



steps to your future

Small, well-planned
steps for today; giant
strides to a great future

1. Explore who you are

What do you like to do? How do you spend your free time? What are your favorite classes in school? Use career programs your school may have. They help you learn more about how your interests relate to career options. Get advice from school counselors, teachers and parents. Career interest surveys may help determine areas of interest too. The Career Cluster-based interest survey on pages 10 to 15 offers guidance for your career discussions.

The South Dakota Career Interest Survey (SDCIS) on the Labor Market Information Center's website is also valuable tool in career interest exploration.

2. Learn about careers you like.

Do you know people whose careers appeal to you? Find out as much as you can about their jobs. Is job shadowing an option? If you can't think of anyone who works in career areas that interest you, ask your parents, teachers, counselors, neighbors and business leaders for suggestions. Also use websites such as

My Next Move (www.mynextmove.org) and **Occupational Outlook Handbook** (www.bls.gov/ooh) to learn about careers.

3. Begin focusing on career areas.

Eventually, you will narrow your choices to a group of related careers that seem to fit you best. To help you decide which careers to focus on, consider all the things you learned in steps one and two. Keep in mind all the things you know about yourself.

4. Prepare yourself.

Find out what you need to do to prepare for careers that interest you and start planning. Figure out the courses you should take in high school. See the tips on pages 38 to 43.

5. Write down your plans.

People who write down their goals commit more to achieving them. Keep records in a safe place. Schools may provide career portfolios or personal learning plans. **Your career interests and goals will likely change over time.** Change your plan when needed. Refer to it along the way and keep striving for your goals!

South Dakota Career Interest Survey



The SDCIS helps find occupations you might like. Rate how much you like or dislike the listed work-related activities. Your answers are tallied to calculate scores for six career interest areas. Check out the occupations listed in at least your top two career interest areas!

Visit www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic & click on **South Dakota Career Interest Survey** under Tools & Resources in the left menu to get started.

symbols



means an occupation is among the 30 occupations with the hottest outlook.



by an occupation means it's a hot career. For more on hot careers, see page 9.