

ELIZABETH WESLEY YOUTH MERIT INCENTIVE AWARD PROGRAM
TOUCHING TOMORROW TODAY

2019

“Preparing for the Future”

**Workshop
Reference Materials Booklet**

**Wednesday, July 24, 2019
University of Washington Tacoma, William Philip Hall
Milgard Assembly Room
1918 Pacific Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402**

Welcome to this year's "Preparing for the Future" Workshop. We thank each student and parent or guardian for participating, and your tenacity to gain additional insight into preparing for future achievements. Workshop panelist bring a wealth of knowledge and experience and are here to share it I support of your success, answer questions from a variety of perspectives and to be a resource going forward.

Tonight's enrichment workshop is presented to all Elizabeth Wesley Incentive Award applicants and is co-sponsored by the University of Washington Tacoma and KeyBank. In addition, leadership from numerous other organizations and programs participate as panelist. In every case, however information and insights provided are meant to be universal and apply regardless of the college, university or career pathway you pursue.

The workshop is comprised of a panel and three breakout groups and is formatted in a way that everyone will be able to attend each breakout discussion. Overall, the program touches on key considerations and guidelines for you as you plan for the future, short and longer term. The interactive program includes:

Main Panel: Each panelist (college students and professionals) comments on:
How African-American students can prepare for success after high school.

Breakout 1: *Preparing for College/University* (Discussion examples: Finding the right college, Finding support services - social and academic, Applying for financial aid, Paying for college (options), How do college and high school cultures differ...and more)

Breakout 2: *How families Support College/Career Success* (Discussion examples: Move away from home - Pros & cons, Career, college, or college & career, Maintaining my identity/remaining a whole person, Recommendation letters, Shared expectations...and more)

Breakout 3: *What can I do to support my short & long-term success?* (Discussion examples: Some things to expect in my 1st year of College, Self-care is import if not vital, Starting a career, Acclimating to a new community and independent living, Financial planning...and more)

On behalf of the Elizabeth Wesley Program thank you again and we wish you the best of success throughout life.

Wayne Williams
Chair, Elizabeth Wesley Board
Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award Program

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SECTION I: WORKSHOP LEADERSHIP

Section I: Workshop Leadership

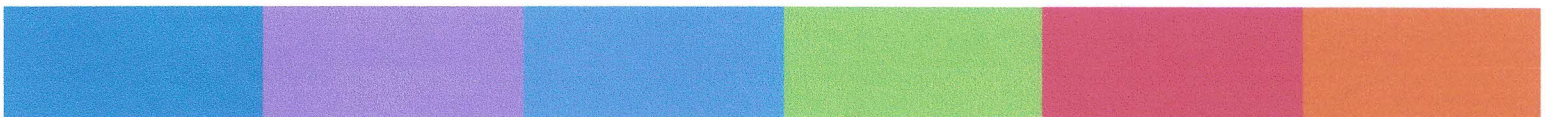
- I. Elizabeth Wesley Program
 - Wayne Williams, Chair Elizabeth Wesley Program Board, ewesley.org@gmail.com
 - Reggie Johnson, Chair, Elizabeth Wesley Awards Committee, ewesley.org@gmail.com
- II. KeyBank, Khalfani Jones, Personal Banker
- III. Palmer Scholars, Jonathan Jackson, Executive Director, jjackson@palmerscholars.org
- IV. Tacoma School District
 - Amanda Scott-Thomas, Director of Community Partnerships, ascott1@Tacoma.K12.Wa.US
 - Brandon Ervin, College & Career Readiness, bervin@tacoma.k12.wa.us
- V. Tacoma Urban League, Danielle Roberts, Black Empowerment Center, Financial Coach, drober33.9@gmail.com
- VI. University of Washington Tacoma, Black Student Union
 - ??
- VII. University of Washington Tacoma
 - Amanda Figueroa, Director Student Transition Programs, ambruner@uw.edu
 - Dominic Jay "DJ" Leon Guerrero Crisostomo, Pre-College Coordinator Student Transition Programs, djcrisos@uw.edu
 - Jimmie McCarty, Director for the Center for Equity and Inclusion, jwmccar@uw.edu
 - Stephon Harris, Associate Director of New Student and Family Programs, harris9@uw.edu

**SECTION II: COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE (AN EXTRACT OF
COMPREHENSIVE COLLEGE READINESS INFORMATION)**

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

**A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT ACROSS ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE
COMPREHENSIVE COLLEGE READINESS INFORMATION**

DEVELOPED
WITH
**STUDENT
INPUT**



COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE TIMELINE

KEY

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER | 4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE |
| 2 GETTING READY | 5 APPLYING FOR COLLEGE |
| 3 COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP (CBS) | 6 ENROLLING IN COLLEGE |

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

GRADE 9 – 10

- 2** ALL ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL
- 1** BENEFITS OF GOING TO COLLEGE

GRADE 11

- 1** TYPES OF COLLEGES
- 1** ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

GRADE 12

- 4** ALL ABOUT FAFSA
- 4** ALL ABOUT WASFA
- 5** PARTS OF A COLLEGE APPLICATION

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

GRADE 9 – 10

- 1** TYPES OF COLLEGES
- 1** ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS
- 2** BUILDING YOUR COLLEGE PROFILE

GRADE 11

- 5** RESEARCHING COLLEGES
- 4** WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

GRADE 12

- 5** HOW TO APPLY
- 4** SCHOLARSHIPS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

GRADE 9 – 10

- 2** PICKING THE RIGHT H.S. CLASSES
- 3** CBS: ALL ABOUT IT
- 3** CBS: THE PLEDGE

GRADE 11

- 3** CBS: ACCESSING IT
- 4** SCHOLARSHIPS

GRADE 12

- 3** CBS: ACCESSING IT
- 4** UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTERS

MARCH - APRIL - MAY

GRADE 9 – 10

- 1** COLLEGE AND CAREER CONNECTION
- 4** WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

GRADE 11

- 5** PARTS OF A COLLEGE APPLICATION
- 2** PREPARING FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR
- 4** ALL ABOUT FAFSA
- 4** ALL ABOUT WASFA

GRADE 12

- 6** MAKING YOUR DECISION
- 6** TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE
- 6** WHAT TO EXPECT YOUR FIRST TERM
- 6** COLLEGE RESOURCES YOU NEED TO USE

9TH GRADE TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER ALL ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL

Learn about what you need to do to graduate and how to be successful in high school.

OCTOBER BENEFITS OF GOING TO COLLEGE

Explore the benefits of going to college and learn how a college degree or certificate can help you get a job.

NOVEMBER TYPES OF COLLEGES / ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

Discover the different types of colleges and training options there are to choose from.

DECEMBER BUILDING YOUR COLLEGE PROFILE

Focus on doing well in high school, staying organized and getting involved in activities.

JANUARY PICKING THE RIGHT HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

Talk to your counselor, family and friends about your post-high school plans.

FEBRUARY ALL ABOUT COLLEGE BOUND / THE COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP PLEDGE

If you signed up, learn about the College Bound Scholarship and the Pledge.

MARCH COLLEGE AND CAREER CONNECTIONS

Understand how what you study in college can get you the job of your dreams.

APRIL WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Learn about different types of money that can help you pay for college.

Need help with our terms? See the **glossary** on our websites:

10TH GRADE TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER ALL ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL

Learn about what you need to graduate and how to be successful in high school.

OCTOBER BENEFITS OF GOING TO COLLEGE

Explore the benefits of going to college and learn about how a college degree or certificate can help you get a job.

