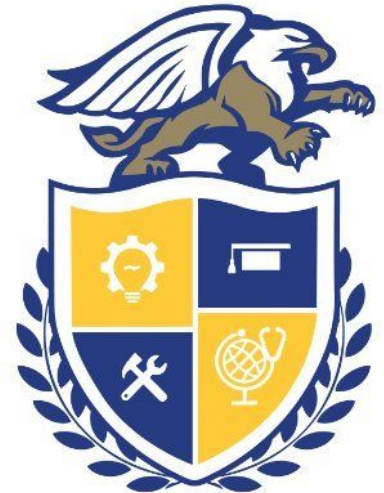


Post-Secondary Planning Guide

Greater Lowell Technical High School
School Counseling Department



What are my options after high school?

- **Workforce or Union**
- **Military**
- **Post Secondary Education:**
 - **Technical College (Associates or Certificate)**
 - **Two-Year College (Associates or Certificate)**
 - **Four-Year College or University (Bachelors)**



How to get into a union

In any industry, reach out to the Local Union where you live or work.

Work for an employer who has a contract with a national union, like the Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA)

Massachusetts Building Trades Council:

List of local unions: [Click here](#)

[The MA Ultimate Guide to Becoming a Union Apprentice](#)

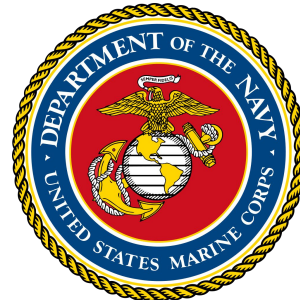


LiUNA!

Labors' International
Union of North America

How to join the military

- Research the branches you are interested in: [Click Here](#)
- Schedule the ASVAB test via Naviance
- Reach out to Mr. Blatus: ablatus@gltech.org
- Talk with your parents
- Reach out to a local recruiter
- ROTC programs at certain colleges



Community College

Community Colleges or Two Year Colleges offer lots of options for students who are looking to pursue a certificate or professional programs or for those who are looking to earn an Associates Degree (2 year degree).

The admissions requirements are generally more straightforward than a 4-year college/university (requiring only a high school transcript), so you may not need an essay or SAT/ACT scores

Financial savings: community colleges don't have dorms, so you can save money on housing and meal plans. They typically cost less in tuition per semester than a 4 year college/university

Take advantage of the Mass Transfer Block Program

Technical High Schools Transfer Agreements

Massachusetts Technical High School Transfer Agreements facilitate the seamless transition of students from technical high schools to post-secondary institutions. These agreements enhance educational pathways, ensuring that students receive recognition for their technical training while pursuing higher education.

Key Features:

1. **Credit Transfer:**
 - Students can transfer credits earned in technical programs to partnered community colleges and universities.
2. **Pathway Programs:**
 - Customized pathway programs are established to guide students from technical education to relevant college courses.
3. **Support Services:**
 - Dedicated academic advising for students to navigate transfer options effectively.
4. **Industry Partnerships:**
 - Opportunities for internships and practical experiences.
5. **Diverse Opportunities:**
 - Agreements available for various technical disciplines including engineering, health sciences, information technology, and more.

Benefits:

- Facilitates a smoother transition to higher education.
- Reduces redundancy in coursework, saving time and tuition costs.
- Equips students with skills that meet employer needs, enhancing employability.

MassTransfer Program



2+2 Program, MassTransfer - start at a community college for 2 years, earn an associate's degree, and finish your bachelor's degree at any Massachusetts college or university with your major!

Save money, get an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree

Students who complete with a 3.00 or greater GPA will receive the MassTransfer Tuition Credit

Four- Year Colleges: What do they look for?

- High School Transcript - Grades, GPA, AP/Honors/Dual Enrollment
 - Academic Requirements vary by college and major
- Standardized Test Scores- SAT/ACT
 - Test optional schools
- Well-written application essay
- Extracurriculars! (clubs, sports, work experience)
- Leadership Qualities
- Community Service/Volunteer Work
- Teacher Recommendations
- Special Talents - Athletic ability, music, theatre, art
- Resume/Portfolio (depends on the college)

English	4 years/4 courses
Math	4 courses (Algebra I & II, Geometry or Trigonometry, or comparable coursework) Including mathematics during the final year of high School*
Science	3 courses (from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/Engineering), including Work*
Social Science	2 courses (including 1 course in U.S. History)
Foreign Language	2 courses (in a single language) GLTHS students who do not complete the 2 foreign language courses must complete an additional elective, for a total of three such courses, and satisfy one of the following options: 1. Complete at least one course of foreign language; 2. Complete a fourth course of mathematics or science, which need not be a laboratory course; or 3. Complete one course of computer science.
Electives	2 courses from the above subjects or from the Arts & Humanities or Computer Sciences)

