploration, or take a hands-on career education course related to your career interests.

At the same time, it is very important to consider the kind of life you would like to live. What do you expect to have, and what do you expect to do when you are an adult?

There are many resources available on the Internet and through your local library to help you estimate expenses, plan a budget and figure out whether the job you expect to have matches your expected financial needs and desires. Dig into the data. What do you expect as a starting job when you finish your education, and where do you hope to wind up in your career?

The data for the needs of a family of four comes from MERIC’s Self-Sufficiency data for Moniteau County, a median county for the state of Missouri in 2007. Weekly income data is based on annual income divided into 12 four-week months.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2008) and Missouri Department of Economic Development (2007)
### Find the Clusters That Match You the Most

Write the number of items that match your personality and interests in the hexagon at the top of each block. Then compare clusters and find your top three.

---

1. Interpret formulas.
2. Find the answers to questions.
3. Work in a laboratory.
4. Figure out how things work and investigate new things.
5. Experiment to find the best way to do something.
6. Pay attention to details and help things.
7. Learn about other cultures.

---

### Activities that I like to do:
- Interpret formulas.
- Find the answers to questions.
- Work in a laboratory.
- Figure out how things work and investigate new things.
- Experiment to find the best way to do something.
- Pay attention to details and help things.
- Learn about other cultures.

### Personal qualities that describe me:
- Detail-oriented
- Inquisitive
- Objective
- Methodical
- Mechanically inclined

### School subjects that I like:
- Math
- Science
- Drafting / Computer-Aided Drafting
- Electronics / Computer Networking
- Technical classes / Technology Education
**Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources**

**CAREER PATHWAYS**
- Natural Resources and Environmental Service Systems
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems
- Food Products and Processing Systems
- Agribusiness Systems
- Animal Systems
  - Plant Systems

**OCCUPATIONS**

- Agricultural Commodity Broker ....... $32-104K
- Conservation Scientist ........... $20-51K
- Farm or Ranch Manager ........... $38-74K
- GPS Technician ................ $21-42K
- Landscape Worker .............. $15-27K
- Veterinarian ....................... $40-83K

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: [www.missourieconomy.org](http://www.missourieconomy.org)
### Education and Training

#### Career Pathways
- Administration and Administrative Support
- Professional Support Staff
- Teaching and Training

#### Occupations

- College President
- College Dean
- Curriculum Developer
- Education Administrator
- Instructional Media Designer
- Librarian
- Principal
- Superintendent
- Audiologist
- Counselor
- Parent Educator
- Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Speech-Language Pathologist

### Salaries

- **College Administrator** $43-95K
- **College Professor** $30-89K
- **Principal** $51-79K
- **Psychologist** $33-60K
- **Secondary Teacher** $28-46K
- **Teacher Aide** $12-20K

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: [www.missourieconomy.org](http://www.missourieconomy.org)
Government and Public Administration

CAREER PATHWAYS
- Governance
- Regulation
- Foreign Service
- Public Management and Administration
- Revenue and Taxation
  - National Security
  - Planning

OCCUPATIONS

Public Management and Administration
- Association Executive Director
- City Manager
- Chamber of Commerce Executive Director
- Court Administrator
- Court Clerk
- Foundation Executive Director
- Program Administration Officer

Revenue and Taxation
- Assessor
- Internal Revenue Investigator
- Revenue Agent
- Tax Attorney
- Tax Examiner

National Security
- Air Defense Artillery
- Combat Engineer
- Combat Aircraft Pilot
- Cryptographer
- Electronic Warfare Operations
- Infantry Field Artillery
- Intelligence / Counter-intelligence Agent
- Missile and Space Systems
- Special Forces

Governance
- Ambassador
- Deputy or Chief of Staff
- Legislative Aide
- Lobbyist
- Tax Examiner

Foreign Service
- Ambassador
- Administrative Foreign Service Officer
- Consular Officer
- Diplomatic Courier
- Economic Foreign Service Officer
- Political Foreign Service Officer

Planning
- Census Clerk
- Chief of Vital Statistics
- County Clerk
- Economic Development Coordinator
- Global Imaging Systems Specialist

Revenue and Taxation
- Assessor
- Internal Revenue Investigator
- Revenue Agent
- Tax Attorney
- Tax Examiner

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: www.missourieconomy.org
**Hospitality and Tourism**

