

## Other Resources for Parents

### CHECK THE WEB

Lots of useful information for parents is available on the Internet. Try these sites:

#### Career Services at MSU Billings

[www.msubillings.edu/careers](http://www.msubillings.edu/careers)

#### America's Career Resource Network

[www.acrnetwork.org/parents.aspx](http://www.acrnetwork.org/parents.aspx)

#### Montana Career Info System

[www.smartaboutcollege.org/](http://www.smartaboutcollege.org/)

#### ACT Parent Resources

[www.act.org/path/parent/resource/index.html](http://www.act.org/path/parent/resource/index.html)

### WHAT ELSE SHOULD PARENTS KNOW?

College is a time for students to learn more about themselves and to explore their career options. Encourage them to try lots of different courses in lots of different areas to see where their interests lie.

Students can reinvent themselves at the same time they're inventing a career that fits. Be patient...be supportive... Career Services will be there!

May 2009

## What's Hot?

Occupations with most job openings to 2016 requiring at least BA/BS

### In United States:

Registered nurses  
Post-secondary teachers  
Elementary teachers  
Sales representatives  
Accountants & auditors  
Secondary teachers  
Computer software engineers  
Computer system analysts  
Management analysts  
Lawyers

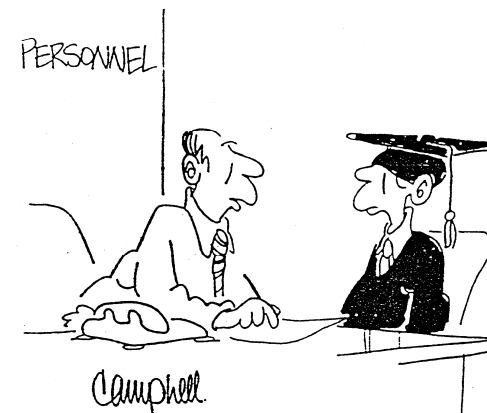
### In Montana:

General & operations managers  
Teachers: Elementary, post-secondary, middle school & secondary  
Accountants & auditors  
Construction managers  
Insurance sales agents  
Lawyers  
Physicians & surgeons  
Chief Executives  
Civil engineers  
Environmental scientists

Information from US Bureau of Labor Statistics

## PARENTS' PRIMER 2009

### *Career Strategies for Student Success*



"I see you have no job experience."

Montana State University Billings

**Career**  
**SERVICES**

Explore Hire Education

Montana State University Billings  
(406) 657-2168  
careers@msubillings.edu  
[www.msubillings.edu/careers](http://www.msubillings.edu/careers)

## HELPING YOUR STUDENT MAKE GOOD CAREER DECISIONS

We know most parents want their students to get a good education AND get a good job after graduation!

### DO YOU KNOW?

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Students who make career choices stay in school and graduate faster than students who remain “undecided.”

Students who use Career Services find jobs faster, are more likely employed in their degree field, and have higher starting wages at graduation.

#### Class of 2008

**96% of MSU Billings grads** responding to an annual survey found employment **within 6-12 months** of graduation, or they continued education in graduate or professional schools.

#### Class of 2008 BA/BS (4-yr) Degree:

Average Salary was **\$34,068/year**

**49%** were employed in **Billings**

**20%** were employed elsewhere in **MT**

**19%** were employed **out of state**

#### Class of 2008 Tech (2-yr) Degree:

Average Salary was **\$37,654/year**

**75%** were employed in **Billings**

**16%** were employed elsewhere in **MT**

**9%** were employed **out of state**

## SERVICES FOR STUDENTS INCLUDE:

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**1. Career advising.** Professionals help students clarify career goals and identify strategies to achieve them.

**2. Career assessments & resources.** Gathering objective information about oneself and the world of work is part of the solution. Assessments, books, and Internet resources help students learn about options available to them.

**3. Jobs!** Most MSU Billings students work while attending college. Local employers advertise hundreds of part-time jobs each year. Students may view them on **CareerLink**, accessible 24/7 during the semesters they are enrolled.

**4. Cooperative Education internships.** Students are able to “try on” career choices by working in their fields of study. While earning academic credit, most students also earn a salary. Students must have earned at least 24 credits and maintain a 2.0 GPA (3.0 for Business majors) to participate.

**5. Professional employment.** Career fairs and on-campus recruiting introduce students to employers. Students learn about employers’ expectations, finding internships, and how to network into a “real job” after graduation.

## PARENTS’ FAQ LIST

### WHAT CAN MY STUDENT DO TO BE SURE S/HE WILL FIND A JOB AFTER GRADUATION?

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Now is the time to begin career planning to maximize the college experience. Career Services can help throughout the college experience. Don’t let your student wait until the Monday after graduation to say, “I need help finding a job!”

### HOW CAN MY STUDENT LEARN ABOUT CAREER OPTIONS?

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Career Services has lots of information about “hot” careers, job search strategies, how to meet employers.

For example, we can connect them with professionals who are in the career students think they’d like to pursue.

An information interview helps students learn what’s good—and not so good—about being a (*fill in the blank*) by asking a practitioner.

### WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO CONFIRM CAREER DECISIONS?

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Planning for an internship experience outside of the classroom adds value to an education and ammunition to a résumé. Employers prefer to hire the “known quantity,” students who have tested their learning in the workplace.