

# College & Career Resources for 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

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The best way to predict the future is to create it.

-Abraham Lincoln



Junior and the beginning of senior year is the perfect time to start thinking about what comes next after high school. Whether you're considering college, a trade program, the military, or jumping into the workforce, exploring your options now gives you time to make confident, informed decisions. Take advantage of opportunities to visit college campuses, talk to your college & career counselor, ask questions about careers with your teachers or a professional in the career, and reflect on your interests and strengths. The more you learn about your possibilities, the more prepared and excited you'll feel about your future.

## College To-Do List

- Make a list of colleges you may want to apply to.
  - For starters, pick 5. One dream school, three colleges you would be happy to attend, and one safe school.
- Research the schools and see if they have what you want to study.
- Visit the schools' websites and other sites that can tell if the college is right for you.
- Schedule a college visit (its best to visit while school is in session). Go to their website to schedule.
- Begin applications EARLY!
- Work on Applications through the Common Application website unless the school tells you to go directly to their website.
- Start your personal essay. Essay prompts are found on the Common Application website or the school's application portal.
- Check application deadlines and keep track of them.
- Complete the FAFSA (Free Application of Federal Student Aid). Its opens on October 1.

## Helpful College Reserch Websites

- <https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/best-colleges>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
- <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- <https://www.collegevine.com/>
- <https://www.collegexpress.com/>

The Common Application Website  
<https://www.commonapp.org/>

### Application Types

#### **Early Decision** (Binding)

Apply by Late October

#### **Early Action-**

(Not Binding) Apply by late October

**Regular Decision**-Apply by end of December

**Rolling Deadlines**- Apply by Early Summer after graduation

\*\*Binding means you are willing to pay full tuition and you will not be able to accept other offers from colleges.

## FAFSA Website

<https://studentaid.gov/>

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

### Military Academies

- Go directly to the service academy websites and start the application process. Applications must be started the summer after your Junior Year.

### ROTC Programs

- Apply to the college/university.
- Go directly to the college's website and search for ROTC. You can also Google the service branch and ROTC. Example: Army ROTC.
- Apply to the ROTC program after you apply to the college.

### Military Academy Websites

Air Force-<https://www.usafa.af.mil/>

Army-<https://www.westpoint.edu/>

Coast Guard-<https://uscga.edu/>

Merchant Marine-<https://www.usmma.edu/>

Navy-<https://www.usna.edu/homepage.php>

### Military Enlistment

Contact your college & career counselor and he/she can connect you to a recruiter.

You will need to take the ASVAB your junior or senior year. The ASVAB is offered at school and its free!

### Not Sure What You Want to Do After High School?

- Take the ASVAB Career Exploration Test!
- Set up a meeting with your college & career counselor.
- Go to <https://www.careeronestop.org>
  1. Click: EXPLORE CAREER OPTIONS
  2. Select "Assessments"
  3. Select Interest Assessment and begin

### Want to Work After High School?

- Create a resume
- Talk to friends, family, and neighbors to see who is hiring full time.
- Go to job posting boards (Indeed.com, Glasdoor, or go directly to the business' website and search jobs.

## EXPLORE SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

### College Website

Once you are admitted to the college, check out their financial page which often has scholarship information.

### GoingMerry.com

This is a \$20 billion databast of bundled scholarships

### College Board

**BIG FUTURE**  
\$6 billion in scholarships

### Scholarships.com

\$19 billion in scholarships. Its a quick sign up process.