

# MissouriConnections.org

*Connect to Your Future*

## Getting Students and Parents Started

### *Logging In*

- Go to [www.missouriconnections.org](http://www.missouriconnections.org) before logging in, click through the left menu to access information and resources about education and career planning.
- **Parents:** Parents will not log in. Choose the **Parent** tab from the middle of the page and then **Parent Resources** to access a menu of resources and information.
- **Students:** Locate the Returning Users and New Users options under **Education and Career Planning System**.

If already registered, click on **Returning Users** and enter the appropriate user name and password.

First-time users will click on **New Users**. Select **Student** and the appropriate grade level from the drop down menu. Create a unique user name and use the password **wildcats** (*with the student's graduation year listed - - example: wildcats12*), complete the registration page, and select **Continue**. To log in the next time you visit Missouri Connections, you will select **Returning Users** and enter your user name and password.

After logging in, students can access additional information and resources under the **Education and Career Planning** menu section.

## System Content for Students

Missouri Connections ([www.missouriconnections.org](http://www.missouriconnections.org)) takes planning for the future to a higher level with interactive features, refined tools for learning, and links to Missouri-specific resources. System users will navigate Missouri Connections using the left navigation menu, which provides some information and resources without logging in.

## Home

The **Home** menu option will direct individuals back to the Missouri Connections home page ([www.missouriconnections.org](http://www.missouriconnections.org)). If individuals have logged in, the Home menu option will direct them to a personalized home page with their To Do List, Announcements, and Recommended Links.

## **Career Exploration**

*Career Exploration* provides many tools to help individuals explore their options for the future. These menu options are available without logging in.

- **Occupational Wheel**  
Start exploring career options with the Occupational Wheel that highlights Missouri's Career Paths and related occupations.
- **16 Career Clusters**  
Access Missouri's Career Paths, Clusters, and Pathways interactive model to learn about career options.
- **A-Z List of Careers and Majors**  
Get descriptions of careers and college majors by clicking on the first letter of its title or by using a keyword search.
- **Hot Careers in Missouri**  
Learn about careers in Missouri with a high growth rate.
- **Missouri Career Exploration Tool**  
Learn from Missouri's interactive career exploration tool that combines occupation projections, education and training information, industry projections, and skills data, including WorkKeys.
- **Missouri Family Wage Calculator**  
Use this tool to calculate for actual costs of living and working in Missouri.
- **Missouri Occupation Profile Sheets**  
Access more than 250 Missouri occupational profile sheets organized by career cluster and pathway with occupation descriptions, educational requirements, wage information, employment trends, and more!
- **Planning Timeline**  
Track important career-planning events using the planning timeline which includes suggested sequences of education and career planning events from grade school through adulthood to guide students, parents, counselors, and teachers.
- **Video Room**  
Get more information on the 16 Career Clusters through new videos.

## **Education and Career Planning System**

To use this menu option, students will login to Missouri Connections. Once inside the system the menu changes to *Education and Career Planning* and offers the following options:

- **My Assessments**  
Students use this section of the system to take the Kuder Career Search with Person Match (interest assessment) and/or the Kuder Skills Assessment-16. In addition to the interest and skills assessments, Super's Work Values inventory is available. After students have completed an assessment, they can review their results from this area as well as add results from other tests and assessments.

- **My Personal Plan of Study**  
Under this menu option, students can review sample Education Career Plans from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and create or update a Personal Career Plan of Study. Students can build their plans of study from a template or list of courses entered by their school or district (Please note: Logan Rogersville School District is not currently using this option).
- **Plan for Getting a Job**  
Within this menu option, prepare and send resumes, write cover letters, prepare for job interviews, and look for available jobs through MissouriCareerSource.com.
- **My Portfolio**  
The Career Portfolio is the centerpiece of the system. It allows users to store, view, and edit information easily. The portfolio includes personal information entered during registration; Personal Career Plans of Study; assessment results; resumes; and favorites such as clusters, occupations, and schools. Favorites are stored in the portfolio by clicking on the yellow stars throughout the system. A comparison feature is also available for occupations and schools. Students can compare either three schools or three occupations side-by-side to make post-high school decisions.

## College Exploration

Access the resources under the *College Exploration* menu options without logging into the system.

- **Colleges and Universities – Missouri**  
Search for colleges and universities within Missouri.
- **Colleges and Universities – National**  
Search for colleges and universities across the United States.
- **Missouri College Admissions Criteria**  
Learn about the criteria and requirements needed for admission into a college within Missouri.
- **ACT Practice**  
Get practice information in order to prepare for the ACT exam.
- **College Board (SAT)**  
Visit the SAT Preparation Center to get ready to take the SAT exam.
- **March 2 Success**  
Access March 2 Success, a resource for improving knowledge and test scores in the areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

## Paying for College

The *Paying for College* section provides tuition assistance information and resources without logging into the system.

- **College Savings Calculator**  
Access a calculator to see how much money is needed for college.
- **Federal Student Aid**  
Learn about financial aid options and start applying for aid using the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*.
- **Military**  
Find out about tuition support for entering the Military.
- **Missouri Savings and Tuition Programs**  
Get information on additional programs and resources to assist with paying for college in Missouri.
- **Planning and Paying for College**  
Link to information that helps students and parents engage in the planning process for paying for college.
- **Resources for High School Students**  
Access a list of additional links on paying for college for high school students.
- **Scholarship Search Tips**  
Get a list of tips to aid in the scholarship search process.

## **Career Search**

The tools and resources available under *Career Search* help individuals find available jobs and related information with-out logging into the system.

- **Missouri Career Source**  
Search for career opportunities within Missouri
- **Missouri Labor Market Information**  
Access important information on the labor market in Missouri such as cost of living, income and wages, and more.
- **Registered Apprenticeships**  
Search for information about apprenticeships and training programs in Missouri and nationwide.
- **Military**  
Get access to information and resources about joining the military.

## **System Content for Parents**

Studies of how young people make educational and career decisions reveal that parents are the #1 influence on career planning. Missouri Connections supports parent in that critical role by providing ways for them to get involved.

- **Take a Virtual Tour**  
Read about key resources within the system such as assessment results, careers and majors, school search, financial aid, and preparing to get a job.

- **Learn How Careers are Presented to Students**  
Walk through how students explore clusters and careers with Missouri's Career Paths, Clusters, and Pathways model.
- **See My Student's Portfolio**  
Parents of students between the ages of 13 and 18 can access, but not edit, their student's portfolio if the child releases his or her unique user name and password.
- **Suggestions About How I Can Help My Student**  
Check out additional web sites that offer extensive information on the educational and career planning process.
- **See a Timeline for Educational and Career Planning**  
Review a planning timeline of important educational and career planning events that students use for guidance starting in kindergarten and continuing through adulthood.