PLANNING YOUR FUTURE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Trades, Military, Job, Gap Year(s)

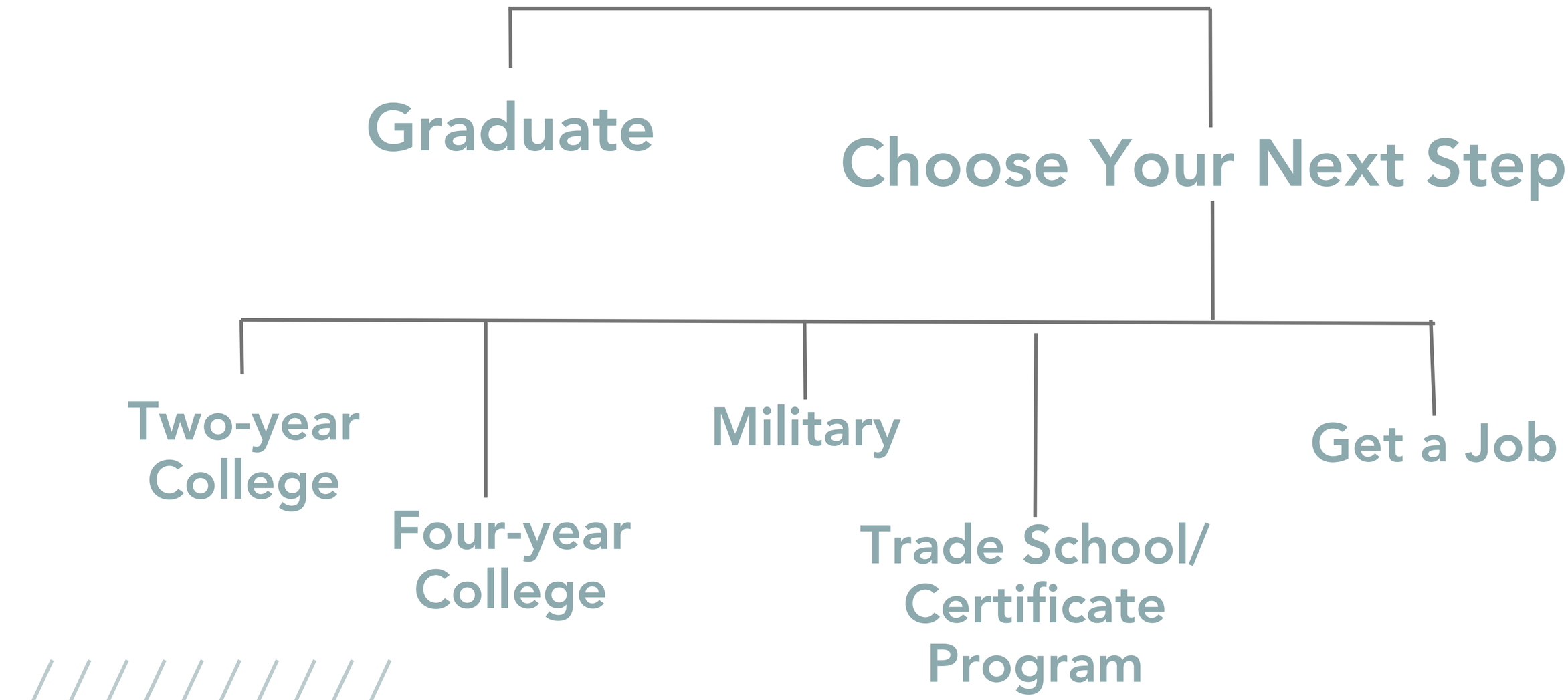
March 19, 2025

HELLO!

Jennifer Hann-Deschaine
Brandywine School District High School Career Center Advisor

Concord- Tuesdays
Brandywine- Wednesdays
Mount Pleasant- Thursdays
Mondays/Fridays- Rotating

GOALS FOR BSD STUDENTS



WHY THE TRADES, MILITARY, JOB, OR GAP YEAR(S)?

The Process of Self-Discovery

THE 3 FIT FACTORS

ACADEMIC FIT

Do you want a challenge?
Do you want to be confident on the first day?
How much time do you want to devote to training or learning?