NOVEMBER TYPES OF COLLEGES / ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

Discover the different types of colleges and training options there are to choose from.

DECEMBER BUILDING YOUR COLLEGE PROFILE

Focus on doing well in high school, staying organized and getting involved in activities.

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Talk with your counselor, family and friends about your post-high school plans.

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APRIL WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Learn about different types of money that can help you pay for college.

Need help with our terms? See the **glossary** on our websites:

11TH GRADE TIMELINE

OCTOBER TYPES OF COLLEGES / ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

Narrow down your college or training options and meet with your counselor to review your post-high school plans.

NOVEMBER RESEARCHING COLLEGES

Attend a college and career fair or schedule a college visit to learn which colleges might be a good fit.

DECEMBER WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Understand how to pay for college using financial aid and scholarships.

JANUARY ACCESSING THE COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP

So, you have College Bound: Make sure you complete the requirements so that you can access your scholarship.

FEBRUARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Learn about types of scholarships and how to apply for them.

MARCH PARTS OF A COLLEGE APPLICATION

All colleges and certification programs have unique application requirements. Learn about the different parts and what you need to apply.

APRIL PREPARING FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR

Learn what you need to do to graduate high school and be college ready.

MAY ALL ABOUT FAFSA / ALL ABOUT WASFA

Learn about the FAFSA or WASFA eligibility and how to apply to help you pay for college.

Need help with our terms? See the [glossary](#) on our websites:

12TH GRADE TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER ALL ABOUT FAFSA / ALL ABOUT WASFA

Prepare to apply for the FAFSA or WASFA so you are ready when the applications open on October 1.

OCTOBER PARTS OF A COLLEGE APPLICATION

Each college application will have different requirements. Figure out what you need to prepare your application.

NOVEMBER HOW TO APPLY

Determine what steps you need to complete for your college applications.

DECEMBER SCHOLARSHIPS

Research and apply for scholarships NOW.

JANUARY ACCESSING THE COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP

So, you have College Bound: Learn how the College Bound Scholarship will help you pay for college.

FEBRUARY UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTERS

Understand your financial aid award letter and determine your next steps.

MARCH MAKING YOUR DECISION

Now that you've received your admission letters, determine which college is the best choice for YOU!

APRIL TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE

Make sure you've completed everything you need to enroll in the college you've selected.

MAY WHAT TO EXPECT YOUR FIRST TERM / COLLEGE RESOURCES YOU NEED TO USE

College is very different from high school. Map out different college resources that will help you have a successful first year.

Need help with our terms? See the **glossary** on our websites:

1 ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: BENEFITS OF GOING TO COLLEGE

A college **degree** will help you **get higher-paying jobs and get hired faster**. Getting a college degree or **certificate** may be the best thing you can do for your future.

WHY SHOULD I GO TO COLLEGE?

GET A BETTER JOB FASTER

Washington state has the 7th fastest growing economy in the U.S. There will be **740,000 job openings** in this state in the next 5 years (Boston Consulting Group & Washington Roundtable, 2016).

By 2020, **70% of ALL jobs** in Washington will require at least some college education (Carnevale, Smith & Strohl, 2015).

99% of new jobs between 2010 and 2016 went to people with more than a high school education (Carnevale, Jayasundera, & Gulish, 2016).

Young professionals with a high school diploma are **3 times more likely** to be unemployed than young professionals with a **Bachelor's degree** (Taylor, Fry & Oates, 2014).

MAKE MORE MONEY

There is a growing, **massive wage gap** between college-educated and less-educated young professionals (Taylor, Fry & Oates, 2014).

Young adults with an **associate's degree** earn an average of **\$5,000 more per year** than those with a high school diploma (Kena et al., 2016).

91% of "career jobs" in Washington State (jobs that require higher skills and pay \$60,000 to \$100,000 per year) will be filled by workers with a college degree or some college (Boston Consulting Group & Washington Roundtable, 2016).

AVERAGE INCOME BY EDUCATION LEVEL

Less than High school:
\$26,780

High school graduate:
\$37,336

Some college or associate's degree:
\$41,548

Bachelor's degree:
\$61,828

Advanced degree (master's professional and doctoral degrees):
\$75,452

(Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017)

OCT: GRADE 9 and 10

GOOD TO KNOW:

What you study in college matters.

Some degrees are in higher demand and lead to careers with higher pay. Currently, degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), health and business lead to the highest entry level pay.



1 ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: TYPES OF COLLEGES

The term college includes technical colleges, 2-year community colleges, **vocational** or trade schools and 4-year colleges or universities. There is not one type of college that is perfect for everyone, so it is important to explore your options.

WHERE SHOULD I GO FOR COLLEGE?

Private 2-year College/ Vocational/ Trade Schools

Private 2-year, vocational or trade schools provide education for a specific career. Students that graduate from these schools can become a chef, massage therapist, or paralegal.

Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs)

These schools offer **associate's degrees** and **certificates**, including for specific **trades**. Washington state has 34 public CTCs. Students that graduate from CTCs can enter many careers, such as nursing, automotive repair and cybersecurity.

Learn more about the programs they offer at checkoutacollege.com



Some CTCs now offer **bachelor's degrees**.

Public and Private 4-year College/University

These schools offer bachelor's degrees, usually completed in 4 years of full-time study. Private schools typically charge a higher **tuition** but can offer a significant amount of **scholarships** to make attendance affordable. Students that graduate from these schools can become a robotics engineer, business analyst, or nutritionist.

OCT: GRADE 11
NOV: GRADE 9 and 10

Make sure to review ANY school's **accreditation** and job placement rates.

40% of 4-year graduates in Washington started at a community college.

This chart shows common characteristics for each type of college in Washington state.

	Community and Technical Colleges	Public 4-year Colleges	Private 4-year Colleges
Selectivity All require an application . Moderate and highly selective colleges typically require applicants to submit essays, grades, test scores and other components.	Least selective	Moderate to highly selective	Moderate to highly selective
Campus Size number of undergraduate students	5,000-30,000	Over 10,000	Less than 5,000
Tuition Tuition per year for full-time enrollment (for local residents)	Low (around \$4,000)	Medium (\$7,000-\$11,000)	High (over \$30,000)
Undergraduate Degrees Offered	Certificates and associate's degrees (AA, AAS)	Bachelor's degrees (BA or BS)	Bachelor's degrees (BA or BS)



1 ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

In an apprenticeship, you can **earn money while learning** through a combination of hands-on, **on-the-job training (OJT)** and related academic classes. Apprenticeships are competitive and rigorous, and are typically more demanding than **internships**.

APPRENTICESHIP



Apprenticeships are offered by employers (such as Boeing), **trade unions** (such as electricians or roofers) and independent programs. **Programs typically last 2-5 years** and are a good way to start a career in a well-paying field. Apprenticeship programs offer certifications, licenses and/or college **degrees**.

WHAT JOB CAN I GET AS AN APPRENTICE?

Apprenticeships are available in a variety of industries, such as **aerospace, advanced manufacturing, construction, energy and marine technology**.

Examples of careers include:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Aircraft mechanic | Electrician |
| Automotive mechanic | Fire fighter |
| Bricklayer | Plumber |
| Carpenter | Truck driver |
| Cement mason | Welder |

HOW MUCH WOULD I GET PAID?

Apprentices **earn money while in the program**; the pay increases as they progress. Upon graduation, they become "journey-level" workers.