**Career Pathways**
- Restaurants and Food and Beverage Services
- Recreation, Amusement and Attractions
- Travel and Tourism
- Lodging

**Occupations**

**Restaurants and Food and Beverage Services**
- Baker
- Chef
- Counter Service
- First Line Supervisor
- Food and Beverage Manager
- General Manager
- Manager of Food Preparation and Serving Workers

**Travel and Tourism**
- Director of Sales and Marketing
- Event Planner
- Interpreter
- Tour Guide
- Transportation Specialist
- Travel Agent

**Recreation, Amusement and Attractions**
- Conservator
- Equipment and Facility Maintenance
- Event Planner
- Museum Technician
- Museum, Zoo or Aquarium Exhibit Developer
- Parks and Garden Ranger
- Recreation Worker

**Lodging**
- Food and Beverage Manager
- General Manager
- Laundry Attendant
- PBX Operator
- Reservations Supervisor
- Valet Attendant

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: [www.missourieconomy.org](http://www.missourieconomy.org)
Human Services

CAREER PATHWAYS
- Early Childhood Development and Services
- Counseling and Mental Health Services
- Family and Community Services
- Personal Care Services
- Consumer Services

OCCUPATIONS

Career Pathways
- Early Childhood Development and Services
  - Childcare Facility Director
  - Childcare Worker
  - Nanny
  - Parent Educator
  - Preschool Teacher
  - Teacher Aide

- Counseling and Mental Health Services
  - Marriage Therapist
  - Marriage, Child and Family Counselor
  - Mental Health Counselor
  - Sociologist
  - Substance Abuse Social Worker
  - Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

- Family and Community Services
  - Consumer Advocate
  - Customer Service Representative
  - Financial Advisor
  - Insurance Representative
  - Investment Broker

- Personal Care Services
  - Cosmetologist / Hair Dresser $13-26K
  - Financial Advisor $24-71K
  - Fitness Trainer $15-28K
  - Massage Therapist $16-40K
  - Mental Health Counselor $29-55K
  - Social Worker $24-43K

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: www.missourieconomy.org
**CAREER PATHWAYS**

- Emergency and Fire Management Services
- Security and Protective Services
- Law Enforcement Services
- Correction Services
- Legal Services

**OCCUPATIONS**

*Human Services*

- Dispatcher
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Emergency Management and Response Coordinator
- Firefighter
- Forest Firefighter
- Hazardous Materials Responder
- Paramedic

*Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security*

- Certified Security Officer
- Computer Security Specialist
- Forensic Science Technician
- Industrial Espionage Security
- Loss Prevention Assistant
- Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installer
- Security Guard

*Animal Control Officer*
- Bomb Technician
- Child Support
- Criminal Investigator
- Federal Marshall
- Park Ranger
- Police and Patrol Officer

*Emergency and Fire Management Services*

- Arbitrator
- Attorney
- Court Reporter
- Judge
- Law Clerk
- Legal Assistant
- Mediator
- Paralegal

*Security and Protective Services*

- Case Manager
- Corrections Officer
- Probation and Parole Officer
- Transport Officer
- Youth Services Worker

*Correction Services*

- Attorney .......................... $54-135K
- Correctional Officer ............ $23-28K
- Fire Fighter ...................... $22-51K
- Paralegal .......................... $25-42K
- Paramedic ........................ $18-34K
- Patrol Officer .................... $22-43K

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit:

[www.missourieconomy.org](http://www.missourieconomy.org)
## OCCUPATIONS

### Design and Pre-Construction
- Architect
- Civil Engineering Technician
- Computer-Aided Drafter
- Cost Estimator
- Landscape Architect
- Mechanical Engineer
- Surveyor

## Salaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Salary Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Architect</td>
<td>$43-81K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>$24-50K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Manager</td>
<td>$39-78K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Estimator</td>
<td>$34-64K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVAC Installer / Repairer</td>
<td>$23-45K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumber</td>
<td>$29-60K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: [www.missourieconomy.org](http://www.missourieconomy.org)

### Construction
- Brick Mason
- Carpenter
- Construction Laborer
- Construction Manager
- Electrician
- Glazier
- Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic or Installer
- Manager of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers
- Millwright
- Painter
- Paper Hanger
- Pipefitter
- Plumber
- Roofer
- Welder

### Maintenance and Operations
- Brick Mason
- Carpenter
- Construction Laborer
- Construction Manager
- Electrical and Electronics Repairer
- Electrician
- Glazier
- Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic or Installer
- Highway Worker
- Manager of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers
- Millwright
- Operating Engineer
- Painter
- Paper Hanger
- Pipefitter
- Plumber
- Welder

