



WORK SHEET: *Self-Sufficiency Calculator*

Exploring Self-Sufficiency and Career Choices

GETTING STARTED:

The Mississippi Economic Policy Center has created an online tool called “The Self-Sufficiency Calculator.”

The Self-Sufficiency Calculator allows you to see the minimum amount of income you need to cover all your basic expenses. Using the calculator, you can also research jobs or careers to see if they pay a self-sufficiency wage.

First, in step 1, you will go through the steps to find the self-sufficiency wage for your county and family type.

In step 2, you will research different jobs to see if they pay self-sufficiency wages and learn about the education and training you will need to pursue your future career goals.

STEP 1: FIND YOUR SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE

- GO TO <http://www.mepconline.com/calculator>
- SELECT YOUR: County of residence, the number of adults in the family, the number of children in the family and the ages of children.
- CLICK SUBMIT.

Select the County

Family Type

Number of Children

- FILL IN the table to the right under ‘cost’ with the monthly expenses shown for your family type.
- WHAT IS your largest monthly expense?
- HOW MUCH do you need to earn annually to cover your basic expenses?
- HOW MUCH do you need to earn per hour to cover your basic expenses?

Self-Sufficiency Standard	
Expense Type	Cost
Housing	
Child Care	
Food	
Transportation	
Health Care	
Miscellaneous	
Taxes	
Earned Income Tax Credit	
Child Care Tax Credit	
Child Tax Credit	
Making Work Pay Credit	
Self-Sufficiency Wage	
Hourly	
Monthly	
Annually	

STEP 2: FIND A CAREER: WHICH CAREERS WILL ALLOW ME TO BE SELF SUFFICIENT?

1. SCROLL DOWN BELOW YOUR WAGE CHART.

2. SELECT A JOB CATEGORY AND CLASSIFICATION.

To see jobs that supply this Sufficiency Wage, select a job category below, and then select a job within that classification.

Select the job category:

Select the job:

3. USING THE TABLE BELOW, pick 3 different careers of interest.

4. FILL IN the job title, entry wage, experienced wage, does it meet self-sufficiency and education needed. (Example, 'Construction and Extraction Occupations' and 'Electricians')

	EXAMPLE	YOUR JOB # 1	YOUR JOB # 2	YOUR JOB # 3
Job Title:	Electrician			
Entry Hourly Wage:	\$11.38			
Entry Annual Wage:	\$23,678			
Experienced Hourly Wage:	\$17.93			
Experienced Annual Wage:	\$37,291			
Will I be Self Sufficient?	Yes.			
Education Needed:	Training in vocational schools or an associate's degree.			
Job Training:	Need one or two years of training			
Step 3: (See below) Schools with available programs	East Mississippi Community College, <i>Electrical Tech. Associates Degree</i>			

STEP 3. SEARCH SCHOOL WEBSITES TO LEARN ABOUT DEGREES AND PROGRAMS

Now that you have career ideas, it's time to find schools that offer the education and training to get the job you want! Information about degrees can be found online by searching community college and university websites, or you can talk with your teachers and guidance counselor for more information!