Starting apprentice – minimum \$18/hr + **benefits** (e.g. medical, dental and vision)

- For example, Seattle City Light apprentices earn at least \$30/hr to start.

Journey-level worker (apprenticeship graduate) – minimum \$30/hr + benefits (e.g. medical, dental, vision and retirement)

- For example, King County plumbers and pipe fitters earn around \$77/hr while cement masons in Yakima earn \$40/hr.

* HOW DO I BECOME AN APPRENTICE?

1 Make sure you meet the requirements.

Generally, these include:

- High school **diploma**
- Specified abilities (may require math)
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation

2 Find a program and apply.

- Each program has unique procedures for applying.
- To learn more about the process, talk to your high school counselor or visit apprenticeship.lni.wa.gov

Information adapted from: Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. (2012). *A Parents' Guide to Apprenticeships*.

OCT: GRADE 11
NOV: GRADE 9 and 10



2 GETTING READY: PICKING THE RIGHT HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE?

The classes you take in high school prepare you for your post high school plans. Whether you choose to pursue an **apprenticeship** or a **technical, 2-year, or 4-year college**, you will want to learn their admission requirements.

THINGS TO KNOW:

- Your high school graduation requirements **may not** be the same as college admission requirements.
- 4-year colleges have the most selective requirements.
- Technical and 2-year colleges have less selective requirements.

MATH IS IMPORTANT:

- Most college programs require you to take some math. Taking more math in high school may mean taking less math in college.
- Over 50% of high school graduates are not ready for college-level classes.
- Taking four years of high school math will help you get ready for college and can help you save on tuition costs!

REMINDER:

To receive the College Bound Scholarship you must meet the pledge requirements.

WHAT ARE COLLEGES LOOKING FOR?

- A challenging class schedule – take Honors, **Advanced Placement (AP)** and/or **International Baccalaureate (IB)** classes if they're available at your high school or learn about additional dual credit options such as **Running Start** or **Tech Prep**.
- Electives that match your career and college interests. Examples might include a career and technical education program of study that leads to a career credential or certificate.
- Some colleges may have additional requirements such as taking the **SAT** or **ACT**.
- Consider taking academic classes for your elective requirements such as foreign language and/or multiple lab sciences.

JAN: GRADE 9 and 10



2 GETTING READY: PREPARING FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR

Congratulations! You've almost made it to your last year of high school. Now is not the time to get senioritis. You still need to do a number of things to graduate from high school and prepare for college.

WHAT SHOULD I DO THIS SUMMER?

- Register for SAT or ACT tests.** Check with your counselor to see if the SAT is offered at your school.
- Visit colleges** or attend **college fairs** and talk to college **admissions counselors.**
- Make a calendar** for important dates and deadlines.
- Develop a list** of several college choices (technical, 2-year, 4-year, apprenticeships).
 - Identify your top college choices and request information.
- Search for and apply to scholarships.**
- Save money** for college expenses.

WHAT SHOULD I DO MY SENIOR YEAR?

To Do:

- Schedule an advising appointment** with your counselor or college-access mentor.
- If you are enrolled in dual credit courses, **talk to your teacher and counselor** about taking, **AP, IB, or Cambridge exams** to earn college credit.
- Take the SAT or ACT.**
- Complete the FAFSA or WASFA** starting on October 1st of your senior year.
- Discuss a **college budget** with your family
- Work to maintain or **increase your GPA** with senior year grades. Colleges and scholarships require you to send fall AND spring **official transcripts.**

APR: GRADE 11

AM I ON TRACK TO GRADUATE?

- * **Make sure** you have all the credits needed to graduate.
- * **Check in regularly** with your teachers about your grades.
- * **Continue completing other graduation requirements**, such as a senior/culminating project.

DON'T FREAK OUT!

If you have questions, make sure to talk to a counselor, teacher, mentor, peer or family member who can help you prepare or refer you to someone who can help.

4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE: WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

College costs are different at different schools. Each college estimates the **Cost of Attendance (COA)** by adding together some or all of the below expenses:

Tuition Fees

Room and board
Transportation

Books and supplies
Other living expenses

HOW DO I PAY FOR IT?

The cost of college can be overwhelming, but there are many different resources to help you pay for college. People often use various sources of financial aid to pay for college in addition to what they may have saved or earn from their job. Financial Aid resources include any **grant or scholarship, loan, or work study** offered to help you meet your college expenses.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

Financial Aid

- In order to be considered for financial aid, you need to complete the **FAFSA** or **WASFA** your senior year and every year while in college.
- Each college determines financial aid eligibility for federal, state and institutional types of aid based on awarding policies at that campus.

Scholarships

- There are thousands of scholarships that can help you pay for college. Different scholarships have different application requirements. Most scholarships require that you complete the **FAFSA** or **WASFA**.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID:

Scholarships – Money awarded to students based on academic or other achievements to help pay for education expenses. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid.

Grants – A form of gift aid, usually based on financial need. A grant does not need to be repaid, unless, for example, you withdraw from a school and owe a refund.

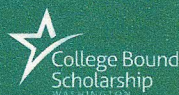
Work Study – A financial aid program (federal or state) that allows a student to work on-campus or with approved off-campus employers to earn money to pay for **college expenses**.

Loans – Money you can borrow and repay over time, with interest added in most cases.

KEEP IN MIND:

Knowing the different types of financial aid is only the first step. You may not need to take out financial aid to cover the full cost of attendance.

APR: GRADES 9 and 10
DEC: GRADE 11



4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE: SCHOLARSHIPS

WHAT ARE SCHOLARSHIPS?

Scholarships award money for education expenses based on criteria such as academics, athletics, community service or financial need. Community organizations, colleges, religious institutions and private companies are examples of scholarship providers.

Regardless of your background or immigration status, there is likely a scholarship for you.

WHERE CAN I LOOK FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

Your high school counselor is a good place to start. Here are some places to begin your research:

TheWashBoard.org: thewashboard.org

FastWeb: fastweb.com

Big Future: bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Beyond Dreaming Scholarship List: scholarshipjunkies.org/beyond

The colleges you are interested in or local organizations such as the Act Six, College Success Foundation and Washington State Opportunity Scholarship.

HOW DO I APPLY?

1. **Research** scholarships you are **eligible** for.
2. **Submit** your **applications**. Make sure you follow instructions carefully!
3. **Complete** the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) or Washington Application for State Financial Aid (**WASFA**).

WHAT TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS CAN I APPLY FOR?

Academic/Merit: Based on GPA, test scores and/or coursework

Athletic: Based on athletic performance

Creative: Based on talent in art, music, dance

Community service: Based on involvement in your school or community

Diversity: Based on race, ethnicity, family heritage, religion, sexual orientation, etc.

Need: Based on financial need

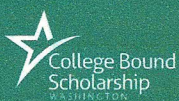
Other: Leadership, alumni, etc.

FEB: GRADE 11
DEC: GRADE 12

* DO RESEARCH

Is the scholarship renewable? If yes, learn about the renewal requirements. If it's not, think about how you are going to replace these funds the following year.

Is it portable? Can you take the scholarship with you if you **transfer** schools? Some scholarships are bound to specific colleges.



5 APPLYING FOR COLLEGE: RESEARCHING COLLEGES

HOW DO I RESEARCH COLLEGES?

- Visit: wcan.org/resources/college-map for a list of colleges in Washington state
- View college websites
- Sign up for college mailing lists
- Attend **college fairs**
- Tour colleges

College search takes time. Schedule a few hours each week to work on researching colleges.

WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER?