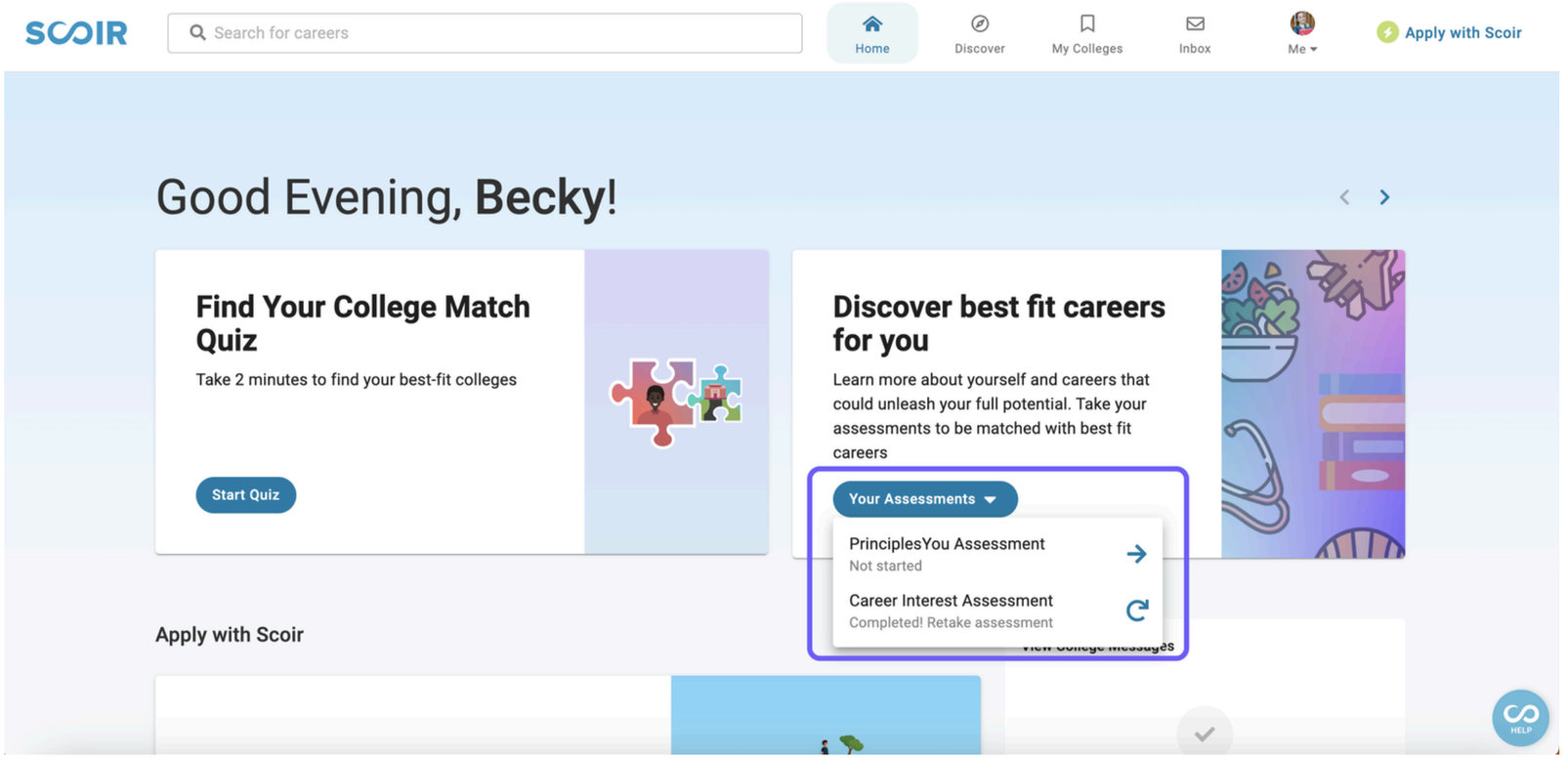
SOCIAL FIT

Distance from Wilmington, DE
Vibe- competitive vs collaborative
Who would your Boss be?
Who would your Co-Workers be?
Work/Life Balance
Access to Free Time Activities

FINANCIAL FIT

How much money will you make?
Is there a path for advancement/raises?
Will you get both pay and benefits?
Will you be able to support the lifestyle you want now and in the future?

WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS?



WHAT DO YOU ENJOY?

01. TRADES

02. MILITARY

03. JOBS

04. GAP YEAR(S)

ALTERNATIVES TO COLLEGE

01.

TRADES

So many options....

MYTH #3

The trades are only for men

MYTH #2

You can’t make money in the trades

MYTH #1

All trades are easy to learn

TYPES OF TRADES

- CONSTRUCTION
- HEALTHCARE
- LOGISTICS
- COSMETOLOGY
- MAINTENANCE
- EDUCATION
- OPERATIONS
- BUSINESS

01. ENTRY LEVEL

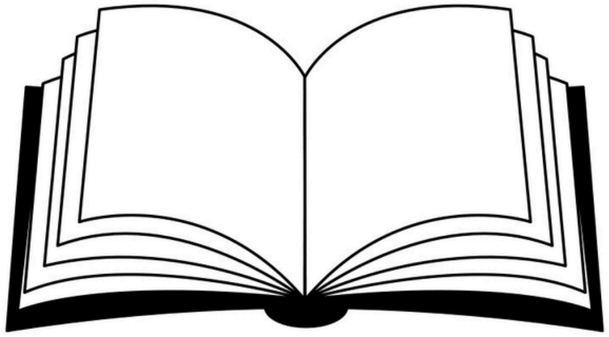
02. SHORT-TERM RAPID TRAINING

03. LONG-TERM TRAINING TOWARD LICENSURE

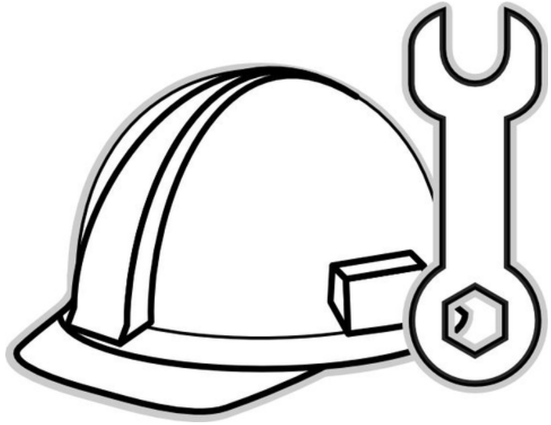
04. APPRENTICESHIPS

05. UNIONS

DIFFERENT WAYS TO ENTER THE TRADES



Classroom Instruction



On-the-Job Training (OJT)

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR A CAREER IN THE TRADES

TRAINING OPTIONS IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY

DEL TECH WORKFORCE TRAINING

seed

$0

TRAINING OPTIONS IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY

DELAWARE SKILLS CENTER

DSC
Delaware Skills Center

AS LOW AS $155

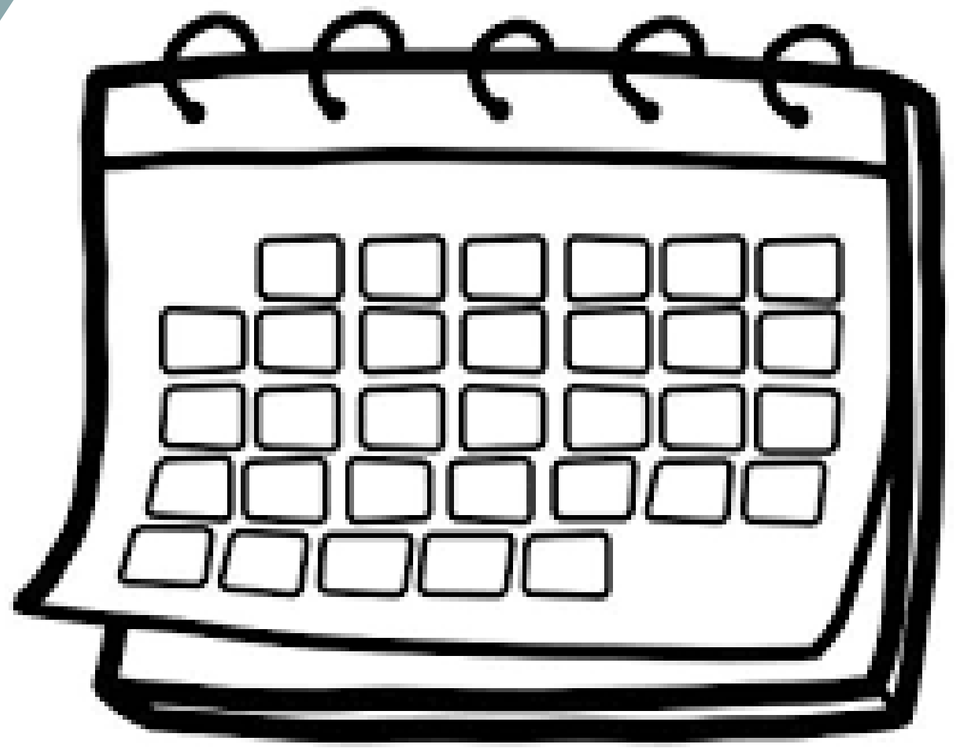
TRAINING OPTIONS IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY

NCC ADULT EDUCATION

AED
Adult Education Division
New Castle County Vo-Tech School District

UP TO $575

WHEN TO APPLY TO TRADE SCHOOL



- In-State Options- no earlier than 4th MP of Senior Year. May need to wait until you get a HS diploma.

- Some Out-of-State Options- Fall/Winter of Senior Year.

02.

MILITARY

So many options....

BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY

U.S. AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE

MARINES

U.S.ARMY

ARMY

NAVY

NAVY

COAST GUARD

SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE

ACTIVE DUTY

FULL TIME
BASED ALL AROUND THE WORLD

NATIONAL GUARD

PART TIME WITH FULL TIME OPTIONS
BASED IN DELAWARE (OPTION TO TRANSFER)
PAIRED WITH JOB OR COLLEGE

RESERVES

PART TIME
BASED ALL AROUND UNITED STATES
PAIRED WITH JOB OR COLLEGE

ROTC

PART TIME WITH FUTURE 4-YEAR FULL TIME OR 8-YEAR PART TIME COMMITMENT AS AN OFFICER
PAIRED WITH COLLEGE

MILITARY ACADEMIES

FREE COLLEGE
FIVE+ YEAR FULL TIME ACTIVE DUTY COMMITTMENT AS AN OFFICER

REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN THE MILITARY

AGE 17+

US CITIZEN OR GREEN CARD HOLDER

FLUENT IN ENGLISH

MINIMUM ASVAB TEST SCORE



HS DIPLOMA OR GED TO ENLIIST

4-YEAR COLLEGE TO BE AN OFFICER

MEDICAL EXAM

PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST

PAID VACATION

HEALTH INSURANCE

BONUSES

JOB TRAINING



POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE MILITARY

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

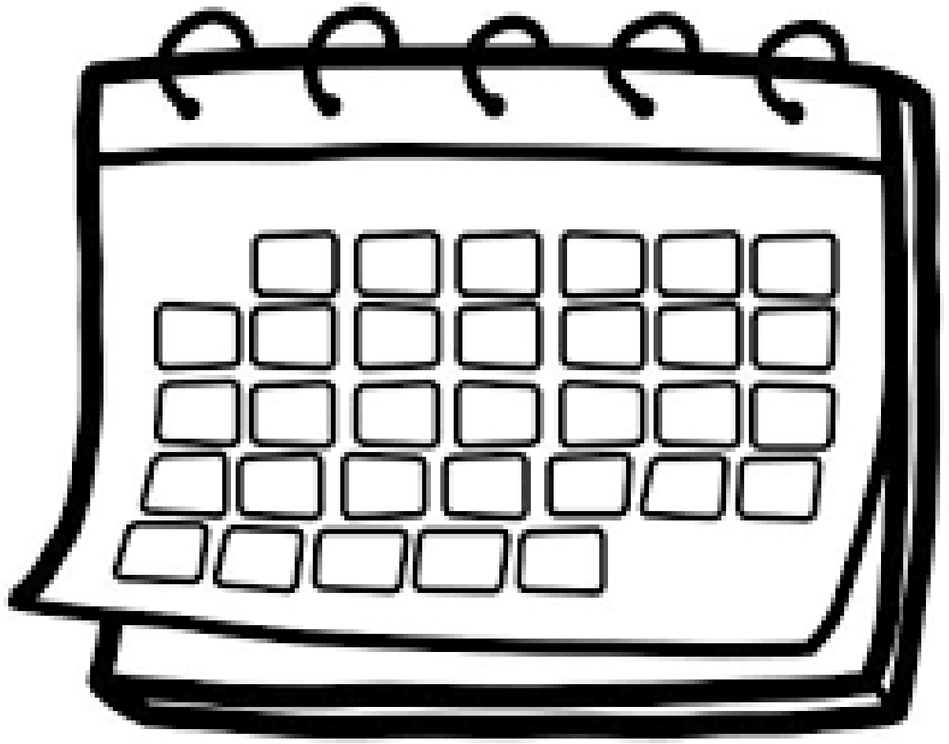
RETIREMENT BENEFITS/ PENSION

HOME & BUSINESS LOANS

FAMILY BENEFITS

WHEN TO JOIN THE MILITARY

- Talk to recruiters and explore options anytime
- Military Academies/ROTC- Must start college application process early
- With parental permission, could enlist at 17 years old. At 18, no parental permission needed.
- Can start to serve at 17 in the National Guard or Reserves. Active duty can start after HS graduation.

