

# ***Free Dot Edu***

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## ***Introduction***

Free Dot Edu is letting students know that resources exist.

I thoroughly understand that each student has their own life circumstances, resources available to them and definition of a successful future.

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to sit with each individual to ask where they are interested in going and assist them with finding resources that can help them accomplish their goals.

There are no products to purchase, services to subscribe to or profiles to create. Students do not even need to share an email address to access information.

From the families of Elementary School students to working adults, any student looking for help to build their careers and their lives can use this research report to get started.

Free Dot Edu is here to assist students with building their careers, their communities and their futures by guiding them on navigating college databases to using the free programs provided to build their skills and organize their portfolios to earn professional opportunities.

Students know where they are interested in going.

Free Dot Edu is here to help them get there.

### ***Resources Included***

While students are invited to add available programs to their toolkits as they continue on their journeys, the classrooms of the nation are invited to add them to their bulletin boards to assist each new entering class with building their futures.

The following resources are included in the Free Dot Edu research report.

*The College Navigator*, discussed on page 56, is a free tool developed by The National Center for Education Statistics to assist students with finding Technical Certificates and Associate's, Bachelor's and Advanced degree programs.

Students can search for specific academic programs and browse campuses based on criteria such as student population size and location.

*JUCO Athletics*, Two Year College athletics programs, discussed on page 58, are available to assist student athletes with improving their academic and athletics profiles to earn opportunities to transfer to Four Year programs.

*The National Junior College Athletic Association*, page 59, *The California Community College Athletic Association*, page 60, and *The Northwest Athletic Conference*, page 61, are governing associations for athletics programs for Two Year Colleges.

*Four Year College Athletics*, discussed on page 62, are available to assist student athletes with pursuing their Bachelor's degrees, as well as opportunities to earn a Master's degree, while continuing their careers.

*The National Collegiate Athletic Association*, page 63, *The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics*, page 64, and the *United States Collegiate Athletics Association*, page 65, are governing associations for Four Year College athletics programs, with the USCAA having both Two Year and Four Year College programs as members.

Students interested in career development programs available through the United States Military can review page 24 to learn how to contact each branch to learn of the resources they can offer.

*Build*, page 32, assists students with building their skills to earn opportunities.

*Find*, page 54, assists students with developing their research skills in order to navigate search engines and databases to not only find college opportunities, but resources and solutions for when they begin their careers of helping others.

*Fund*, page 69, assists students with navigating public and private financial aid resources to assist with the costs of completing their education.

### *A Message for Students*

To all students,

As you continue on your journey, Free Dot Edu is here to help you with each step of the way, from researching degree programs to finding financial aid that can assist you with your education costs.

I thoroughly understand that you have your own answer to the question:  
“Where are you interested in going with your career and your life?”

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to show you available resources that can help you accomplish your goals.

Whether you maintain your path throughout your career or change your mind multiple times, the initiative is here to help you.

I invite you to review all available resources to learn how you can begin building the foundation for your career, your community and your future.

While you browse databases and navigate search engines for information to assist you, add these resources to your toolkit to build the foundation for your legacy of building your community.

I wish you the best on your journey.

### ***Families of Elementary School Students***

To the families of Elementary School students,

While it will be at least two years until your student begins their High School journey, I have organized this page to assist you with helping them prepare.

I thoroughly understand that your student has their own learning style, which is why Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to show you available resources, providing opportunities for them to use those that can actually help them accomplish their goals.

At this point in your student's journey, focus on developing their reading, writing and arithmetic skills. This will not only serve as their foundation for their high school curriculum, but for their careers and their lives.

Developing these skills now will assist them with building their basic understanding of concepts so that by the time they start high school, they can begin at grade level, eliminating the need for remedial coursework, even creating the opportunity for advanced studies.

Sit down with your student to discuss which subjects they need help with, as well as identifying which subjects they understand.

I invite you to review information available for High School students on page 9 to learn of opportunities available once they have earned their High School diploma.

Take a deep breath. Your student's journey is a marathon.

I wish them the best.

### ***Families of Middle School Students***

To the families of Middle School students,

While it will be at least a year until your student begins their High School journey, I have organized this page to assist you with helping them to prepare.

I thoroughly understand that your student has their own learning style, which is why Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to show you available resources, providing opportunities for them to use those that can actually help them accomplish their goals.

At this point in your student's journey, continuing to develop their reading, writing and arithmetic skills, which will assist them with building their foundation for their High School curriculum.

Middle School is an opportunity for them to begin identifying which subjects they excel in and explore career paths of interest.

Each path will have their own required skillset, but each will have reading, writing and arithmetic at its core.

Students may change their minds before they earn their High School diploma, after college or during their career.

This initiative is about letting them know their options and being realistic in that no matter which path they choose, there will be requirements that they must meet, but will have opportunities to build their skills and construct their portfolios.

I invite you to review information for High School students on page 9 to learn of options available once they have earned their diploma.

Take a deep breath. Your student's journey is a marathon.

I wish them the best.

## ***High School Students***

To all High School students,

As you continue on your journey and work toward earning your diploma, I have organized this page to assist you with reviewing options available following your graduation.

I thoroughly understand that you have your own life circumstances, resources available to you and definition of a successful future.

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to sit with you to ask where you are interested in going with your career and sharing resources that can assist you with accomplishing your goals.

Should you change your mind now, after college or in ten years when you are looking to transition to a new career, resources are here to help you with your next step.

At this point in your journey, begin identifying which subjects you are most interested in and which career paths they apply to.

Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure that you are on track to complete your curriculum and learn of local resources available to you.

If you are interested in continuing your athletics career while pursuing your degree, review information for High School student athletes on page 12 to learn of Two Year and Four Year College programs.

Following earning your diploma, here are options available to you:

*Enroll in a Technical Certificate program.*

Technical certificate programs are available to assist you with developing your skills to earn employment in fields that do not require a college degree for entry level opportunities.

Pairing a technical certificate with a college degree can assist you with earning management opportunities.

*Enroll in an Associate's degree program.*

Associate's degree programs are available to assist you with completing your college general education courses, introducing you to your career path of interest through introductory courses and improving your academic profile to earn transfer admission to a Bachelor's degree program.

Earning an Associate's degree before enrolling in a Technical Certificate program can place you on management tracks.

Earning an Associate's degree before enlisting in a Military program can place you on an officer training track.

*Enroll in a Bachelor's degree program.*

Bachelor's degree programs are available to assist you with earning your credential for your career path of interest.

Earning a Bachelor's degree before enrolling in a Technical Certificate program can place you on management tracks.

Earning a Bachelor's degree before enlisting in a Military program can place you on an officer training track.

If your career path requires an advanced degree, review Graduate programs to learn how you can begin building your portfolio.

For academic opportunities, review page 55 to learn how to use The College Navigator to find Technical Certificates, Associate's, Bachelor's and Advanced degree programs.

*Earn a Military opportunity.*

The United States Military has developed career training and skills development programs available for High School graduates.

Resources are also available to assist students with the costs of completing their education.

Earning a Technical Certificate, Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's degree before enlisting can place you on an officer training track.

Research each branch and organize your questions before contacting recruiters to learn how the military can help you accomplish your goals.

