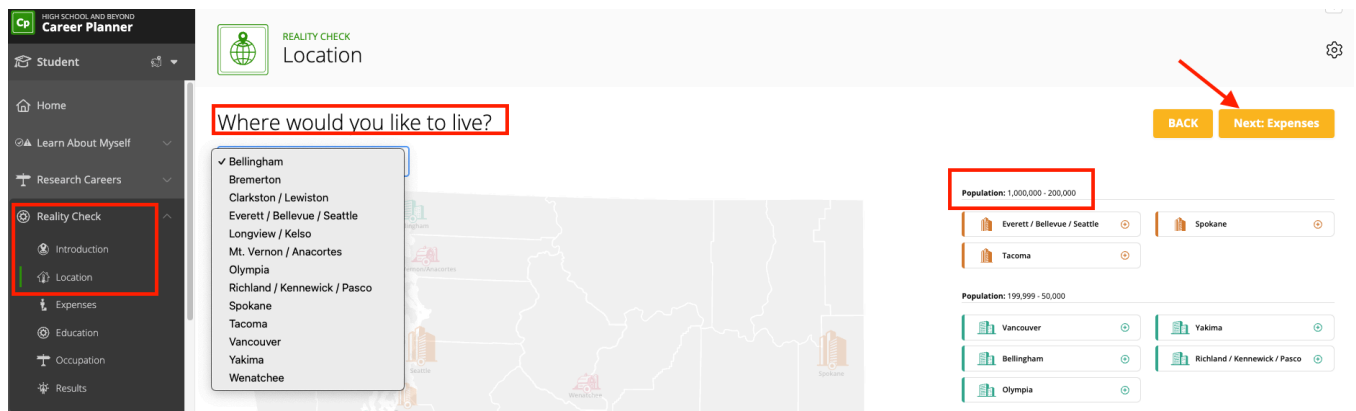


Reality Check Guide CONNECT

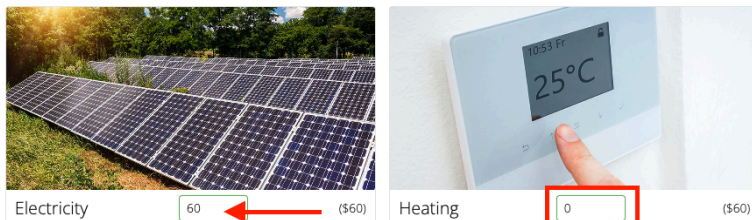
The introduction page will explain what the student can expect during the activity: Use the tools below to state your preferences for where you will live, the level of education you plan to pursue, and the costs for the items you want to have and do in your life. After it all adds up, you will be able to see the careers that will support your lifestyle, at the education level you choose.

1. Start by selecting "**Reality Check**" in the left navigation menu and then choose "**Location**."
2. The first step to completing the Reality Check is choosing where to live. Living expenses vary by location. For example, if you plan to work and live in a big city, your cost of living and the salary required to cover it may be different from what you would need if you plan to live in a small town. You will see a list of locations in a drop-down menu or organized by population on the right. Select one location. It will display on the map.
3. Click **Next: Expenses** to view the **Expenses** page.