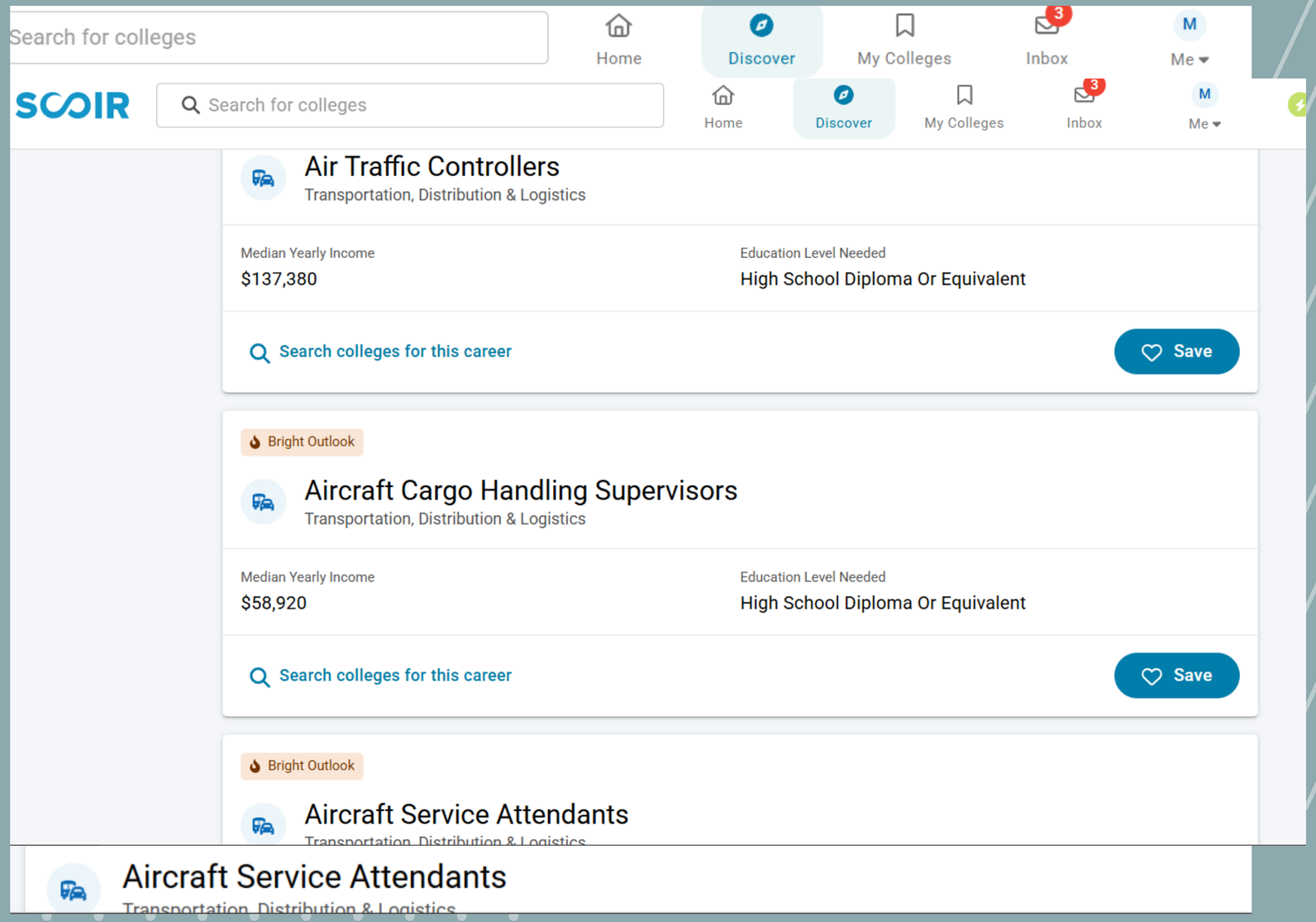


03.