For Military opportunities, review page 24 to navigate their branch databases and learn of their requirements and available resources.

*Earn an employment opportunity.*

Earning an entry level opportunity can assist you with building your skills and developing your portfolio to earn admission to a degree program, as well as assist you with earning military opportunities.

Should you earn an opportunity with an organization that you are interested in building your career with, use this experience to earn your degree to be placed on a management track.

For professional opportunities, review page 67 to discuss organizing your resume and navigating search engines to earn opportunities.

To assist you with developing your skills, organizing your portfolio to earn opportunities and navigating search engines for assistance with the costs of pursuing your education, Free Dot Edu has provided additional programs to help you get started.

*Build*, page 32, discusses building your self, your skills and your portfolio to begin your career of helping others.

*Find*, page 54, discusses navigating databases and search engines to review college degree programs, employment and military opportunities and resources to help you build your foundation.

*Fund*, page 69, discusses reviewing public and private financial aid resources to assist you with the costs of completing your education.

As you continue on your path, I invite you to add these resources to your toolkit to share with students as part of your own legacy of building your community.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## ***High School Student Athletes***

To all High School student athletes,

As you continue on your journey, I have organized this page to assist you finding college athletics programs that can help you continue your career while pursuing your degree.

Before you begin contacting coaching staffs, understand that you must be accepted as a student before you can compete.

Each program will have its own admissions standards, as well as resources available to assist student athletes.

Two Year College programs, discussed on page 58, provide opportunities for student athletes to improve their academic and athletics profiles to earn opportunities to transfer to Four Year programs.

Four Year College programs, discussed on page 62, provide opportunities for student athletes to earn their Bachelor's degree, as well their Master's, while continuing their careers.

If you are interested in pursuing a coaching career, review page 66 to learn how earning a Graduate Assistantship can help you get started.

To learn of options available to you following your graduation, please review page 9.

Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure that you are on track to complete your High School curriculum.

Meet with your coaches to discuss how you can improve to earn collegiate opportunities.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## ***Technical College Students***

To all Technical College students,

As you continue on your journey and work toward earning your Certificate, I have organized this page to assist you with reviewing options available following your graduation.

I thoroughly understand that you have your own life circumstances, resources available to you and definition of a successful future.

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to sit with you to ask where you are interested in going with your career and sharing resources that can assist you with accomplishing your goals.

Should you change your mind now or in ten years when you are looking to transition to a new career, resources are here to help you with your next step.

Following earning your Certificate, here are options available to you:

*Enroll in an Associate's degree program.*

Pairing an Associate's degree with a Technical Certificate can place you on a management track.

Use your experience to review additional certifications that you can earn to improve your portfolio.

*Enroll in a Bachelor's degree program.*

Pairing your certificate with a Bachelor's degree can also place you on a management track.

Use your experience to build your portfolio to earn admission.

*Enroll in a Master's degree program.*

Pairing your Technical Certificate with a Master's degree can also place you on a management track, including senior positions.

If you have earned your Bachelor's degree, you are eligible to apply to Master's degree programs.

For academic opportunities, review page 55 to learn how to use The College Navigator to find Technical Certificates, Associate's, Bachelor's and Advanced degree programs.

*Earn a Military opportunity.*

The United States Military has developed career training and skills development programs available for Technical Certificate graduates.

Earning your Technical Certificate before enlisting can place you on an officer track and create more options available to you than if you had enlisted following your high school graduation.

Research each branch and organize your questions before contacting recruiters to learn how the military can help you accomplish your goals.

For Military opportunities, review page 24 to navigate their branch databases and learn of their requirements and available resources.

*Earn an employment opportunity.*

Use your technical certificate to earn an entry level opportunity in your industry of study.

For professional opportunities, review page 67 to discuss organizing your resume and navigating search engines to earn opportunities.

To assist you with developing your skills, organizing your portfolio to earn opportunities and navigating search engines for assistance with the costs of pursuing your education, Free Dot Edu has provided additional programs to help you get started.

*Build*, page 32, discusses building your self, your skills and your portfolio to begin your career of helping others.

*Find*, page 54, discusses navigating databases and search engines to review college degree programs, employment and military opportunities and resources to help you build your foundation.

*Fund*, page 69, discusses reviewing public and private financial aid resources to assist you with the costs of completing your education.

As you continue on your path, I invite you to add these resources to your toolkit to share with students as part of your own legacy of building your community.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## ***Two Year College Students***

To all Two Year College students,

As you continue on your journey and work toward earning your Associate's degree, I have organized this page to assist you with reviewing options available following your graduation.

I thoroughly understand that you have your own life circumstances, resources available to you and definition of a successful future.

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to sit with you to ask where you are interested in going with your career and sharing resources that can assist you with accomplishing your goals.

Should you change your mind now or in ten years when you are looking to transition to a new career, resources are here to help you with your next step.

Following earning your certificate, here are options available to you:

*Enroll in a Technical Certificate program.*

Pairing your Associate's degree with a Technical Certificate can place you on a management track in your field of interest.

If your goal is to earn admission to a Bachelor's degree program, industry experience can assist you with building your portfolio.

If your goal is to earn admission to an Advanced degree program, industry experience can assist you with building your portfolio, including earning letters of recommendation.

*Enroll in a Bachelor's degree program.*

Transfer your credits and complete the remaining courses needed to earn your Bachelor's degree from a Four Year program.

Use your Associate's degree to demonstrate your ability to handle the curriculum.

For academic opportunities, review page 55 to learn how to use The College Navigator to find Technical Certificates, Associate's, Bachelor's and Advanced degree programs.

*Earn a Military opportunity.*

The United States Military has developed career training and skills development programs available for graduates of Associate's degree programs.

Earning an Associate's degree before enlisting can place you on an officer's track, providing more opportunities than if you had enlisted right out of high school.

Research each branch and organize your questions before contacting recruiters to learn how the military can help you accomplish your goals.

For Military opportunities, review page 24 to navigate their branch databases and learn of their requirements and available resources.

*Earn an employment opportunity.*

Use your Associate's degree to earn an entry level opportunity in your industry of study.

Build your resume and construct your portfolio using your new experience to earn admission to a Bachelor's degree program and advance your career.

For professional opportunities, review page 67 to discuss organizing your resume and navigating search engines to earn opportunities.

To assist you with developing your skills, organizing your portfolio to earn opportunities and navigating search engines for assistance with the costs of pursuing your education, Free Dot Edu has provided additional programs to help you get started.

*Build*, page 32, discusses building your self, your skills and your portfolio to begin your career of helping others.

*Find*, page 54, discusses navigating databases and search engines to review college degree programs, employment and military opportunities and resources to help you build your foundation.

*Fund*, page 69, discusses reviewing public and private financial aid resources to assist you with the costs of completing your education.

As you continue on your path, I invite you to add these resources to your toolkit to share with students as part of your own legacy of building your community.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

### ***JUCO Student Athletes***

To all JUCO student athletes,

As you continue on your journey, I have organized this page to assist you with finding Four Year programs to earn transfer admission and continue your career while pursuing your degree.

Before you begin contacting coaching staffs, understand that you must be accepted as a student before you can compete.

Each program will have its own admissions standards, as well as resources available to assist student athletes.