Type of college – technical, 2-year, 4-year

Location – distance from home, weather, urban or rural, etc.

Degrees available – **associate's, bachelor's, certifications** and **apprenticeships**

Programs available – subject areas or **majors** offered

Public vs. private – public colleges are partially funded by government funds and private colleges are not directly publicly funded

Special focus – colleges that focus on a specific interest or student population such as arts, single-sex, religiously affiliated and specialized-mission colleges

Diversity – the types of cultures, languages and demographics represented on campus or in the community

Size – number of students, campus size, class size, city population, etc.

Cost of attendance – in- or out-of-state **tuition, college fees**, books, transportation and housing

Selectivity – measured by the percentage of students who get accepted based on admission requirements

Graduation rate – number of students who graduate within 4 or 6 years from that college

***GOOD TO KNOW:** Community colleges offer 2-year degrees with a path to **transfer** to a 4-year school and some offer bachelor degree programs.

*DON'T FORGET:

Consider the admissions requirements and determine if the school is a **reach, solid, or safety** for you. It is recommended that you apply to at least one school in each category:

Reach – You might not get in, but it's worth applying to because it's your dream school

Solid – You're a competitive applicant and will likely get accepted

Safety – You'll definitely get accepted, and it's a backup in case the others don't work out

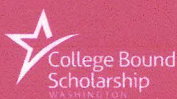
TALK TO: Your high school counselor

College and career center adviser

College **admissions counselors** or representatives who visit your school

Family members, teachers, mentors and community members who have been to college

NOV: GRADE 11



6 ENROLLING IN COLLEGE: TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE

You've been accepted to the college you'd like to attend, but there are still many steps to take before you start your classes.

STEPS FOR 4-YEAR COLLEGES:

1. Pay your new student/enrollment confirmation fee.

If you're unable to pay the **fee**, contact your admissions office and ask to defer your deposit.

2. Request an **official transcript** from your high school and any colleges where you earned credit. Send transcripts to your college as soon as final grades are posted.

STEPS FOR 2-YEAR COLLEGES:

1. Submit any other requested **financial aid forms** by the deadline.

2. Complete the math and English **placement steps** for your college.

HOUSING

On-campus housing may include residence halls, apartments or houses. Apply to live on campus and make sure to pay your housing deposit by the deadline. Contact the housing office with any questions.

Off-campus housing options include living at home, renting an apartment/house or living in residential fraternities and sororities.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I START COLLEGE?

- Confirm your acceptance** by submitting your enrollment verification and deposit by May 1 or your college's deadline.
- Accept your financial aid** award.
- Schedule your advising and orientation appointments.**
- Apply for housing** if you are choosing to live on **campus**.
- Submit your immunization records.** Access these records from your doctor or school district.
- If you are eligible, **sign up for student support programs** (i.e. TRIO, EOP, CAMP) that will help with **academic advising**, tutoring, financial aid, etc.
- Register for classes.**

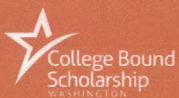
GOOD TO KNOW:

If you're at a 2-year community or technical college and plan to transfer to a 4-year college in the future, talk to your adviser about which courses to take. **Not all 2-year courses will transfer to specific 4-year colleges.**

WHAT IS ORIENTATION?

Most colleges require new students to attend an orientation, where you learn about **campus** resources, register for classes and meet your peers. Some college orientations are in person and others are online. Attend an in-person orientation if you can! You may also be invited to attend a summer transition program focused on preparing you for your first quarter.

APR: GRADE 12



6 ENROLLING IN COLLEGE: COLLEGE RESOURCES YOU NEED TO USE

Colleges offer many resources to help you be successful. They are all included in your **tuition** and **fees**, so use them!

WHERE CAN I GO FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT?

Academic advising: Helps you understand the college's academic systems, choose and apply to a **major** and access **campus** resources.

Libraries: Offer a variety of learning spaces where you can get help with research and collaborate with others.

Tutoring centers: Offer help on subjects like writing and math from your peers.

Office hours: Times when your **professors** are available to answer any questions you have about class.

WHERE CAN I GET PERSONALIZED SUPPORT?

Career center: Offers you career counseling and help in developing a resume, writing a cover letter and preparing for a job interview.

Diversity/multicultural center: A space primarily for students of color and other communities to receive social and emotional support and feel safe to express their ideas and experiences.

Counseling services: Provides you confidential counseling and mental health support.

Disability resources: Provides reasonable academic accommodations for eligible students.

Information technology (IT): Provides different technology services and is a first stop for most campus-technology-related requests.

Veteran services: Serves as a liaison to the Department of Veterans Affairs and helps veterans transition out of the military and into academic life.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT?

Financial aid office: Helps you understand your **financial aid** award and provides information on additional funding resources and helps you search and apply for **scholarships**.

WHERE CAN I GET INVOLVED?

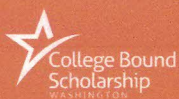
Student union: Provides meeting spaces, events, study groups and a comfortable environment where you can connect with the college community.

Student life: Offers a variety of on-campus job opportunities.

Study abroad office: Provides meaningful global travel experiences for college credit.

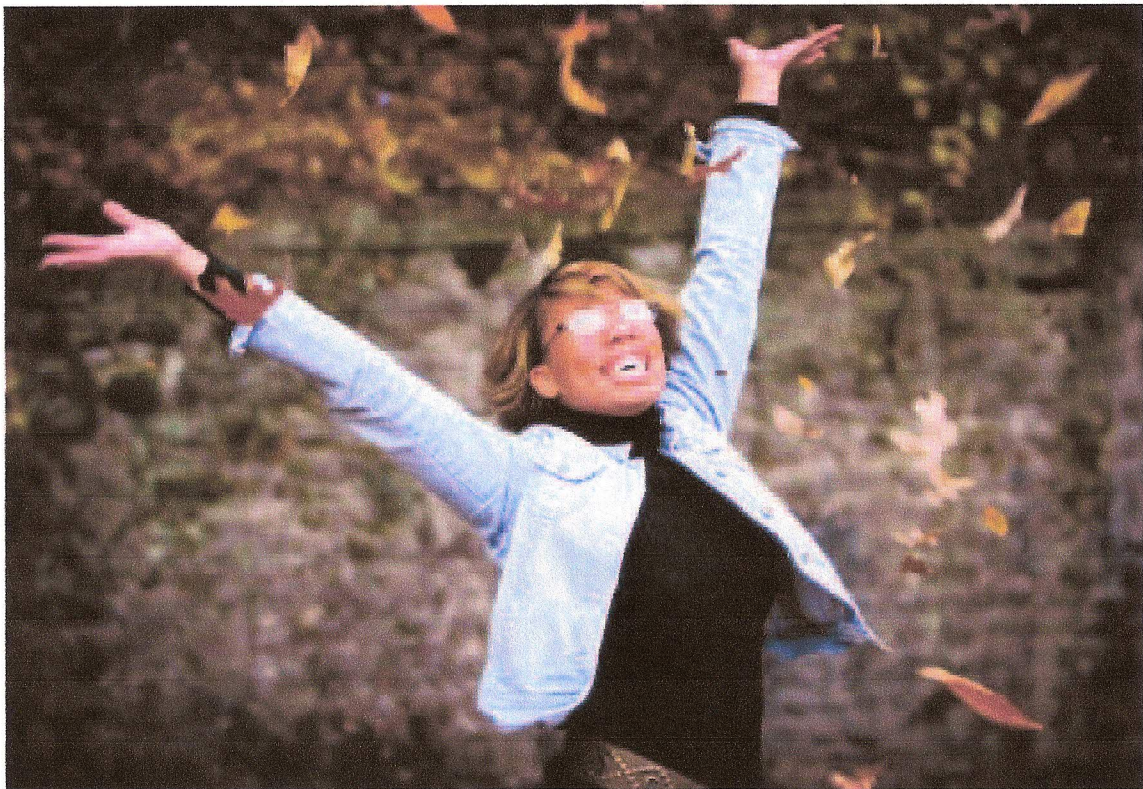
Recreation center and programs: Many colleges have gyms, sports fields, group fitness classes or club sports.

