

Post-Secondary Planning Guide



Williamsport Area High School

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Guidance Department Contact Information | 3 |
| Post-Secondary Options | 4 |
| Senior Year Calendar | 5 |
| Junior Year Calendar | 6 |
| Military | 7 |
| College Admissions Testing | 9 |
| SAT vs. ACT | 9 |
| How to Register | 10 |
| Test Dates & Registration Deadlines | 10 |
| How to Prepare for SAT/ACT | 11 |
| College: The Process, Cost and Selection | 12 |
| Career & College Planner | 13 |
| Tips for Researching College | 14 |
| College Research Sheet | 15 |
| Selecting & Applying to College | 16 |
| Sending Your Transcript (Parchment) | 17 |
| Cost of College | 19 |
| Tips on Applying for Financial Aid | 20 |
| Financial Aid Application Checklist | 21 |
| College Comparison Worksheet | 22 |
| NCAA Eligibility Center | 23 |
| Helpful Links | 24 |



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WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

Williamsport Area High School graduates have many options available to them after graduation. It is important to choose the path that is the best fit. Many students go on to colleges or universities in pursuit of undergraduate degrees, but there are other options out there. Some of these alternative paths include pursuing a trade, entering the military, traveling or studying abroad, AmeriCorps, etc. Regardless of whether you choose college or a different path, your school counselors can offer resources for every student.

Options for the Post-Secondary Graduate:

- Employment/Apprenticeship
- Technical School/Vocational School
- Armed Forces/Military Academy
- Volunteer Service
- Two-Year/Community College
- Four-Year College



WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING?

Senior Year Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- Review graduation, college, apprenticeship, and armed services admission requirements.
- Finalize the list of colleges to which you want to apply.
- Check with your counselor to determine whether you should re-take the ACT or SAT and the deadlines. If so, register immediately.
- Meet with college representatives and military recruiters when they visit your school.
- Arrange a college visit with the admissions office at the colleges where you are applying. The college visit is very important in the college selection process.
- Attend College Night at Lycoming College

OCTOBER

- Be aware of your high school rank and grade point average.
- Attend Financial Aid Night held at your school, if it is offered.
- Complete the application forms for admission to colleges.
- Meet with college representatives and military recruiters when they visit your school.
- Complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Submit forms as soon as possible. Keep copies of all materials submitted.
- Begin researching scholarship opportunities.
- Re-take ACT and/or SAT if you have registered to do so.

NOVEMBER

- Continue to complete applications for colleges. Check deadlines.
- Take the ASVAB if you are interested in the military or if you are unsure about the best path for you after graduation.

DECEMBER

- Review all admissions procedures with the colleges where you have applied. Check with the admissions office if you have any questions about your application.
- Seek out local scholarship opportunities.

JANUARY

- Complete any pending applications.
- Direct financial aid questions to the financial aid office at the college where you have been admitted.
- Request that mid-year grades be sent to colleges that require them.
- Don't forget to apply for scholarships!

FEBRUARY

- Complete and submit all scholarship applications.

MARCH & APRIL

- Complete the WAHS Common Scholarship Application.
- Keep your counselor informed as you receive scholarship awards.

MAY

- Arrange with your high school to have your final transcript sent to the college to which you have accepted admission.



Junior Year Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- Check to make sure you are taking all the high school courses required for admission to college.
- Share with your parents the information given to you by your counselor during the classroom presentation.
- Study the PSAT/NMSQT Student Bulletin in preparation for the October PSAT administration.
- Attend the College Night at Lycoming College
- Meet with college representatives and military recruiters when they visit your school.
- Get involved in clubs at school.

OCTOBER

- Meet personally with college representatives and get your questions answered. Be aware of your high school rank and grade point average.
- Take the PSAT on the scheduled date.
- Meet with college representatives and military recruiters when they visit your school.
- Consider taking the ASVAB in November – sign up in the guidance office if interested.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

- Visit college websites to explore possible majors and degree options.

JANUARY

- Practice for the SAT using Khan Academy.
- Keep your grades up!

FEBRUARY

- Register for the ACT and/or the SAT.
- Share with your parents/guardians the information given to you by your counselor during the classroom scheduling presentation.

