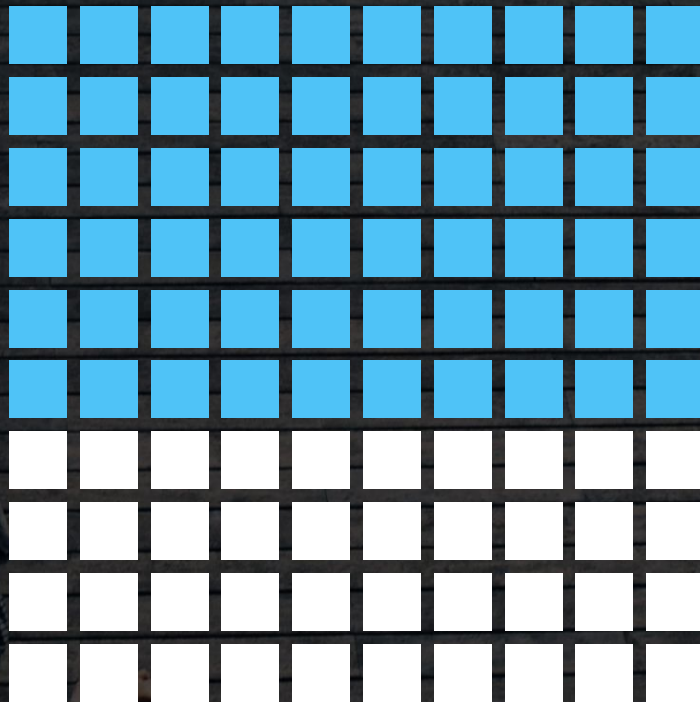# College and Career Project:

post-graduation planning

Edison Township Public Schools

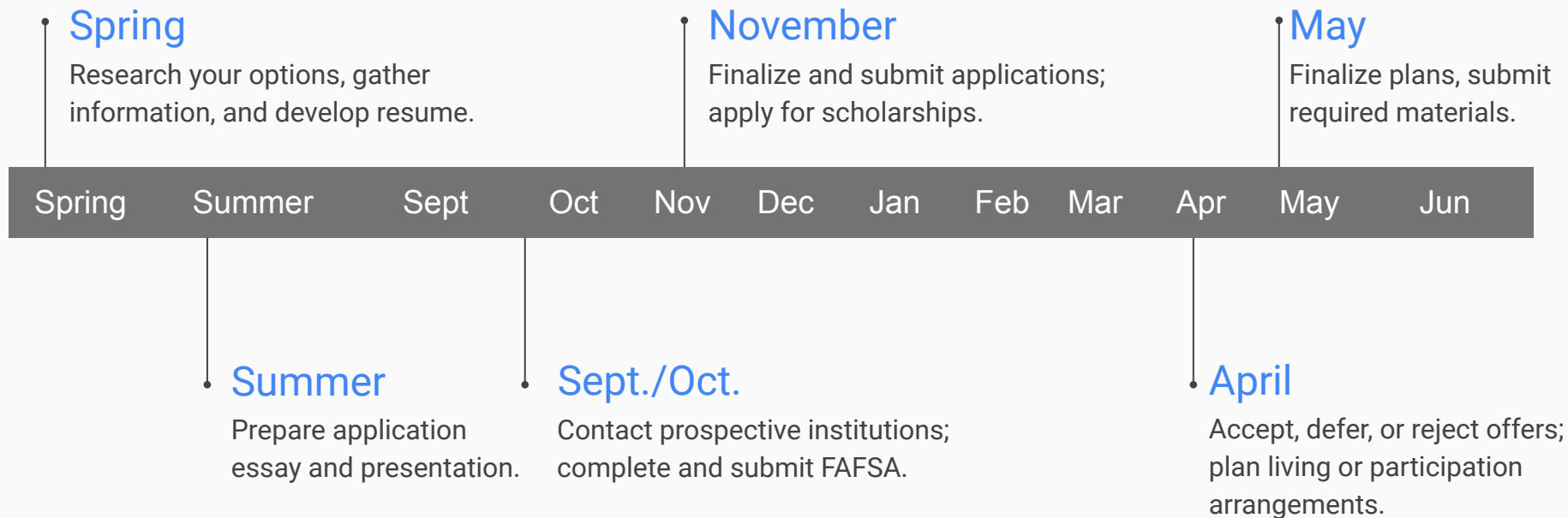College and Career Inquiry Project

Why now?

