



The Juniors Guide To The College Search

POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING INFORMATION FOR JUNIORS

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First:

- ▶ Fun fact: There are **16** quality 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities within a 50-mile radius of Eden.

First: (con't)

- ▶ Staying local for a semester or a year after graduating from Eden HS may allow some students to feel more comfortable with exploring more distant options and opportunities that have been challenging to visit in-person in recent years.

First: (con't)

- ▶ Please contact us via e-mail or phone to discuss any of the info that follows in greater depth and detail!

The Basics Of Beginning The College Search

- ▶ The following slides contain links and resources that we hope will make your college search journey as productive as possible.

Springtime Advice For Juniors

- ▶ Start exploring and defining your post-HS plans **now** using the links that follow.
- ▶ Decide which of the following three options is the best starting point for you: **College / Job / Military.**

Springtime Advice (con't)

- ▶ Carefully think about your **course selection** for Senior Year. What do the classes you pick say about your future goals, your academic ability and your work ethic?
- ▶ Talk about **money** with your parents. Some of you will have access to family financial help for your post HS plans, some of you will be on your own.

Straight Shot: Going From Eden HS Directly To A 4-Year College

- ▶ Juniors who took the **PSAT** in October received a code with their scores that allowed access to **free**, personalized SAT prep on Khan Academy's website.
- ▶ Did you use it?
- ▶ Pro tip: **Use it.**

Straight To A 4-Year (con't)

- ▶ SAT vs. ACT: What is the difference? **None, really.**
- ▶ We host the SAT at Eden HS in May, while the ACT is offered in April & June at other local High Schools.

Straight To A 4-Year (con't)

- ▶ In life before the pandemic, 4-Year College-bound Juniors *usually* took the SAT at the end of 11th grade and again at the beginning of 12th.

Straight To A 4-Year (con't)

- ▶ Because of the pandemic, most colleges are now “**test optional.**”
- ▶ Translation: if you plan to skip the SAT, make sure you take **challenging** classes in 12th grade and do well in them!

Straight To A 4-Year (con't)

- ▶ We still recommend that you take an SAT if possible.
- ▶ We are hosting the SAT in May at Eden HS. See the next slide for the registration link.

Straight To A 4-Year?

Do This Now:

- ▶ Register for the SAT in May (held here at Eden) and/or in June (at Hamburg or Frontier HS):

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>

SAT / ACT Math

- ▶ If you do register to take the SAT or the ACT you should **currently** be taking **one** of the following math classes:
- ▶ **Algebra 2, Intermediate Algebra (w Mrs. Bendlin) OR Pre-Calculus**

Straight To A 4-Year?

Do This **ALSO**:

- ▶ Attend the National College Fair on March 20th in Buffalo.
- ▶ If you get shut out of the AM session, attend in the evening.
- ▶ You can still attend college fairs “virtually.”

After Registering For The SAT & The College Fair:

- ▶ Generate a list of colleges that match your interests and abilities.
- ▶ Commit to at least three college visits – virtual or in-person - for the Spring / Summer.
- ▶ Begin researching scholarship and financial aid opportunities.

Applying To College Using “**Early Decision**”

- ▶ Some 4-year colleges (usually highly competitive ones) allow Seniors to apply as “**Early Decision**” applicants.
- ▶ You can only do this with **ONE** of your prospective colleges, so it should be your absolute favorite.

Applying To College Using “**Early Decision**” (con’t)

- ▶ If you plan to apply Early Decision, expect to have your College Applications **completed by early-November.**
- ▶ This means you will be asking your teachers for letters of recommendation by **mid-October.**
- ▶ **That’s less than 8 months from now!**

Option 2: **Early Action**

- ▶ Other colleges offer “**Early Action**” to applicants. Early Action means a college will give you a faster decision of whether or not you are accepted.
- ▶ You can choose to apply “Early Action” to as many schools that you want (assuming it is an option).

How Hard Is It To Get In?

