

Making Money & Living Your Dreams

EXPLORING CAREERS: LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

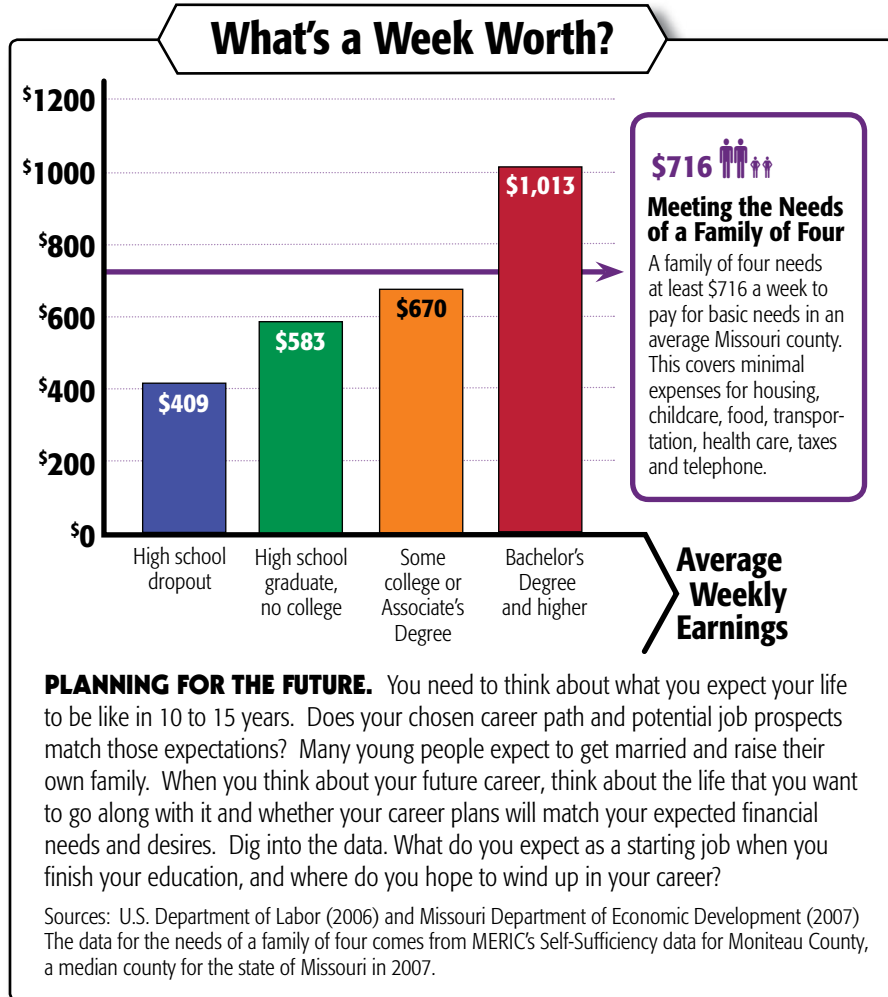
Whether you have known since the first grade that you want to be a doctor or you have no idea what work you might do after high school, taking a closer look at the careers in your community can be a great benefit.

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.missourieconomy.org

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 the lifestyle you want. One such website is available through the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas at <http://www.dallasfed.org/ca/wealth/index.cfm>

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, or take a hands-on career education course related to your career interests.



my Top 5	Occupation / Career	Salary Range	Job Availability and Outlook
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

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.

Career Clusters or Career Path of Interest

Contact your school counselor for a Career Clusters Interest Survey or the Career Path Interest Survey if you have not already completed one. Career interest surveys are also available at www.missouriconnections.org

My Dream Job!

What would be your personal dream job? 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 Most Valuable Skills

My Life and Career Goals

My Responsibilities (home, chores, work and school)

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

Missouri Connections Website

User ID: _____

Batch Code: _____

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: _____

Career Path or Career Cluster Related Electives

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.

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?

Getting Ready ...

- Portfolio of career-related school work
- List of references with contact information
- Entrance exams _____
- 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

What's Your Plan?

HELPING YOU EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE

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.

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.

Career Clusters

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

Start with the End in Mind



WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

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?