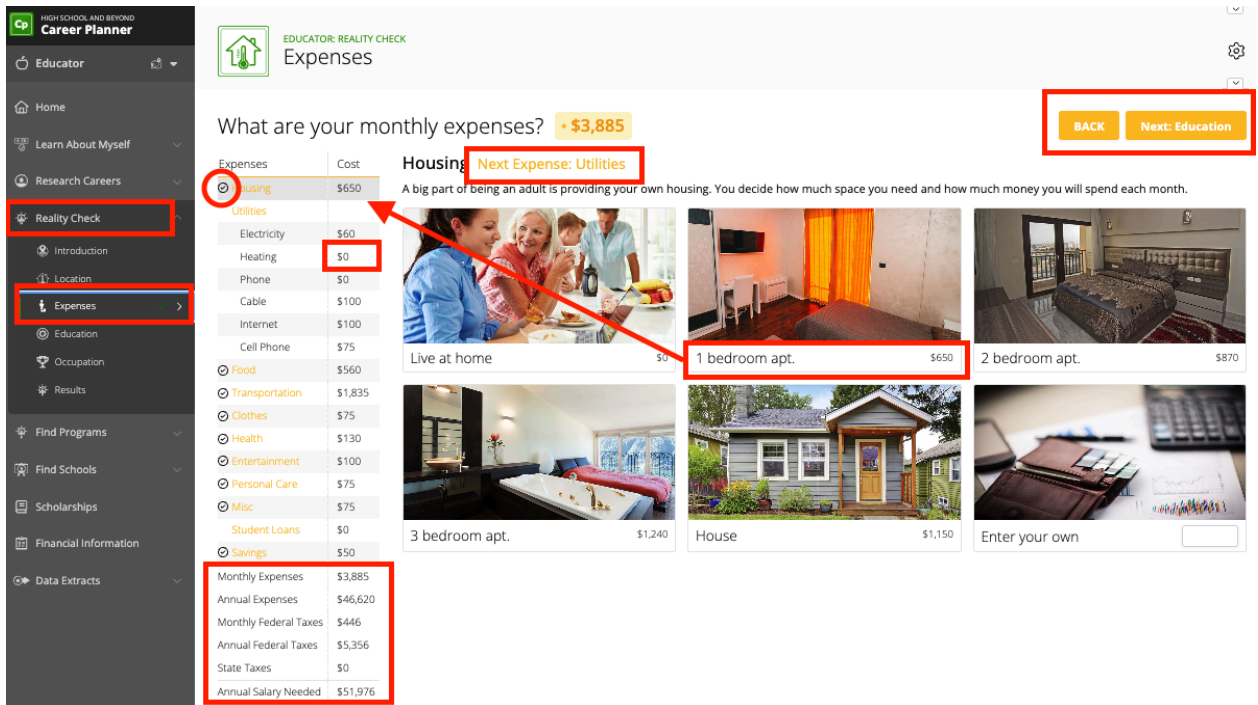
The screenshot shows the 'Reality Check Location' page. On the left, a navigation menu has 'Reality Check' and 'Location' highlighted. The main content area features a question 'Where would you like to live?' with a dropdown menu listing various cities including Bellingham, Bremerton, Clarkston / Lewiston, Everett / Bellevue / Seattle, Longview / Kelso, Mt. Vernon / Anacortes, Olympia, Richland / Kennewick / Pasco, Spokane, Tacoma, Vancouver, Yakima, and Wenatchee. To the right, there are filters for population ranges (1,000,000 - 200,000 and 199,999 - 50,000) and a list of selected locations with radio buttons. A red arrow points to the 'Next: Expenses' button.

4. Choose from common estimates for **each** expense area. Select the option you prefer from each expense type. (Housing, Utilities, Food, Transportation, Clothes, Health, Entertainment, Personal Care, Misc., Student Loans, Savings).
 - You will begin with **Housing**. Select your option. Each option will display a default dollar amount reflecting the additional cost to your monthly expenses for your location, or you can enter your own numerical amount.
 - For each utility option, enter a numerical amount or use the default amount displayed on the right.



The image shows two expense input fields. The first is labeled 'Electricity' and has a default value of '60' with a red arrow pointing to it. The second is labeled 'Heating' and has a default value of '0' with a red box around it. Both fields have a '\$(60)' label to the right.

- After you make your choice, the **cost** will be recorded, and a **checkmark** will appear next to the section name in the left-hand menu.
- Click **Next Expense: [...]** next to the title to move to the next Expense section.
- Be sure to complete each of the sections to the left. If you accidentally select '**Next: Education**' before completing all the sections, use the **Back button** in the top right corner or select '**Expenses**' in the left navigation to return.



