

## CHECK THE WEB

Lots of useful information for parents is available on the Internet. "Google" or try these sites:

Career Services at MSU Billings  
[www.msubillings.edu/careers](http://www.msubillings.edu/careers)

Montana Career Info System  
[www.smartaboutcollege.org/](http://www.smartaboutcollege.org/)

ACT Parent Resources  
[www.actstudent.org/career/tips.html](http://www.actstudent.org/career/tips.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!

5/2014



## 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



# Parents' Primer 2014



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

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 2013 grad data:

**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**

## SERVICES FOR STUDENTS INCLUDE:

**Career advising.** Professionals meet with students to clarify career goals and identify strategies to achieve them.

### Career assessments & resources.

Gathering objective information about oneself and the world of work is part of the solution. Career assessments help students learn about options available to them, and resources for writing a résumé, letter of application, and mock interviews prepare them for success.

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

### 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.

**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

### HOW CAN MY STUDENT PREPARE NOW TO FIND A JOB AFTER GRADUATION?

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?

Career Services has lots of information about “hot” careers, job search strategies, and 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?

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.



[www.myinterfase.com/msubillings/student](http://www.myinterfase.com/msubillings/student)