MARCH

- Select your “senior” year courses. Review your selections with your parents. Be sure to take academically challenging courses to best prepare yourself for college.
- Arrange a college visit with the admissions office at the colleges where you plan on applying to. The college visit is very important in the college selection process.

APRIL

- Practice for the SAT using Khan Academy.
- Keep your grades up!

MAY & JUNE

- Take the ACT and/or the SAT if you have registered for the test.
- Visit colleges during the summer.

JUNE & JULY

- Attend a summer program offered by a college.
- Find a part-time job for real-world experience.

MILITARY



Connect with a Recruiter

- Lunch visits
- Contact the local recruiting office
 - Recruiting Station
1774 East 3rd St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Websites

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Army: | www.goarmy.com |
| Coast Guard: | www.gocoastguard.com |
| Marines: | www.marines.com |
| Navy: | www.navy.com |
| National Guard: | www.nationalguard.com |

ASVAB

The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is administered at Williamsport Area High School as a career exploration tool that allows students to identify their skill strengths. Students who take the ASVAB will have access to an interest inventory (FYI) and a catalog of careers (OCCU-Find) with relevant occupational data and a full suite of future-oriented planning tools to help students develop an action plan.

Each November, the paper-pencil version of the ASVAB is administered, which means that everyone takes the same set of questions at the same pace. This version consists of eight subtests (a total of 200 items) and takes about three hours to complete.

- Participation is voluntary
- No obligation to the military in anyway
- Open to students in grades 10-12
- Sign up in the guidance office



ASVAB TEST AREAS

- General Science
- Arithmetic Reasoning
- Word Knowledge
- Paragraph Comprehension
- Mathematics Knowledge
- Electronics Information
- Auto and Shop Information
- Mechanical Comprehension
- Assembling Objects

Military Entrance Score: Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) - Paragraph Comprehension, Word Knowledge, Mathematics Knowledge, and Arithmetic Reasoning.

****Talk with a recruiter to find out the minimum required score to be eligible to enlist.****

Service Academies

For students who would like to experience a military environment while getting a first-class education, consider applying to one of the five Service academies

- U.S. Military Academy (Army) in West Point, N.Y. – www.usma.edu



- U.S. Naval Academy (Navy/Marine Corps) in Annapolis, Md. - www.usna.edu
- U.S. Air Force Academy (Air Force) in Colorado Springs, Colo. - <http://www.usafa.af.mil/>
- U.S. Coast Guard Academy (Coast Guard) in New London, Conn. - <http://www.cga.edu/>
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y. - <https://www.usmma.edu/>

The academies offer an outstanding education and full four-year scholarships. Tuition, books, board and medical and dental care are all fully paid for all four years.

The competition to get in is fierce. Admissions criteria include:

- High school academic performance
- Standardized test scores (SAT or ACT)
- Athletics and extracurricular activities
- Leadership experience and community involvement
- A congressional letter of recommendation (not required by the Coast Guard Academy)

*****Apply early! Start the process early in your junior year!*****

College Admissions Testing

SAT vs. ACT



The majority of Williamsport High School students take the SAT when applying to college, but the ACT is also an option for you. We are more familiar with the SAT because College Board (the company who produces the SAT) is based out of New Jersey as compared to the ACT which was developed at the University of Iowa. With the recent revisions to the SAT though, there are now not many differences between the SAT and ACT. Both are good options as you complete the college admissions process. Here's a more detailed breakdown of some of the potential differences:



| | SAT | ACT |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| How much does it cost? | \$60 **Fee waivers are available if you qualify for free/reduced lunch – come to the guidance office to request one** | \$88 w/ writing, \$63 no writing **Fee waivers are available if you qualify for free/reduced lunch – come to the guidance office to request one** |
| Where is the test given? | Williamsport High School (on certain test dates and some other local school districts) | Canton Jr/Sr HS or Lewisburg HS, (depending on the test date) |
| What am I tested on? | 3 sections: Reading, Writing & Language, and Math | 4 sections – English, math, reading, and science – and optional writing section |
| How long is the test? | 3 hours | 2 hours 55 minutes + 40-minute essay (optional) |
| How are the scores reported? | Composite score range of 400–1600 | Composite score range of 1–36 (writing domain scores: 2–12) |
| Is there a penalty for guessing? | No penalty for guessing | No penalty for guessing |
| What schools will accept my scores? | All U.S. colleges | All U.S. colleges |
| How do I register? | www.collegeboard.org | www.actstudent.org |

When should I take the SAT (or ACT)?

