4-YEAR SCHOOLS

**Winter/Early Spring (December to April) of Junior year:**

* Schedule SAT/ACT testing
* Research college options (location, majors, size, cost, etc...)
* Start visiting local college campuses

**Late Spring (May to June)**

* Talk to teachers about letters of rec (2 letters sufficient, typically only private schools require), have a balance of subjects if possible

**Summer (June to August) going into Senior year:**

* Plan college trips with family
* Start working on an idea/draft of college essay
* Narrow down college list
* Take a deeper look at what colleges actually cost
  + Have the money talk, what can your family afford?
* Start on applications
* Decide about applying early (Early Decision? Early Action?)
* Set goals for the school year: working toward specific goals helps you stay motivated and focused.

**Fall (September to November) of Senior year:**

* Meet with school counselor (if you need help or have questions)
* Create a calendar to stay organized and on top of due dates
* Attend college visits on campus and ask reps questions
* Follow up with letters of rec (typically no letters for public schools)
* Finish college essays
* Finalize college list (4-6; 2 dream, 2 good possibility, 2 safety)
  + Fully understand each college’s admission requirements
* High School & Beyond Plan - Naviance tasks
* Retake SAT/ACT and send in scores
* Attend Financial Aid Night @ WHS
  + Apply for FAFSA (financial aid, opens October 1st)
  + Learn about loans and options
* Start looking for scholarships:

naviance.com washboard.org goingmerry.com

fastweb.com collegeboard.org raise.me

* If not sure about your choices, continue research and college tours

**Winter (December to February) of Senior year:**

* Continue/finish college applications
* Continue to research and apply for scholarships
  + Scholarship Foundation of Northshore
* Think about taking AP exams (potentially earn college credit)

**Spring (March to May) of Senior year:**

* Continue scholarship search and applications
* Go for last minute visits to finalize college decision
* Review financial aid offers
* Process college responses
  + Talk with family to finalize a decision
* Complete the paperwork to accept a college’s offer

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2-YEAR SCHOOLS

**Not sure what you want to do?**

* Research two-year schools (community and technical)
  + Local or further away?
    - Some have on-campus housing
  + Apprenticeship/certificate programs not available at 4-year schools
    - <https://www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/>
  + Helps you get an idea of what you want to do, get gen ed req’s done
  + Less expensive if local (Cascadia, Lake WA Tech, Bellevue)
* Can transfer to 4-year school after getting 2-year degree (Associate)

Applying: Complete online application, no SAT/ACT needed, no min. GPA.

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GAP YEAR

**Want to take a gap year?**

* Think about what you want to do in that year, what are your plans? Most use this time to volunteer (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps), work, travel, gain life experience, and generally figure out what you’d like to do or study later.
  + Some schools will allow you to apply and get accepted, then defer your enrollment until the following year.

greenheattravel.com aupairworld.com goabroad.com

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