- ▶ Colleges that are “Highly Selective” may reject you even though you have done (and done well) **every single thing they have asked you to do.**
- ▶ Some only accept 10% (or less!) of the very qualified students who apply.

Getting In (con't)

- ▶ If you plan to apply to a Highly Selective college these sites may help you size up your competition:
- ▶ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges>
- ▶ <https://www.collegeconfidential.com> Click on “Search for Colleges.”
- ▶ www.niche.com

Getting In (con't)

- ▶ Colleges Admissions Committees look at your GPA + Sr year course selection + Class Rank + Test Scores + involvement in sports & clubs + hobbies + community service + other intangibles that you may not even be aware of.
- ▶ A hobby or unique talent that sets you apart from others can make a huge difference on an application.

What About The **2-Year College Option** (aka Community College)?

- ▶ Community colleges are **NOT** the same places that your parents may remember.
- ▶ Invite them to go with you on your virtual or in-person visit!

Community College (con't)

- ▶ The SAT test is **OPTIONAL** for students who plan to attend a Community College after graduating from HS.
- ▶ (If you do take the test, a 2-year college will use your SAT scores to place you in the appropriate college-level Math & English classes.)

Community College (con't)

- ▶ For an **Associate's Degree** (which takes two years to earn) you still need to take Math & English classes.
- ▶ You can **live on campus** at more Community Colleges than ever before.

Links To Area 2-Year Colleges

- ▶ <https://www.ecc.edu/>
- ▶ <https://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/>
- ▶ <https://www.sunyjcc.edu/>
- ▶ <https://www.bryantstratton.edu/>
- ▶ <https://www.villa.edu/>
- ▶ <https://www.monroecc.edu/>
- ▶ <https://trocaire.edu/>

2-Year College Costs

- ▶ The approximate YEARLY cost of tuition + student fees at a NYS **Public** Community College is \$5000.
- ▶ The approximate YEARLY tuition at a NYS **Private** Community College is between \$10,000 and \$20,000 (but more grants are available through the private schools).

Transferring From Community College To 4-Year College

- ▶ **Q:** What if I want to start at a 2-year college and then transfer to a 4-year college?
- ▶ **A:** Then the SAT is **optional**.

Free College For Qualifying NYS Students

- ▶ The Excelsior Scholarship will cover your tuition costs if your parents earn less than \$125,000 per year (but you have to stay in NYS for some time after graduating).
- ▶ For more details, click on the “Pay” tab: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/>

Free College For NYS's Top 10%

- ▶ The STEM Scholarship is awarded to any Senior who graduates within the Top 10% of his/her class and plans to 1) stay in NYS for college and 2) earn a specific degree in the STEM field.
- ▶ For more details, click on the “Pay” tab: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/>

Free Money For Other Reasons

- ▶ Check out the rotating display of scholarships in our office next to Mrs. McCarthy's desk...it is updated weekly all year long and is also available online:

<https://www.edencsd.org/Page/6385>

Free Money (con't)

- ▶ Break rooms and bulletin boards all over WNY have scholarship notices waiting to be applied for.
- ▶ Many are small in size but winning just one will make a difference in your tuition bill.

Free Money (con't)

- ▶ Ask parents, relatives, friends, employers, bank managers, neighbors, parent's employers, Uber drivers, mail carriers and everyone else you know if they are aware of scholarship opportunities.

Free Money (con't)

- ▶ Here are more (free) sites to explore for scholarship opportunities:
- ▶ <https://www.fastweb.com/>
- ▶ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- ▶ <https://www.unigo.com>

Education = Investment

- ▶ Private: Canisius College tuition costs about \$35,000 per year. Want to live on campus and have a meal plan? Add another \$15,000!
- ▶ Public: The University at Buffalo charges \$12,000 per year for tuition and an additional \$12,000 for room and board. It's cheaper than Canisius but it's still \$24,000 a year!

Investment (con't)

- ▶ **DON'T PANIC ABOUT THE COST (yet)...**
- ▶ Unlike Public colleges, the Private schools like Canisius have **MUCH** more scholarship and grant money to award.
- ▶ Most students who enroll at a Private College do **NOT** pay anything close to the full amount of annual tuition and fees to attend.

Investment (con't)

- ▶ **Fact:** It has become more difficult for students to “pay as you go” when it comes to affording college.
- ▶ **Fact:** Costs were ***much*** lower when your parents went to college.
- ▶ **Opinion:** Parents might have a **very** different idea about the best option solely due to cost of attendance.

Investment (con't)

- ▶ **Opinion:** Be patient with your parents as their concerns about rising tuition costs are in your best interest.
- ▶ **Fact:** There is a path to a college degree **regardless** of your family finances (though it may require you to adjust where you start and where you finish).

Athletes Are Smarter Now

- ▶ Maintaining college athletic **eligibility** is the responsibility of the prospective HS athlete.
- ▶ The Eden HS classes that allow a student to be **eligible** for athletics in college are subject to NCAA approval.

Smarter Athletes (con't)

- ▶ Because not all Eden HS classes are NCAA-approved, you **MUST** share your athletic plans now with your counselor.
- ▶ Plans to participate in D1 or D2 sports in college will determine the classes that you take as a Senior.

Smarter Athletes (con't)

- ▶ You also must **register** before you graduate HS to be eligible as a future NCAA athlete:

<https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/how-register>

4-Year College Applicant's Timeline (tl/dr version)

- ▶ Prepare for your SAT / ACT.
- ▶ Research carefully to find your college matches.
- ▶ Visit at least THREE colleges by this August.
- ▶ If you are not planning to apply to a 4-year college please visit the campuses of 2-year Community Colleges in the WNY area.
- ▶ Start the conversation now with your parents about finances and how much support you can expect for your college costs.

I Did All Of That. Now What?

- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the online “one stop” College Applications that are available – they will save you time when you apply (see next slide).
- ▶ Identify the teachers who know you best: these are the folks who will write your letters of recommendation.

Now What? (con't)

- ▶ The Common App is used by over 600 colleges nationwide.
<https://www.commonapp.org/>
- ▶ The SUNY app is the better option if you will **only** apply to public colleges in NYS:
<https://www.suny.edu/applysuny/>
- ▶ (Do **NOT** use the Common App or the SUNY APP to apply to ECC or other Community Colleges as you will be wasting \$50 – use the Comm College websites to apply directly to those schools!)

What about NOT going to college?

- ▶ The US Military offers **educational, training and financial opportunities** for High School students.
- ▶ Each fall, the military placement exam (aka “the ASVAB”) is offered at Eden HS, the score of which matches candidates to possible jobs in all 4 branches of the military.
- ▶ You can also take the ASVAB at local recruiting offices.

What about working full-time?

- ▶ The opportunity to accept a full-time job after High School has **never** been more possible than it is now. It is changing the plans of HS Seniors.
- ▶ Be careful: students who plan to work for a year **and then** apply to college might be penalized for their earnings when it comes time to apply for financial aid.
- ▶ Our advice if you take an employment gap year: **Save as much of your earnings for college tuition whenever possible.**

What about working full-time?

- ▶ There is a strong network of Union and Non-Union trades in Western New York.
- ▶ Apprenticeships are tiered to reward your ability and dedication (meaning: get ready to start out on the lowest rung of the ladder).
- ▶ 99% of HS grads who go directly into the workforce will take an academic class at a community college or trade school at some point in their career.

WNY Trades Information

- ▶ The projected growth of construction and trades jobs in WNY over the next 10 years is better than it has been at any time since the 1950s. Review the following links for workforce employment & training information:
- ▶ <https://www.ecc.edu/academics/workforce-development.html>
- ▶ <https://northlandwtc.org/training/> .



Starting From Scratch?

Answer a few questions.
Find a career to explore.

- ▶ <https://www.princetonreview.com/quiz/career-quiz>
- ▶ <https://www.careeronestop.org/>
- ▶ <https://www.yourfreecareertest.com/>
- ▶ <https://roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder>



**Take One
Step At A Time...
And Make The
Most Of The Path That
You Are On.**

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