Planning for life after high school is critical to your ongoing personal growth and success. Do you think you already know what you want to do after high school? Are you still uncertain? Maybe you have no idea just how many options are actually available to you. Maybe you just don't have enough information yet. Complete the activities in this guide to make an informed decision and prepare materials so that you can move confidently in the direction of your dreams.

Timeline

Regardless of the post-graduation path you choose, this timeline can help you get organized.

Spring
Research your options, gather information, and develop resume.

November
Finalize and submit applications; apply for scholarships.

May
Finalize plans, submit required materials.

Spring	Summer	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun

Summer
Prepare application essay and presentation.

Sept./Oct.
Contact prospective institutions; complete and submit FAFSA.

April
Accept, defer, or reject offers; plan living or participation arrangements.

The Team

The people to whom you can turn to get post-graduation planning assistance and information...

Guidance Counselor

Talk to your Guidance Counselor! She or he will be helping you to plan, prepare, and submit your materials throughout the year.

College Counselor

We are fortunate to have College Counselors right in our building! Your College Counselors possess a wealth of information!

Institution Advisors

Don't be afraid to question recruiters, admissions reps, or academic advisors at the institutions which interest you. They will always be happy to help.

Parents & Teachers

Your parents and teachers want to help. If you aren't sure where to go to get more information, talk to your parents and teachers for more direction.

The Project

Through this project, you will research your post-graduation options and begin the process of planning and preparing for the next phase of your life.

STEP 1:
All Students

All Students

Before you make a decision about what you want to do after you graduate from high school, you should understand the many options available to you and what each option entails. Complete **ALL** of the activities in this section (slides 9-22) to gain a comprehensive view of the opportunities available to you.

2 or 4 Year College
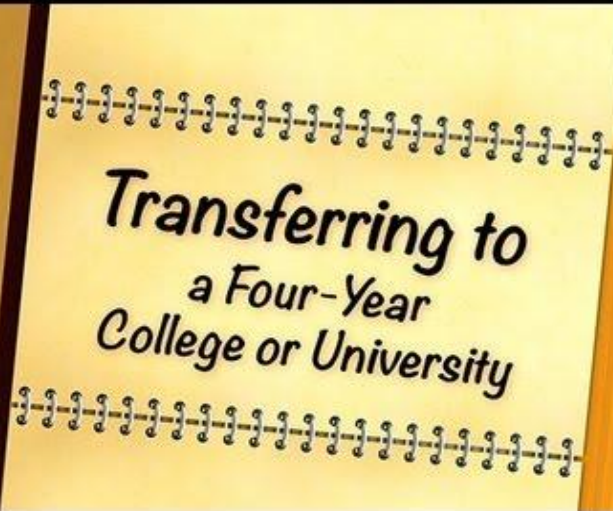
Gap Year

Military

Trades & Work

ALL STUDENTS

View the videos below to get a general view of issues involved in deciding between a 2 or 4 year College program.

Back to Main Menu

2 or 4 Year College

NJ has a law, Lampitt Law, that provides for full transfer of the Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science (AS) degree credits for community college graduates provided, the student plans to enroll in a coordinating major at the upper division college/university and, the student has followed certain recommended guidelines as are posted on NJ Transfer.

2 or 4 Year College

View the videos below to get a general view of issues involved in transferring from a 2 year to 4 year College.

2 or 4 Year College

Don't know what major or career you want to pursue? These videos from [Penn State's Division of Undergraduate Studies](#), may help. Many universities offer similar options.

2 or 4 Year College

View the videos below to get detailed information about financial planning for all college programs.

2 or 4 Year College

View the video below to get advice about how to pay for college.

Gap Year

View the videos below to first-hand accounts of gap-year program experiences.

Gap Year

View the videos below to get information about what gap year programs are how they compare to other options.

Military

View the below videos to get a sense of how military education programs compare to other post-graduation options.

CADET GABRIELLE PEREZ
Class of 2013

Military

View the below videos to get a sense of how military education programs compare to other post-graduation options.