### Career Pathways
- Design and Pre-Construction
- Construction
- Maintenance and Operations
Manufacturing

CAREER PATHWAYS
- Manufacturing Production Process Development
- Maintenance, Installation and Repair
- Logistics and Inventory Control
- Health, Safety and Environmental Assurance
- Quality Assurance
- Production

OCCUPATIONS

Design Engineer
Electronics Engineer
Engineering Technician
Labor Relations Manager
Precision Inspector
Purchasing Agent
Supervisor

Boilermaker
Computer Installer or Repairer
Electric Motor Repairer
Industrial Facilities Manager
Instrument Calibration and Repairer
Laser System Technician
Major Appliance Repairer
Plumber
Power Tool Repairer

Dispatcher
Freight, Stock and Material Mover
Logistician
Material Handler
Quality Control Technician
Traffic, Shipping and Receiving Clerk

Freight or Stock Mover .......... $15-27K
Industrial Production Manager .... $47-86K
Laser System Technician .......... $22-40K
Machinist ...................... $23-39K
Safety Engineer .................. $39-68K
Welder .......................... $21-34K

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: www.missourieconomy.org

Manufacturing Production Process Development

Environmental Specialist
Occupational Health and Safety Specialist
Operations Research Analyst
Safety Engineer

Calibration Technician
Inspector
Lab Technician
Process Control Technician
Quality Control Technician

Health, Safety and Environmental Assurance

Quality Assurance

Logistics and Inventory Control

Assembler
Industrial Production Manager
Machine Operator
Machinist
Manager or Supervisor
Model Maker
Tool and Die Maker
Welder

Production
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

CAREER PATHWAYS

- Engineering and Technology
- Science and Math

OCCUPATIONS

Chemical Engineer ........................ $36-69K
Civil Engineer .............................. $48-79K
Electrical Engineer ........................ $70-107K
Engineering Manager ...................... $70-107K
Environmental Engineer .................. $27-49K
Hazardous Waste Technician ................ $27-49K
Lab Technician ............................. $19-35K
Technical Writer ........................... $36-62K

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: www.missourieconomy.org
## Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

### Occupations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Salary Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Traffic Controller</td>
<td>$66-111K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Body Repairer</td>
<td>$22-45K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Service Technician</td>
<td>$20-41K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cargo &amp; Freight Agent</td>
<td>$27-45K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot</td>
<td>$35-67K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck Driver</td>
<td>$24-43K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: [www.missourieconomy.org](http://www.missourieconomy.org)

### Career Pathways

- Transportation Systems and Infrastructure
- Logistics, Planning and Management Services
- Warehousing and Distribution Center Operations
- Facility and Mobile Equipment Maintenance
- Health, Safety and Environmental Management
  - Transportation Operations
  - Sales and Service

### Industrial and Engineering Technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industrial and Packing Engineer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laborer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material Mover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipping, Receiving and Traffic Clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock Clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warehouse Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Transportation Systems and Infrastructure

- Air Traffic Controller
- Civil Engineer
- Motor Vehicle Inspector
- Regional Planner
- Regulator
- Surveying and Mapping Technician
- Urban Planner

### Logistics, Planning and Management Services

- International Logistics
- Logician
- Logistics Analyst
- Logistics Engineer

### Facility and Mobile Equipment Maintenance

- Aircraft Mechanic
- Automobile Service Technician
- Auto Mechanic
- Automotive Body Repairer
- Bus and Truck Mechanic
- Diesel Engine Mechanic
- Electrical and Electronics Repairer
- Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanic

### Health, Safety and Environmental Management

- Industrial Health and Safety Engineer
- Environmental Compliance Inspector
- Environmental Science and Protection Technician
- Safety Analyst

### Transportation Operations

- Delivery Truck Driver
- Flight Engineer
- Pilot
- Transportation, Storage and Distribution Manager
- Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver

### Sales and Service

- Cargo and Freight Agent
- Cashier
- Counter or Rental Clerk
- Customer Order Clerk
- Sales Manager
- Sales Representative
Health Science

CAREER PATHWAYS
- Biotechnology Research and Development
- Therapeutic Services
- Diagnostics Services
- Health Informatics
- Support Services

