

# MVU CareerForward Version Summary and Overview

*CareerForward*<sup>™</sup> is designed to help Michigan students understand how to plan their work lives and career opportunities amid the implications of the global economy.

The *CareerForward* course was created as a self-contained online learning course but it may be used in companion with a variety of online career planning tools that provide students with the opportunity to assess their career interests, explore career options and create an educational development plan. The use of the *MVU*<sup>®</sup> *mydreamexplorer*<sup>®</sup> career planning application is not required for the *CareerForward* course.



*You should consider the following when deciding which version of CareerForward best meets the needs of your school or district.*

## MVU-hosted Web-based Course

- *MVU* provides the fully certified CareerForward online course<sup>1</sup> running in *MVU*'s robust, secure, and highly available commercial data center.
- *MVU* provides targeted teacher and student guides within the web course to help insure a high-quality online learning experience, as well as access to its professional Help Desk, supporting this version of the course.
- Schools register with *MVU* to gain access to the course.
- Students and teachers complete a simple registration process and then have access to the course from any web-connected computer<sup>2</sup>.
- Teachers use their own procedures to facilitate the completion of the *CareerForward* course.
- Schools that use this version are permitted to grant no-cost access to Michigan students enrolled in their local schools or to home-schooled students who reside in their district.

## MVU-hosted Blackboard CMS

- *MVU* provides the fully certified *CareerForward* online course running in *MVU*'s robust, secure, and highly available instance of Blackboard Enterprise V7.X.
- *MVU* provides access to its professional Help Desk, providing support to students and teachers using this version of the course.
- Schools must request sections of the course from *MVU*, and manage student access to their dedicated sections of *CareerForward*.
- Schools must provide a teacher who is familiar with the Blackboard CMS for each *MVU*-hosted section.
- Schools who use the *MVU*-hosted version are permitted to grant no-cost access to Michigan students enrolled in their local schools or to home-schooled students who reside in their district.

## School-hosted Blackboard/Moodle CMS

This version is designed for schools that already have their own certified<sup>3</sup> instance of Blackboard Enterprise 7.X with the SCORM Course Player Building Block, or Moodle<sup>4</sup> CMS.

- *MVU* provides the certified course files and multimedia content; the school provides all infrastructures, technical, student, teacher and course support.
- Schools must provide experienced technical staff, their own Help Desk, and CMS-trained teachers to run a locally hosted version of *CareerForward*.
- Schools must track and report student usage of the *CareerForward* course back to *MVU*.
- Schools who host the CMS version are permitted to grant no-cost access to Michigan students enrolled in their local schools or to home-schooled students who reside in their district.

Make your access decision and start using *CareerForward* today!

Visit the distribution site and get started by registering your school:

<http://cfwd.mivu.org/>

Acknowledgement: *CareerForward* was developed through a partnership of the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Virtual University, with major funding provided by Microsoft Corporation's U.S. Partners in Learning program.

<sup>1</sup> The *MVU*-hosted or distributed versions of *CareerForward* are the official certified versions of the course and fully meet the new Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements for an online course as presented.

<sup>2</sup> Students will need a multimedia computer with headphones or speakers that is able to access and interact with the web. A high-speed connection is desirable. Students will access the program with an Internet browser; the

most recent version of Internet Explorer, Firefox or Safari is recommended. Flash<sup>®</sup> must be installed to access the multimedia components and Adobe Reader<sup>®</sup> is needed to access imbedded documents.

<sup>3</sup> Schools who are considering hosting *CareerForward* on their own CMS need to be certain that they have appropriate server performance, memory, storage space, and network bandwidth to insure an optimal end-user experience for the

number of concurrent *CareerForward* students projected. The use of multiple, load-balanced application servers, along with separate dedicated database and media servers is strongly suggested.

<sup>4</sup> Anne Thorp, an Instructional Technologist from Ottawa Area ISD and Certified Moodle instructor, created the official *CareerForward* course for Moodle. The course parallels the certified Blackboard version that *MVU* recently updated.