

Because Everyone Needs a Reality Check

by Troy McMillan

ant to find the occupations that pay enough to support your lifestyle and budget preferences? Think you've found the perfect job? Take a Reality Check to match your chosen lifestyle to the occupations you think you would like... you could be in for a surprise!

Lifestyle and budgeting tool, Reality Check helps you make the connection between what you want in life and what it will take to get there. RC offers stepby-step instructions on how to evaluate a career, obtain education and training needed for that career, and create an action plan. Through a series of questions like "Where do you want to live?" and "What will you use for transportation?" RC summarizes the total monthly cost of these choices and generates a list of occupations that have the potential to meet this total. From there, you can explore each occupation's educational requirements, typical tasks, work setting, salary range and job growth. There are three ways to use Reality Check:

- 1. Add up a wish list of options in housing, food, transportation, clothing, entertainment and other expenses.
- 2. Input an expected future salary and subtract expenses.
- 3. Search for an occupation and then subtract expenses from the occupation's standard monthly income.

If you want a path to a financially sustainable future then use Reality Check to get a realistic view of how much it will cost to live on your own, how much you will need, and

how much you can make in various careers

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Get a Reality Check

As an adult, you need to pay for housing, food, clothes, transportation, and other items. Find out how much money you need to earn to cover your expenses. Then find out which occupations support this lifestyle.

Know Your Occupation?

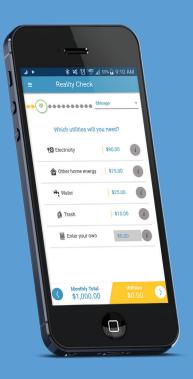
Know which occupation you want to pursue? Figure out if it can support your lifestyle.

Start With an Occupation

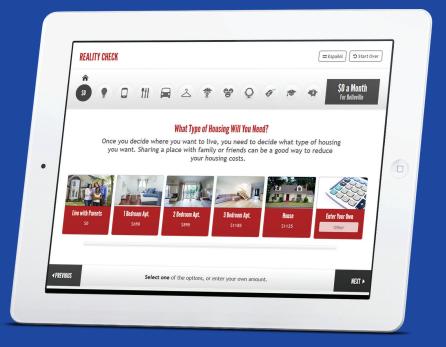
Know Your Salary?

Already know the salary you need? Find out which occupations provide this salary in your city or region.

Start With a Salary



Go mobile and download the **Reality Check app available at** the Apple Store for iPhones or at Google Play for Android phones.



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

Start Your Reality Check