

NAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____



WHAT CAREER CLUSTERS OR CAREER PATHWAYS ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?

Not sure? Take the Career Match Maker assessment on *SDMyLife.com*.

SDMyLife.com is a free resource for South Dakota students in grades 6–12, offering hundreds of career descriptions and college profiles to assist in choosing a college. Students can log in using their school email (K12) credentials or request their username from a teacher or school counselor.

WHAT KIND OF DEGREE DO YOU WANT?

Learn more at *OurDakotaDreams.com*. Visit the SD Public Colleges & Majors page under Exploring Colleges.

- ☐ Certificate or Diploma (1-year or less)
 ☐ Associate Degree (2-year)
- ☐ Bachelor Degree (4-year)
 ☐ Graduate School (beyond bachelor's degree)

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP 3 COLLEGES OF INTEREST?

Visit the Finding Your Fit page under Exploring Colleges on *OurDakotaDreams.com* to compare your top three schools. Remember, it is free to apply to SD public colleges and universities during the Free College Application Period between October 1 – November 30.

SCHOOL NAME	LOCATION	COST	ACADEMIC PROGRAMS	ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST	NOTES

WHICH SCHOLARSHIPS WILL YOU APPLY FOR?

Research SD Scholarships on *OurDakotaDreams.com* found under Paying for College. Learn about more opportunities on the Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board and from your high school.

SCHOLARSHIP NAME	MEETS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (Y/N)	AMOUNT	APPLICATION DUE	NOTES
SD Opportunity Scholarship				

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR FREE APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)?

Completing the FAFSA is critical to making college affordable. Seniors should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after it is available on October 1.

- ☐ YES
 ☐ NOT YET

Families and students can get free FAFSA help by contacting Mapping Your Future at feedback@mappingyourfuture.org or 1-800-374-4072.

WHAT'S A COLLEGE FAIR?

College Fairs are the perfect place to explore the next steps after high school. Admission representatives from colleges in South Dakota and surrounding states are all gathered in one place. Their goal is to encourage you to learn more about their institutions and help you understand what you are looking for in a college.

REGISTER TO ATTEND AND GATHER INFORMATION:

The Council on College Admission in South Dakota offers regional college fair throughout the state. Find a college fair near you at sdcollegeadmissions.com/college-fairs. Registration is typically required. Ask your school counselor about how to register.

ASK QUESTIONS:

Each fair draws approximately 40 - 50 representatives from universities, community & technical colleges, trade schools, and military branches. Use this opportunity to learn about your options and solidify your preferences. It's not uncommon to invite your parents to attend as well.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ADMISSION REPRESENTATIVES

1. What type of school is this (i.e., public, private, career-focused, technical), and where are you located?
2. I'm interested in a career in (name your career cluster designation). Does your school offer degree(s) in that area? What are the programs like, and what can you expect? (Or... I am not sure what I want to study. How does your school support undecided students?)
3. What are the admission requirements? How and when should I apply?
4. What is the TOTAL cost to attend this school? What does that include? (tuition, housing, fees, books)
5. What kinds of residence halls are available, and do I have to live in one? How is housing arranged? Can I select my roommate?
6. What types of meal plans are available?
7. Does your school have financial assistance and scholarships? Are there deadlines I should be aware of?
8. What kind of student activities are available on campus and within the community (i.e., student clubs, intramural or other sports, etc.)?
9. What is the surrounding community like? How many students are on your campus? What is it like on campus during the weekend?
10. How can I take a tour of your school?
11. Does your school offer free tutoring programs or other services to help students be successful?
12. What's the best thing I can do while I'm still in high school to get ready? Do I need to take any specific classes to be prepared to attend your school?
13. What do students say is the best/worst thing about your school?

GOOD LUCK AS YOU EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR YOUR FUTURE!