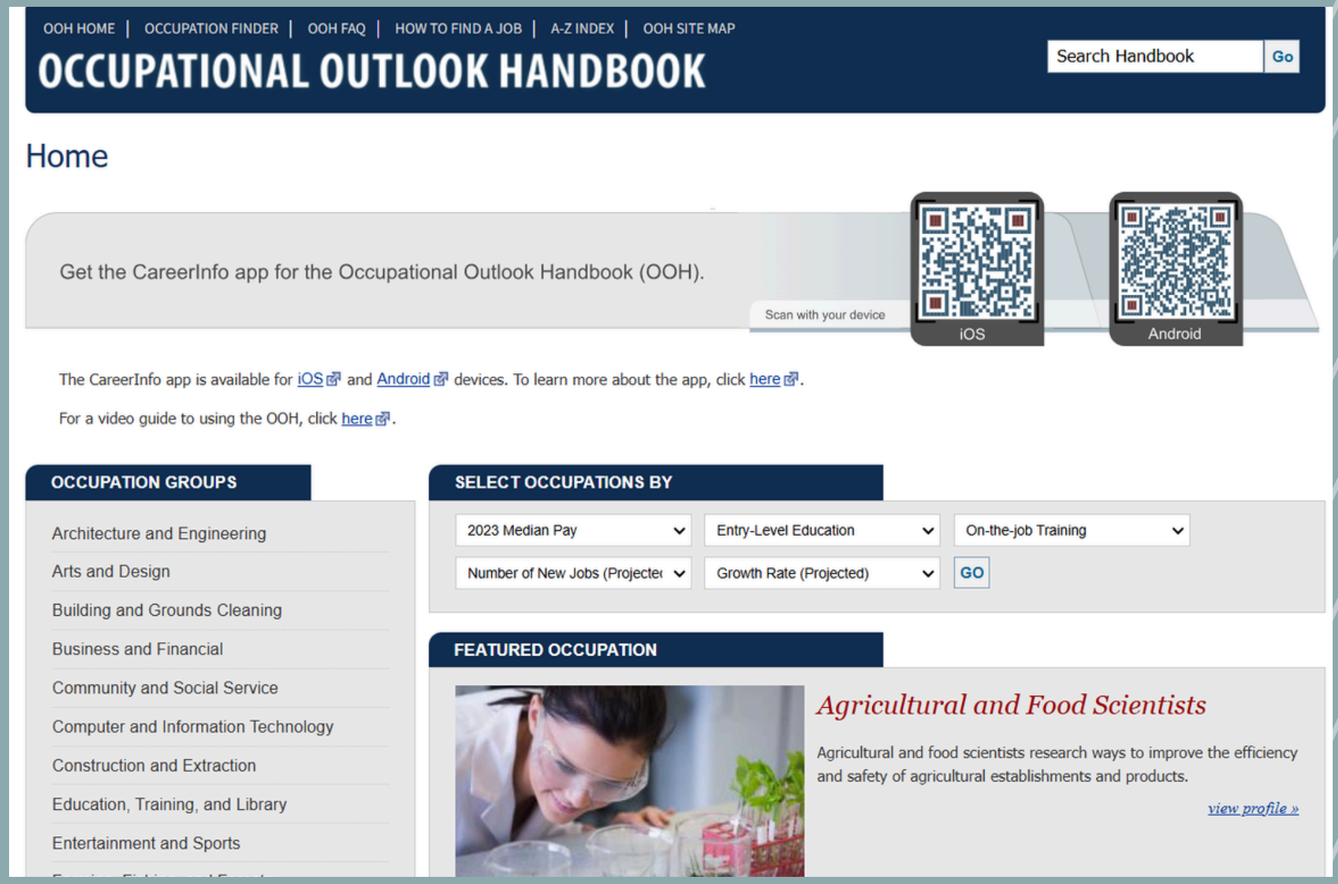
GETTING A JOB

So many options....

