

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

What is *SMyLife.com*?

Life after high school.....the possibilities are almost too many to count. How do you make sense of them? *SMyLife.com* can help. This website offers career exploration resources for you organized by South Dakota's 16 broad career fields called clusters. Within each cluster, you'll find information about possible careers, earning potential, and required education and training.

SMyLife.com leads you through the process of creating an Academic Plan which serves as a map to your high school career. The plan is developed based on your unique skills and interests. It identifies the specific coursework you need to take to reach your academic and career goals.

SMyLife.com also provides a Portfolio for you which is your "file cabinet" for keeping track of your coursework, extra-curricular activities, work experience, school projects and a journal for you to record your reflections and ideas. Best of all – this portfolio is accessible to you even after you leave high school.

What are Career Clusters?

Career Clusters organize what you learn in school around specific occupational fields. Information Technology, for example, focuses on professions that require highly technical training, while Human Services emphasizes occupations that involve people skills.

You are encouraged to study the clusters to find one that matches your skills and interests. The choice of a career cluster provides a framework for your entire high school experience.

South Dakota recognizes these 16 career clusters:

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communications
- Business Management and Administration
- Education and Training
- Finance
- Government and Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety and Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

What is a Program of Study?

A program of study is similar to a curriculum framework. It provides a recommended sequence of required core subjects, electives and career/technical courses related to a career pathway, and is used as a resource when developing your high school course plans.

What is an Academic Plan?

An Academic Plan serves as a roadmap for your high school career. The plan is developed based on your skills and interests. It identifies the specific coursework you need in order to reach your academic and career goals. Your Academic Plan also may include items that encourage further rigor and relevance:

- Advanced Placement courses
- South Dakota Virtual High School courses
- Senior Experience
- Youth Internships
- College courses
- South Dakota Department of Education End of Course / Course Equivalency Exam Program

To get started on your Academic Plan, access www.SDMyLife.com.

SDCAP (South Dakota Career Assessment Program)

The South Dakota Career Assessment Program (SDCAP) is an annual assessment given to all students in the 8th grade (Matchmaker) and the 10th grade (Ability Profiler).

This assessment is taken online at www.SDMyLife.com and provides a career interest inventory in addition to a six-part aptitude battery. The combined results of this online assessment provide you with information on your current level of skills in the areas of arithmetic reasoning, verbal ability, spatial ability, computation, clerical perception, and form perception and relates those skills to possible career areas for you to consider.

Career Planning Process

Step 1 – Take Surveys

- Career Matchmaker—Grades 8-12
- Ability Profiler—Grade 10
- My Skills—Grades 10-12
- Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)—Grade 11
- Learning Styles—Grades 10-11
- Personality Types—Grades 10-11
- Values—Grades 10-11

Step 2 – Learn about Career Options

- Career Cluster Interests—Grades 8-12
- Program of Study—Grades 8-12
- Careers that Interest Me—Grades 8-12
- Career Selector—Grades 10-12
- Compare Careers
- Military Careers

Step 3 – Look at Education

- Academic Plan—Grades 8-12
- Schools that Interest Me—Grades 11-12
- Scholarships—Grades 11-12
- Post-secondary Goals—Grades 11-12
- Career & Life Goals—Grades 10-11

Step 4 – Talk to Others

- Parent Review of Portfolio—Grades 8-12
- Annual Portfolio Review—Grades 9-12
- Job Shadow
- Career Fair

Step 5 – Make Your Decision

- Career Planning Activities—Grades 9-12
- Activities, Experiences & Awards
 - Hobbies & Interests—Grades 8-12
 - Extracurricular Activities—Grades 8-12
 - Awards & Certificates—Grades 8-12
 - Skills & Abilities—Grades 10-12

Step 6 – Review Your Decisions

- Academic Plan
- Portfolio Review
- Parental Review

Step 7 – Take the Next Big Step

- Register for classes in Career Cluster area
- Participate in Capstone Experiences—Grade 12
- Create a Resume

Future Planning Checklist

(Check each of the activities you have completed.)

<u>SELF-KNOWLEDGE</u>	√
Taken the SDCAP—Career Matchmaker	
Taken the SDCAP—Ability Profiler	
Taken the SDCAP—Learning Styles Assessment	
Identified the career cluster and pathway that most closely match my career interests and aptitude	
Taken the PSAT	
Taken the PreACT	
Taken the ASVAB	
Taken the State-mandated standardized tests	
Taken the ACT or SAT	
<u>CAREER EXPLORATION</u>	
Accessed SDMyLife.com	
Created a Portfolio	
Created an Academic Plan	
Learned about the career clusters at my high school	
Participated in at least one job-shadowing experience	
Attended a Career Fair / Post-High Planning Day	
Visited with a school counselor about career selection	
Visited with Parents	
Signed up for extracurricular activities that relate to career cluster	
<u>EDUCATIONAL EXPLORATION</u>	
Attended Post-High Planning Day	
Researched postsecondary education websites	
Visited with a postsecondary education representative	
Visited a postsecondary education campus	
<u>EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER PLANNING</u>	
Developed & updated my Academic Plan	
Completed a capstone experience—Youth Internship, Senior Experience, Entrepreneurship	
Discussed my educational & career plans with my parents, teachers, coach, employer or school counselor	
Requested a letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, employer or school counselor	
Created a resume	
Submitted an application for a postsecondary job or postsecondary educational institution	
Submitted completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid	
Submitted scholarship applications	

SOUTH DAKOTA MyLife @ Parent Portal

SDMylife measures students' interests and abilities. It helps students explore careers and colleges and make educational plans beyond High School. Students across South Dakota have access to the Academic Plan tool in SDMyLife. ACADEMIC PLAN is designed to help students bring together their academic achievements, extracurricular experiences, and career and education exploration activities. This enables the student, parents or guardians, teachers, and school counselors to work together to develop a course of study that meets the student's needs and future goals.

Academic Plan allows students to:

Develop their Academic Plan

- My Secondary Education Plan Course of Study
- Career and Technical Education Courses (CTE)
- Advanced Placement courses
- South Dakota Virtual High School courses
- Youth Internships
- Dual Enrollment courses
- South Dakota Department of Education End of Course / Course Equivalency Exam Program

Store Results of Dakota Career Assessments

- Career Matchmaker interest inventory
- Ability Profiler

Explore Career Options

- Investigate South Dakota's 16 Career Clusters
- Track the clusters that interest them and their thoughts about them

Research College Choices

- Dive into all the South Dakota Universities and Technical Colleges
- Record thoughts about post-high learning options
- Search for scholarships

Create a Portfolio

- Record their extracurricular activities, hobbies, and interests
- Document their community services and work experience
- List awards, certificates, and recognitions they have received
- Upload related files, such as essays, scanned artwork, and letters of reference
- Create personalized, professional-looking resumes

Prepare for the ACT using ACT Method Test Prep



The Parent Portal allows you to:

- View the work your child has entered in his or her Academic Plan
- Learn more about the careers and schools that are of interest to your child
- Record your thoughts and comments about your child's goals and plans
- Email your comments to your child's advisors

Contact your child's school to obtain your SDMyLife Parent Portal username and password

or

Login with your child to their SDMyLife ACADEMIC PLAN using their k12 username and password