OCCUPATIONS
Anesthesiologist
Athletic Trainer
Certified Nurse Assistant
Dental Assistant
Dental Hygienist
Dental Laboratory Technician
Dentist
Dietary Technician
Dietitian or Nutritionist
Home Health Aide
Licensed Practical Nurse
Nurse Aide
Occupational Therapist
Optometrist
Paramedic
Pharmacist
Pharmacy Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Physical Therapist
Physical Therapy Assistant
Physician Assistant
Physician (Family and General Practice)
Radiation Therapist
Radiologic Technologist
Recreational Therapist
Registered Nurse
Rehabilitation Counselor
Respiratory Therapist
Speech-Language Pathologist
Surgeon
Surgical Technician
Clinical Trials Research Coordinator
Geneticist
Lab Technician
Medical Lab Technologist
Medical Scientists
Microbiologist
Research Assistant
Toxicologist
Cardiology Technologist
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer
Nuclear Medicine Technologist
Radiologic Technologist
Health Care Administrator
Health Educator
Health Information Technician / Administrator
Medical and Health Services Manager
Medical Social Worker
Public Health Social Worker
Medical Transcriptionist
Medical Coder
Biomedical / Clinical Engineer
Environmental Services Facilities Manager
Food Service
Hospital Maintenance Engineer
Industrial Hygienist
Medical Equipment Repairer

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit:
www.missourieconomy.org
OCCUPATIONS

- Art Director ............... $36-71K
- Graphic Designer .......... $24-47K
- Multimedia Artist / Animator .... $32-83K
- Press Operator .............. $19-36K
- Telecommunications Repairer .... $33-53K
- Writer ................. $22-48K

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: www.missourieconomy.org

CAREER PATHWAYS

- Audio and Video Technology and Film
- Journalism and Broadcasting
- Printing Technology
- Telecommunications
- Performing Arts
  - Visual Arts

Audio and Video Technology and Film
- Animator
- Audio Technician
- Audio-Visual Systems Technician
- Computer Artist
- Sound Engineering Technician
- Video Technician

Journalism and Broadcasting
- Broadcast News Analyst
- Editor
- Radio Announcer
- Reporter
- Station Manager
- Writer

Printing Technology
- Desktop Publishing Specialist
- Prepress Technician
- Press Operator
- Print Maker

Telecommunications
- Central Office Installer
- Electronic Home Entertainment Equipment Installer and Repairer
- Network Technician
- Telecommunications Specialist

Performing Arts
- Actor / Actress
- Agent or Business Manager of Artists, Performers and Athletes
- Choreographer
- Composer
- Director
- Musician
- Producer
- Professional Athlete
- Singer

Visual Arts
- Art Director
- Artist
- Cartoonist
- Commercial Photographer
- Fashion Artist
- Fashion Designer
- Floral Designer / Florist
- Graphic Designer
- Illustrator
- Interior Designer
- Painter
- Sculptor

Arts, Audio-Visual Technology and Communications
Business Management and Administration

CAREER PATHWAYS
- General Management
- Business Information Management
- Human Resources Management
- Administrative Support
- Operations Management

OCCUPATIONS

Administrative Assistant .................. $26-42K
Auditor ...................................... $33-67K
Chief Executive Officer ........... $65-165K
Human Resources Manager ........... $37-110K
Management Analyst .................. $42-80K
Sales Manager ......................... $55-128K

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit:
www.missourieconomy.org
Finance

CAREER PATHWAYS
- Accounting
- Securities and Investments
- Business Finance
- Banking Services
- Insurance

OCCUPATIONS

Accountant .......................... $33-67K
Actuary ................................. $60-120K
Credit Analyst ....................... $29-58K
Debt Counselor ...................... $25-56K
Loan Officer ......................... $29-67K
Tax Preparation ..................... $18-33K

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: www.missourieconomy.org

Accounting
- Auditor
- Bookkeeping, Accounting and Auditing Clerk
- Financial Manager

Securities and Investments
- Investment Advisor
- Personal Financial Advisor
- Securities, Commodities and Financial Services
- Sales Agents
- Tax Preparation

Business Finance
- Controller
- Economist
- Financial Analyst

Banking Services
- Bill and Account Collector
- Credit Analyst
- Debt Counselor
- Loan Officer
- Operations Manager
- Teller

Insurance
- Actuary
- Adjuster
- Examiner
- Insurance Appraiser
- Underwriter
**Information Technology**