EXPLORING JOB OPTIONS IN SCOIR



EXPLORE FURTHER IN THE OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK



COMMUNICATION

PROBLEM SOLVING

WHAT SOFT SKILLS DO YOU HAVE?

CREATIVITY

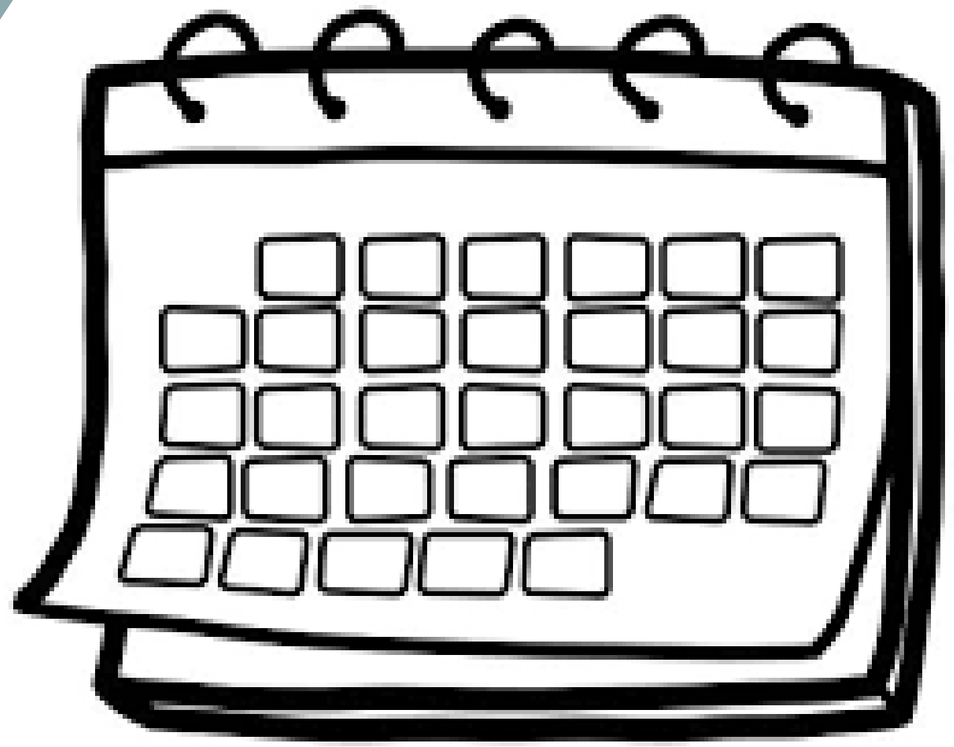
WORK ETHIC

ADAPTABILITY

HOW TO FIND A JOB

- ONLINE SEARCH FOR JOBS
- NETWORK- TALK TO PEOPLE YOU KNOW
- GET A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE ID
- CREATE A RESUME
- CONSIDER BOTH PAY AND BENEFITS

WHEN TO APPLY FOR A JOB



- Use jobs during high school to explore what you want to do after high school

- If graduation credits are locked in, apply during senior spring so you have a job ready to go at graduation.