If you are interested in transferring to a new JUCO program, please review page 58 to learn how to navigate databases to find a new opportunity.

Four Year College programs, discussed on page 62, provide opportunities for student athletes to earn their Bachelor's degree, as well their Master's, while continuing their careers.

If you are interested in pursuing a coaching career, review page 66 to learn how earning a Graduate Assistantship can help you get started.

To learn of options available to you following your graduation, please review page 15.

Meet with your academic advisor to make sure that you are on track to complete your Associate's curriculum. If you are not earning an Associate's, meet with them to make sure you are maintaining your eligibility, demonstrating your ability to handle college level coursework.

Meet with your coaches to discuss how you can improve to earn Four Year opportunities.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## ***Four Year College Students***

To all Four Year College students,

As you continue on your journey and work toward earning your Bachelor's degree, I have organized this page to assist you with reviewing options available following your graduation.

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to sit with you to ask where you are interested in going with your career and sharing resources that can assist you with accomplishing your goals.

Should you change your mind now or in ten years when you are looking to transition to a new career, resources are here to help you with your next step.

Following earning your degree, here are options available to you:

*Enroll in a Technical Certificate program.*

Pairing your Bachelor's degree with a Technical Certificate can place you on a management track in your field of interest.

Use your industry experience to earn admission to a Graduate program and advance your career.

*Enroll in a Graduate program.*

To earn the required credential for your career path of interest, research Graduate programs and how you can construct your portfolio to earn admission.

For academic opportunities, review page 55 to learn how to use The College Navigator to find Technical Certificate, Associate's, Bachelor's and Advanced degree programs.

*Earn a Military opportunity.*

The United States Military has developed career training and skills development programs for Four Year college graduates.

Earning your Bachelor's degree before enlisting can place you on an officer's track, providing more opportunities than if you had enlisted right out of high school.

Research each branch and organize your questions before contacting recruiters to learn how the military can help you accomplish your goals.

For Military opportunities, review page 24 to navigate their branch databases and learn of their requirements and available resources.

*Earn an employment opportunity.*

Use your Bachelor's degree to earn an entry level opportunity in your field of interest.

If your career path requires a Graduate degree, use your experience to build your resume and construct your portfolio to earn admission to a program.

Map out your path to learn which skills will be required of you and how you can use employment opportunities to accomplish your goals.

For professional opportunities, review page 67 to discuss organizing your resume and navigating search engines to earn opportunities.

To assist you with developing your skills, organizing your portfolio to earn opportunities and navigating search engines for assistance with the costs of pursuing your education, Free Dot Edu has provided additional programs to help you get started.

*Build*, page 32, discusses building your self, your skills and your portfolio to begin your career of helping others.

*Find*, page 54, discusses navigating databases and search engines to review college degree programs, employment and military opportunities and resources to help you build your foundation.

*Fund*, page 69, discusses reviewing public and private financial aid resources to assist you with the costs of completing your education.

As you continue on your path, I invite you to add these resources to your toolkit to share with students as part of your own legacy of building your community.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## ***College Student Athletes***

To all College Student Athletes,

As you continue on your journey, I have organized this page to assist you with finding programs that can help you accomplish your goals of continuing your career while pursuing your degree.

Each program will have its own admissions standards and resources available to assist student athletes.

Understand that even though you are currently in a college program, you must be accepted to your new program as a student according to their academic standards.

If you are interested in transferring to a JUCO program to improve your academic and athletics profile, review page 58 to learn how the JUCO Route can help you.

If you are interested in transferring to a new Four Year program, review page 62 to get started.

If you have completed your Bachelor's degree and have eligibility remaining, review page 62 to learn how you can earn opportunities as a Graduate Transfer.

If you are interested in pursuing a coaching career, review page 66 to learn how earning a Graduate Assistantship can help you get started.

To learn of options available to you following your graduation, please review page 18.

Meet with your academic advisor to review your progress and make sure that you are on track to complete your major requirements.

Meet with your coaching staff to learn how you can improve.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## ***Graduate Students***

To all Graduate students,

As you continue on your journey and work toward earning your degree, I have organized this page to assist you with reviewing options available following your graduation.

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to sit with you to ask where you are interested in going with your career and sharing resources that can help you with accomplishing your goals.

Should you change your mind now or in ten years when you are looking to transition to a new career, resources are here to help you with your next step.

Following earning your degree, here are options available to you:

*Enroll in a Technical Certificate program.*

Pairing your Graduate degree with a Technical Certificate can place you on a management track in your field of interest.

*Enroll in a Graduate program.*

If your undergraduate GPA was low and you enrolled in a Graduate program to demonstrate your academic ability, use your improved transcript to earn admission to your original program of interest.

For academic opportunities, review page 55 to learn how to use The College Navigator to find Technical Certificate, Associate's, Bachelor's and Advanced degree programs.

*Earn a Military opportunity.*

The United States Military has developed career training and skills development programs for graduates of Advanced degree programs.

Earning your Master's degree before enlisting can place you on an officer's track, providing more opportunities than if you had enlisted right out of high school.

Research each branch and organize your questions before contacting recruiters to learn how the military can help you accomplish your goals.

For Military opportunities, review page 24 to navigate their branch databases and learn of their requirements and available resources.

*Earn an employment opportunity.*

Use your Graduate degree to earn an employment opportunity in your field of interest.

Build your experience to advance your career and place yourself on management tracks.

For professional opportunities, review page 67 to discuss organizing your resume and navigating search engines to earn opportunities.

To assist you with developing your skills, organizing your portfolio to earn opportunities and navigating search engines for assistance with the costs of pursuing your education, Free Dot Edu has provided additional programs to help you get started.

*Build*, page 32, discusses building your self, your skills and your portfolio to begin your career of helping others.

*Find*, page 54, discusses navigating databases and search engines to review college degree programs, employment and military opportunities and resources to help you build your foundation.

*Fund*, page 69, discusses reviewing public and private financial aid resources to assist you with the costs of completing your education.

As you continue on your path, I invite you to add these resources to your toolkit to share with students as part of your own legacy of building your community.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## *Graduate Assistants*

To all Graduate Assistants,

As you continue on your journey, I have organized this page to assist you with preparing your resume to earn your first professional opportunity.

Whether you are interested in becoming a coach or an administrator, construct your portfolio to demonstrate your ability to become an asset to an organization and their Athletic Department.

Understand that this means going beyond the X's and O's.

Recruiting players, donors and campus supporters.

Building relationships and pipelines with coaching staffs.

Implementing strategies into practice sessions that translate to success during the season.

Before you begin contacting departments, understand that each campus will have its own resources that it can provide coaching staffs with.

Map out your path and review what you are looking for in an opportunity to help you accomplish your goals.

For high school positions, visit the NFHS to review each State and their database of openings:  
<https://nfhs.org/about/state-association-directory>

For JUCO programs, review page 58 to learn how to navigate their databases for available opportunities.

For Four Year programs, review page 62 to learn of all divisions and how to navigate their databases for available opportunities.

To learn of more opportunities available to you following your graduation, I invite you to review page 21 for additional resources.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## ***Prospective Military Recruits***

To all Prospective Military Recruits,

As you continue on your journey, I have organized this page to assist you with learning how the United States Military can help you with building your future using their career training and skills development programs.