MAY: GRADE 12



SECTION III: CAREER PLAN PROJECT WORKBOOK (NOT FULL WORKBOOK)

Career Plan Project Workbook



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New York, New York Columbus, Ohio Chicago, Illinois

Introduction and Guide

This *Career Plan Project Workbook* contains activity worksheets intended to help your students make solid and informed career decisions. You can use these worksheets as homework or in-class assignments or as inspiration for group activities. Students can fill out these worksheets on their own and discuss them with you or with their career counselor, or you can use the worksheets as reproducible masters to lead in-class activities and discussions. You can choose to progress through the worksheets in order, or pick and choose the activities that meet your curriculum needs.

Worksheets focus on the three core areas of career decision making: self-assessment, career exploration, and goal setting. The focus area is identified at the top right of every worksheet.

Self-Assessment

The first block of worksheets concentrates on self-knowledge and self-awareness. Students consider what they enjoy and take pride in doing and work to correlate this information with possible careers. They identify their top career interest areas based on their interests, values, and self-image, and consider which of the 16 career clusters defined by the U.S. Department of Education fit best with their academic and personal strengths. They also consider their personality types and the values they wish to express through their work.

Career Exploration

In these activities, students move from identifying possible careers to doing research that will help them fine-tune their career options and make a career decision. Students explore career- and education-planning resources offered on the Web, complete one or more job-shadowing experiences, and profile all aspects of different careers that interest them. Over the course of their career-planning experience, students can use multiple copies of the Career Profile Form on pages 16 through 19 to explore various careers that appeal to them.

Goal Setting

After exploring themselves and their career options, students move on to planning and goal setting. Students profile postsecondary education and training options that appeal to them, considering a range of important criteria such as cost and job-placement success. They create a checklist of the materials they will need to apply for a postsecondary program and record their progress toward meeting relevant due dates. They also research the skills needed in their career of choice and make plans to strengthen these skills. Additionally, students compile the information they will need for a résumé and list of references. Rounding out the workbook is a Six-Year Plan for each year of high school as well as the first two years thereafter. Working with their counselors, students can plan their coursework and activities for each term and year and can record their progress toward graduation and career readiness.

Many of the worksheets and suggested activities in this Career Plan Project Workbook can also serve as projects and activity suggestions for students' Personal Academic and Career Portfolios. Suggested answers and further suggestions are provided in the Answer Key beginning on page 41.

Interests and Aptitudes

Self-Assessment

Directions Most people tend to be good at what interests them, and interested in what they are good at doing. To find career ideas, consider subjects and activities that you have enjoyed or that have given you a sense of achievement.

1. At school, I have felt interested and engaged in these subjects and class activities:

Subject: _____ Class activity: _____

Subject: _____ Class activity: _____

2. Outside of school, I have felt interested and engaged in these activities:

Place: _____ Activity: _____

Place: _____ Activity: _____

3. At school, I have done best in these subjects or activities:

4. At home, I can be counted on to do a good job at:

5. If I were to win an award for a special talent or quality, it would be:

6. Teachers, family members, friends, or others have praised my ability to:

7. I feel proud of myself when I:

8. Show your answers to a family member, counselor, or teacher. Together, brainstorm career areas that might fit your interests and skills. What career ideas can you find?

Career Interest Areas

Self-Assessment

Directions What are your career interests? Each individual tends to prefer one of the six career interest groups described below depending on what they enjoy, value, and are good at doing. People in each group tend to enjoy similar professions. Which group best suits you? Pick one or two of the types below that fit you best.

REALISTIC

- You enjoy and are good at working with animals, plants, tools, machines, or mechanical drawings.
- You value practical things you can see, touch, and use.
- You see yourself as practical, mechanical, realistic, honest, modest, and natural.
- You would probably not enjoy social jobs such as teaching or working with patients.

INVESTIGATIVE

- You enjoy and are good at studying and solving math or science problems.
- You value science.
- You see yourself as independent, precise, curious, complex, scientific, and intellectual.
- You would probably not enjoy sales or jobs that involve leading or persuading people.

ARTISTIC

- You enjoy and are good at creative activities such as art, drama, crafts, dance, music, or creative writing.
- You value creative arts such as drama, music, art, or literature.
- You see yourself as emotional, expressive, original, imaginative, independent, and open.
- You would probably not enjoy highly ordered or repetitive activities.

SOCIAL

- You enjoy and are good at doing things to help people, such as teaching, nursing, giving first aid, or providing information.
- You value helping people and solving social problems.
- You see yourself as helpful, friendly, tactful, kind, and trustworthy.
- You would probably not enjoy using machines, tools, or animals to achieve a goal.

ENTERPRISING

- You enjoy and are good at leading and persuading people and selling products, services, and ideas.
- You value success in politics, leadership, or business.
- You see yourself as energetic, ambitious, adventurous, popular, and sociable.
- You would probably not enjoy activities that require careful observation and scientific analysis.

Continued on next page

Career Interest Areas (continued)

Self-Assessment

1. Which of the career interest areas on the previous page best describe(s) you? Check up to three.
 - Realistic** You may enjoy a career as a mechanic, air traffic controller, pilot, surveyor, soldier, police officer, farmer, miner, or electrician.
 - Investigative** You may enjoy a career as a scientist, doctor, dentist, medical technologist, computer programmer, mathematician, college professor, or veterinarian.
 - Artistic** You may enjoy a career as a composer, musician, stage director, writer, decorator, architect, graphic designer, artist, photographer, journalist, or actor.
 - Social** You may enjoy a career as a teacher, religious worker, counselor, clinical psychologist, occupational therapist, caseworker, playground supervisor, child care worker, or speech therapist.
 - Enterprising** You may enjoy a career as a salesperson, manager, business executive, lawyer, politician, marketing manager, stockbroker, urban planner, television producer, sports promoter, or retail buyer.
 - Conventional** You may enjoy a career as a bookkeeper, accountant, court reporter, stenographer, financial analyst, banker, cost estimator, tax expert, office manager, or medical records technician.

2. Ask three people who know you well—such as a family member, teacher, and friend—to pick the career interest area(s) that they think best characterize you. Do you agree or disagree with their assessments? Why?

3. Name three of the careers listed above that you would like to research further.

4. Pick your top two career interest areas and find three careers that might combine these interests. A realistic-artistic person, for example, might enjoy a career as a botanical artist, a technical writer, or a craftsperson. What creative career ideas can you find?

Career Clusters

Self-Assessment

Directions Which career clusters interest you most? Check every statement below that applies to you. Then add up the number of check marks in each group.

