



COLLEGE 101

9th Grade College Readiness Information and Timeline

9th Grade Timeline

SEPTEMBER— ALL ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL

Learn about what you need to do to be successful in high school

OCTOBER— IMPORTANCE OF GOING TO COLLEGE

Explore the benefits of going to college and learn how a college degree can help you get your dream job

NOVEMBER— COLLEGE TYPES

Discover the different types of colleges and training options you are able to choose from

DECEMBER— APPRENTICESHIPS

Learn about apprenticeships and how you can gain hands-on experience in a rewarding field

JANUARY— BECOMING A COMPETITIVE COLLEGE APPLICANT

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

FEBRUARY— PICKING FITTING HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

Enroll in high school classes that align with your post-high school plans

MARCH— COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP

Learn about the college bound scholarship

APRIL— COLLEGE BOUND PLEDGE

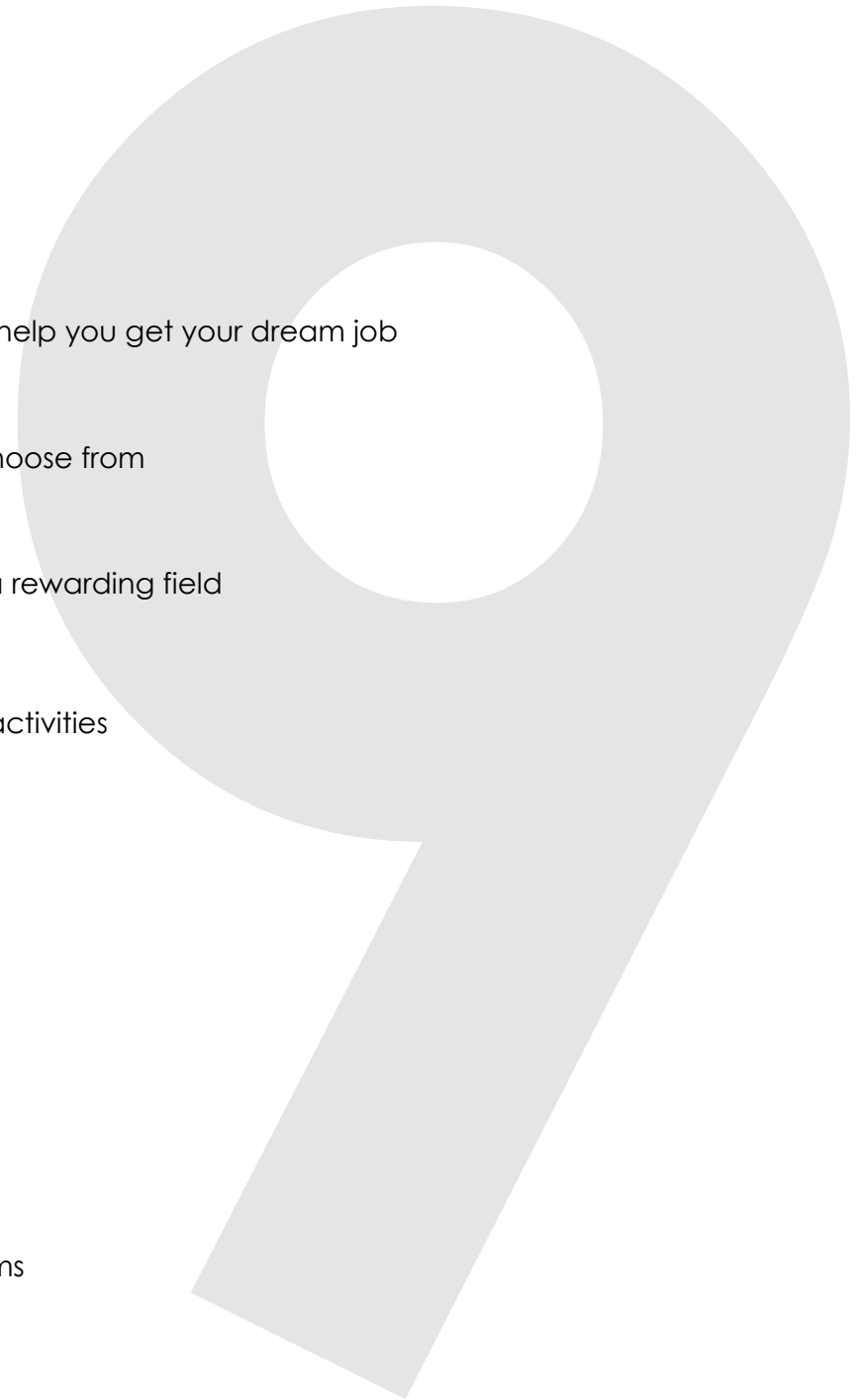
Learn about the college bound pledge

MAY— COLLEGE AND CAREER

Understand how what you study can help you obtain the career of your dreams

JUNE— PAYING FOR COLLEGE

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



SEPTEMBER: ALL ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL

High school is a time to build your skills and explore your interests to prepare you for life after high school. In order to graduate there are requirements you must meet and it's important to become familiar with them.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL?

- **Earn required credits** – Students in Washington State must complete a **minimum of 24 credits** to graduate from high school. However, your high school may have slightly different credit requirements.
- **Meet standard on state assessments** – You must take and pass **state assessments** in English language arts, math and science or take and meet standard through one of a variety of state-approved alternatives.
- **Complete your High School and Beyond Plan** – Starting in 7th or 8th grade you will create a plan to help you think about your future and choose classes that prepare you for your goals after high school.
- **Every class you take in high school counts towards graduation.** Talk with your counselor or GEAR UP team to get a list of your school's requirements.

SOME SCHOOLS HAVE ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- **Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)** – The College Bound Scholarship and some school districts require a minimum GPA to graduate. The higher your GPA, the more college and scholarship options you will have available.
