

## What's Hot?

### Occupations with most job openings requiring at least BA/BS

#### In United States 2012-2020:

Biomedical engineers  
Network systems & data analysts  
Accountants and auditors  
Medical scientists  
Elementary school teachers

#### In Montana 2012-2020:

Elementary school teachers  
Accountants and auditors  
Business operations specialists  
Network systems analysts  
Child and social workers

### Occupations with most job openings requiring at least AA/AS

#### In United States 2012-2020:

Registered nurses  
Dental hygienists  
Veterinary technicians/technologists  
Physical therapy assistants  
Environmental engineering tech

#### In Montana 2012-2020:

Veterinary technicians/technologists  
Registered nurses  
Computer Support Specialists  
Forest and conservation technicians  
Mechanical drafters

Data from US & MT Dept. of Labor

## Your Major Matter\$!

You are about to invest several years and a lot of money in preparing for your future. An informed decision makes \$en\$e!  
You may earn \$3,000,000 or more in your lifetime and spend 1/3 of your life working-research and choose a major that sends you on the right career path!

Use these sites to explore career options that fit your major:

<http://career.sdsu.edu/MAJORS/index.htm>

<http://careers.cua.edu/explore/index.cfm#cim>



### Class of 2013

**97% of MSU Billings BA/BS grads** responding to an annual survey found employment within **6-12 months** of graduation, or they continued education in graduate or professional schools.

#### BA/BS (4-yr) Degree:

Average Salary was **\$30,256/year**  
**50%** were employed in **Billings**  
**33%** were employed elsewhere in **MT**  
**17%** were employed **out of state**

#### City College (2-yr) Degree:

Average Salary was **\$36,246/year**  
**66%** were employed in **Billings**  
**20%** were employed elsewhere in **MT**  
**14%** were employed **out of state**

### CHOOSING A MAJOR



# Making a “Major” Decision



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

# 1 Identify

- What activities do I enjoy during my spare time?
- What activities do I do well? What have I done in the past that makes me especially proud?
- What classes and jobs have I most enjoyed?
- Is this a major field in which I can perform well?
- What do I value? How do my values affect my academic/career interests?
- What are my life circumstances and how might they affect my decision?
- What are my career goals? How do they fit with my values, interests, abilities?
- Why am I considering this major? Is it because it would be easy or offer a high salary? Is it because it has inherent value or fits my interests?

## Use online assessments to identify your interests and skills:

Montana Career Info System:  
<http://mtcis.intocareers.org/>

O\*Net Online:  
<http://online.onetcenter.org/>

# 2 Investigate

- Research occupations to find the occupational outlook/demand and salary projections for various careers.
- Think about your dream job and conduct information interviews to learn about that profession.
- Volunteer in the field to experience the responsibilities of the profession.
- Talk with alumni about their choices; visit professors; read professional literature.
- Visit Career Services to meet with a Career Coach who can help you evaluate the information you have collected and guide you through the decision-making process.

## RESEARCH OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK AND SALARY PROJECTIONS

MSU Billings Grad Data:  
[www.msubillings.edu/careers](http://www.msubillings.edu/careers)

Montana Dept of Labor and Industry:  
<http://ourfactsyourfuture.mt.gov>

America's Career InfoNet:  
[www.acinet.org](http://www.acinet.org)

Occupational Outlook Handbook:  
<http://stats.bls.gov/oco>

# 3 Implement

- Review majors available at MSU Billings; create a list that matches your values, interests, and abilities.
- Try courses in the majors you are considering.
- Get hands-on experience in an internship that complements your academic choice.
- Work part-time in a field related to your potential major.
- Attend Career Services events such as the *Career Fitness Fair*, *TechExpo*, *Teacher Recruitment Interviews*, and meet employers informally at "Ask-an-Executive" every Wednesday.
- Declare your major and meet with your Academic Advisor to develop your plan of study.