What are your monthly expenses? **\$3,885**

Expenses Cost

Expenses	Cost
Housing	\$650
Utilities	
Electricity	\$60
Heating	\$0
Phone	\$0
Cable	\$100
Internet	\$100
Cell Phone	\$75
Food	\$560
Transportation	\$1,835
Clothes	\$75
Health	\$130
Entertainment	\$100
Personal Care	\$75
Misc	\$75
Student Loans	\$0
Savings	\$50

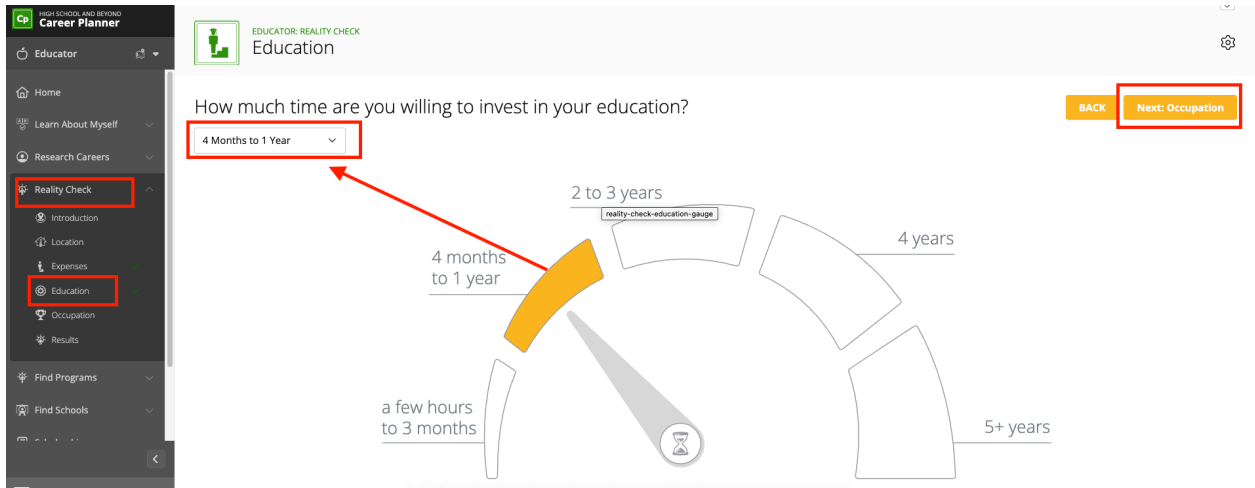
Housing **Next Expense: Utilities**

A big part of being an adult is providing your own housing. You decide how much space you need and how much money you will spend each month.

Live at home	\$0	1 bedroom apt.	\$650	2 bedroom apt.	\$870
3 bedroom apt.	\$1,240	House	\$1,150	Enter your own	

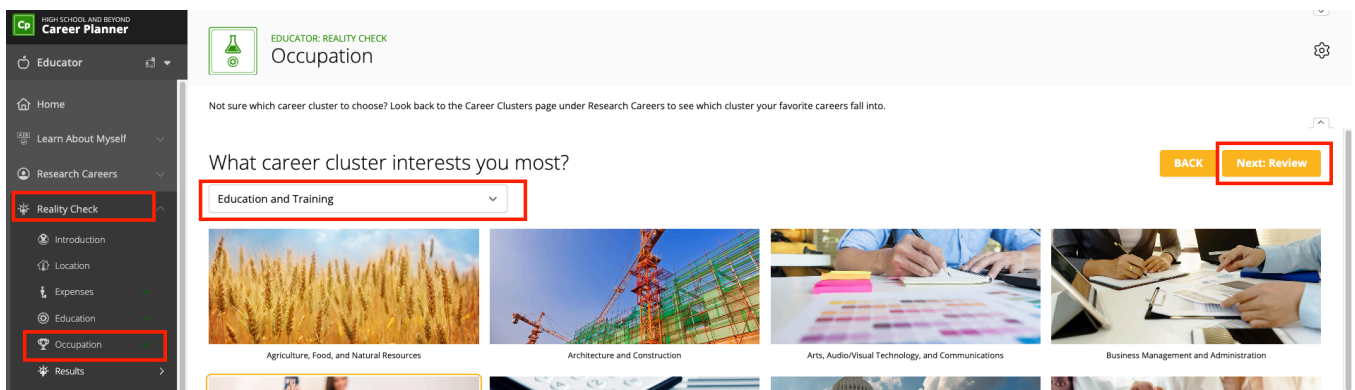
Monthly Expenses	\$3,885
Annual Expenses	\$46,620
Monthly Federal Taxes	\$446
Annual Federal Taxes	\$5,356
State Taxes	\$0
Annual Salary Needed	\$51,976