Kim Idland, Registered Nurse
Clinical Nurse Educator
Madigan Army Medical Center

Military

View the below videos to get a sense of how military education programs compare to other post-graduation options.

Trades & Work

View the videos below to get a general sense of the issues involved in deciding between a trade and other options.

Trades & Work

View the videos below to get a general sense of the issues involved in deciding between a trade and other options.

Trades & Work

View the videos below to get a general sense of the issues involved in deciding between a trade and other options.

STEP 2: Focus Area

Focus Areas

Once you have developed a general sense of which post-graduation direction seems best for you, conduct in-depth research and gather information so that you can make an informed decision and begin taking steps toward initiating the next phase of your life.

Click on each rectangle to see the "Step 2" directions for your selected focus area!

2 or 4 Year College

Gap Year

Military

Trades & Work

Click to go to your focus area!

2 or 4 Year College

Conduct independent research to identify six college programs which appeal to you and prepare for the application process.

1. Research [U.S. News' 2020 Best Colleges](#) to get an idea of which schools might suit you best.
2. Consider the school that will fit you best. Identify six schools which you would like to research further. Two schools should be "reach" schools, two should be, "target" schools, and two should be "safety" schools.
3. Take an [online self assessment](#)
4. Visit the website of each of your six schools to gather general information.
5. Ask your college counselor about new resources like SCIOR
6. View the video (right) to learn how to navigate college websites.
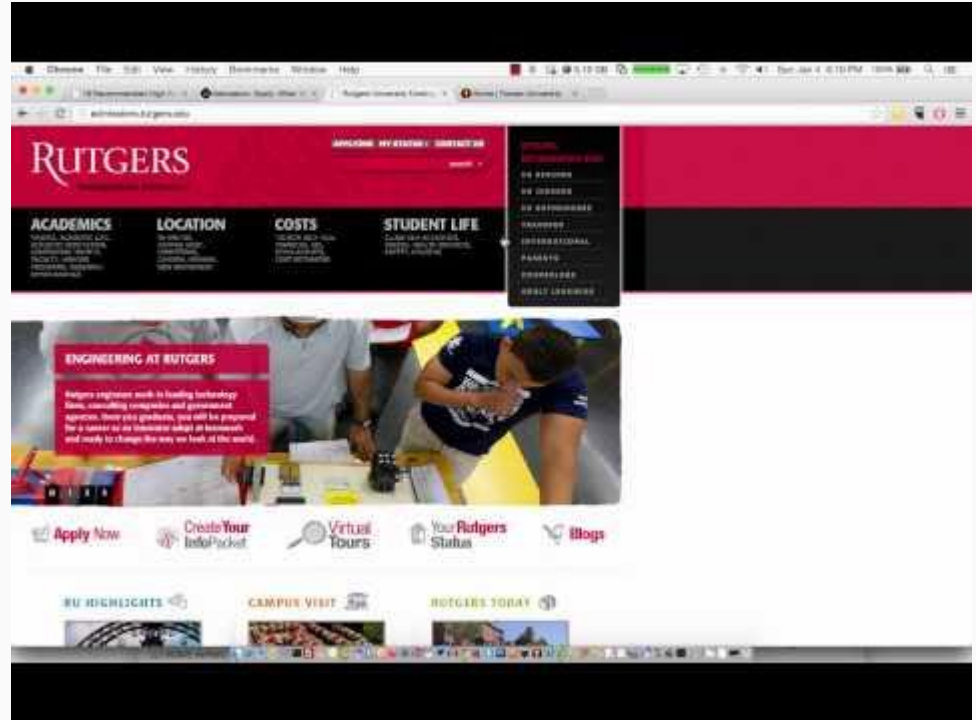7. Go to the next slide; directions continue!

2 or 4 Year College

Conduct independent research to identify six college programs which appeal to you and prepare for the application process.

1. From the website for each of your six schools, find information about the following and collect it into the supplied [Google Doc](#):
   a. 2021-22 Application Materials, Deadlines, and Essay Prompt
   b. 2021-22 Tuition Rates
   c. Clubs, athletics and organizations
   d. Degree program of interest OR Division of Undergraduate Studies
   e. School or campus based scholarship programs
2. View the video (left) to learn how to navigate the admissions pages.