- **Service learning** – You may need to complete service learning hours, where you give back to the community and/ or job shadow a profession you're interested in.
- Check with your school counselor to see if you have any other requirements to earn your **diploma**.

Quick Tips

- *What you do in high school can impact your future*
- *Stay focused in class and maintain good grades*
- *Use a planner to stay organized- use it to help keep track of assignments, deadlines and other responsibilities*
- *Don't be afraid to ask for help- Be an advocate for yourself. Ask for help from mentors, teachers, family members, etc.*

OCTOBER: IMPORTANCE OF GOING TO COLLEGE

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

MAKE MORE MONEY

- There is **rapidly** growing **wage gap** between college-educated and less-educated young professionals.
- Young adults with an **associate's degree** earn an average of **\$5,000 more per year** than those with a high school diploma.
- **91% of "career jobs"** in Washington State (jobs that require higher skills and pay \$60,000 to \$100,000 per year) will be filled by workers with a college degree or some college.

GET A BETTER JOB FASTER

- Washington State has the 7th fastest growing economy in the U.S. There will be **740,000 job openings** in this state in the next 5 years.
- By the end of 2020, **70% of ALL jobs** in Washington State will require at least some college education.
- **99% of new jobs** between 2010 and 2016 went to individuals with more than a high school education.
- Young professionals with a high school diploma are **3 times more likely** to be unemployed than young professionals with a **Bachelor's degree**

AVERAGE INCOME BY EDUCATION LEVEL

Less than high school:
\$26,780

High school graduate:
\$37,336

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

Bachelor's degree:
\$61,828

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

Quick Tips

- What you study in college matters-

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

NOVEMBER: COLLEGE TYPES

The term college includes technical colleges, 2-year community colleges, **vocational** or trade schools and 4-year colleges or universities. It is important to explore your options to find the best fit for you.

WHERE SHOULD I GO FOR COLLEGE?

Public and Private 4-year College/University

- These schools offer bachelor's degrees, usually completed in 4 years of full-time study.
- Private schools typically charge a higher **tuition** but may offer a significant amount of **scholarships** to make attendance affordable

Private 2-year College/ Vocational/ Trade Schools

- Private 2-year, vocational or trade schools provide education for a specific career.

Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs)

- These schools offer **associate's degrees** and **certificates**, including for specific **trades**.
- Washington state has 34 public CTCs.
- Some CTCs now offer **bachelor's degrees**

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

Common characteristics for each type of college in Washington state.

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

DECEMBER: APPRENTICESHIPS

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

APPRENTICESHIP

Work + Education → Career

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

WHAT JOB CAN I GET AS AN APPRENTICE?

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

Examples of careers include:

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

HOW MUCH WOULD I GET PAID?

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

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

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

HOW DO I BECOME AN APPRENTICE?

1. Make sure you meet the requirements.

Generally, these include:

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

2. Find a program and apply.

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

JANUARY: BECOMING A COMPETITIVE COLLEGE APPLICANT

Colleges don't only consider your grades. They want applicants who contribute to the **campus** and/or the community. Specific activities can make you a more competitive applicant and help you build your work resumé. They should also be documented in your High School and Beyond Plan that is required for high school graduation.

WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES SHOULD I PURSUE?

- Athletics
- College access programs
- Community service
- Faith-based/religious programs
- Jobs or internships
- Music, drama and arts
- Summer programs
- School clubs
- Student government

WHAT IS AN ACTIVITIES LOG/ RESUMÉ?

Some applications require an activities log/resume. This list of your **extracurricular activities** provides a sense of your involvement in and outside of school. You should also include a short description of your involvement for each activity.

Start to keep track...

•	-Key Club
	-ASB Secretary
•	-Medical Internship from Jan to March '19
•	

Keep in mind:

Your activities log/ resume can also be useful when you apply for **scholarships** and jobs.

Quick Tips

- Level of **commitment and leadership** in your activities **matter more** in the admission review process **than the number of activities**
- Colleges understand that many students have work, family and other responsibilities. Many applications include a section where you can write about yourself or your circumstances. Share your experience!

FEBRUARY: PICKING FITTING HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

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

WHAT ARE COLLEGES LOOKING FOR?

- A challenging class schedule, including courses where you can earn college credit. Examples include, **Advanced Placement (AP)**, **International Baccalaureate (IB)**, **Cambridge International**, College in the High School, **Running Start** or **CTE Dual Credit** (formerly Tech Prep) that can lead to a career credential or associate's degree.
- Electives that match your career and college interests including career and technical education programs of study.
- Some colleges may have additional entrance or admission requirements such as taking the **SAT** or **ACT**.
- Consider taking academic classes for your elective requirements such as foreign language and/or multiple lab sciences.

REMINDER:

Make sure to look at academic and class requirements for the colleges you are interested in attending.

MATH IS IMPORTANT:

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

Quick Tips

-Your high school graduation requirements may not be the same as college admission requirements.

-4-year colleges have the most selective requirements.

-Technical and 2-year colleges have less selective requirements.

MARCH: COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP

The College Bound Scholarship is a commitment of **state financial aid** to **eligible** students and is a four-year scholarship (12 quarters/8 semesters). Students would have applied in middle school before the end of their 8th grade year and commit to meeting the College Bound Pledge in high school to receive the scholarship. College Bound combines on your **award letter** with other state financial aid to cover tuition (at public college rates), some fees and a small book allowance.

WHERE CAN I USE IT?

The College Bound Scholarship can be used at **over 60 2- and 4- year public and private colleges, universities and technical programs** in Washington state.

- In the 2018-2019 school year the maximum College Bound Scholarship award amounts look like this:

College Types & Potential College Bound Scholarship Dollars

Private 4-Year Colleges

Up to \$11,904 per year

Public 4-Year Research Colleges

Up to \$11,009 per year

Public 4-Year Comprehensive Colleges

Up to \$7,515 per year

Private 2-Year Colleges

Up to \$4,516 per year

Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs)

Up to \$4,516 per year

The College Bound Scholarship

DOES COVER:

- Average cost of **tuition** (at public college rates)
- Some college **fees**
- Small book allowance

DOES NOT COVER:

- Housing
- Meal plan
- Transportation
- Healthcare insurance
- Non-mandatory fees

Other financial aid may assist with these expenses. The list may vary by college.

