



Career Solutions & Why I Work

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Career Solutions

Getting Started

The process of identifying careers you're interested in is called career exploration. Take the time now to evaluate who you are and what you want so you can get started on the right path.

CAREER EXPLORATION



Career Exploration

What do you want to do? You've been asked that a lot, but do you have an answer? Whether you do or you don't, this website is here to help!

The process of identifying careers you're interested in is called Career Exploration. Take the time now to evaluate who you are and what you want so you can get started on the right path. Follow these Career Explorations steps to assess, explore and inform, plan, and act to discover the right career for you.



CAREER EXPLORATION



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EXPLORE & INFORM

The biggest part of exploring careers is learning about different occupations. This includes how much you would earn, how much schooling you need, what types of tasks you'd be doing, how many future job openings there will be, and much, much more!

Two tools are available here to help you explore and learn more about different careers. The **Why I Work** tool helps you create a monthly budget to see how much money you need to make based on your expenses. Your resulting salary can be used in the **Occupation Finder** to identify occupations typically earning that wage. The tool also lets you see occupations based on other options (e.g. education requirement).

Finally, don't forget that there are other ways to explore occupations. Check out the Explore &



TIPS

- Building Your Occupation Library
- Informational Interviews
- Job Shadowing



TOOLS

- Career Exploration Worksheet
- Work Interests Assessment
- Work Values Assessment
- Why I Work
- Occupation Finder
- Compare Occupations
- Occupation Library

Education & Training

Choosing what education you want and need is a decision you should make based on your long-term plans and the careers and jobs you find interesting. Education is something you can pursue at any time in your life. But the decision you make now can and will impact how you move forward in your career. The type of education and where you get it is also very important, so make sure you focus on what you need and set education goals for yourself.

Here are five steps to take when planning for your future education.



5 STEPS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING



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Last

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FINANCE

Your education beyond high school will be one of the biggest investments you'll make. Tuition and school supplies can be expensive. You'll also be investing a lot of time in your classes, which means you might not be able to work as much or earn as much money while attending school.

Your financial success will depend on your ability to budget and find financial resources. Take a look at these tips to get a head start on planning for your education costs. Use the **FAFSA links** and the **Scholarship Finder** tool to begin planning for financial assistance. View the saved scholarships in your **Scholarship Library** to make sure you're prepared to apply for aid. Don't forget about **Why I Work**, which is a great tool to set up your budget!

New Mexico has Tuition-Free College opportunities available to New Mexico graduates and returning students with the Legislative Lottery Scholarship and the Opportunity Scholarship. Those are the most common scholarships available, but there are several other New Mexico grants and scholarships available to help pay for college. Unlike loans, grants and scholarships do not need to be repaid, however, there are conditions for eligibility such as established need, a minimum GPA, or required number of completed credit hours per semester. Visit <https://hed.state.nm.us/financial-aid/scholarships> and <https://www.ReachHigherNM.com/> for more information.

TIPS

- Budgeting For Success
- Types of Financial Assistance
- Getting to Know the FAFSA

TOOLS

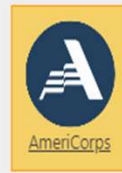
- Education Quick List
- Countdown to College Checklist
- College Finder
- Program Finder
- FAFSA
- FAFSA Estimate
- Scholarship Finder
- College Library
- Scholarship Library
- Why I Work

Gain Experience



No matter which career path you choose, *experience* is important to getting your career off the ground. Opportunities are available that will provide you with experience and help build your career pathway. Some options can be pursued alongside working and going to school, while others are paths by themselves. Take a look at the options below to see if any of these opportunities will help you reach your long-term goals. Save the options you're interested in so you can revisit them in the future.

GAIN EXPERIENCE



AmeriCorps



Peace Corps



Military Service



Job Corps



Apprenticeship



Internship



Entrepreneurship



Volunteering



Skilled Trades

First

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Last



AMERICORPS

✓ Save

AmeriCorps programs provide opportunities for Americans to make an intensive commitment to service. The AmeriCorps network of local, state, and national service programs engages more than 80,000 Americans in projects around the nation each year. As an AmeriCorps member, you can help make the world a better place: help children learn, protect the environment, or bring needed services to a low-income community. Members gain valuable professional, educational, and life benefits. Experience has a lasting impact on the members and the communities they serve.

Most AmeriCorps members receive student loan deferment and training, and some may receive a living allowance and health insurance. After you complete your term of service, you will also receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to help pay for college, graduate school, or vocational training or to repay student loans.

AmeriCorps consists of three main programs:

AmeriCorps State and National

Members serve with national and local nonprofit and community groups. For more information and current opportunities, visit [My AmeriCorps](#)

The Job Search

Searching for employment requires patience, work, and motivation. You might not know how to apply for jobs if you've never looked for work before. If you don't have a lot of experience, you may not know about some of the tricks to improve your chances of getting hired.