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to sit with you to ask where you are interested in going with your career and sharing resources that can assist you with accomplishing your goals.

Before you begin contacting recruiting stations, understand that each branch will have their own requirements that must be met, as well as their own resources that can assist you.

Communicate your goals with recruiting officers to discuss how their programs can help you.

Share your education level to learn of opportunities and officer tracks that are available to college graduates.

Review each branch here: <https://www.war.gov/About/Our-Forces/>

To assist you with developing your skills, organizing your portfolio to earn opportunities and navigating search engines for assistance with the costs of pursuing your education, Free Dot Edu has provided additional programs to help you get started.

*Build*, page 32, discusses building your self, your skills and your portfolio to begin your career of helping others.

*Find*, page 54, discusses navigating databases and search engines to review college degree programs, employment and military opportunities and resources to help you build your foundation.

*Fund*, page 69, discusses reviewing public and private financial aid resources to assist you with the costs of completing your education.

As you continue on your path, I invite you to add these resources to your toolkit to share with students as part of your own legacy of building your community.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## ***Enlisted Military Members***

To all Enlisted Military Members,

Thank you for your service.

As you continue on your journey, I have organized this page to assist you with learning of opportunities available following your time with your branch.

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to sit with you to ask where you are interested in going with your career and sharing resources that can assist you with accomplishing your goals.

Should you change your mind now or in ten years when you are looking to transition to a new career, resources are here to help you with your next step.

Following the completion of your service, here are options available to you:

*Enroll in a Technical Certificate program.*

Apply your newly developed technical skills to earn a formal Certificate.

*Enroll in an Associate's degree program.*

Complete your general education courses and demonstrate your academic ability by enrolling in an Associate's degree.

Combine your transcript with your Military experience to earn admission to a Bachelor's degree program.

*Enroll in a Bachelor's degree program.*

Build your portfolio to earn admission to a Bachelor's degree program.

*Enroll in an Advanced degree program.*

If you have completed your Bachelor's degree, organize your portfolio and use your experience to earn admission to an Advanced degree program.

Earning a college degree can place you on an officer track, with more opportunities becoming available than if you had enlisted directly out of high school.

For academic opportunities, review page 55 to learn how to use The College Navigator to find Technical Certificate, Associate's, Bachelor's and Advanced degree programs.

*Earn a Military opportunity.*

Continue your Military service and advance your career by reviewing options available to you.

Speak with your career counselor to learn how you can get started.

For Military opportunities, review page 24 to navigate their branch databases and learn of their requirements and available resources.

*Earn an employment opportunity.*

Use your experience to earn an employment opportunity in the public or private sector.

If your goal is to enroll in a college degree program, pair your Military service with employment experience to construct your portfolio to earn new opportunities.

For professional opportunities, review page 67 to discuss organizing your resume and navigating search engines to earn opportunities.

To assist you with developing your skills, organizing your portfolio to earn opportunities and navigating search engines for assistance with the costs of pursuing your education, Free Dot Edu has provided additional programs to help you get started.

*Build*, page 32, discusses building your self, your skills and your portfolio to begin your career of helping others.

*Find*, page 54, discusses navigating databases and search engines to review college degree programs, employment and military opportunities and resources to help you build your foundation.

*Fund*, page 69, discusses reviewing public and private financial aid resources to assist you with the costs of completing your education.

As you continue on your path, I invite you to add these resources to your toolkit to share with students as part of your own legacy of building your community.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## ***Military Veterans***

To all Military Veterans,

Thank you for your service.

As you continue on your journey and prepare for your next venture, I have organized this page to assist you with learning of opportunities available to you.

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to sit with you to ask where you are interested in going with your career and sharing resources that can assist you with accomplishing your goals.

Should you change your mind now or in ten years when you are looking to transition to a new career, resources are here to help you with your next step.

Here are options available to you:

*Enroll in a Technical Certificate program.*

Use your experience to earn a formal Technical Certificate.

If you have earned your Associate's, Bachelor's or Advanced degree, pairing it with a technical certificate can place you on a management track.

*Enroll in an Associate's degree program.*

Complete your general education courses and demonstrate your academic ability by completing an Associate's degree to earn admission to a Bachelor's degree program.

*Enroll in a Bachelor's degree program.*

Combine your military experience with your academic performance to earn admission to a Bachelor's degree program.

*Enroll in an Advanced degree program.*

If you have earned a Bachelor's degree, advance your career and earn your required credential by enrolling in a Master's or Doctoral program.

Earning a college degree can place you on an officer track, with more opportunities becoming available than if you had enlisted directly out of high school.

For academic opportunities, review page 55 to learn how to use The College Navigator to find Technical Certificate, Associate's, Bachelor's and Advanced degree programs.

*Earn a Military opportunity.*

Continue your service and advance your career by earning a new Military opportunity.

Contact your VA office and your career counselor to learn how you can get started.

For Military opportunities, review page 24 to navigate their branch databases and learn of their requirements and available resources.

*Earn an employment opportunity.*

Use your experience to demonstrate your ability to become an asset for an organization.

For professional opportunities, review page 67 to discuss organizing your resume and navigating search engines to earn opportunities.

To assist you with developing your skills, organizing your portfolio to earn opportunities and navigating search engines for assistance with the costs of pursuing your education, Free Dot Edu has provided additional programs to help you get started.

*Build*, page 32, discusses building your self, your skills and your portfolio to begin your career of helping others.

*Find*, page 54, discusses navigating databases and search engines to review college degree programs, employment and military opportunities and resources to help you build your foundation.

*Fund*, page 69, discusses reviewing public and private financial aid resources to assist you with the costs of completing your education.

As you continue on your path, I invite you to add these resources to your toolkit to share with students as part of your own legacy of building your community.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## *Working Adults*

To all Working Adults,

As you continue on your journey, building your foundation, I have organized this page to assist you with learning of opportunities available to you.

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to sit with you to ask where you are interested in going with your career and sharing resources that can assist you with accomplishing your goals.

Should you change your mind now or in ten years when you are looking to transition to a new career, resources are here to help you with your next step.

Before you continue, have you earned your high school diploma or certificate of high school equivalency?

If you have, great. Continue.

If you have not, you can learn of available options to be proactive and map out your path, but please review your State's requirements to earn your certificate of high school equivalency as a diploma will be a basic requirement for many opportunities.

Here are options available to you:

*Enroll in a Technical Certificate program.*

Earn a Technical Certificate to build your skillset and enter a trade industry.

Pairing your Certificate with a college degree can place you on a management track.

*Enroll in an Associate's degree program.*

Demonstrate your academic ability and complete your general education requirements by enrolling in an Associate's degree program.

Build your portfolio by adding your professional experience to earn admission to a Bachelor's degree program.

*Enroll in a Bachelor's degree program.*

If you have earned your high school diploma, certificate of high school equivalency or an Associate's degree, you are eligible to apply directly to Bachelor's degree programs.

Use your professional experience to share how you have built your foundation and how earning a Bachelor's degree is the next step in advancing your career.

*Enroll in an Advanced degree program.*

If you have earned your Bachelor's degree, you are eligible to apply directly to Advanced degree programs.