[Go to Step 3](#)

Gap Year

Conduct independent research to identify three gap year programs which appeal to you and prepare for the application process.

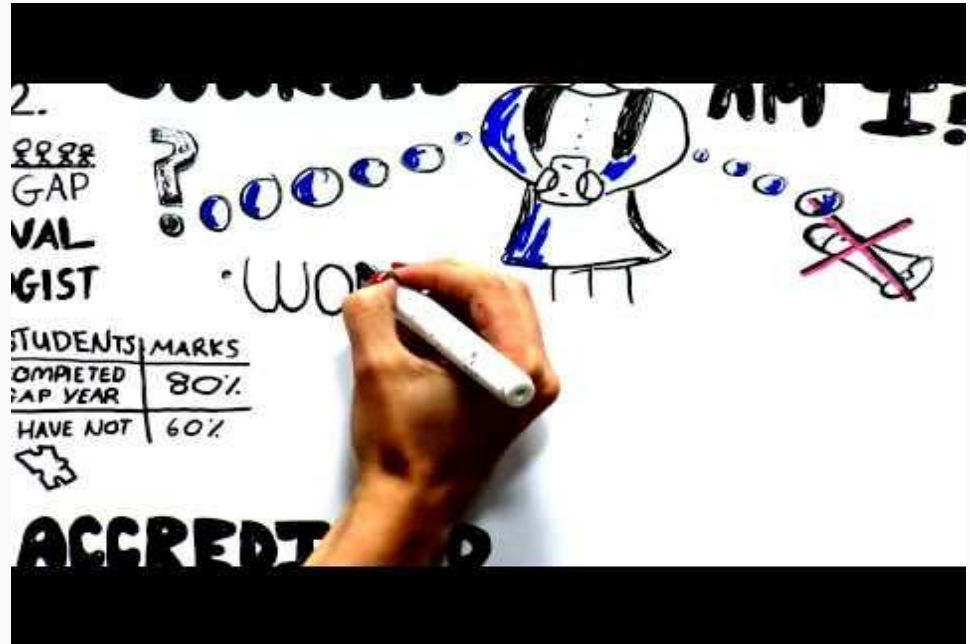1. Visit the website for each of three different gap-year companies and gather information in the provided [Google Doc](#) to compare:
   a. 2021-22 Application Materials and Deadlines
   b. 2021-21 Tuition Rates and Scholarships
   c. Experiences or programs of interest
   d. Summer programs
   e. Scholarships

2. Here are three articles. Read one or all three articles:
   [Washington Post: Why Harvard 'Encourages' Students to Take a Gap Year](#)"

   ["Malia Obama is taking a 'gap year' before attending Harvard--here's why that's a great idea"](#)

   ["Gap Year Data and Benefits"](#)

3. Consider using the resources on the next slide to assist your research.

Gap Year

Conduct independent research to identify three gap year programs which appeal to you and prepare for the application process.

Gap Year Companies & Programs:

- [Uncollege](#)

- [USA Gap Year Fairs](#)

- [Thinking Beyond Borders](#)

- [American Gap Association](#)

[Go to Step 3](#)

Military

Conduct independent research to identify three military training options which appeal to you and prepare for the interview and recruitment process.

1. Visit the website for each of three different military service and training institutes and gather information in the provided [Google Doc](#) to compare:
   a. Branch of service of interest
   b. 2021-22 Eligibility Requirements
   c. 2021-22 Deadlines and Important Dates
   d. Experiences or programs of interest

2. Read the article: "[Understanding ROTC Programs](#)"

3. Consider using the resources on the next slide to assist your research.

Military

Conduct independent research to identify three military training options which appeal to you and prepare for the interview and recruitment process.

Military Academies & ROTC Programs:

- [Today's Military: Service Academies](#)

- [USA.gov](#)

- [Today's Military: ROTC](#)

- [Service Academy Presidential Nomination](#)

[Go to Step 3](#)

Trades & Work

Conduct independent research to identify three trades organizations, including specific trade schools, which appeal to you and prepare for the interview process.