Here are eight steps to take for a successful job search.

If you are 14 or 15 years old, you will need a work permit. [Click here for more information.](#)



8 STEPS FOR THE JOB SEARCH



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INTERVIEW

The interview is the best opportunity for you to make a good impression and land the job. You should *always* prepare for an interview. The interview is your chance to show that you're organized, punctual, and professional. You will be talking about yourself and your qualifications in more detail. You also get to ask questions so that you can make sure the job is the right fit for you. Employers will know whether you've prepared or not.

Use the tips here to learn what you need to know about preparing for the interview. There's also information on how to successfully interview for a job. Practice answering common interview questions using the **Interview Preparation** tool.



TIPS

Preparing for the Interview

Contacting Your References

Tips for a Successful Interview



TOOLS

Job Finder

Job Library

Résumé Builder

Letter Builder

Interview Preparation

Occupation Finder

My Dashboard

Student Progress

Career Exploration

- 5 Career Exploration Steps 100%
- Career Exploration Worksheet 73%
- Your Work Interests 100%
- Your Work Values 100%
- Occupation Library 17

Education & Training

- 5 Steps for Education 100%
- Countdown to College Checklist 0
- College Library 5
- Scholarship Library 6
- Program Library 0

The Job Search

- 8 Job Search Steps 100%

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Occupation Library

- Actors
- Actuaries
- Career/Technical Education Teachers, Middle School
- Acupuncturists
- Proofreaders and Copy Markers
- General and Operations Managers

Find Occupations

Occupation Library

Program Library

There are no saved programs in your library

Find Programs

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Related Occupations

- Appraisers and Assessors of Real Estate
- Prosthodontists
- Correspondence Clerks
- Industrial Production Managers

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College Library

- University of New Mexico-Main Campus
- Clovis Community College
- New Mexico State University-Dona Ana
- New Mexico State University-Main Campus
- Eastern New Mexico University-Main Campus

Find Colleges

College Library

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Scholarship Library

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| American Association of University Women Selected Professions Fellowships | \$20000 |
| A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship Program | \$1000 - \$2000 |
| Albert E. and Florence W. Newton Nursing Scholarship | \$500 - \$5000 |
| Al Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference Program | \$1000 |

Max Total Amount: \$28000

Find Scholarships

Scholarship Library

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Job Library

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Construction Project Engineer | Hdr, Inc. |
|-------------------------------|-----------|

Why I Work

Why I Work is a budgeting tool that shows you how much money you need to make to afford the things you want and need.

Step 1:

**Choose the city
that you want to
live in.**

Step 2:

**Choose the items
that you want and
need.**

Step 3:

**We'll add up your
spending and show
you how much you
need to earn to
cover your
expenses.**

Step 4:

**Connect to Career
Solutions to learn
about occupations
that have an annual
wage that pays that
amount.**

Why I Work

Where would you like to live?




HOUSING

Choose only one or enter your own amount.




HOUSE

\$ **1,495.00**




2 BEDROOM

\$ **1,022.00**



1 BEDROOM

\$ **840.00**



EFFICIENCY


\$ **794.00**



LIVE AT HOME












\$ **0.00**

Editable Amount



MY PLACE - CUSTOM AMOUNT

\$ **0.00**

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------|
|  | HOUSING HOUSE | \$1,495.00 |
|  | UTILITIES INTERNET, WATER, MOBILE | \$250.00 |
|  | FOOD EAT AT HOME | \$414.00 |
|  | TRANSPORTATION BASIC | \$457.00 |
|  | CLOTHING THRIFTY, ACCESSORIES | \$103.00 |
|  | HEALTH CARE EMPLOYER INSURANCE PLAN, DENTAL AND VISION CARE | \$160.00 |
|  | PERSONAL BASICS | \$71.00 |
|  | ENTERTAINMENT HOME | \$18.00 |
|  | MISCELLANEOUS FURNITURE, PET CARE | \$342.00 |
|  | EDUCATION BACHELOR'S - PUBLIC | \$763.00 |
|  | SAVINGS 2% OF TOTAL EXPENSE | \$81.00 |

TOTAL EXPENSES

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Total Monthly Expenses | \$4,154.00 |
| Annual Expenses | \$49,848.00 |
| Taxes (25% of expenses) | \$12,462.00 |
| Annual Salary Needed | \$62,310.00 |

OCCUPATION FINDER

PRINT

RESTART

DATA SOURCES

Thank you!

www.NMCareerSolutions.com

<https://whyiwork.dws.state.nm.us/>

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