Students are encouraged to take the SAT/ACT during the spring of the junior year. Ideally, students will take the PSAT in October of their junior year and then use the results from the PSAT to help study for the SAT. PSAT results typically become available in December. The March SAT date is a good goal to set for yourself – by taking the SAT in March, you would then have time to take



the SAT for a second time in June if you want to try to improve your scores. Some seniors also choose to take the SAT in August or October for a 2nd or 3rd time. See below for the test dates and registration deadlines for the SAT and the ACT – you need to plan ahead in order to avoid a late registration fee!

How do I register to take the SAT/ACT?

Once you've decided to take the SAT and/or ACT, you'll need to register. The registration deadline for most test dates (SAT or ACT) are usually a month before the test date so be sure to register far enough in advance. Once you've registered, start to study!

The easiest way to register is online:

SAT: www.collegeboard.org

ACT: www.actstudent.org

If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, you use a SAT fee waiver to cover the registration fee. Make an appointment with your school counselor to discuss fee waivers. If you use a fee waiver, you will also have access to 4 college application fee waivers that you can use when applying to colleges.

SAT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines

| Test Date | Regular Registration Deadline | Late Registration Deadline* |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| August 27, 2022 | July 29, 2022 | August 16, 2022 |
| October 1, 2022** | September 2, 2022 | September 20, 2022 |
| November 5, 2022** | October 7, 2022 | October 25, 2022 |
| December 3, 2022 | November 3, 2022 | November 22, 2022 |
| March 11, 2023** | February 10, 2023 | February 28, 2023 |
| May 6, 2023 | April 7, 2023 | April 25, 2023 |
| June 3, 2023** | May 4, 2023 | May 23, 2023 |

*Additional \$30 fee for late registration. No additional fee if you have a SAT fee waiver.

**SAT will be given at WAHS on these dates.

ACT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines

| Test Date | Regular Registration Deadline | Late Registration Deadline |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| September 10, 2022 | August 5, 2022 | August 19, 2022 |
| October 22, 2022 | September 16, 2022 | September 30, 2022 |
| December 10, 2022 | November 4, 2022 | November 11, 2022 |
| February 11, 2023 | January 6, 2023 | January 20, 2023 |
| April 15, 2023 | March 10, 2023 | March 24, 2023 |
| June 10, 2023 | May 5, 2023 | May 19, 2023 |
| July 15, 2023 | June 6, 2023 | June 23, 2023 |



How should I prepare for the SAT/ACT?

A Personalized Study Plan Just for you!

College Board has partnered with Khan Academy to offer free, personalized study plan for the SAT. If you took the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) at the High School in October, you can share your test scores and get a personalized SAT study plan based on your PSAT results. If you didn't take the PSAT, you can take a few short quizzes and get a personalized study plan.

To access/create your personalized study plan, visit www.satpractice.org.

Want the test day experience?

Download and complete one of 8 (or all 8) full-length practice tests.

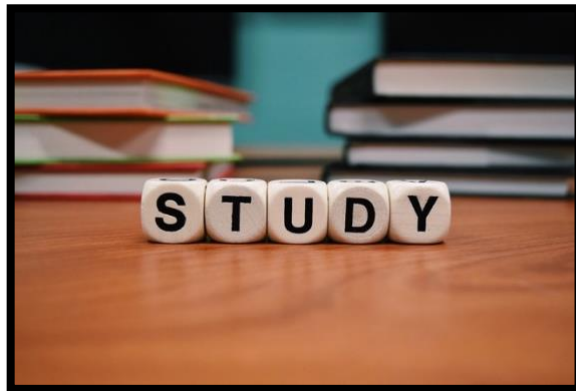
Access the practice tests here: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/full-length-practice-tests>.

Grab a Student Guide

If you don't have immediate access to a computer or phone, stop in the guidance office for the SAT Student Guide. The guide includes information about the SAT, test-taking advice and tips, and an official practice test.

ACT Prep

Much of the prep you have access to for the SAT would also be applicable for the ACT. However, if you want materials tailored specifically to the ACT, visit www.actstudent.org. You can download a free study guide, access a question a day through the ACT Profile, and access practice for each test session. ACT offers an online personalized prep program as well, but for a cost.



COLLEGE: THE PROCESS, THE COST, THE SELECTION

Choosing a college is an exciting and challenging task. This guide is designed to help with the process and walk you through some important steps. These steps for college selection include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Complete the Career Planner and College Planner section of this book.
2. Collect information about the colleges you are interested in attending.
3. Record the information in the College Research Sheet.
4. Consider college costs and financial aid.
5. Apply to the colleges you would like to attend.

THE PROCESS

Complete the Career Planner and College Planner found on page 10. Talk about your goals with parents/guardians, counselors or others who will support you in your efforts. Feel free to revise these sections as you go through the process of selecting your college and discovering what you want to do when you graduate from high school.

Collect information about the colleges you are interested in attending using a number of resources. The Internet is a great way to get information about the colleges you are considering, but it is only one resource available to you. Your school counseling office has information, guides and publications that can assist you. In addition, there are opportunities throughout the school year to meet with college representatives to visit and obtain more information on the schools you are considering.

Utilize the College Research Sheet found on page 12. Make copies of these sheets as needed. You will use these Research Sheets to determine which colleges you will apply to and, eventually, which college you will attend.



CAREER PLANNER

Planning your career goals in advance will help you enter and succeed in a career.

My career goals are:

Junior:

Senior:

My interest, skills and knowledge supporting my career goals are:

Additional skills and knowledge I will need to fulfill my career goals are:

I will obtain the additional skills and knowledge I need by taking part in the following educational activities:

Extracurricular activities that could assist me in learning more about my chosen career include:

COLLEGE PLANNER

Planning your college goals to coincide with your career goals is critical to success.

In order to pursue my career, I will need a degree, certification and/or specialized training in:

What factors in selecting a college are important to me?

Location: _____

Two or four years: _____

Type of campus: _____

Size of classes: _____

Cost: _____

Scholarships/aid: _____

Student life/activities: _____

Internet classes: _____

Transfer credits: _____

My reasons for attending college ranked in order from 1 to 10, 1 being most important:

I want to go: _____

Parents: _____

Friends: _____

Earn more \$: _____

Meet new people: _____

Athletics: _____

Fun: _____

Like school: _____

Develop a skill: _____

Get away from home: _____

I will look for more information about the following colleges:

TIPS FOR RESEARCHING COLLEGES

How to Schedule a College Visit?

- Visit the college's website – Admissions or call the Admissions Office
- Start with an Open House visit – colleges schedule specific dates and have a specific schedule of events planned
- If you are trying to decide between a few schools, schedule an overnight visit with the Admissions Office. An Overnight Visit allows you to:
 - Interact with current students
 - Attend some classes
 - Experience dorm life
 - Eat the campus food

Not sure what schools to visit?

Start with talking to an admissions rep at the high school. Several colleges make appointments at the high school and you can get some of your questions answered without leaving Williamsport!

Now schedule a college campus visit!

The College Visit

Your visit to a campus is very important. It is a great way to determine if that college meets your needs and if it is the right fit for you.

Before visiting a campus:

1. Contact the Admissions Office.
2. Prepare a list of questions.
3. Look through the website/read the literature you already have.

During your campus visit:

1. Look at the academic areas. Are the class rooms adequate? Are the lab facilities in your major of interest up-to-date?
2. What is the typical class size?
3. Are the library facilities sufficient?
4. Does the college offer job placement services and career advising? What internship opportunities are there in my desired major?
5. What are the grading procedures and requirements?
6. Is the campus appealing? Clean and orderly?
7. What is the campus housing like?
8. What kinds of meal plans are available?
9. What student clubs or activities does the college have?
10. Do the athletic and recreational areas suit you?
11. Ask about campus safety and crime statistics.
12. Where are the graduates in your desired major currently working? Are they employed in their area of study?