1. Visit the website for each of three different trade schools or trades organizations and gather information in the provided Google Doc to compare:
   a. 2021-22 Scholarships, Grants, Awards and/or Internship Programs
   b. 2021-22 Conferences, Events and Workshops
   c. Trade of interest
   d. Accreditations, Affiliations with Schools and/or Training Programs

2. Read "Pathways to Prosperity," published by the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

3. Consider using the resources on the next slide to assist your research.

Trades & Work

Conduct independent research to identify three trades organizations, including specific trade schools, which appeal to you and prepare for the interview process.

Trades Organizations:

- [Mike Rowe Works Foundation](#)

- [Discover Your Skills](#)

- [I Make America](#)

- [Skills USA](#)

- [Go Build Alabama](#)

- [Apprenticeship Programs](#)

[Go to Step 3](#)

STEP 3: Presentation
(Optional)

Overview

Introduce Yourself!

As a way of introducing yourself to your classmates and teacher, you may be asked to deliver a brief presentation in which you provide an overview of your post-graduation plans.

Presentation Requirements

WHAT:

- Discuss your decision including ALL of the following:
    - 2 year or 4 year - Gap Year - Military Service Academy or ROTC - Trade/Work
    - Why you feel this choice suits you.
    - Which specific **top choice** institution you are most interested in pursuing.
    - Degree, program, or apprenticeship choice and why the opportunity interests you.
    - Related clubs, athletics, and organizations you hope to join and why.
    - Goals for your future career.
    - Any other relevant factor that played a role in your decision.

HOW:

- Use *Google Slides*, *Prezi*, *Realtimeboard*, *Screencastify* or equivalent presentation app.
- Make strategic use of digital media including images, audio, and/or video clips.
- Use formal language and style.
- Organize materials to follow an effectively sequenced, cohesive delivery plan.
- Ensure all integrated media are functional prior to presentation.
- Proofread and edit for a professional, polished final product.
- Presentation length of 3-5 minutes.

Project Evaluation

Step 2: Google Doc

Google Doc:

- **A+, A, A-**
  - Followed directions; completed one chart.
  - Brief, but detailed/specific information is provided for each column and row of the chart.
  - All research categories were successfully addressed.
- **B+, B, B-**
  - Followed directions; completed one chart.
  - Brief, but detailed/specific information is provided for most columns and rows.
  - Most research categories were successfully addressed.
- **C+, C, C-**
  - Followed directions; completed one chart.
  - General information is provided for many columns and rows.
  - Some research categories were not addressed.
- **D, F**
  - Did not follow directions
  - Sparse and/or overgeneralized information is provided.
  - Many research categories and/or were not addressed.

Project Evaluation

Step 3: Presentation

Presentation:

- **A+, A, A-**
  - Polished, effective use of presentation app; presentation could double as application portfolio component.
  - Includes a variety of relevant, interesting, and effective media.
  - Media elements are used in purposeful ways to illustrate and/or explain; presentation is free of random graphics which create distraction or amount to "background noise."
  - Strategic selection and organization of content.
  - Free of functionality and/or language errors.
  - Maintains a formal, professional tone and/or delivery style.
  - Includes all required content.
- **B+, B, B-**
  - Effective use of presentation app; presentation could double as application portfolio component with a few minor changes.
  - Includes some relevant, interesting, and effective media.
  - Most media elements are used in purposeful ways to illustrate and/or explain; some graphic elements are distracting.
  - Logical organization of content.
  - One or two functionality and/or language errors.
  - One or two lapses in formal tone and/or delivery style.
  - Includes most required content.

- **C+, C, C-**
  - Adequate use of presentation app; presentation requires extensive editing before submission as application component.
  - Includes few relevant, interesting, and/or effective media.
  - Most media are not functional; some graphic elements are distracting.
  - Coherent organization of content; some lapses in logical sequence are evident.
  - Several functionality and/or language errors.
  - Several lapses in formal tone and/or delivery style.
  - Missing several required content items.
- **D, F**
  - Novice use of presentation app; presentation could not double as application portfolio component.
  - Media are sparsely integrated, create distraction, or are rarely relevant, interesting, and/or effective.
  - Confusing organization.
  - Many functionality and/or language errors are present.
  - Overly casual tone and/or delivery style.
  - Includes only a few required content components.