Combine your academic transcript with your professional experience to earn admission, sharing how an advanced degree is your next step in building your career.

For academic opportunities, review page 55 to learn how to use The College Navigator to find Technical Certificate, Associate's, Bachelor's and Advanced degree programs.

*Earn a Military opportunity.*

The United States Military has developed career training and skills development programs, with opportunities available depending on your level of education.

Prospective Military recruits can be placed on officer tracks if they have earned a college degree prior to enlisting.

Resources are available to assist you with completing your education while enlisted and following the completion of your service.

Assess your goals and organize your questions for recruiters to determine if the US Military can actually assist you with accomplishing your goals.

For Military opportunities, review page 24 to navigate their branch databases and learn of their requirements and available resources.

*Earn an employment opportunity.*

Use your professional experience to earn a promotion with your current employer or transition to a role with a new organization.

If earning a credential is a requirement for your career path of interest, learn how you can begin your academic journey by visiting page 55 to get started.

For professional opportunities, review page 67 to discuss organizing your resume and navigating search engines to earn opportunities.

To assist you with developing your skills, organizing your portfolio to earn opportunities and navigating search engines for assistance with the costs of pursuing your education, Free Dot Edu has provided additional programs to help you get started.

*Build*, page 32, discusses building your self, your skills and your portfolio to begin your career of helping others.

*Find*, page 54, discusses navigating databases and search engines to review college degree programs, employment and military opportunities and resources to help you build your foundation.

*Fund*, page 69, discusses reviewing public and private financial aid resources to assist you with the costs of completing your education.

As you continue on your path, I invite you to add these resources to your toolkit to share with students as part of your own legacy of building your community.

Take a deep breath. Your journey is a marathon.

I wish you the best.

## ***Build***

*Build* is here to assist you with developing your self and your skills as you build your career, your community and your future.

Add it to your toolkit to use as a reference while you continue on your journey.

*Build Your Self*, page 33, discusses answering the question of where you are interested in going with your career and your life and what is required to accomplish your goals.

*Build Your Skills*, page 36, discusses developing your basic skills in order to apply them to your path of interest.

*Build Your Career*, page 41, discusses using your skills to build a career of helping others.

*Build Your Community*, page 49, discusses how you can bring resources to the students of your neighborhood.

As you review how *Build* can assist you, I invite you to share Free Dot Edu with your community.

## ***Build Your Self***

Where are you interested in going?  
What will you require to get there?

I thoroughly understand that you have your own life circumstances, resources available to you and definition of a successful future.

Free Dot Edu has been specifically designed to share all available resources to help you find tools that can assist you with accomplishing your goals.

As you continue on your journey, I invite you to sit down and write out your goals, giving yourself a visual. From there, map out what will be required of you to reach your destination, including professional credentials, education needs and which skills you will need to develop.

While you progress, take time to review your path to update your goals and adjust as needed.

Whether you stay the course or change your mind, resources are available to help you with each step of the way.

*Build Your Self* is more than answering the question of where you are interested in going.

It's about developing your ability to actually handle the requirements that come with your path of interest.

*Build Your Mental Health*, page 34, discusses developing your study habits to retain new information and apply it to your work of helping others.

*Build Your Physical Health*, page 35, discusses developing your ability to carry out the physical requirements that come with your path of interest.

Add these resources to your toolkit to not only assist yourself with progressing on your path, but to help the students of your community get started on theirs.

### ***Build Your Mental Health***

Building your mental health is developing your ability to learn new information and apply it to your career of helping others.

I understand that you have your own learning style, which is why this initiative has been designed to sit with you to ask where you are interested in going and what you will require to get there.

As you progress on your path, you will be required to complete readings and test your knowledge as opportunities available to you will depend on your ability to actually help others.

Building your study habits early on will help you so that by the time you begin developing your career skills, you will be able to break down concepts to both retain knowledge and apply it.

Have an honest conversation with yourself about how you study best and build strategies focused on helping you learn, not just memorizing information.

As you continue on your journey, you can apply these strategies to be able to maintain your career path of interest or transition to a new field.

### ***Build Your Physical Health***

Building your physical health is developing your ability to handle the requirements that come with your career of helping others.

I understand that you have your own life circumstances and resources available to you, which is why this initiative has been designed to sit with you to determine what will be required of you as you decide where you are interested in going with your career and your life.

No matter which career path you choose, you will be required to complete tasks, whether it is operating machinery, lifting boxes of inventory, standing on your feet or analyzing data on a screen.

When you are looking to earn professional opportunities, one question resume reviewers will have is whether or not you can actually handle the responsibilities that come with the staff position they are looking to fill.

Building your physical health now can help you so that by the time you are ready to earn opportunities, you can demonstrate your ability to be an asset to the organization.

As you continue on your journey, you can apply these strategies to be able to maintain your career path of interest or transition to a new field.

## ***Build Your Skills***

Think of where you are interested in going with your career and your life.

*Build Your Skills* is here to show how building your basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills can help you accomplish your goals.

I thoroughly understand that you have your own life circumstances and definition of a successful future.

This initiative has been designed to help you use resources available to you to begin building your skills.

*Build Your Reading Skills*, page 37, discusses building your vocabulary and comprehension abilities.

*Build Your Writing Skills*, page 38, discusses building your communication abilities.

*Build Your Arithmetic Skills*, page 39, discusses building your addition, subtraction, multiplication and division abilities.

*Build Your Research Skills*, page 40, discusses building your ability to navigate search engines and databases in order to find information, tools and resources to assist you with helping your community.

Add these resources to your toolkit to not only assist yourself with progressing on your path, but to help the students of your community get started on theirs.

### ***Build Your Reading Skills***

Building your reading skills is developing your vocabulary and comprehension abilities.

The ABC's of your career path of interest.

I understand that you have your own learning style and that your career goals will have their own requirements.

This initiative has been designed to sit with you to ask where you are interested in going and what you will require to accomplish your goals.

Think of the career path that you are interested in following.

Using your search engine, review the skillset that you will be required to develop and build a vocabulary page of words that you will need to understand.

Developing your comprehension skills early on will demonstrate your commitment so by the time you are ready to earn opportunities, you will be able to put yourself in a position to begin advanced studies.

Regardless of if you continue the same path for your entire career or change your mind and look to transition, develop your reading skills to show organizations that you can actually help the community.

## ***Build Your Writing Skills***

Building your writing skills is developing your communication abilities.

I understand that you have your own learning style and that each career path will have their own requirements.

This initiative has been designed to sit with you to ask where you interested in going and what you will require to accomplish your goals.

Your communication skills can be across a variety of methods.

Public speaking. Handwriting. Typing. Creating presentations.

The overall goal is to be able to break down your information to deliver it to your community in a way that they understand.

Think of a career path that you are interested in.

Using your search engine, research the skillset that will be required of you.

Will you be taking notes regularly?

Will you need to know how to type and build presentations?

Will you deliver presentations to the community in person or digitally?

Building your writing skills early on can build your foundation so that when you are ready to earn opportunities, you can demonstrate your ability to be an asset to the organization.

Regardless of if you continue the same path for your entire career or change your mind and look to transition, develop your writing skills to show organizations that you can actually help the community.