COLLEGE RESEARCH SHEET

(make additional copies as needed)

Name of School: _____ Location: _____

1. Admissions:

Class Standing Requirement: _____

Recommended Entrance Exam Scores: ACT _____ SAT _____

Application Deadline: _____

2. Affiliations:

_____ Public _____ Private (religious emphasis)

_____ Coed _____ All men

_____ Private (no religious emphasis) _____ All women

3. COST:

Tuition is based on credit hour and fees are additional. To calculate the tuition and fees you will need to factor in both. For example, assume the tuition is \$100/credit hour and the fee is \$50 per semester. If you are taking 12 credit hours you would pay \$1,250 per semester for tuition and fees.

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|-----|
| Tuition & Fees/year | \$ _____ | .00 |
| Room & Board/year | \$ _____ | .00 |
| Books & Supplies | \$ _____ | .00 |
| Transportation | \$ _____ | .00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ _____ | .00 |
| Total Cost/year | \$ _____ | .00 |

4. SIZE:

_____ Under 2,000 Students _____ Under 20,000 Students

_____ Under 10,000 Students _____ Over 20,000 Students

5. INFORMATION ON AVAILABLE MAJORS

| My Possible Majors | Degrees Offered? | |
|--------------------|------------------|----|
| _____ | YES | NO |
| _____ | YES | NO |
| _____ | YES | NO |

6. WILL THE SCHOOL ACCEPT EARNED DUAL ENROLLMENT/AP CREDITS? YES NO



SELECTING & APPLYING TO COLLEGE

Applying to the colleges you would like to attend and waiting to be accepted is an exciting and nerve-wracking time.

Key points to consider when applying are:

- Some programs fill quickly, so apply as soon as possible
- Follow all the instructions on the application form carefully
- Understand the admission/testing requirements for each college
- Keep copies of all forms for your records
- Access & use your application fee waivers – these will be available to you if you used a fee waiver for the SAT
- Track your applications with the College Application Record

When applying, consider these options:

- Early Decision: Typically have an early deadline (November) and requires a binding agreement from the student to attend that school if accepted
- Early Action: Students apply early and will receive an admissions decision early in the admission process, but are not committed to attending that school
- Regular Decision: Deadlines will vary by school, but there is a set date by which your application materials must be submitted. Admissions decisions will be received after the deadline.
- Rolling Admissions: Colleges accept applications during a large window and will review applications at specific points in that window and determine an admission decision for students rather than waiting for all applications to be received.

COLLEGE APPLICATION RECORD

| COLLEGE | Date Application Submitted Sent | Date Transcript Requested from Parchment | Date FAFSA Submitted |
|---------|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



SENDING YOUR TRANSCRIPT TO COLLEGES

As part of the college application process, colleges require that students submit their high school transcript. Some colleges are moving toward a self-reported academic record. Even if self-reporting is a component of the application, students will still need to submit an official high school transcript to verify high school graduation.

The Williamsport Area School District has partnered with Parchment Exchange to enable high school transcripts to be sent to post-secondary educational institutions electronically.

- This adds speed and simplification to the transcript delivery
- There is no cost for this service to current high school students
- All students must create a Parchment account in order to send their transcripts.



Create a Parchment Account

1. You can sign up by going to www.parchment.com and searching for the school that has your transcript. Once you find your school, fill in all the fields (name, date of birth, etc).
2. Check the box if you are a parent/guardian. You will then enter the student's information.
3. Your password must be at least 7 characters long.
4. If you are not yet in college, you will get the option to share your information with colleges. If you opt-in, this means that we will make some of the information you provide to us available to a variety of academic institutions and programs, and then they can send you information about them.
5. After clicking **Sign up**, check your email for the verification code and then enter it into the screen you were just on. Now you can start ordering records.

Place an order

1. Click the green **Order** button. If you don't see this, then you haven't added your school to your account. To do this, click **+ Add another school or organization you attended**.

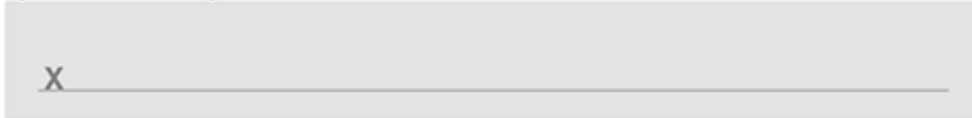


2. Select your destination.
 - You can search for a destination, or enter a mailing or email address manually.
 - If completing the Common App, you should enter Common Application as the destination rather than the specific college.