1	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
	<input type="checkbox"/> learn how things live and grow. <input type="checkbox"/> learn about natural resources. <input type="checkbox"/> hunt or fish. <input type="checkbox"/> protect the environment. <input type="checkbox"/> be outdoors. <input type="checkbox"/> plan, budget, and keep records. <input type="checkbox"/> use and repair tools and machines.	<input type="checkbox"/> independent <input type="checkbox"/> accurate <input type="checkbox"/> a nature lover <input type="checkbox"/> physically active <input type="checkbox"/> a good planner <input type="checkbox"/> a problem solver	<input type="checkbox"/> math <input type="checkbox"/> life science <input type="checkbox"/> earth sciences <input type="checkbox"/> chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
Number of statements checked: _____			

2	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
	<input type="checkbox"/> follow blueprints or instructions. <input type="checkbox"/> picture things in my mind. <input type="checkbox"/> work with my hands. <input type="checkbox"/> do precise work. <input type="checkbox"/> solve technical problems. <input type="checkbox"/> visit interesting buildings. <input type="checkbox"/> follow step-by-step procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/> inquisitive <input type="checkbox"/> good with my hands <input type="checkbox"/> good at following directions <input type="checkbox"/> attentive to detail <input type="checkbox"/> good at visualizing <input type="checkbox"/> patient, persistent	<input type="checkbox"/> math <input type="checkbox"/> drafting <input type="checkbox"/> physical sciences <input type="checkbox"/> construction trades <input type="checkbox"/> technology
Number of statements checked: _____			

3	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
	<input type="checkbox"/> communicate information. <input type="checkbox"/> perform. <input type="checkbox"/> read and write. <input type="checkbox"/> play a musical instrument. <input type="checkbox"/> make artwork or crafts. <input type="checkbox"/> record audio or video. <input type="checkbox"/> design displays or Web pages.	<input type="checkbox"/> creative <input type="checkbox"/> quick thinking <input type="checkbox"/> a good communicator <input type="checkbox"/> tech savvy <input type="checkbox"/> versatile <input type="checkbox"/> tenacious	<input type="checkbox"/> art/graphic design <input type="checkbox"/> music <input type="checkbox"/> speech or drama <input type="checkbox"/> journalism or literature <input type="checkbox"/> audio/video technology
Number of statements checked: _____			

4	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
	<input type="checkbox"/> stay organized. <input type="checkbox"/> work with numbers and details. <input type="checkbox"/> lead others. <input type="checkbox"/> network and make new contacts. <input type="checkbox"/> use computers. <input type="checkbox"/> communicate ideas. <input type="checkbox"/> manage my own work.	<input type="checkbox"/> logical <input type="checkbox"/> organized <input type="checkbox"/> practical <input type="checkbox"/> tactful <input type="checkbox"/> responsible <input type="checkbox"/> entrepreneurial	<input type="checkbox"/> computer applications <input type="checkbox"/> business <input type="checkbox"/> accounting <input type="checkbox"/> math <input type="checkbox"/> English/language arts
Number of statements checked: _____			

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Continued on next page

Career Clusters (continued)

Self-Assessment

5	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
	<input type="radio"/> talk to all kinds of people.	<input type="radio"/> friendly	<input type="radio"/> English/language arts
	<input type="radio"/> learn.	<input type="radio"/> a strong decision maker	<input type="radio"/> social studies
	<input type="radio"/> lead a group.	<input type="radio"/> helpful	<input type="radio"/> math
	<input type="radio"/> go to school.	<input type="radio"/> inquisitive	<input type="radio"/> science
	<input type="radio"/> direct and plan activities.	<input type="radio"/> a good listener	<input type="radio"/> psychology
	<input type="radio"/> multitask.	<input type="radio"/> a quick thinker	
<input type="radio"/> help others.			
Number of statements checked: _____			

6	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
	<input type="radio"/> work with numbers.	<input type="radio"/> trustworthy	<input type="radio"/> accounting
	<input type="radio"/> meet deadlines.	<input type="radio"/> orderly	<input type="radio"/> math
	<input type="radio"/> use facts to make predictions.	<input type="radio"/> self-confident	<input type="radio"/> economics
	<input type="radio"/> play by the rules.	<input type="radio"/> logical	<input type="radio"/> banking/finance
	<input type="radio"/> analyze financial information.	<input type="radio"/> attentive	<input type="radio"/> business law
	<input type="radio"/> handle money.	<input type="radio"/> practical	
<input type="radio"/> keep accurate records.			
Number of statements checked: _____			

7	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
	<input type="radio"/> be politically involved.	<input type="radio"/> a good communicator	<input type="radio"/> government
	<input type="radio"/> debate ideas.	<input type="radio"/> competitive	<input type="radio"/> language arts
	<input type="radio"/> work in a team.	<input type="radio"/> service-minded	<input type="radio"/> history
	<input type="radio"/> analyze complex issues.	<input type="radio"/> a strong problem solver	<input type="radio"/> math
	<input type="radio"/> persuade others.	<input type="radio"/> a quick thinker	<input type="radio"/> foreign languages
	<input type="radio"/> keep up with current events.	<input type="radio"/> culturally sensitive	
Number of statements checked: _____			

8	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
	<input type="radio"/> help the sick.	<input type="radio"/> caring	<input type="radio"/> life sciences
	<input type="radio"/> make logical decisions.	<input type="radio"/> good at following directions	<input type="radio"/> chemistry
	<input type="radio"/> learn about health and science.	<input type="radio"/> careful	<input type="radio"/> math
	<input type="radio"/> respond in an emergency.	<input type="radio"/> a good listener	<input type="radio"/> occupational health
	<input type="radio"/> work in a team.	<input type="radio"/> scientific	<input type="radio"/> language arts
	<input type="radio"/> do precise, accurate work.	<input type="radio"/> clear-headed	
Number of statements checked: _____			

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Continued on next page

Career Clusters (continued)

Self-Assessment

	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
9	<input type="radio"/> work with the public.	<input type="radio"/> outgoing	<input type="radio"/> language arts/ speech
	<input type="radio"/> interact with many types of people.	<input type="radio"/> sympathetic	<input type="radio"/> foreign language
	<input type="radio"/> help others have a good time.	<input type="radio"/> friendly	<input type="radio"/> social sciences
	<input type="radio"/> have a flexible schedule.	<input type="radio"/> a team player	<input type="radio"/> marketing
	<input type="radio"/> help people make decisions.	<input type="radio"/> tolerant	<input type="radio"/> food services/ nutrition
	<input type="radio"/> meet and greet people.	<input type="radio"/> responsive	
	<input type="radio"/> learn about other cultures.		
Number of statements checked: _____			

	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
10	<input type="radio"/> help people solve their problems.	<input type="radio"/> caring	<input type="radio"/> language arts
	<input type="radio"/> volunteer to help others.	<input type="radio"/> a good communicator	<input type="radio"/> psychology
	<input type="radio"/> listen to other people's feelings.	<input type="radio"/> a good listener	<input type="radio"/> sociology
	<input type="radio"/> work with children and the elderly.	<input type="radio"/> strong	<input type="radio"/> family and consumer sciences
	<input type="radio"/> find solutions to problems.	<input type="radio"/> intuitive	<input type="radio"/> foreign languages
	<input type="radio"/> make friends with people of different ages, cultures, and backgrounds.	<input type="radio"/> nonjudgmental	
	<input type="radio"/> show other people that I care.		
Number of statements checked: _____			

