

Post-Secondary Planning Guide

Greater Lowell Technical High School
School Counseling Department



“People with goals
succeed because
they know
where they're going”

- *Earl Nightingale*



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](#)

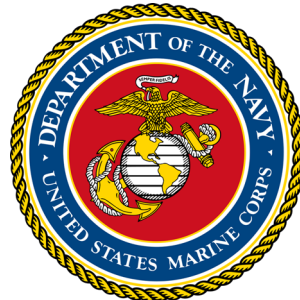


LIUNA!

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



Why go to a community college?

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

If you don't know what you want to study, you can take general education requirements and explore potential majors

Community colleges offer ESL courses to strengthen English language learning

If your GPA is lower than 3.0, you can attend a community college to strengthen your GPA

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

Placement Testing

Timing of a placement test will depend on the college

Most often at Community Colleges

Placement testing generally for English and mathematics



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

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



Do your research!

Use these resources to get more information
on next steps

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



What do colleges look for?

- High School Transcript - Grades, GPA, AP/Honors/Dual Enrollment
- 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
- Personal Interview (optional, highly encouraged)
- Special Talents - Athletic ability, music, theatre, art
- Resume/Portfolio (depends on the college)

Grade Point Average

- Minimum GPA of 3.0 for all four-year state colleges and universities
- If GPA is below 3.0, there is a sliding scale that colleges use to consider admission
- No applicant will be admitted with a GPA below 2.0
- For more information, go to the [Mass Gear Up Website](#)



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

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



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



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

DEADLINES COUNT!!

- Check application deadlines for each school - **late applications will not be accepted!**
- Early admission/early decision
- Rolling admission
- Nursing program applicants - often separate deadlines
- Best time to apply is after first quarter grades become available, unless the deadline is before



Manage your time



- Do not wait until the last minute to complete applications
- Give teachers **at least 2 weeks notice** when asking for a recommendation
- Give counselors **at least 2 weeks notice** when asking for transcripts and/or recommendations

Support Services in College

- Services are available for students with disabilities
- Be your own advocate!
- Talk to your GLTHS counselor or reach out to an admissions counselor at the college you're looking at if you have a question about support services
- Counseling services are generally available on-campus for students

Academic support is also available at most colleges for those with and without disabilities

What will it cost?

Sample Tuition and Fees (not including housing/meal plan)

Rivier University

- Rivier University estimates their undergraduate tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year at \$34,412

UMass Lowell

- Total tuition and fees for full-time undergraduate, in-state students in the 2021-2022 academic year is estimated at \$15,698

NECC/MCC

- Total tuition and fees average \$6,976 per year

Financial Aid

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



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
- Opens October 1st for students and families
- Attend a FAFSA day or MEFA night to better understand your options

FAFSA

Federal**StudentAid**

An office of the U.S. Department of Education

Scholarships

Check out online sources:

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

Greater Lowell Scholarship & Tool Award

John & Abigail Adams Scholarship

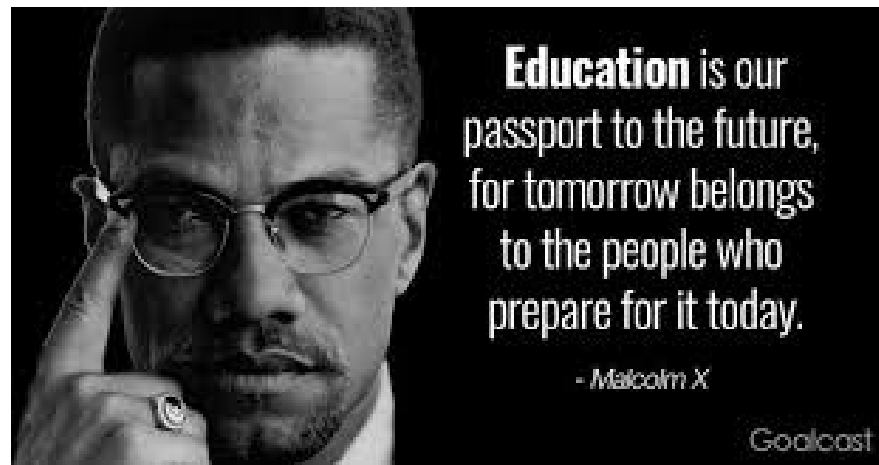
Check local libraries and charitable organizations, places of employment, and community membership organizations.

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