3. You'll land on the **Order Details** page.
 - To send your transcript to another destination, click **+ Add Another Destination**.
 - Click **Save & Continue**.
4. Review your order. To make any changes, click **Edit Order**. Otherwise, click **Continue**.
5. You are now on the **Provide Consent** page. If you've provided consent previously, you may not have to do anything here. Otherwise, this is where you (or your parent/guardian) authorizes Parchment to release your transcript from your school.
 - Use your mouse or stylus to sign your name in the box.

Sign here with mouse or finger:



- Type your name into the box and check the box to confirm that you are authorized to order the transcript.
 - For minors, a parent must sign in the box, type their name, and check the box that certifies they are authorized to order the transcript.
6. Click **Save & Continue** and then click **Checkout**.

What happens next

1. Your request lands in your school's Parchment account and they will review your order.
2. Once your school approves and processes your order, Parchment will send your transcript. There may be instances where your school will print your transcript themselves. You will be notified by email in either case.



THE COST

Considering the cost of college and how you will pay for it is critical. The cost of college includes:

- Tuition and fees
- Books and supplies
- Housing
- Food
- Transportation
- Activities
- Personal care
- Fun



Scholarships are offered by colleges, employers, civic groups, community and service organizations, churches and religious organizations, local businesses and other groups. Scholarships have a variety of requirements, submission deadlines and applications. Although your counseling office can assist you in locating many available scholarships, you should research all available sources. Note: some scholarships may require the FAFSA form.

There are several ways to pay for college including:

Family, financial aid, scholarships and employment.

Financial aid is money to help you pay for college. It includes grants, low-interest loans and part-time employment. Financial aid sources and regulations are changing. Regardless of your situation you may be eligible for financial aid. To be eligible, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) which can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Filing a FAFSA is required to be eligible for:

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Federal Grants | } | DO NOT REQUIRE PAYBACK |
| State Grants | | |
| Work-Study Programs | | |

| | | |
|---------------|---|------------------------------|
| Student Loans | } | MUST BE PAID BACK |
| Parent Loans | | |

Employment while in college is not uncommon. In addition to work-study programs which allow you to work at the college you attend, most colleges have a career services area which can help put you in touch with employers in the area.

College aid may come in the form of grants from some colleges. Application is made by filing the college's financial aid application.

In addition to the above listed sources of aid, students may find assistance through the U.S. Military and through colleges that offer cooperative education. Cooperative education is a program where students work in business or industry every other semester. Contact the college admissions office for information for these programs.



TIPS ON APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid can be used to cover many college expenses, including tuition, books and supplies. Your counselor will have information to assist you with filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Here are a few things to keep in mind when applying for financial aid.

1. Financial aid is offered to supplement what the family is able to pay for college costs. Students are also expected to save money to help with college expenses.
2. With one form, the FAFSA, you can apply for federal aid, state aid, and aid from the colleges you are considering, which can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
3. A college financial aid application may be required in addition to the FAFSA. You should contact the college directly to determine their requirements.
4. When a student files a FAFSA, the family's income is analyzed and the student's need is determined.
5. Many families will be responsible for some, if not all, of the student's college expenses.
6. Students who are eligible for financial aid may be offered a combination of grants, loans and employment awards as the means of assistance in meeting their need.
7. Colleges will not award aid to a new student until they are admitted. Apply early to the college of your choice.

FINANCIAL AID MADE EASY!

