

Going Back to School Script:

Slide 1:

You have a lot of options right now; one of them is going back to school. In this video we'll take a look at the different choices you have and help you make the right selection for you.

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One of the first things you need to determine if you want to go back to school is... what do you want to study? Are you looking at upgrading your current skills, or do you want to change careers completely? By choosing what you want to do with your education, you can make sure you are getting the right degree/certification for the job you want.

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If you know that you want to go back to school, but aren't sure what field you want to go in to, you can take career tests to help you figure out what you're naturally good at; what you like to do and what career might best suit your skills. If you click on the PEP Talk link listed on your screen you can start creating your personalized employment plan and take career tests that will help you determine the path you want to take.

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Now that you've determined what you want to study, it's time to pick where you want to go to school. If you have a College of Technology, community college, university or Tribal College in your area you may want to check it out. The type of field you want to go into will determine whether you need a two-year or four-year degree, or a training certificate. Click on the Montana University Link on your screen to search for the schools that offer the program you're looking for.

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Choosing the right school or training program is no longer limited to geography. Many community colleges and universities now offer online courses that you can take from the comfort of your own home. While online courses can cost less than traditional courses and have a more flexible schedule you need to make sure you have the technology for online learning. To learn more click on the Montana University System distance learning link on your screen.

If you don't have the Internet at home you can go to your local library, or One Stop Center to access your online class.

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Money is an issue for almost everyone going back to school. But keep in mind that scholarships aren't just for young students; many are available to older students, working moms, and other non traditional students as well. Financial aid isn't just limited to scholarships; you may also be eligible for grants, work study programs, tax credits, student loans, or a benefit from completing military or community service.

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When you begin filling out your free application for federal student aid you will need the following items:

Your Driver's license and social security card, W-2 and 1099 forms for all you income sources, the current year's completed tax return, bank statements and mortgage information, a list of any other assets, your financial aid file and a list of schools that you are considering and the their Tide IV code. To get the Tide IV code you contact the schools financial aid office.

If you need help with the FAFSA you can go down to your local Job Service Office where they will help you navigate the application process.

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In most cases scholarships are based on merit or how good you are at something, but they can also be awarded based on need. Keep in mind deadlines are extremely important with scholarships. Also be on the lookout for scholarship scams. As you search online make sure you read the fine print, there are a lot of fraud cases involving scholarships so if it sounds too good to be true it probably is.