Gap Year Guide

Start Here: Why Gap Year?

Figure out why you want a Gap Year and explore the paths that interest you. ***You can chose more than one at once!***

- Resources: **Gap Year Association**

Think about what you like, what matters to you, what you're good at.

- Resources: **Work Values Assessment, My Next Move, High5 Strengths**

Set clear goals that make sense for what you want: Set goals that make sense for which path you chose.

- Resources: **MindTools**

Seek out financial aid and scholarships to help reach goals.

- Resources: **FAFSA, Appily , Gap Year Financial Aid**

Path A: Build Skills For A Future Career

Take classes or earn short-term certifications that match what you're into.

- Resources: **Coursera, SEMCA , Detroit at Work**

Look into apprenticeships and internships in industries of interest to gain hands-on experience.

- Resources: **Pure Michigan Talent Connect, Apprenticeships.gov**

Connect with pros in fields of interest, find mentors and learn about careers.

- Resources: **LinkedIn, Mentoring.org**

Make a great resume and LinkedIn profile with your new skills.

- Resources: **Indeed , LinkedIn**

Path B: Make Money & Gain Independence

Get paid work or freelance gigs to handle money on your own.

- Resources: **SEMCA , Indeed, Upwork**

Learn about personal finance and managing money well.

- Resources: **MI Money Matters , Practical Money Skills**

Path C: Serve Others

Explore and join volunteer programs to help causes you care about.

- Resources: **Idealist, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps**

Path D: Personal Growth, Travel or Entrepreneurship

Find programs abroad or in different cultures to work or learn about new places.

- Resources: **Go Overseas, Gap Year Abroad**

Find resources to start a small business to solve problems.

- Resources: **Small Business Association, TechTown**

Read The Gap Year Path on Smore

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