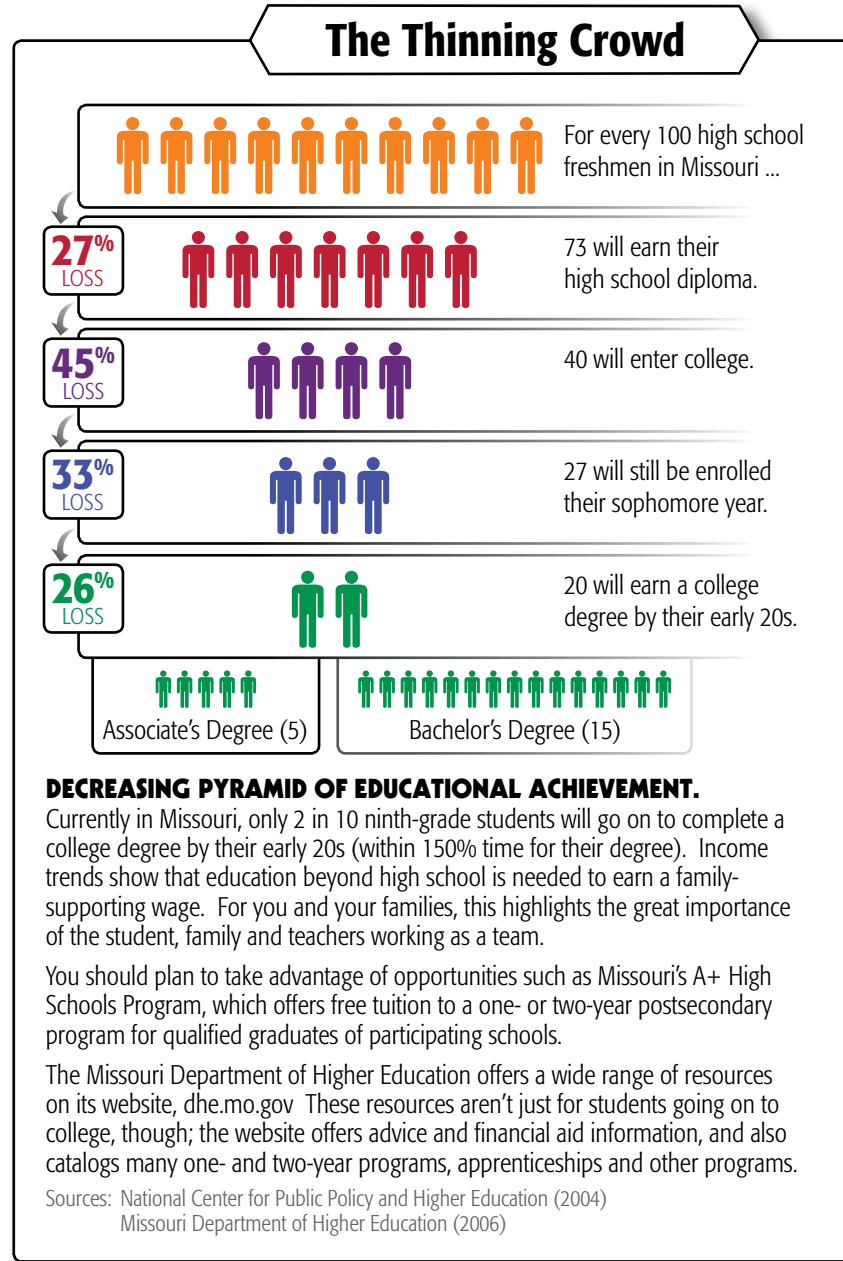
Before you can connect the dots, you have to know what the dots are. The first one is you. Take the time for an interest survey. What do you like? What are you good at? Write down your feelings about different jobs. You might be surprised what you learn about yourself.

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.

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor (2006)
American Diploma Project (2004)



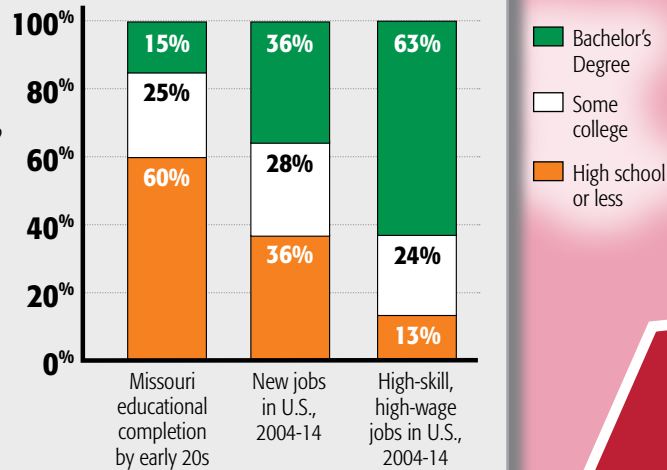
School or College, and Program

Planned, Prepared, Paid

DO YOU HAVE PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

If so, do your plans after high school aim toward the high-skill, high-wage jobs that can provide a comfortable lifestyle?

National and state job data show that for most people, more training or education means more income and opportunities. In today's fast-paced world, this is becoming more and more important. But just planning to go to college isn't enough. You must link your educational plans to your career goals.



Sources: National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education (2004)
Missouri Department of Higher Education (2006)
U.S. Department of Labor (2006)

Arts, A/V Technology and Communications

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

Information Technology

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

Business Management and Administration

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

Marketing

- Marketing Management
- Marketing Communications
- Marketing Research
- Professional Sales
- Merchandising

Finance

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

Health Science

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

Health Services

Health Path

Arts & Communication

Creative Path

Foundation Knowledge & Skills

- Academic & Technical Skills
- Teamwork • Career Development
- Information Technology Application
- Problem Solving • Critical Thinking
- Employability • Ethics • Systems
- Safety, Health & Environment
- Legal Responsibilities
- Communication

Business, Management & Technology

Business Path

Natural Resources Agriculture

Nature Path

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

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

Manufacturing

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

Industrial & Engineering Technology

Building & Fixing Path

Human Services

Helping Path

Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

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

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

- Engineering and Technology
- Science and Math

Architecture and Construction

- Design and Pre-Construction
- Construction
- Maintenance and Operations

Human Services

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

Hospitality and Tourism

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

Government and Public Administration

- Public Management and Administration
- Government
- National Security
- Foreign Service
- Planning
- Revenue and Taxation
- Regulation

Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security

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

Education and Training

- Administration and Administrative Support
- Professional Support Services
- Teaching and Training

Career Paths

Missouri has identified six Career Paths as a way to help you become aware of and explore careers in a logical and meaningful way. Career Paths are a good starting point for your career exploration.

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. Remember, because the Career Clusters framework recommends rigorous academic coursework for all students, changing your mind won't put you behind. 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.

Career Pathways

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 represented in each pathway can give you a better understanding of the cluster and whether it is a good match for you. Many educational programs after high school target Career Pathways or are even more specific for career specialties.

Check It Out!

- www.missouriconnections.org
- www.careerclusters.org
- www.missourieconomy.org
- www.thefutureschannel.com
- www.acrnetwork.org
- www.going2college.org
- www.dreamit-doit.com
- www.dhe.mo.gov