STEP 1
BEGIN WITH CAREER CONVERSATIONS

- What are your strengths?
- What would your family say are your strengths?
- What would your friends say are your strengths?
- Have you thought about how you can develop your strengths further?
- How might your strengths connect with careers of the future?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- Do you have a career vision? If so, what is it? Do you think of it often?
- What are you passionate about?
- If you could start a non-profit, what cause would it support?
- What impact do you want to have on other people's lives or in the world?
- Who might be able to help you achieve your goals?

STEP 2
START EXPLORING CAREERS

- Ask family members or others in your community about their career journey
- Complete an online career survey to help determine career interest:
  - EducationPlanner
  - My Next Move
- Watch videos to learn more about different career paths
  - Explore Careers | Choose an interest or College Major
  - Road Trip Nation: www.roadtripnation.com
  - CareerOneStop: Careers and Career Information
- Explore in-demand careers and labor market information online:
  - Pure Michigan Talent Connect
  - Skilled Trades
  - Hot Jobs in Southeast Michigan
- Join career related online communities or social media groups
- Explore summer programs and opportunities at local community colleges and universities

STEP 3
START EXPLORING COLLEGES AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

- Take a virtual field trip to a college: CampusTours – Interactive Virtual Tours and Campus Maps
- Explore training and degree programs in Wayne County at Browse Training and Degree Programs | Workforce Development
- Complete a college comparison worksheet: College Comparison Worksheet
- Verify that your dream school(s) offers the major of your choice
- Schedule an on-campus tour for at least one of your top choice schools

STEP 4
TAKE THE NEXT STEP TO PREPARE FOR A CAREER

- Build your resume: Digital Technology Training – Google
- Explore how to provide references. References:
  - What are they?
  - Who might you ask when there's a need? Teacher, coach, community leader, others?
- Review a job search website:
  - Indeed.com, MiTalent.org
  - What are the key components of a job posting?
  - What do you notice?
- Review some sample interview questions:
  - 8 Interview Questions for Teens With Examples and Tips
- Practice interview responses:
  - Practice Job Interview Questions
- Check out tips on interviewing:
  - Video – Interview Tips: Common Questions, Body Language & More

STEP 5
EXPLORE WAYS TO FINANCE YOUR CAREER

- Find Scholarships and Grants: MI Student Aid
  - Also, check them out on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: @mistudentaid
- Check this FAFSA checklist:
  - uAspire’s Financial Aid Timeline and Checklist
- Check this TIP Fact Sheet:
  - Tuition Incentive Program Fact Sheet

STEP 6
ESPECIALLY FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS ATTENDING COLLEGE

- Check out these college checklists of things to do:
  - A Complete College Prep Checklist: High School Senior Year
  - Preparing for College: Senior Checklist
- Explore and secure housing if you plan to live on campus

READY TO LAUNCH
CAREER PLANNING TIPS AND TOOLS FOR STUDENTS
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