	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
11	<input type="radio"/> work with computers.	<input type="radio"/> a logical thinker	<input type="radio"/> math
	<input type="radio"/> solve technical problems.	<input type="radio"/> good with details	<input type="radio"/> science
	<input type="radio"/> use machines and tools.	<input type="radio"/> persistent	<input type="radio"/> computer technology
	<input type="radio"/> figure out diagrams.	<input type="radio"/> methodical	<input type="radio"/> communications
	<input type="radio"/> keep up with new technology.	<input type="radio"/> good at concentrating	<input type="radio"/> graphic design
	<input type="radio"/> work with multimedia.	<input type="radio"/> precise and accurate	
	<input type="radio"/> build Web sites.		
Number of statements checked: _____			

	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
12	<input type="radio"/> take charge in dangerous situations.	<input type="radio"/> adventurous	<input type="radio"/> language arts
	<input type="radio"/> make important decisions.	<input type="radio"/> dependable	<input type="radio"/> psychology/ sociology
	<input type="radio"/> interact with others.	<input type="radio"/> civic-minded	<input type="radio"/> government/history
	<input type="radio"/> earn others' respect.	<input type="radio"/> decisive	<input type="radio"/> law enforcement
	<input type="radio"/> respect rules and laws.	<input type="radio"/> optimistic	<input type="radio"/> first aid
	<input type="radio"/> debate and win arguments.	<input type="radio"/> trustworthy	
	<input type="radio"/> observe people's behavior.		
Number of statements checked: _____			

Continued on next page

Career Clusters (continued)

Self-Assessment

	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
13	<input type="radio"/> work with my hands.	<input type="radio"/> practical	<input type="radio"/> math/geometry
	<input type="radio"/> assemble things.	<input type="radio"/> observant	<input type="radio"/> chemistry
	<input type="radio"/> do precise work.	<input type="radio"/> dexterous	<input type="radio"/> trade tech/ machining
	<input type="radio"/> produce hands-on results.	<input type="radio"/> a clear thinker	<input type="radio"/> physics
	<input type="radio"/> solve math problems.	<input type="radio"/> coordinated	<input type="radio"/> language arts
	<input type="radio"/> use tools and machines.	<input type="radio"/> inventive	
	<input type="radio"/> visualize 3-D objects from drawings.		
Number of statements checked: _____			

	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
14	<input type="radio"/> browse new products in stores.	<input type="radio"/> enthusiastic	<input type="radio"/> business/marketing
	<input type="radio"/> follow trends.	<input type="radio"/> competitive	<input type="radio"/> language arts
	<input type="radio"/> arrange displays.	<input type="radio"/> creative	<input type="radio"/> math
	<input type="radio"/> give presentations.	<input type="radio"/> self-motivated	<input type="radio"/> economics
	<input type="radio"/> persuade people.	<input type="radio"/> persuasive	<input type="radio"/> computer applications
	<input type="radio"/> communicate ideas.	<input type="radio"/> innovative	
	<input type="radio"/> dream up new products.		
Number of statements checked: _____			

	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
15	<input type="radio"/> interpret formulas.	<input type="radio"/> detail-oriented	<input type="radio"/> math
	<input type="radio"/> find the answers to questions.	<input type="radio"/> inquisitive	<input type="radio"/> science
	<input type="radio"/> work in a laboratory.	<input type="radio"/> objective	<input type="radio"/> drafting/CAD
	<input type="radio"/> figure out how things work.	<input type="radio"/> precise	<input type="radio"/> electronics/ computers
	<input type="radio"/> explore new technology.	<input type="radio"/> practical	<input type="radio"/> technology education
	<input type="radio"/> experiment.	<input type="radio"/> a problem solver	
	<input type="radio"/> observe details.		
Number of statements checked: _____			

	I like to...	I am...	I am interested in...
16	<input type="radio"/> drive, ride, or travel.	<input type="radio"/> quick-witted	<input type="radio"/> math
	<input type="radio"/> plan trips or routes.	<input type="radio"/> mechanical	<input type="radio"/> trade and industry
	<input type="radio"/> solve mechanical problems.	<input type="radio"/> coordinated	<input type="radio"/> physical sciences
	<input type="radio"/> move things from one place to another.	<input type="radio"/> observant	<input type="radio"/> economics
	<input type="radio"/> be on time.	<input type="radio"/> a good planner	<input type="radio"/> foreign languages
	<input type="radio"/> work in a fast-paced environment.	<input type="radio"/> thorough	
	<input type="radio"/> be part of a team.		
Number of statements checked: _____			

Continued on next page

Career Clusters (continued)

Self-Assessment

1. The following key shows which career clusters correspond with the interest areas on the previous pages. Circle the numbers next to the four career clusters to which you gave the highest number of check marks. These are clusters for you to explore further.

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources | 9 | Hospitality and Tourism |
| 2 | Architecture and Construction | 10 | Human Services |
| 3 | Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications | 11 | Information Technology |
| 4 | Business, Management, and Administration | 12 | Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security |
| 5 | Education and Training | 13 | Manufacturing |
| 6 | Finance | 14 | Marketing, Sales, and Service |
| 7 | Government and Public Administration | 15 | Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics |
| 8 | Health Science | 16 | Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics |

2. Research the career clusters that you circled above using print resources and the resources on the Web site www.careerclusters.org. Choose the two clusters that most interest you and list five appealing jobs in each of these clusters. Research and list the level of education required for each of these jobs.

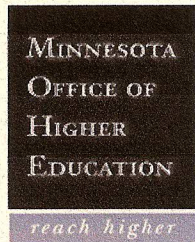
Career Cluster _____	
Career Possibilities	Education Needed
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

Career Cluster _____	
Career Possibilities	Education Needed
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

SECTION IV: COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY COMPARISON WORKSHEET

College Comparison Worksheet

Evaluate each school in the areas listed below and then compare your evaluations.



School Characteristics			
	School 1	School 2	School 3
ACADEMICS			
Class location (on or off campus, online)			
Class scheduling (when classes are held)			
Faculty experience and expertise			
Programs of study (majors and minors)			
Student-to-faculty ratio (class size)			
ADMISSIONS			
Admissions or placement tests			
Applications forms (school, system, common, online)			
Credit for prior learning*			
Deadlines (early decision, early action, rolling, open)			
Selectivity (open, liberal, traditional, selective, very selective)			
Total first-year applicants			
> % accepted			
> % who actually enrolled			
> Average GPA of applicants			
CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT			
Campus facilities, equipment and services			
> Computers and Internet access			
> Food service (cafeterias)			
> Health care			
> Housing			
> Library			
> Recreational			
> Transportation (parking, buses, etc.)			
Campus safety			
Campus setting (urban, suburban, small town, rural)			
Coeducational			
Geographic location (distance from home)			
Religious affiliation			

* Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Postsecondary Enrollment Options, College in the Schools, College-Level Exam Program

STUDENT BODY	School 1	School 2	School 3
Number of undergraduates enrolled			
> % of full-time students			
> % of men and women			
> % of students 25 or older			
> % of minority students			
> % of students from out-of-state			
> % of international students			
> % of student who live on campus			
% of students who return the following year			
% of students who graduate			
% of graduates employed within one year			
COST	School 1	School 2	School 3
Application fee			
> Fee waiver available?			
Amount of deposit (after acceptance)			
Total annual cost of attendance			
> Tuition and fees			
> Room and board			
> Other required expenses (books, supplies)			
FINANCIAL AID	School 1	School 2	School 3
Financial aid availability			
> Grants (participates in federal and/or state grant program?)			
> Scholarships			
> Work study			
> Loans			
Financial aid deadline			
Financial aid forms (FAFSA, PROFILE, school)			
% of undergraduates receiving financial aid			
> Average amount awarded to undergraduates			
STUDENT ACTIVITIES	School 1	School 2	School 3
Athletic offerings			
Campus clubs and activities			
Extracurricular organizations and events			
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES	School 1	School 2	School 3
Career counseling			
Job placement services			
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	School 1	School 2	School 3
Financial condition			
School accreditation			

SECTION V: SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT RESOURCES

Section V: Scholarship/Grant information

How Do I Find Scholarships for College?