Admissions Standards for State Colleges and Universities

What to look for in choosing a college

- Academics/Programs of Study (Majors and Minors)
- Location
- Size of School and Student Body
- Competitiveness
- Cost- Public vs. Private
- Support Services
- Financial Aid Programs - Merit vs. Need
- Personal Fit
- Visit colleges and speak to admissions



Reach, Match, and Safety Schools

“Reach Schools”

- Highly competitive
- Your grades and test scores are below the average

“Match Schools”

- Academic records and test scores are similar to other accepted students
- Good possibility of being accepted, however no guarantees - many capable students may not be accepted as it depends on the applicant pool and number of applications in any given year

“Safety Schools”

- Your grades and test scores are above the scores of other accepted students
- Consider financial safety - Mass transfer program



Do your research!

Use these resources to get more information
on next steps

- [Naviance](#)
- [Collegeboard](#)
- GLTHS School Counselors
- Reach out to the schools themselves
 - College websites
 - Virtual tours/Campus tours



It's not about the number of
colleges you apply to, it's about the
fit!

Four-Year College: How do I apply?

- Decide on your list of colleges on Naviance
- Check the requirements for each school!
- Take the SAT/ACT
 - Spring of junior year
 - October or November of senior year
- Request SAT/ACT scores to be sent to colleges before your test date
- Ask teachers and counselors for letters of recommendation - 2 weeks in advance
- Write college essays and have them proofread
- Complete applications on:
 - [Common App](#) if you're applying to more than one college
 - Directly to the college or university
- Early Action/Early Decision dates



Manage your time and Deadlines

- Check application deadlines for each school - **late applications will not be accepted!**

Early Action	Non-Binding	Fall Deadline
Early Decision	Binding	Fall Deadline
Regular Decision	Non-Binding	Deadlines Jan-March
Rolling Admissions	Non-Binding	Continuous

- Nursing Programs usually require applicants to apply Early Action
- Allow yourself enough time to proofread your application and essay
- Allow teachers two weeks for letter for recommendation

How do I apply for financial aid?

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- www.fafsa.ed.gov - check the link! Do not go to .com or other websites, those are scams
- The FAFSA is expected to open December 2024 for the 2025-2026 School Year
- Attend a FAFSA day or MEFA night to better understand your options



Financial Aid



- [FAFSA](#)
 - Grants
 - Loans
 - Unsubsidized vs. Subsidized
 - Parent Loans
 - Work-Study
- [CSS Profile](#)
- Scholarships
 - Need-based
 - Merit-based
-

*mefa*SM

Massachusetts Educational
Financing Authority

Scholarships

Check out online sources:

- [Naviance](#)
- [MEFA](#) social media
- [Collegeboard](#)
- [Fastweb](#)
- [Niche](#)
- [Cappex](#)
- [Unigo](#)

Greater Lowell Scholarship & Tool Award

John & Abigail Adams Scholarship

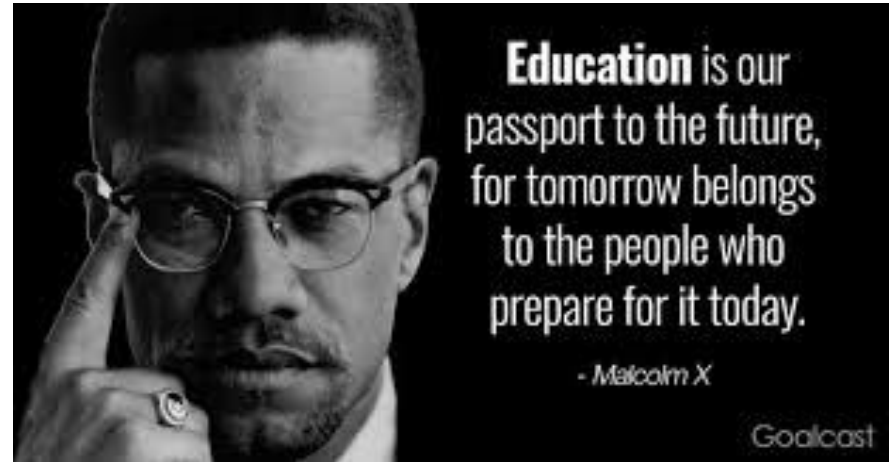
Check local libraries and charitable organizations, places of employment, and community membership organizations.

Last but not least...

See Your School Counselor!

Your school counselor can assist you, but you must be proactive!

This is your education and your future



Questions?
Contact your school counselor for
a planning appointment





GREATER LOWELL
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCAN HERE

● ● To sign up for the raffle! ● ●



**Attending the College and Career
Fair? Enter to win a \$50 gift card to
the school store**