### ***Build Your Arithmetic Skills***

Building your arithmetic skills is developing your basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division abilities.

I understand that you have your own learning style and that each career path will have their own requirements.

This initiative has been designed to sit with you to ask where you interested in going and what you will require to accomplish your goals.

Think of a career path that you are interested in.

Use your search engine to research the skills that you will be required to develop and how your arithmetic skills will be used.

Building your arithmetic skills early on will help you demonstrate your ability to be an asset to the organization.

Regardless of if you continue the same path for your entire career or change your mind and look to transition, develop your arithmetic skills to show organizations that you can actually help the community.

### ***Build Your Research Skills***

Building your research skills is developing your ability to navigate search engines and databases in order to find information, tools and resources to assist you with helping your community.

I understand that you have your own learning style and resources available to you.

This initiative has been designed to sit with you to determine where you are interested in going with your career and what you will require to accomplish your goals.

Think of your career path of interest.

Use your search engine to research the solutions that you will bring to the community that you are helping.

How is that information sourced?

Which databases will you be using?

How can you share this information with your community?

Building your research skills early on will help you demonstrate your ability to be an asset to the organization.

Regardless of if you continue on the same path for your entire career or change your mind and look to transition, develop your research skills to show organizations that you can actually help the community.

### ***Build Your Career***

Building your career is organizing your experience and skillset to demonstrate your ability to help the community and become an asset to your organization.

Whether you are creating your first resume to earn an entry level opportunity, advancing on your current career path or transitioning to a new field, resources are available to assist you.

*Build Your Career Skills*, page 42, discusses researching the skillset that will be required of you.

*Build Your Resume*, page 43, discusses organizing your experience to demonstrate your ability to be an asset to the community.

*Build Your Portfolio*, page 48, discusses expanding on your resume to showcase your research and commitment to your career path.

Add these resources to your toolkit to not only assist yourself with progressing on your path, but to help the students of your community get started on theirs.

### ***Build Your Career Skills***

Building your career skills is developing your foundation in order to earn entry level opportunities.

Think of your career path of interest.

Which skills will you require to not only handle the responsibilities that come with your role but to actually help the community?

I understand that you have your own learning style and that each career will have its own requirements.

This initiative has been designed to sit with you to determine where you are interested in going and what you will require to accomplish your goals.

While you may not be able to earn formal experience, you can use your search engine to review your path of interest to learn which skills will be required of you.

Developing your basic understanding early on will help so when you begin to earn opportunities, you can build your resume and portfolio to demonstrate your ability to be an asset to the community.

### ***Build Your Resume***

Building your resume is organizing your experience to demonstrate your ability to become an asset to the community.

When organizations are looking to fill a staff role, they are looking for qualified individuals who can actually handle the requirements and responsibilities.

While a resume reviewer may be personally impressed with your individual accomplishments, understand that they have a job to do.

There is no one correct method to creating a resume and there are no templates that will guarantee an offer.

This initiative has been developed to assist you with organizing your experience and submit a professional resume to be reviewed.

Use your search engine to review your career path of interest and research the skillset that will be required of you and begin developing your strengths.

Whether you are applying to earn an entry level opportunity, advancing in your career on the same path or looking to transition to a new field, use your resume to show why you are a candidate who can actually help the community.

## ***The Resume Template***

1. Name and Contact information
  - a. Times New Roman, Font size 14
  - b. First Name and Last Name
  - c. Email
    - i. Create a separate email for searching for opportunities
  - d. Phone Number
    - i. Update your voicemail to a professional greeting
  - e. Do not put your residential address
2. Education
  - a. Heading: Times New Roman, Font size 12, Bold and Italicized
  - b. Section: Times New Roman, Font size 12
  - c. High School Diploma
    - i. If you earned your GED, enter *High School Equivalency*
    - ii. If currently enrolled in High School, enter expected Graduation Date
    - iii. If graduated, enter your Graduation Month and Year
    - iv. High School Name, City, ST (State abbreviation)
  - d. Higher Education Credential
    - i. For Associate's Degree, enter Associate of Arts or Associates of Science, and subject
    - ii. For Bachelor's Degree, enter Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, and subject
    - iii. For Master's Degree, enter Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Subject. Unless different name for degree, spell it out. (MBA, JD, etc.)
3. Experience
  - a. Heading: Times New Roman, Font size 12, Bold and Italicized
  - b. Section, Times New Roman, Font size 12
  - c. Reverse chronological order, beginning with the most recent.
  - d. If still employed here, enter start Month and Year to Present (MM/YY – Present)
  - e. Organization, City, ST (State abbreviation) on same line as Dates.
  - f. Responsibilities and Achievements
    - i. Share your role, what actions you specifically did and any notable achievements
  - g. List relevant experiences only.
  - h. While formal employment is preferred, if you are a student, use this section to highlight any research projects, club involvement and community service. The overall goal is to demonstrate your ability and skillset.
4. Certifications
  - a. Heading: Times New Roman, Font size 12, Bold and Italicized
  - b. Section: Times New Roman, Font size 12
  - c. Technical program knowledge, etc. Relevant to your opportunities of interest
5. Skills
  - a. Heading: Times New Roman, Font size 12, Bold and Italicized
  - b. Section: Times New Roman, Font size 12
  - c. Languages, etc.

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First Name Last Name | Email | Phone<sup>1</sup>

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***Education***<sup>2</sup>

High School Diploma, High School, City, ST, Graduating Month and Year MM/YYYY  
Higher Education Credential, Institution, City, ST, Graduating Month and Year MM/YYYY

***Experience***<sup>3</sup>

*(Start Month and Year to End Month and Year) MM/YY - MM/YY*

*Organization, City, ST*

Position

Responsibilities

Achievements

***Certifications***<sup>4</sup>

Professional Licenses

Certificates

***Skills***<sup>5</sup>

Program Knowledge

Languages Known

### ***The Cover Letter***

A resume reviewer spends only so much time glancing over your submission because they know what they are looking for.

A cover letter is an opportunity to introduce yourself as a candidate, highlighting your skills and sharing why they should spend a few more seconds reviewing your resume and why it deserves an interview.

Be sure to submit a cover letter only if you believe it will help you.

Use the following template as a reference, adding in your own words.

Make sure the letter does not exceed one page.

### ***The Cover Letter Template***

Your Name  
Your Email  
Your Phone Number

Date (*The date when you are submitting the letter*)

First Name Last Name

Title

Organization

Address

City, ST and ZIP

*(If you do not have this information, simply address it to Hiring Committee)*

Dear (Title: Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms.) Last Name:

My name is ( ) and I am reaching out to apply for the position of (*Insert Title. Be specific. If a job code number is included in the posting, make sure to include it*). I believe I can be an asset to the organization and have included my resume and examples of my experience.

*Include two to three examples of relevant work experience to demonstrate your abilities.*

*The overall goal of the cover letter is to earn an interview, which is where you will be able to elaborate on your resume and experience.*

*When including your experience here, make sure it is relevant.*

*For your final paragraph, thank them for their time and consideration and share how you would love the opportunity to discuss your resume further.*

*Sincerely,*

*Your Name*

### ***Build Your Portfolio***

Building your portfolio is expanding on your resume to showcase your research and commitment to your career path.