Before completing the FAFSA, gather this information:

- Social Security Number
- Alien registration number
- Federal tax information or returns (you may be able to retrieve and transfer tax information into the form automatically using the Internal Revenue Service Data Retrieval Tool – built into the FAFSA).
- Records of untaxed income
- Cash, savings, and checking account balances
- Investments other than the home in which you live

Submit the FAFSA:

- Electronic form – www.fafsa.gov - EASIEST AND FASTEST method
- Mail-in application (download PDF at fafsa.gov or order a printed PDF at www.edpubs.gov)



FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to plan what you need to do to apply for and receive financial aid. Duplicate this checklist for each school to which you are applying. Due to limited resources, student aid is often awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Many of these checklist items have deadline dates so you should indicate the date by which you will need to complete each item. Check off each Action Item as you complete it. You can get help for many of these Action Items from each college's web site or your school's guidance office.

| ✓ | DUE DATE (if any) | Application processing action item FOR: _____ (school) |
|---|----------------------|--|
| | | File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible on or after October 1 st . You may file the FAFSA electronically using FAFSA on the Web, which contains built-in edits to help prevent costly mistakes, at www.fafsa.ed.gov . |
| | | Apply for state financial aid before the application deadline and promptly reply to any requests for additional information. |
| | | Promptly respond to any school requests for additional information or documentation, such as copies of federal tax returns, verification worksheets, or other forms. |
| | | Review your Student Aid Report (SAR), which is sent to you via e-mail or postal mail after you file the FAFSA, for accuracy. If necessary, correct inaccurate items on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov or on the paper SAR, if you receive one. |
| | | Investigate private sources of financial aid for college. Check with your school and local libraries, local businesses and civic organizations, and your parents' employer(s). Take advantage of free Internet scholarship search engines, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finaid on the Web – www.finaid.org • The College Board – https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org • fastweb – www.fastweb.com • WAHS Guidance webpage – https://www.wasd.org/Page/625 |
| | | Complete and submit all institutional financial aid application materials before all deadlines. |



COLLEGE COMPARISON WORKSHEET

| College | Location | Admissions Requirements | Size | Offers my Major | Public | Private | Total Estimated Cost | Total Financial Aid |
|---------|----------|-------------------------|------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------------|---------------------|
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MAKING THE FINAL DECISION

If you are accepted by more than one college, you will have to decide which one to attend. This can be a difficult decision. **THINK ABOUT WHICH COLLEGE WILL BE BEST FOR YOUR CAREER PLANS.** Discuss your plans with your parents and counselor.

Review which college offers the best environment for your learning style.

Review which college had the characteristics which fit best with your priorities.

Determine which college offers you the best financial aid package.

Once you have made your final selection, return your acceptance letter. It is expected that you

notify the other colleges of your decision not to attend.

Consider the following points carefully and consider them as guides for success in college.

1. Maintain good study habits.
2. Be prepared to put in many hours of studying.
3. Spend time on campus.
4. Become a part of the school community.
5. Do not procrastinate.
6. Develop self-reliance.
7. Seek help when it is needed – be your own advocate.
8. Keep pursuing your goals and plans.



NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

For student athletes and parents/guardians:

In order to participate as a college freshman in Division I or II athletics, the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse must certify a student. Although a student does not begin the certification process before the end of the junior year in high school, he/she begins to meet the eligibility requirements in ninth grade with the courses selected and the grades achieved. Thus, course selection is extremely important.

To be certified by the Clearinghouse, you must:

1. Create a Certification Account through the NCAA Eligibility Center (www.eligibilitycenter.org)
2. Graduate from high school
3. Meet the minimum grade-point average in the required core courses as outlined in the WAHS Course Catalog and/or on the NCAA Eligibility Center website.

Work closely with your school counselor to choose appropriate courses and to make sure you meet the NCAA eligibility requirements.



HELPFUL LINKS TO WEBSITES

www.asvabprogram.com

(Information about the ASVAB – military entrance exam – and the career exploration program)

www.studentaid.gov/fafsa

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid – FAFSA)

www.studentaid.gov

(Free student financial assistance information provided by the U.S. Department of Education)

www.fastweb.com

(Scholarship search engine)

www.collegeboard.org

(SAT registration, SAT practice, college search tool, and more)

<https://collegeboard.roadtripnation.com/>

(Explore careers matched to your interests, follow career journeys)

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

(US Dept. of Education's College Navigator – college search tool)

www.actstudent.org

(ACT registration)

www.mysmartborrowing.org

(an interactive tool where you can create up to four different scenarios to see how your career and college choices may affect how much you pay for college and if you are at risk for over borrowing)

www.pheaa.org

(national provider of student financial aid services)

www.parchment.com

(Order your high school transcripts)

www.eligibilitycenter.org

(Register with the NCAA for college athletics)

