



Now Is the Perfect Time to Plan the "Road Trip" to Your Future!



Where Do I Start?

More Opportunity!

Going to college is a great experience, but it gets even better! A college education will allow you to have more job choices for a career that you will enjoy, plus you will be less likely to lose your job in a downturn.

College preparation is about more than just classes and grades. It's also about becoming a person who can succeed in a competitive environment.

More Money!

On average, someone with a bachelor's degree earns about 62 percent more than someone with only a high school diploma.

Here's what you can do NOW to get ready for college:

Take challenging and interesting courses—Courses such as English, algebra, beginning foreign language and technology will better prepare you for more challenging courses in high school.

More Benefits!

College graduates usually enjoy a better quality of life, higher savings, more consumer power, and are able to enjoy more leisure activities.

Do your best in school—Develop strong study habits that help you earn good grades, not only in middle school but also in high school and college!

Know your options—Explore which high school classes or special programs may benefit your future interests.

Get involved—Look into school- or community-based activities that let you explore your interests and make new friends.



College Is Possible

Some people assume that college is out of their reach because of the cost. Before you blow it off, learn about your options and see what will work for you.



Find the Path That's Right For You

Ask your counselor about taking a free quiz (missouriconnections.org) to identify at least one Career Cluster you might like, based on your interests. Explore those areas and get information about possible occupations.

Almost half of all college students receive financial aid. Students can receive a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study jobs, and loans. Missouri is increasing financial aid to help make college a possibility for everyone. Learn more at dhe.mo.gov/ppcindex.shtml.

Meet with your counselor and parents to develop a four-year or six-year education plan that will prepare you in your selected career area. Review your plan each year.

Check out the average cost to attend college at a variety of Missouri schools at dhe.mo.gov/tuitionandfees.shtml. Get an estimate of how much financial aid your family might qualify for with the FAFSA4caster at federalstudentaid.gov.

What Kind of School Will You Attend?

You have a lot of choices right here in Missouri. You can attend a two-year school, a four-year school, a trade/ career center, or enter an apprenticeship program. Explore a wide range of schools, their programs and admissions criteria at missouriconnections.org.

Have your parents look into college savings programs. For example, MOST (<https://missourimost.s.upromise.com>) is designed to help Missouri parents save money for their kids' college fund.

Brought to you by this newspaper, the Missouri Press Association and



TO ORDER:
"Planning and Paying for College" information packet, go to: www.highered.mo.gov/publications/publicationformpart1.do