While your resume contains your experience, education credentials and tangible skills, your portfolio is an opportunity to share your research and other works.

I understand that you have your own career goals and resources available to you.

This initiative has been designed to sit with you to determine where you are interested in going and what you will require to accomplish your goals.

Use it as a genuine extension of your resume, real research, community service and works that show how serious you are about pursuing your career path.

Whether you are applying to earn an entry level opportunity, advancing in your career on the same path or looking to transition to a new field, use your portfolio to show why you are a candidate who can actually help the community.

## ***Build Your Community***

While you build your career, build your portfolio and your legacy by building your community.

I understand that you have your own resources available to you.

Here are drives you can organize to build your leadership skills that do not call for you to solicit financial donations or use your personal funds.

*Organize A Literacy Drive*, page 50, discusses sharing The Free Dot Edu initiative as part of your own project of raising awareness of resources that can assist students and improve communities.

*Organize A Blood Drive*, page 51, discusses assisting healthcare organizations with saving lives.

*Organize A Book Drive*, page 52, discusses collecting books and materials to assist students with developing their reading, writing and arithmetic skills.

*Organize A Supply Drive*, page 53, discusses collecting resources to assist organizations with carrying out their missions of helping those in need.

Add these resources to your toolkit to not only assist yourself with progressing on your path, but to help the students of your community get started on theirs.

### *Organize a Literacy Drive*

Help the students of your community by letting them know that resources exist.

While the Free Dot Edu initiative is here to share available tools with the students of the nation, it is also here to serve as a reference that can be added to your toolkit as you build your community.

The databases and resources discussed are available for any individual who is looking for help to get started.

As you build your portfolio to earn opportunities and progress along your path, I invite you to organize literacy events to include in your portfolio, demonstrating your leadership skills and commitment to helping others.

Whether you have other causes that you would like to raise awareness for or would like to organize symposiums centered around Free Dot Edu, this report is here to help you get started.

Review the report and note which databases you would like to share and begin building your program.

### *Organize a Blood Drive*

Build your leadership skills and assist healthcare organizations with saving lives by organizing a blood drive.

Organizations rely on blood drives to gather resources needed for patients across the country.

If you are interested in working in healthcare, organizing a blood drive can help you build your portfolio.

If you are not interested in working in healthcare, hosting a blood drive can help you build your leadership and organizational skills.

Visit the American Red Cross to learn how to organize your blood drive.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/hosting-a-blood-drive/learn-about-hosting/how-hosting-a-blood-drive-works.html>

### ***Organize a Book Drive***

Build your leadership skills and assist students with developing their reading, writing and arithmetic skills by organizing a book drive.

Classrooms, library branches and nonprofit organizations use book drives to bring resources to underserved communities.

Develop your leadership and organizational skills by reaching out to organizations to discuss how you can assist their communities.

Discuss logistics with your community and with the organizations you are assisting to ensure that your drive can get resources to where they are needed most.

### ***Organize a Supply Drive***

Build your leadership and organizational skills by organizing a supply drive.

Assist organizations with carrying out their missions of bringing resources to underserved communities.

Think of an organization that you would be interested in working with.

Note the resources that they bring to neighborhoods.

Let your community know how they can help.

Discuss logistics to be able to hold resources and coordinate with your liaison to make sure that they get to where they are needed.

## ***Find***

*Find* is here to assist you with navigating search engines and databases to find tools, programs and resources as you find opportunities to advance your career, your community and your future.

Add it to your toolkit to use as a reference while you continue on your journey.

*Academic Opportunities*, page 55, discusses reviewing requirements to earn admission to Technical Certificate, Associate's, Bachelor's and Advanced degree programs.

*Athletics Opportunities*, page 57, discusses preparing your portfolio to continue your career while pursuing your degree.

*Professional Opportunities*, page 67, discusses organizing your experience to demonstrate your ability to become an asset to the organization.

As you review how *Find* can assist you, I invite you to share Free Dot Edu with your community.

## ***Academic Opportunities***

Academic opportunities are available to assist you with earning the required credentials for your career path of interest.

Think of the career field that you are interested in.

Which credentials will you be required to hold?

As you continue to build your portfolio, review programs that can actually help you accomplish your goals.

*The College Navigator*, page 56, discusses how to use the database to find Technical Certificate, Associate's, Bachelor's and Advanced degree programs.

Research each program to review their academic offerings and resources that are available for students.

If you need to enroll in an Associate's program to improve your academic profile or you are entering a Bachelor's program but know that you will require an Advanced degree, it is never too early to prepare.

Whether you continue on your path of interest or change your mind and seek a transition to a new field, Free Dot Edu is here to assist you.

### *The College Navigator*

The National Center for Education Statistics has developed The College Navigator to assist you with finding degree programs to help you earn opportunities in your field of interest.

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

Technical Certificate programs are available to enter trades without requiring a college degree. Pairing an Associate's, Bachelor's or Advanced degree with your Certificate can place you on a management track.

Associate's degree programs are available to assist you with completing your General Education courses before transferring to a Bachelor's program.

If you need to improve your academic profile to earn opportunities to transfer, Associate's programs can help you demonstrate your ability to handle college level coursework.

Bachelor's degrees are available to help you earn your credentials in your subject of interest.

If your career path requires a Bachelor's degree, review which subject to ensure that you qualify to earn an opportunity.

If your path requires an Advanced degree, review which Bachelor's degree will be needed.

Advanced degree programs are available for specific career paths.

When searching for programs, review by each State. Too many search results can cut off the list, possibly causing you to miss opportunities.

### *Athletics Opportunities*

If you are interested in continuing your playing career while pursuing your degree, Athletics programs are available to assist you.

There are two levels of collegiate athletics: JUCO and Four Year College.

*JUCO Athletics*, page 58, discusses Two Year College programs that can assist you with improving your athletics and academic profile to earn opportunities to transfer to a Four Year College program.

*Four Year College Athletics*, page 62, discusses Four Year College programs that can provide opportunities to continue your career while pursuing your degree.

Before you begin reaching out to coaching staffs, here are important points to keep in mind.

First, you must be accepted as a student before you can compete.

Each institution will have their own admissions requirements.

Review programs that you are interested in to prepare your portfolio for your application.

Second, each institution will have their own financial aid resources that they will be able to offer students.

Earning a scholarship does not necessarily mean that tuition and housing will be fully covered. Speak to coaching staffs to learn how much aid they will be able to offer.

Third, Coaches are looking for productive players who can contribute to the team and be an asset to the entire college community.

Demonstrate your ability to be an asset to the organization.

Fourth, each athletics program will have their own resources to help student athletes develop.

Have an honest conversation with yourself about your goals and what you are looking for in a department.

### ***JUCO Athletics***

JUCO Athletics are programs offered by Two Year Colleges that can assist you with improving your academic and athletics profile to earn an opportunity to transfer to a Four Year College program.

*The NJCAA*, page 59, discusses the programs that compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association.

*The CCCAA*, page 60, discusses the programs that compete in the California Community College Athletic Association.

*The NWAC*, page 61, discusses the programs that compete in the Northwest Athletic Conference.