Quick Tips

-You must use the College Bound Scholarship within 1 year of high school graduation.

-If you have any questions about the College Bound Scholarship, please contact the Washington Student Achievement Council at collegebound@wsac.wa.gov or visit collegebound.wa.gov

APRIL: THE COLLEGE BOUND PLEDGE

Remember that time in 7th or 8th grade, when you signed a pledge to go to college? We haven't forgotten about you. Here is what you need to know about the pledge for the College Bound Scholarship.

HOW DO I GET IT?

After completing the application in middle school, eligible students must fulfill **The College Bound Pledge**:

- Graduate from a Washington state high school or homeschool program with at least a 2.0 GPA. If you were in foster care at any point after 7th grade, please visit readysetgrad.org/fostercare to learn more about additional options.
- Have no **felony convictions**.
- Be income eligible, as determined by your college with the information from your **FAFSA** or **WASFA**. You can view income requirements by visiting readysetgrad.org/cbs-mfi
- Get accepted to and attend a college or university program in Washington state within one year of graduating high school. Visit readysetgrad.org/eligible-institutions for a complete list of eligible schools.

COLLEGE BOUND OVERVIEW

The College Bound Scholarship is a commitment of **state financial aid** to **eligible** students to cover average cost of tuition (at public college rates), some college fees and a small book allowance and is a four-year scholarship (12 quarters/8 semesters). Students apply in middle school before the end of their 8th grade year and commit to meeting the College Bound Pledge in high school to receive the scholarship. College Bound combines on your **award letter** with other state financial aid to cover **tuition** (at public college rates), some **fees** and a small book allowance.

Quick Tips

- Sign up to get updates on the College Bound Scholarship and other ways to get college ready by visiting: readysetgrad.wa.gov
- You must use your College Bound Scholarship within 1 year of high school graduation.

MAY: COLLEGE AND CAREER

Individuals with a college **degree** earn **\$1 million more over their lifetime** compared to those with only a high school diploma. (Khan Academy, 2014).

WHAT EDUCATION DOES MY DREAM JOB REQUIRE?

You can choose from hundreds of **majors** and **certificates**. Typically, most fall into two categories: **liberal arts** or **career-oriented**.

CAREER-ORIENTED MAJORS OR CERTIFICATES

Focus on developing particular skills and knowledge for **specific careers**

Marine biology
Paralegal studies
Engineering
Dental hygiene

DO RESEARCH:

Research different colleges to figure out which ones offer the certification program, major and/ or degree that you need for your career. What you choose will impact how much money you earn.

LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS

Include literature, philosophy, history and languages. These majors are broader and can lead to various jobs that don't require specific or technical knowledge.

English– editor, marketing executive, writer

Foreign Language– foreign service officer, translator, teacher

Political science– community organizer or activist, lawyer, policy analyst

Psychology– market researcher, social worker, mental health counselor

DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO YET?

1 Think about your interests.

List **job ideas** and interests and then research how they can connect to a job. **Virtualjobshadow.com** is an awesome tool which helps you connect your interests to careers, participate in online job shadows, and learn about the crucial factors of any career.

2 Determine how to qualify for different jobs.

Learn **job requirements** (skills, classes, specific degrees or training, etc.)

Talk to a **career counselor**, mentor or family member.

3 Get experience.

Volunteer, get an **internship** or **job shadow**.

JUNE: PAYING FOR COLLEGE

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

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

College costs vary by school. Each college estimates the **Cost of Attendance (COA)** by adding together some or all of the below expenses:

Tuition

Fees

Room and board

Transportation

Books and supplies

Other living expenses

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

Financial Aid

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

Scholarships

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

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID:

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

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

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

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

Keep In Mind:

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