

Big Sky Pathways Course Plan



A Course Plan is not required to graduate but it is meant to encourage students to plan for their future. It includes a student's chosen career cluster, planned or completed courses for the 9th through 12th grades, and postsecondary objectives. A Course Plan is reviewed and updated by the student, his/her parents, and his/her counselor at least once per year.

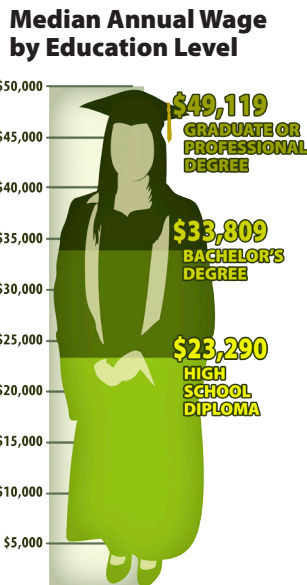
The Course Plan component of MCIS also provides course recommendations by degree option for all Montana postsecondary institutions.

Postsecondary options

MCIS informs students about options for continuing their education after Grade 12 as they pursue an occupation. This includes a 2-year associate degree, a 4-year bachelor's degree, advanced degrees, apprenticeship, the armed forces, and other options.

Education pays . . .

- College graduates earn much more than workers with only a high school diploma. Those with advanced degrees earn nearly twice as much!
- High school dropouts are almost four times as likely to be unemployed as college graduates.
- More than 1 in 4 jobs in Montana requires some sort of education beyond high school.



Source: American Community Survey 2010, U.S. Census Bureau



Your involvement in your child's education builds the foundation for their future.



Research shows . . .

- When it comes to important decisions – like education and career choices – kids value their parents' input.
- Your attitudes about school and work, about education and career goals, have a long-term impact on your children's choices, decisions, and plans.
- Your actions to support education and career understanding help prepare your children to be successful in tomorrow's economy.
- Your relationship with your children – nurturing dreams and self confidence – is your most significant gift toward building their future.

www.careers.mt.gov

The Montana Career Resource Network provides a wealth of resources to help you and your child to explore career options and plan for the future.

Career Publications - We have career publications for every age group, including the annual Montana Career Guide, with information on over 200 occupations plus articles on job hunting, resume writing, and more.

Career Explorations Tools - An online resource that allows you to research and compare career options. Provides career profiles, videos, and much more.

Montana Career Resource Network
 P.O. Box 1728 - Helena, MT 59624-1728
 Ph: (406) 444-2430 or Toll-free: (800) 541-3904
 Fax: (406) 444-2638 - Web: www.careers.mt.gov

SCHOOL SUCCESS IN LIFE

Are you a parent or the significant adult in a child's life? If so, you are the most influential person in that child's career decisions.



Why do you need to think about your child's future now?

Think about how quickly the workplace has changed since you were in school. How prepared have you been for these changes? This rapid rate of change will continue, and young people will need more career guidance than ever before. Additionally, skills – and the capacity to develop skills throughout life – will be the cornerstone of employability.



Montana Department of
LABOR & INDUSTRY
 MONTANA CAREER RESOURCE NETWORK

MCIS



The Montana Career Information System (MCIS) is an internet-based career information delivery system that provides information, assessments, and resources to help all Montanans find occupations and education that match their interests and lead to a more happy, productive career path.

MCIS is provided FREE to ALL Montanans and provides local Montana information as well as a wealth of national information.

MCIS Portfolio

One of the best career planning tools you and your child can use is MCIS's My Portfolio feature. My Portfolio is a personalized space where students can:

- Save the results of their career research.
- Record extra-curricular activities, grades, and accomplishments.
- Build a resume for their first job and beyond.
- Store their assessments.
- Save schools and occupations of interest.
- Create and manage their course plans.

Parents can access their student's portfolio or can go to: <http://mtcis.intocareers.org> and select "Adult." To view your student's portfolio ask your school to set-up your access and you will receive an email link.

How students in ALL grades are being prepared for future employment.

Elementary school level students will...



- become aware of self.
- develop good work habits.
- learn how to make decisions.
- become aware of the world of work and that people do different kinds of work.

Middle school level students will...



- begin to understand themselves as individuals and learn about their own interests and skills.
- explore the world of work and how it is organized.
- begin preparing for a career.
- be introduced to the career cluster system.
- participate in service learning, job shadowing, and mentoring.

High school level students will...



- by the end of 9th grade, select a cluster and major to pursue.
- have the tools and resources to choose a pathway of courses to prepare for work in that cluster and major.
- review and modify their course plan each year as needed with the advice of parents and school counselor.
- Have the tools and resources to pursue education or training after high school.

Postsecondary students will...



- follow their chosen cluster pathways to a 2-year college, 4-year college, the military, other postsecondary education/training, or employment.
- obtain rewarding entry-level employment within his/her chosen clusters.
- continue to refine career choices throughout a lifetime of learning.

Parents are a crucial part in the success of the students, and more importantly, in your child's career process. Here are some ideas for guiding your child through his/her career preparation.

Help students identify career goals:

Students pick an Occupation Cluster from MCIS and explore more possibilities than they can imagine.

Empower students to find their best career fit:

Connect standard career assessment results to occupations through assessments and sorts.

Support students' search for the right school:

Students identify their search criteria and MCIS provides information from institutions in Montana and nationwide. Searches can include:

- accredited two- and four-year colleges & universities
- technical & vocational schools
- apprenticeship programs

Enhance knowledge of financial aid options:

Students customize financial aid options by selecting characteristics which match their:

- educational plans
- abilities
- background

Encourage students to refine their job search skills:

MCIS tools include:

- tips for completing application forms
- a personal resume generator
- preparation and tips for interviews