

Resources for Middle and High School Students, Counselors, and Parents

MEFA Pathways Future Planning Tool: <https://www.mefapathway.org/>

The MEFA pathways website provides students with a planning tool where they can organize their academic information, get free test-prep tutorials, research schools, track applications, apply for financial aid and more. Students can use this tool to build a personalized portfolio, outlining interests and extracurriculars which will automatically be assembled into a resume.

MassCIS (Career Information System): <https://portal.masscis.intocareers.org/>

The Mass Career Information System is a valuable tool for Massachusetts educators, students, or residents for a professional and useful set of tools to plan their entry into the workforce. The MassCIS allows any Massachusetts resident to log in with only their ZIP code and access a full suite of employment search engines, personalization options, and resume building tips.

Highlights from this program include the course planner, occupation explorer, and portfolio creator. The extensive nature of the course planning tool is impressive—providing students of all relevant grade levels with a template for a thorough look through their academic statistics and progression through high school and transition into postsecondary. The features which center on employment are extensive.

Along with providing the means to evaluate interests and how they might apply to a career paths, the MassCIS Reality Check tool allows the user to budget out their future when living in Massachusetts. For instance, living in the Leominster-Fitchburg-Gardner sector of MA with relatively low expenses and generous savings, the MassCIS tool determines that an approximate annual salary of \$48,000 would be required to live comfortably in a one-bedroom apartment.

To bring everything together, the portfolio creator in MassCIS makes it possible to review your use of the system and collects or gathers all that information in one place. Like MEFA pathways, this digital portfolio can be converted into a resume. What sets this tool apart is its ability to convert your information into a resume in a variety of styles (“Recent Grad”, “Accomplishment”, “Chronological”, “Functional Skills”, and “Build Your Own”). Each style emphasizes a different portion of your provided information.

Commonwealth Commitment through Mass Transfer:

<http://www.mass.edu/masstransfer/macomcom/home.asp>

The Commonwealth Commitment is a program designed for students to save money and achieve academically. By enrolling in the Commonwealth Commitment program, students may be able to lower the cost of earning a bachelor’s degree by up to 49%. A student must enroll in one of 15 community colleges and earn their associates degree in 2.5 years. After earning their associate’s degree, the student must then transfer to a state university and earn their bachelor’s degree in 2 more years.

By Enrolling in this program, Students will also benefit from

- A freeze on tuition and mandatory fees for 4 years
- A 10% rebate on all college costs
- And a tuition credit worth \$1,200 for the last 2 years of school

To calculate your potential savings, go to: <http://www.mass.edu/masstransfer/tools/savings.asp>