*The USCAA*, page 65, discusses the programs that compete in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association, which has members that are both Two Year and Four Year Colleges.

### ***The NJCAA***

The National Junior College Athletic Association is the governing association for approximately 500 Two Year College programs.

[https://www.njcaa.org/member\\_colleges/directory/members](https://www.njcaa.org/member_colleges/directory/members)

The NJCAA directory allows you to review all programs.

Select an institution to review information about their college, including links to their academic and athletics webpages, and which sports they sponsor.

### ***The CCCAA***

The California Community College Athletic Association is the governing association for approximately 109 Two Year College programs in the State of California.

[The membership directory lists the name and location of each program.](https://www.cccaasports.org/about>List_of_3C2A_Schools</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Use your search engine to locate and review the links to their academic and athletics webpages.

### ***The NWAC***

The Northwest Athletic Conference is the governing association for approximately 38 Two Year College programs in the States of Oregon and Washington, with programs in British Columbia as well.

<https://nwacsports.com/memberschools>

The NWAC provides a map of all programs, as well as an alphabetical list that contains links to their academic and athletics webpages.

### ***Four Year College Athletics***

Four Year College athletics programs provide student athletes with the opportunity to continue your career while pursuing your degree.

*The NCAA*, page 63, discusses the programs that compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

*The NAIA*, page 64, discusses the programs that compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

*The USCAA*, page 65, discusses the programs that compete in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association.

### ***The NCAA***

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is the governing association for approximately 1,200 Four Year college programs.

<https://web3.ncaa.org/directory/>

The NCAA is divided into three divisions: Division I, Division II and Division III.

Division I and Division II programs offer athletics scholarships, while Division III offers academic financial aid.

The NCAA database allows you to search for programs based on a specific sport, as well as each Division.

Each institution will have program information, sports sponsored and links to their academic and athletics web pages.

### *The NAIA*

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics is the governing association for approximately 235 Four Year college programs.

<https://www.naia.org/schools/index>

The NAIA provides a list of members and a map of their locations.

Use your search engine to review programs, the sports they sponsor and how you can contact their coaching staffs.

### ***The USCAA***

The United States Collegiate Athletic Association is the governing association for approximately 72 Two Year and Four Year college programs.

<https://theuscaa.com/Members/index>

The USCAA provides a list of member institutions, including links to their athletics and academic web pages.

### ***Graduate Assistantship***

If you are interested in becoming a coach or administrator following your college career, earning a Graduate Assistantship can help you get started.

Graduate assistants help coaching staffs with a variety of tasks, determined by the Head Coach.

This can include helping out with recruiting, operations, practices and other game day responsibilities.

Graduate assistantships offer the opportunity to earn a Graduate degree while assisting the team and department.

It is important to understand that each institution will have their own resources that they can offer graduate assistants.

In order to earn a position, you must be accepted as a student, as you will be attending classes.

Graduate assistantships are offered with Four Year college programs.

Before you begin reaching out to coaching staffs, understand that they are looking for those who can actually help the staff, the team and be an asset to the department.

Can you help break down film?

Can you communicate with student athletes to assist them with their development?

Can you fundraise and serve as an ambassador for the program?

Review Four Year Athletics Programs on page 62 to learn how to navigate databases to contact coaching staffs.

### ***Professional Opportunities***

As you prepare your portfolio to earn professional opportunities in your career field of interest, Free Dot Edu has developed this initiative to assist you with navigating search engines to find quality organizations.

It is important to understand that each organization will have their own opportunities and resources that they can offer.

Conduct your research to determine if staff openings can help you accomplish your goals and that they are with organizations that you actually want to work with.

*The Search Engine*, page 68, discusses how to navigate databases and conduct quality searches.

Before you begin, map out your path so you can conduct specific searches, avoiding having to sift through data that cannot help you accomplish your goals.

### *The Search Engine*

Search engines are available to help you find tools, programs and resources.

When using search engines, it is important to be as specific as possible.

Search engines take the characters you enter and matches them to web pages, sharing those which are as exact a match as possible, continuing with those that contain a portion of your query.

For example, if you search “healthcare jobs”, you will return pages that contain the words “healthcare” and “jobs”, together at first, then separately.

If you are not specific, you will return pages that may not have anything to do with the position that you are actually interested in.

Identify what you are actually looking for so that you do not lose time sifting through irrelevant information.

## ***Fund***

*Fund* is here to assist you with researching public and private financial aid to cover the costs of pursuing your education.

Add it to your toolkit to use as a reference while you continue on your journey.

*Public Aid*, page 70, discusses financial aid available through Federal grants and loans, as well as aid offered by Public colleges.

*Private Aid*, page 72, discusses financial aid available through private foundations, personal fundraisers and scholarships available with Private colleges.

Before you begin searching for financial aid resources, draw up a budget to determine exactly what you will need to accomplish your goals.

### ***Public Aid***

Public financial aid is available to assist you with the costs of completing your education.

*The FAFSA*, page 71, discusses the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which helps determine your eligibility to receive financial aid from the Federal Government in the form of grants and loans.

Public colleges have their own financial aid that they are able to award students but are limited by the resources allocated to them by their home State.

### ***The FAFSA***

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is available to help you determine your eligibility to receive Federal financial aid in the form of grants and loans.

<https://studentaid.gov/>

You will need to provide the tax information of your parents if you are a dependent or your own if you are independent.

### ***Private Aid***

Private financial aid is available through private foundations, organizing your own personal fundraisers and scholarships available through Private colleges.

Private financial aid can help supplement your support if you need additional resources outside of Federal Aid, discussed on page 71.

Private foundations offer scholarships through their own selection process, based on demographics of who they choose to support.

This can be based on personal demographics or can depend on which subject you are interested in studying or which professional career path you are interested in.

Use your search engine, discussed on page 68, to research foundations that can assist you.

Private colleges accept federal student aid, but they also have their own scholarships that they are able to offer. There are various types of scholarships, including need based and academic awards.

Need based scholarships assist students who demonstrate that without additional help, they may not be able to attend.

Academic awards are used to recruit quality students to campus.

Understand that each institution will have their own aid to offer students, as well as their own selection criteria.

Remember, the admissions process can be competitive. While you may need aid to assist you with attendance, focus on demonstrating your academic abilities and how you can become an asset to the community.

Finally, organizing a personal fundraiser can assist you with the cost of attendance.

College institutions are nonprofit organizations and your assistance may qualify for a tax deduction for individuals and organizations who assist you. For example, 100 donors providing \$100 each is \$10,000.00.

Organizations may not be able to assist with your entire cost of attendance, but every bit helps.

Let the community know that you are serious about your studies and that financial aid is the only thing preventing you from earning your credential to pursue a professional path and create a career of helping others.

Communicate your goals with colleges that have the program you are interested in to develop a plan.

***Thank You***

Thank you for reading this research report and learning more about the Free Dot Edu initiative.

As you continue on your journey, I invite you to use this report as a reference to help you along your path.

Whether you advance in your field of interest or change your mind and transition to a new industry, Free Dot Edu is here to help you.

While you build the foundation for your future, share Free Dot Edu with the students of your community to help them build theirs, as well.

I wish you well on your journey.