

Student Worksheet

Name: _____

Directions:

- 1) Go <http://www.mepconline.com/self-sufficiency-standard-test/your-standard.php>
- 2) Select the county in which you reside.
- 3) In Family Type, select the number of adults in your household.
- 4) For Number of Children, select the number of children in your household.
- 5) Click Submit.
- 6) Complete the chart below.

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	

NOTE: Remember, the self-sufficiency calculator includes the minimum you must earn in order to make ends meet (for everyday living expenses).

7) What items are omitted from this budget that should be included?

8) Is there anything that surprises you about the results of this calculation? Explain.

9) Choose the job that best represents the job of a parent/guardian.

10) Complete the following chart.

<i>Job Title:</i>	
<i>Job Zone Number:</i>	
<i>Entry Hourly Wage:</i>	
<i>Entry Annual Wage:</i>	
<i>Experienced Hourly Wage:</i>	
<i>Experienced Annual Wage:</i>	
<i>Education:</i>	
<i>Related Experience:</i>	
<i>Job Training:</i>	
<i>Job Zone Examples:</i>	

11) Assume that you are single and no children. Return back to “Select a County” Enter the county you reside in.

12) Select “1 Adult” and “0 Children.”

13) Complete the following chart:

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	

14) Now select from the Job Category that best resembles your career choice.

15) Complete the following chart:

Job Title:	
Job Zone Number:	
Entry Hourly Wage:	
Entry Annual Wage:	
Experienced Hourly Wage:	
Experienced Annual Wage:	
Education:	
Related Experience:	
Job Training:	
Job Zone Examples:	

16) a) What other items should you include in your budget that is not already included? Put a dollar amount beside each item.

b) After calculating the additional budget items, does your salary cover your additional items? If not, what are you going to have to do to supplement your income to pay for the additional budget items (remember, are these budget items a “need” or a “want”)

17) Assume you are interested in living in another county. Return to “Select a County.” Select a different county.

18) Complete the following chart:

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	

19) Select the same profession as you did in the previous step.

20) Complete the chart below:

Job Title:	
Job Zone Number:	
Entry Hourly Wage:	
Entry Annual Wage:	
Experienced Hourly Wage:	
Experienced Annual Wage:	
Education:	
Related Experience:	
Job Training:	
Job Zone Examples:	

21) Compare and contrast the cost of living between the two counties. Complete the following chart.

ITEM	COUNTY 1	COUNTY 2
Food		
Housing		
Child Care		
Hourly Wage		

22) Answer the following questions:

a) Did this activity help you understand more about the cost of living in various places across the state? Explain your answer.

b) What surprised you the most about the minimum costs of paying for everyday expenses? Explain your answer.

c) Looking at the pretest and all the items you wanted (and the cost of each item), have your thoughts changed about your career choice and what you want in life? Explain.