Students should start their search with [local scholarships](#), since these awards are often less competitive, experts say. But it's still important to sign up with a few national scholarship database websites.

The Step-by-Step Guide to Applying to College

- [Start the College Application Process](#)
 - [Complete the FAFSA](#)
 - [Fill Out the Common App](#)
 - [Write a Standout College Essay](#)
 - [Ask for Recommendation Letters](#)
- [Learn the Ins and Outs of Financial Aid](#)
 - [Decipher College Tuition Costs](#)

"But don't do 20 of those because you'll end up overwhelmed because they send out so many emails," Matthews says.

Different types of national scholarships are listed on database search websites, including Fastweb.com, Cappex.com, Myscholly.com and Unigo.com.

While many [high school](#) students apply for college scholarships during their senior year, experts say they can begin their search and the application process much earlier.

"New scholarship databases allow for students to begin researching and finding scholarships as early as freshman year by completing a student profile that should be updated each year with new information," says Lindsay Muzzy, a financial aid consultant at My College Planning Team, an educational consulting firm.

To cut down on junk mail from these databases, Matthews recommends setting up a dedicated scholarship email account. She also suggests filling out the [Free Application for Federal Financial Aid](#) – the FAFSA – even if a [family doesn't think it will qualify](#), since some scholarship applications require a submitted FAFSA for eligibility.

Can College Students Still Apply for Scholarships?

College students can still apply for scholarships when they're in school. In fact, experts say some of the best places for students to search for scholarships include their school's financial aid office or academic department.

"Professional societies will award scholarships to current college students who are majoring in their field to promote their industry or keep qualified individuals in their field," says Thomas Jaworski, independent educational consultant and founder of Quest College Consulting.

What Types of Scholarships Are Available?

There are many types of college scholarships available. Some of these include:

- **Academic achievement:** Many scholarships are based on grades, GPA or other academic [merits](#). For instance, students' PSAT scores determine eligibility in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- **Sports:** Numerous athletic scholarships are based on participation in one or more sport. High school athletes aspiring for a [scholarship at a Division I school](#) should consider NCAA rules. There are different bylaws for financial aid under NCAA Divisions I and II for each sport. Some sports, such as basketball and football, are head count sports, meaning a scholarship can't be divided among students. In Division I basketball, the head count is limited to 15 for women and 13 for men on a team at one time. But athletic scholarships aren't only limited to Division I and II schools. There are also scholarships for [lesser-known sports](#), such as [esports](#) or surfing.
- **First generation:** There are specialized scholarships for those who are the [first in their family to attend college](#). For instance, the majority of scholarships awarded by California nonprofit [QuestBridge](#) are given to high-achieving, first-generation students from low-income backgrounds.
- **Underrepresented groups:** Some scholarships are awarded based on students' backgrounds. The [Gates Scholarship](#), for example, offers several full-ride awards annually to bachelor's degree-seeking students who are Pell-eligible and from a minority group, which includes those who are [African-American](#), American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian and Pacific Islander American or [Hispanic American](#); these students must also be in the top 10 percent of their high school class.

12 of the best websites for finding a college scholarship

1. [Fastweb.com](#)

Fastweb hosts more than 1.5 million scholarships that provide more than \$3.4 billion in funding. Once you create a profile, the site's search feature will help you find the most accurate matches that fit your needs. Your personal profile is how the site helps you find pretty much exactly what you're looking for.

You can then also see all the scholarships you applied for, or may want to apply to in the future. They also have "contests" that you can enter monthly or weekly to win money.

2. [CollegeBoard.org](#)

While the College Board is known for its college-readiness tests, it also has an arm that focuses on scholarships. Big Future hosts scholarships, as well as other financial aid and internship information from more than 2,200 programs — totaling nearly \$6 billion. In order to get the most accurate search results, it's critical to fill out as many details as you can in the profile that's used for searching.

RELATED: [5 ways to save money on your college degree](#)

3. [Niche.com](#)

Formerly known as College Prowler, Niche is a great tool that can help you find colleges AND money. It's organized into categories that make it pretty easy to find what you're looking for — allowing users to search by interest, career, major and other areas.

Niche also has some contests to enter.

4. [Scholarships.com](#)

Scholarships.com hosts one of the largest scholarship databases out there and it's updated on a daily basis. According to the site, "With more than 2.7 million scholarship and grant opportunities worth more than \$19 billion, just about everyone is bound to find something."

It's easy to browse by category, but the best way to take advantage of what the site has to offer is to make a personal profile, which will allow you to find the most exhaustive lists of opportunities available to you.

5. [Moolahspot.com](#)

Moolahspot isn't as robust as some of the other scholarship databases, but in the search for a college scholarship, it's another option to help you find extra money.

RELATED: [Everything you need to know about student loans](#)

6. [SallieMae](#)

SallieMae is a well-known education and student loan provider. The site's [College Planning page](#) has a [scholarship portal](#) where you can search based on your field of study, hobbies and other parameters. Create a personal profile in order to get the most accurate matches that fit your needs.

7. [Scholarship Monkey](#)

Scholarship Monkey allows you to search for scholarships a few different ways. You can search by keyword, browse scholarship lists (various categories/topics) and also see lists of the latest and featured scholarships. The site also allows you to create a personal profile for more accurate results.

8. [Cappex](#)

Cappex hosts a database of more than \$11 billion in scholarship opportunities. Once you create a personal profile, you can search for opportunities that directly match your strengths and skills. Plus, Cappex has a tool that will calculate your odds of getting into a certain college before you even apply.

RELATED: [Going to college: Your guide to campus life and money](#)

9. Chegg

Chegg is widely known for its online textbook store that allows students to either rent or buy textbooks for cheap. But Chegg is also a great resource for finding scholarships — more than \$1 billion worth of them.

To search for available scholarships, click on the menu stack at the top right of the homepage and select the “scholarships” in the drop-down menu. Once you create a personal profile, you can search for available opportunities that match your criteria. Chegg also has a “top scholarship picks this week” category that highlights some options you may have missed.

REALTED: How to find the lowest costs on textbooks

10. Unigo

Unigo hosts millions of available scholarships and makes it easy to search by type, including athletic scholarships, college-specific scholarships, company-based scholarships, minority scholarships, major-specific scholarships, state-specific scholarships and more. You can search by category or create a personal profile to get more specific results that match your needs. Unigo also offers scholarship contests and sweepstakes.

11. Peterson’s

Peterson’s hosts \$10 billion in scholarship opportunities and provides information to help you in your search. Once you fill out a short survey, you can filter your search results so they’re tailored to your specific needs.

The site also allows users to search by a variety of different topics, college types and personal details — in order to give you the best results.

12. U.S. Labor Department’s Free Search Tool

According to the official Student Aid website, this free tool is a great resource for students to search more than 7,500 scholarships, grants and other various types of financial aid award opportunities.

Other Resources

- <https://www.scholarships.com>
- <https://thescholarshipssystem.com>
- www.collegescholarships.org
- <https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/financial-aid/understand-college-grants>
- <https://thescholarshipssystem.com>
- <https://www.fastweb.com>
- <https://www.usnews.com>
- <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships>