***Transfer Planning Guide:***

***What’s Next?***

***Contemplating My Life After MDC***

Many students ask us *“How do I start planning for what comes after graduation?”* We can’t tell you what’s best for you, but we can help you develop some strategies to help you figure out some direction for yourself.

Everything you need is right inside you – you just have to tap into that inner wisdom.

Some important things to consider are:

* First, set aside some quiet time in a comfortable place to ask yourself these questions and to reflect on “what’s next?”
* Be honest in your responses; after all, you’re just talking to yourself and no one has to know your answers. Listen to your inner voice and trust you own intuition (“Trust your gut”)
* It’s a good idea to write down your responses and thoughts. These plans are not set in stone, but writing them down will help you make them more concrete and allow you the flexibility to come back and revise as needed.
* Close your eyes for a moment; take a few deep breaths and visualize your life after MDC. Take note of where you are, what you are doing, and who you are surrounded by.
* Now ask yourself:

1. What do I love to do? What am I passionate about? What makes me happy in life?
2. What do I value most in life?
3. How can I combine what I love to do with a career?
4. What is my career goal? Or at least, what would I like to be doing five years from now?
5. What do I want to / need to do after I earn an Associate’s / Bachelor’s degree to reach that goal?
6. An Internship?
7. A graduate degree?
8. Gain work experience?
9. Travel?
10. Take time off? Doing what? Where? For how long?
11. What do I need to do, now and during the next year to move closer to the answer I’ve chosen in #4?
12. If I’m continuing my education right after graduation from MDC, then:
13. Should I stay in Miami?
    1. What are the best things about going to college locally?
    2. What are the drawbacks to going to college locally?

1. Or, should I apply for an out-of-town college or university?
2. What are the best things about going to college out of town?
3. What are the drawbacks to going to college out of town?
4. What’s the most exciting thing about going to college out of town?
5. What’s the scariest thing about going to college out of town?
6. What / Who will be my “support system” if I leave Miami?

* Emotionally?
* Spiritually?
* Socially?
* Recreationally? (Clubs / hobbies / service-related)
* Culturally?

1. How well will I be able to adjust to a new environment?
2. How have I dealt with new situations previously?

* Successes?
* Areas of improvement?

1. Am I disciplined enough to set my own schedule and stick to it?
2. Can I live independently – paying my bills, groceries, and take care of life responsibilities?
3. Do I have the time, money, and methods to visit potential colleges or universities (both local and out of town)?
   1. Contacting faculty / Department Chair of areas I’m interested in to set up personal appointments (getting referrals from my MDC Profs)?
   2. Spending a day on campus sitting in a class I’m interested in?
   3. Talking to students (not just the Admissions Department recruiters) to get their perspectives?
   4. Do I like the living area around the school?
   5. Is public transportation available if I do not have a car?
4. What other questions do I need to ask & get answers to now?
5. **ACTION PLAN:** What steps will I start making now to move this entire process further along?