5. You can edit any of your selections by clicking the expenses in orange type on the left. Each expense must have a dollar amount for the Reality Check to be complete. If no money is estimated to be spent, select \$0. It will show your total monthly expenses and your necessary annual salary as you progress.
6. Once you have completed all the expenses, click "**Next: Education**" in the top right-hand corner.
7. This will open the window: "**How much time are you willing to invest in your education?**" Select from the drop-down menu or click the **hourly/years graphic** to select an option.

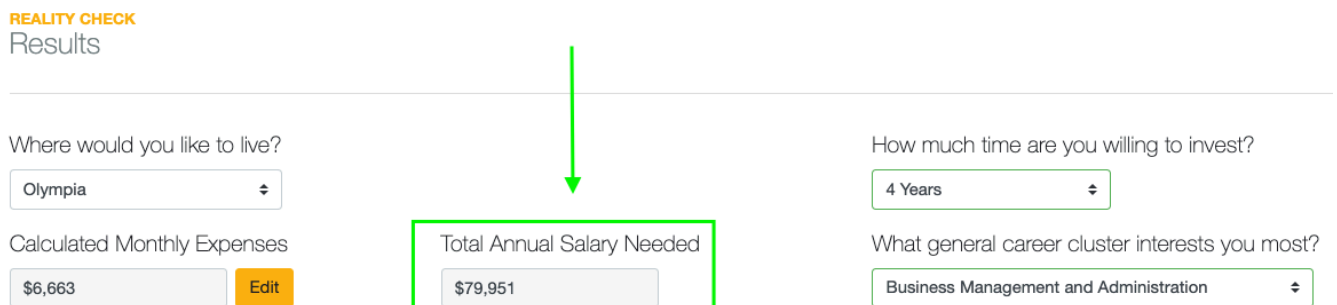


8. Click **Next: Occupation** in the top right corner.

9. You will be presented with a list of career clusters. Review the list and click on the option that interests you the most, or select it from the drop-down menu.



10. Click **Next: Review** in the top right corner. This will display your results, including the calculated monthly expenses and the total annual salary required to support your preferred lifestyle, based on your desired location. It will also report how much time you are willing to invest, what general career cluster interests you are most interested in, and a list of careers that match your choices.



11. Edit any of the fields here to adjust your expectations and generate a different list of possible careers.

- If your list of careers is too small, there are a few ways to broaden your selection:

- Choose a different time span for Education.
- Choose a different Occupation.
- Revise the Expenses section and select more affordable options. The lower the Total Annual Salary Needed, the more careers you will see.

12. Click any **Career** to dig deeper, or click the **heart icon** next to a career to add it to your favorites. You will see only careers that pay at least your total annual salary, require your education choice, or less, and belong to the career cluster you selected.

REALITY CHECK
Results Completed on 5/30/2023

Where would you like to live?


Calculated Monthly Expenses
 Edit

How much time are you willing to invest?

What general career cluster interests you most?

Total Annual Salary Needed

CAREERS



- ♥ Business Executives
- ♥ General and Operations Managers
- ♥ Human Resources Managers

- ♥ Hydroelectric Production Managers
- ♥ Industrial Production Managers
- ♥ Management Analysts

- ♥ Operations Research Analysts
- ♥ Regulatory Affairs Managers
- ♥ Supply Chain Managers

- ♥ Wind Energy Operations Managers