**CAREER PATHWAYS**
- Programming and Software Development
- Information Support and Services
- Web and Digital Communications
- Network Systems

**OCCUPATIONS**

3-D Animator .................. $32-83K
Database Administrator ........ $35-70K
Information Systems Architect $65-110K
Software Engineer ............. $47-88K
Software Tester ............... $63-110K
Web Designer .................. $24-47K

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit: www.missourieconomy.org

**Computer Programmer**
**Computer Software Engineer**
**Computer Systems Analyst**
**Data Modeler**
**Game Programmer**
**Tester**

**Computer and Information Systems Manager**
**Computer Support Specialist**
**Customer Liaison**
**Database Administrator**
**Help Desk Specialist**
**Information Systems Architect**
**Technical Writer**

**Data Communications Analyst**
**Information Systems Operator**
**Information Technology Engineer**
**Network Architect**
**Network Systems Analyst**
**PC Support Specialist**
**Telecommunications Network Technician**

**3-D Animator**
**Audio/Visual Engineer**
**Streaming Media Specialist**
**Virtual Reality Specialist**
**Web Designer**
**Webmaster**

**Programming and Software Development**

**Web and Digital Communications**

**Network Systems**
Entrepreneur .................. $20-70K
Marketing Manager .......... $55-108K
Public Relations Specialist ...... $26-55K
Purchasing Agent .............. $30-60K
Retail Sales Manager ........... $23-49K
Web Systems Manager ........ $70-130K

For more information about salaries and job outlook in Missouri visit:
www.missourieconomy.org

C A R R E E R  P A T H W A Y S
- Marketing Management
- Marketing Communications
- Marketing Research
- Professional Sales
- Merchandising

O C C U P A T I O N S

- Field Representative
- Real Estate Sales Agent
- Sales Engineer
- Sales Manager
- Sales Representative
- Territory Representative

Marketing Research
- Brand Manager
- Customer Service Representative
- Interviewer
- Market Research Analyst
- Product Planner

Marketing Communications
- Advertising / Marketing Manager
- Media Buyer
- Public Information Director
- Public Relations Specialist
- Research Assistant
- Research Specialist

Professional Sales
- Merchandise Buyer
- Purchasing Agent
- Purchasing Manager
- Retail Marketing Coordinator

Merchandising
- Chief Executive Officer
- Distributor
- Entrepreneur
- Franchisee
- Proprietor
- Small Business Owner

Business, Management & Technology
Start with the End in Mind

Life, it’s all about you: Your personality, your needs, your abilities, your relationships and your interests.

So how do you land the dream job that matches you?

Before you can connect the dots, you have to know ...

what the dots are. The first one is you. Take the time for an interest survey. What do you like? What are you good at? Write down your feelings about different jobs. You might be surprised what you learn about yourself.

The next dot is education and training. The fact is, the number of jobs that require only a high school diploma and pay a family-supporting wage shrinks every year. An increasing number of jobs require a four-year degree, but there are also good opportunities in most of the Career Clusters for those who learn technical skills through community colleges and apprenticeships.

Area career centers across Missouri offer many programs to establish an outstanding foundation in your Career Cluster of interest, regardless of your educational plans after high school.

Regardless of how much education and training you want after high school, many entry-level jobs require about the same skill levels in English, math and science as four-year colleges.

Within any Career Cluster, there are several options after high school, including a four-year college, community college, apprenticeships, the military and on-the-job training. Follow this model for your career: explore, plan, prepare.

By making plans now, exploring your career options through after-school activities, job shadowing and the Internet, and connecting your high school education with a career and further training, you get on a path to success.

Top 5

School or College, and Program

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________
My Dream Job!
What would your personal dream job be? What kind of preparation (college, community college, apprenticeship, professional organization, certification, workshop, etc.) would you need to land the job? If you were to look in your community for a similar job, what company could you contact for information or to job shadow?

The job: ___________________________________________
Preparation: _______________________________________
Job outlook: _______________________________________
Average salary: _____________________________________
Job shadow sites: ____________________________________

My Hobbies, Interests and Activities
What are your personal hobbies and interests? What do you like to do at school or away from school? What clubs or activities do you participate in at school? What kinds of activities appeal to you?

My Life and Career Goals
Complete the Career Clusters Interest Survey on pages 3 and 4. Career interest surveys are also available at www.missouriconnections.org

Work Experiences and Community Service
List your work experiences and community activities. Also, list community activities or jobs in your community that really interest you. What needs do you see in your community? How could you help meet these needs?

