



The Illinois Career Information System

What Is It and Why Do I Need It?

by Troy McMillan

Folks with Careers: Have you ever stopped to think about how you actually landed in your career field? Was it by design and purpose or happenstance or even just plain luck? Would you like to know if your current career path is the one you really want?

Job Seekers: Have you ever wanted to know how to conduct the best career research and career path exploration so that you can land the job that is right for you?

Students: Have you ever wished that people would stop asking you what career you want to choose? Or better yet, have you ever wanted to scream out loud that you JUST DON'T KNOW?

The Career Information System (CIS), with its powerful and interactive guidance tools, can help! This free-of-charge online resource is available to all Illinois residents and provides tailored information on individual occupations and industries, training and education

requirements, salaries, and hot jobs. You can use CIS in lots of ways - first of which is to create your own personal portfolio so you can save your searches, plans, assessment results, favorites, copies of your resume and work samples.

From there you can explore topics such as Find a Job! Find it in the **Job Search** tab; What Jobs Are Available

and What Are They Like? Find answers to those questions in the **Occupations and Career Fields** tabs; What About College, Post-High School Training, and Certifications? Find this information in the **Programs of Study and Training** tabs. And in the Assessments section, you can give yourself a **Reality Check**.

Intrigued? Check it out for yourself at ilcis.intocareers.org.

Next month: CIS for Job Seekers.

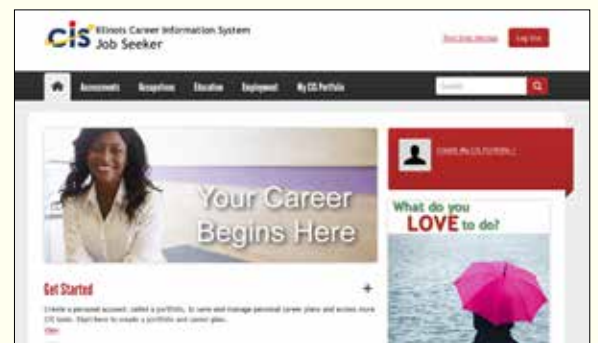
The Illinois Career Information System – Helping you plan your career | Visit us at ilcis.intocareers.org.

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Use the Illinois Career Information System to learn about occupations, higher education requirements, financial aid and employment options. Create a personal “My CIS portfolio” to organize your career research and save assessment results and resumes.

CIS Job Seeker is for the worker preparing for a career change or who wants to get back into the workforce after a layoff or retirement. It features job search resources, retraining options, and offers career planning guidance.



CIS Jr. gives middle school students a peek into the world of work. Take the Career Cluster Inventory, a fun survey that matches your interests to hundreds of occupations like scientist, video game designer, and professional athlete. Explore questions like: What are my strengths, interests, and talents?

