THE BIG PICTURE

Use this worksheet to see which pathways align with what matters most to you!

PATHS	COMMUNITY COLLEGE	FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY	CAREER TRAINING	APPRENTICESHIP
Typical Length	1-2 years	4+ years	A few months-2 years	Varies by program
Credential Earned	Associate degree /certificate	Bachelor's degree	Certificate/ industry credential	Industry credential /journeyworker status
Learning Style	Classroom & hands-on learning	Classroom-focused with some hands-on learning	Hands-on, skills-focused	Learn by doing
Real-World Experience	Sometimes available	Sometimes available	Often included	Built into the program
Earn While You Learn	Sometimes	Rarely	Sometimes	Yes
Best for Students Who ...	Want flexibility, a lower-cost start or the opportunity to transfer to a four-year university	Want a traditional college experience or a career requiring a bachelor's degree	Want to develop career-specific skills quickly	Want paid training

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU?

- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Earning money while learning
- ☐ Hands-on learning
- ☐ Campus experience
- ☐ Career-specific training
- ☐ Flexibility
- ☐ Starting your career ASAP

MY TOP 3 PATHS RIGHT NOW:

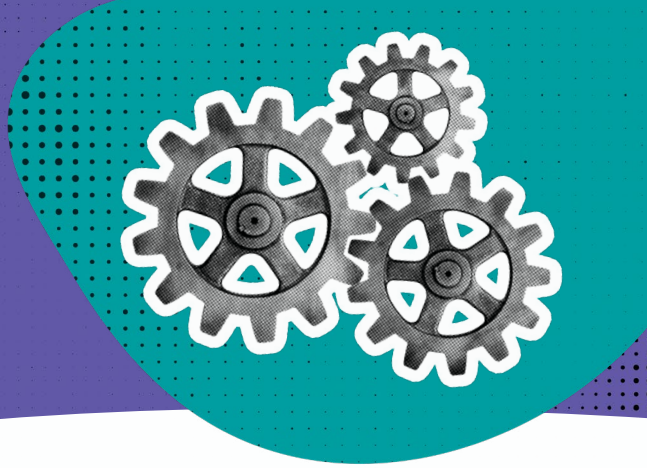
1.

2.

3.

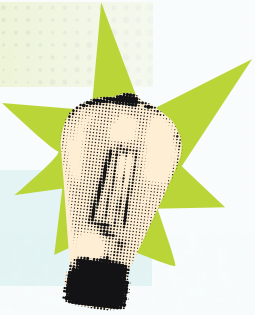
FIND YOUR FIT

The best path is the one that's right for YOU!
Take a moment to explore your top pathways from the previous page.



PATHWAY	WHY I'M INTERESTED	MY NEXT STEP

STILL THINKING IT THROUGH? ASK YOURSELF:



Which path interests me most right now, and why?

How does this pathway align with my vision for the future?

What questions do I still have?

Who's one person I could talk to about this path?
(teacher, counselor, family member, someone in the field)

MI Student Aid | MiLEAP Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential

Individuals with disabilities may contact the MiLEAP ADA Coordinator to request an alternative format to these materials. Please visit www.Michigan.gov/ADA for a list of state ADA Coordinators.