The School Project I’m Most Proud of Is ...

College or Training Program of Interest
Identify at least one college or training program that connects with your personal career interests and goals. Indicate where the college or program is located and list the entrance requirements for this college or program.

Career Path or Career Cluster Related Electives

Getting Ready ...

☐ Entrance exams

☐ Portfolio of career-related school work

☐ List of references with contact information

☐ Job shadowing experiences

☐ Internships or work related to your career of interest

☐ Student organizations and clubs related to your career interest

☐ Letters of recommendation

☐ Transcript and record of GPA and attendance

☐ Certifications (career readiness, etc.)

☐ Resumé

Prep Your Personal Plan of Study
This form is intended to be used before you create or revise your Personal Plan of Study. It does not replace your local school’s Personal Plan of Study documents.

Missouri Connections Website
MissouriConnections.org Free interest assessments and more.

User ID: _______________________________________
Password: _______________________________________

High School Graduation Requirements
4 units Communication Arts
3 units Social Studies
3 units Mathematics
3 units Science
1 unit ea. Fine Arts, Practical Arts, Physical Education
1/2 unit Health Education
1/2 unit Personal Finance

Local requirements: _______________________________________

The Missouri Connections Website offers free interest assessments and more.
Making Plans and Meeting Goals

As a parent, one of the most important things you can do for your child is to help them on the road to a successful, fulfilling career.

This road can begin as early as your child is comfortable, and should see your involvement at least by the eighth grade. Not only can you help your child by providing the example of your own career development, you can also help by working to ensure that your child’s high school education equips your child for the future and the workplace.

Talk to your child, the teachers and the counselors at the school and find out what happens inside and outside the classroom to help build the skills of the 21st century. When you talk to your child and school staff, there are three key elements to keep in mind: rigor, relevance and relationships.

Rigor
Rigorous studies are integral to a quality education and preparation for the 21st century workplace. Rigorous studies does not necessarily mean taking the highest level academic coursework available. Rigorous classes challenge students, whatever the topic, and they engage students in application of what has been learned.

Relevant
Students want to know how they will use what they are learning. And for good reason. It can help them later in life. Classes that apply academics and course material to real-life situations are more exciting and help students retain what they have learned even longer.

Relationships
Your child craves relationships, and employers prize skills in communication, teamwork and leadership. Find out how your child can build their skills.

Education Pays

The road to riches is paved by education —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Pays</th>
<th>Unemployment Rates, 2008</th>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Median Earnings in the Last 12 Months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Less than high school graduate</td>
<td>$18,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>High school graduate or GED</td>
<td>$25,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>Some college or Associate Degree</td>
<td>$31,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or higher</td>
<td>$45,743</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2008)
Note: Earnings represented in 2008 inflation-adjusted dollars

FOR PARENTS and FAMILIES

6 Things You Should Know About Career Planning in High School

1. Senior Year Math
Many educational experts, including the Southern Regional Education Board, recommend that all high school seniors take a math course. Maintaining math skills requires practice, and the best way to get that practice is to continue taking math courses.

2. Remedial Coursework
More than a third of students continuing to the university or a community college in Missouri must take remedial courses. Why pay for remedial classes that do not earn college credit? The best ways to avoid remediation are to enroll in rigorous high school courses and take entrance exams as early as possible, even as a junior or at the end of the sophomore year.

3. A+ High School Program
Many of Missouri’s high schools take part in the A+ High School program. Under this program, qualifying students can receive two years’ tuition at a Missouri public community college or technical school. Check with your school for information.

4. Earning College Credit
There are many ways for students to earn college credit while in high school. Whether through AP courses, dual credit courses or articulated credit for career education, many high schools offer multiple opportunities for students to earn college credit. Some students graduate with a full semester of college credit or more.

5. Access Missouri
Access Missouri is a statewide scholarship program for students from low-income families. The scholarship program is available at most Missouri postsecondary schools and is transferable from one school to another. For more information, visit the Department of Higher Education website at dhe.mo.gov.

6. Start Early
Missouri public schools encourage students to start planning early. All Missouri eighth-grade students must complete a Personal Plan of Study. An annual Personal Plan of Study review is a great opportunity to make sure your child’s course planning matches their career plans.

Unemployment rates were more than twice as high for Missourians who did not complete high school than for those with a high school diploma or GED® credential.