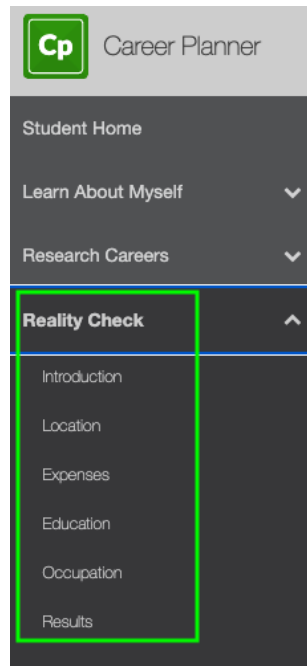


## REALITY CHECK GUIDE V2

Here, you will learn to complete the reality check.

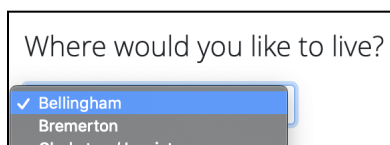
Click on **Reality Check** in the left-hand navigation menu. Next, click **Introduction** and read the instructions.



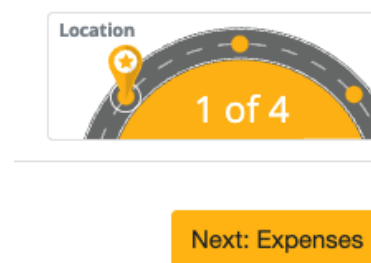
### Location

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.

Click "**Location**" from the left-hand menu. Then, select "**Where would you like to live?**" from the drop-down.



Click "**Next: Expenses**" on the right side of the screen.

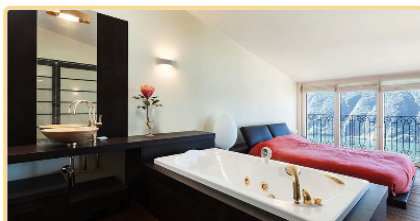


## Expense Calculator - What are your monthly expenses?

There are eleven (11) types of expenses. Pick your preferred option for each expense. Each option will indicate the additional amount it will add to your monthly payments. **Remember, you are investigating your work world (post-high school/college) and the career that will support this lifestyle.**

For each Expense type, click on the option you prefer most (the box will be highlighted in yellow).

Each option will display a dollar amount indicating the additional cost of that choice to your monthly expenses.



3 bedroom apt.

\$2,210

As you complete each section, the cost of your choice will be recorded, and a checkmark will appear next to the section name in the left-hand menu.

Expenses	Cost
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing	\$650
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities	
Electricity	\$85
Heating	\$50
Phone	\$30
Cable	\$65
Internet	\$35
Cell Phone	\$90
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food	\$560
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	\$630
Clothes	
Health	
Entertainment	
Personal Care	
Misc.	
Student Loans	
Savings	
Monthly Expenses	\$2,195

Click “**Next Expense**” to move to the next question.

**Housing** **Next Expense: Utilities** >

A big part of being an adult is providing your own

Click the “**Next: Education**” button at the top-right of the screen when you have answered all of the Expenses questions.



**Next: Education**

- **Housing** - How Much Space Do You Need? How much money would you like to spend?
- **Utilities** - Select the utilities you want to have available. Look for the \$\$\$ section. This is the default value for the location you selected. Type “0” for any utility you do not want.
- **Food** - How much money will you spend each month on food?
- **Transportation** - How much will you pay for transportation in a month?
- **Clothes** - How much will you spend on clothing? Remember, some careers require a specific type of dress.
- **Health** - Healthcare issues sometimes arise (Dr., Dentist, Eyeglasses). How will you handle healthcare expenses?
- **Entertainment** - Hobbies, Recreation, and Concerts are some of the activities that fall under this category.
- **Personal Care** - This category encompasses items such as hair care products, makeup, and gym memberships.
- **Miscellaneous** - Gadgets, travel items, and household goods are some of the items included in this category.
- **Student Loans** - Will you need to pay for any educational expenses?

- **Savings** - Saving money will allow you to plan for unexpected expenses.

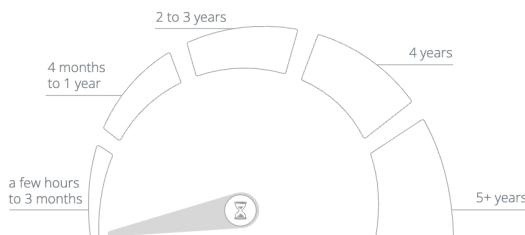
## Education

Depending on your career, you can expect to put in anywhere from a few hours to several years of training and education after high school. For example, a job may require up to a month of on-the-job training to work independently, while others may require years of graduate school and must pass an exam before beginning work.

Use the drop-down to select how much time you will spend on post-high school education and training.

How much time are you willing to invest in your education?

- A Few Hours to 3 Months
- 4 Months to 1 Year
- 2 to 3 Years
- 4 Years
- 5 or More Years



Click “Next: Occupation” to move to the next section.



Next: Occupation

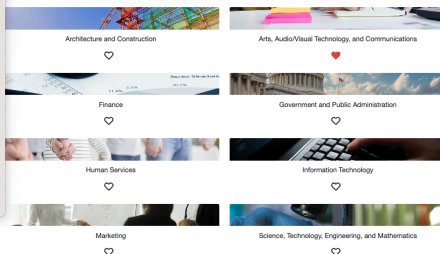
## Occupation

Select a **Career Cluster** that interests you by clicking the pictures. Select “No Preference” from the drop-down window if you are unsure of what to pick.

REALITY CHECK  
Occupation

What career cluster interests you most?

- No Preference
- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, Audio/Visual 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, Corrections, and Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics



Click “Next: Results” to view your results.



Next: Results

## Results

Look at your **Total Annual Salary Needed**. This multiplies your calculated monthly expenses by twelve (12) to find how much you must earn yearly to support your preferred lifestyle.

### REALITY CHECK Results

Where would you like to live?

Olympia ▾

Calculated Monthly Expenses

\$6,663 Edit

Total Annual Salary Needed

\$79,951

How much time are you willing to invest?

4 Years ▾

What general career cluster interests you most?

Business Management and Administration ▾

Look at the list of **Careers** at the bottom of the page. This area shows a list of careers that match all of your choices.

- You will see only careers that pay at least your total annual salary.
- You will see only careers that require your education choice or less.
- You will only see careers that belong to the selected career cluster.

### REALITY CHECK Results

Completed on 5/30/2023

Where would you like to live?

Olympia ▾

Calculated Monthly Expenses

\$6,663 Edit

Total Annual Salary Needed

\$79,951

How much time are you willing to invest?

4 Years ▾

What general career cluster interests you most?

Business Management and Administration ▾

#### 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

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

- Choose a different time span for "**How much time are you willing to invest?**".
- Choose No Preference for "**What general career cluster interests you most?**".
- **Redo the Expenses** section and choose less expensive options (the lower the Total Annual Salary Needed, the more careers you will see).