

Journey to College



**It's Never
Too Early**

**To Plan for College
and a Career**

Where will your journey lead?



Getting an education is more important than ever before. Although you won't apply to college until high school, there are many things you can do to be ready when the time comes. So, when should you start planning for the future? The answer is now!



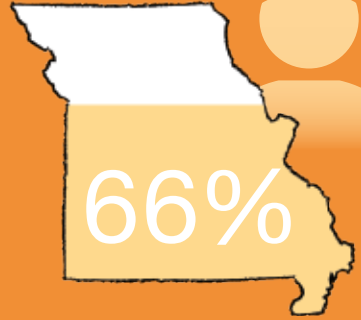
Make a plan

What counts as college?

College includes professional certificates, degrees earned at technical schools, two-year community colleges, four-year universities, or through online degree programs. It all counts as college!

Why consider college?

A majority of jobs today require some education beyond high school. College can open the door to more job opportunities and higher pay.



Approximately 66 percent of quality jobs in Missouri are projected to require a degree or certificate by 2020.

Source: Georgetown's Center on Education and the Workforce



\$1,000,000

Did you know? College graduates with a bachelor's degree earn \$1 million more, on average, during their lifetime than those without a degree. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Establish good habits

Choices you make now can help you succeed in high school and prepare for college. It's important to adopt good habits early on.



Spend time reading.

Pay attention in class.



Develop study skills.

Practice time management.



Learn money management.

Discover your interests

Enroll in classes and participate in community activities to help you decide what you like to do most. Once you know your interests, you can explore careers that match up.

Ask yourself questions, such as:

- Do you like helping people?
- Do you like working with your hands or designing new things?
- What are your strengths?
- What classes or activities have you found especially interesting or inspiring?

Look for summer camps that relate to things you like to do. Try job shadowing or interviewing people who have jobs you find interesting. Explore all kinds of jobs to get a good feel for what you like most.

Make the grade

Being the best student you can be will help you get into college and succeed once you're there. Take school seriously and learn as much as you can. Getting good grades can create more opportunities for scholarships and give you more choices for where you could attend college. Working hard now will pay off in the end.



Complete these classes in high school:

4 units communication arts

4 units math

3 units social studies

3 units science

1 unit fine arts

1 unit physical education

1/2 unit health education

1/2 unit personal finance

7 units electives

Important! The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires 3 units of math to graduate high school; however, most Missouri colleges recommend 4 units of math to better prepare you for college. Two units of a single foreign language are strongly recommended if you are planning to work towards a bachelor's degree.

Make the most of school

1 Complete
all classwork on time.

2 Get involved
in activities and organizations.

3 Practice
being a good leader.

4 Never give up
and ask for help when you need it.



Parents

Think about college now



It's never too early to start thinking about college. Talk with your children about their hopes and dreams. Help them develop their interests and skills through school work, activities and hobbies. Once they reach their final year in high school they will be ready to make some important decisions about the kind of education they need to achieve their goals.

The benefits of college

By 2020, approximately 66 percent of quality jobs in Missouri will require a degree or certificate. While not every career requires a college degree, higher education can pave the way for more employment opportunities and more options

for the future. A four-year degree may not be right for everyone, but continuing education beyond high school to any level is important.

Paying for college

Higher education doesn't have to be out of reach due to cost. Degree and certificate programs come in a range of prices, depending on the type of school students choose and the financial aid they receive.

Missouri has many affordable higher education options. The cost to attend college at a number of Missouri schools can be found at dhwed.mo.gov/data/tuitionandfees.php.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
journeytocollege.mo.gov

82%

of undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid.

Source: The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)



Federal and state grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans are available to a majority of students to help pay for college. About 81 percent of undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid. The U.S. Department of Education and the state of Missouri offer millions of dollars in financial aid to students each year.

Visit [FAFSA4caster.ed.gov](https://fafsa4caster.ed.gov) today to get an estimate of the amount of federal aid your child could receive.

Saving for college

Start saving for college as early as possible. You can watch your savings grow while your children grow. Money saved through MOST 529 — a state-sponsored, college savings plan that offers tax advantages — can be used for college tuition, certain housing expenses, books, supplies and other qualifying higher education expenses. Find out more at Missourimost.org.

It's never too early to start planning, but it's also never too late. If you're interested in continuing your education, there are financial aid options available. Check out MOFastTrack.com to learn about a new grant to help Missouri adults earn their certificate, degree, or industry-recognized credential. It's never too late to be a role model.

Student Stories

Kahleigha H.

Ozarks Technical Community College

Major: Criminal Justice

"Being a first-generation college student was very scary to begin with, but it has made every victory that much more rewarding. I have had to lean on others and trust that as I continue going to school, things will come more naturally."



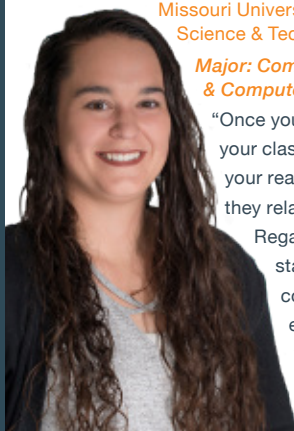
Nicole A.

Missouri University of Science & Technology

Major: Computer Science & Computer Engineering

"Once you find your passion, your classes will be right in your reach and you'll see how they relate to your future."

Regardless of whether you start at a community college or a university, every field of study is a valid option as long as it fits you!"

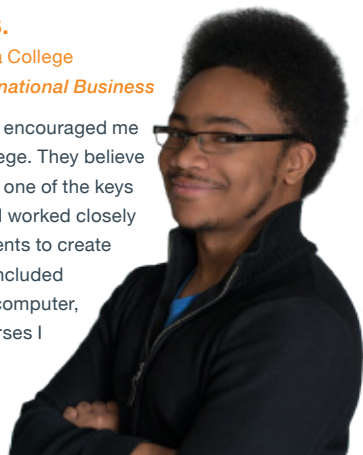


Clayton B.

Mineral Area College

Major: International Business

"My parents encouraged me to go to college. They believe education is one of the keys to success. I worked closely with my parents to create a plan that included supplies, a computer, and the courses I would take."





DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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