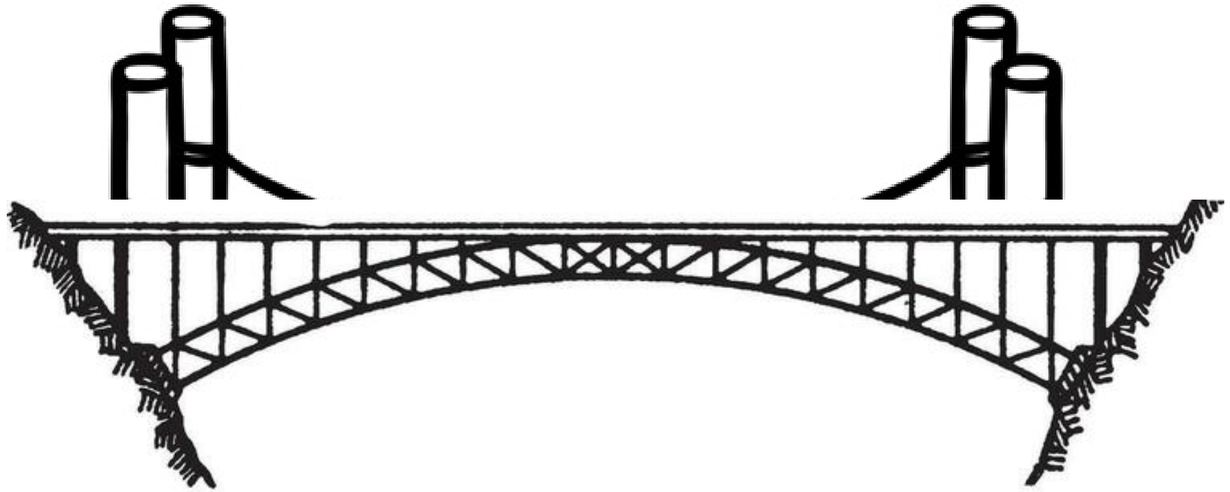
04.

GAP YEARS

So many options....

GAP YEAR(S)

HIGH SCHOOL



WHAT'S NEXT

OPTIONS INCLUDE...

CARING FOR A FAMILY MEMBER

WORKING TO SAVE UP MONEY

TRAVEL



AMERICORPS

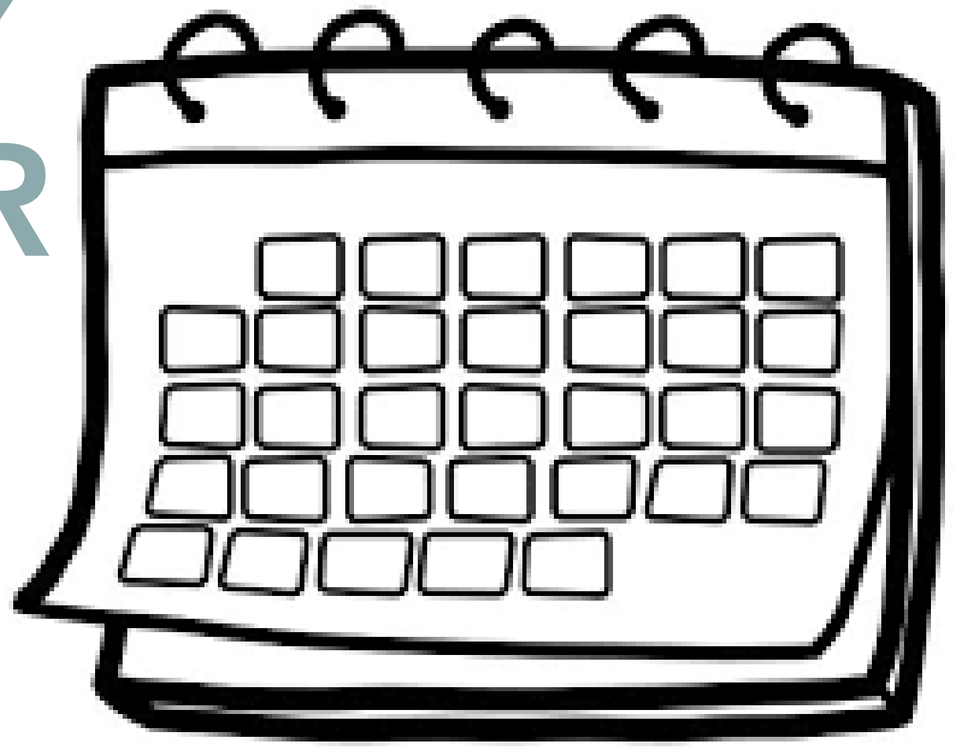
RELIGIOUS MISSION

VOLUNTEERISM

EXPLORE A CAREER FIELD

LANGUAGE IMMERSION

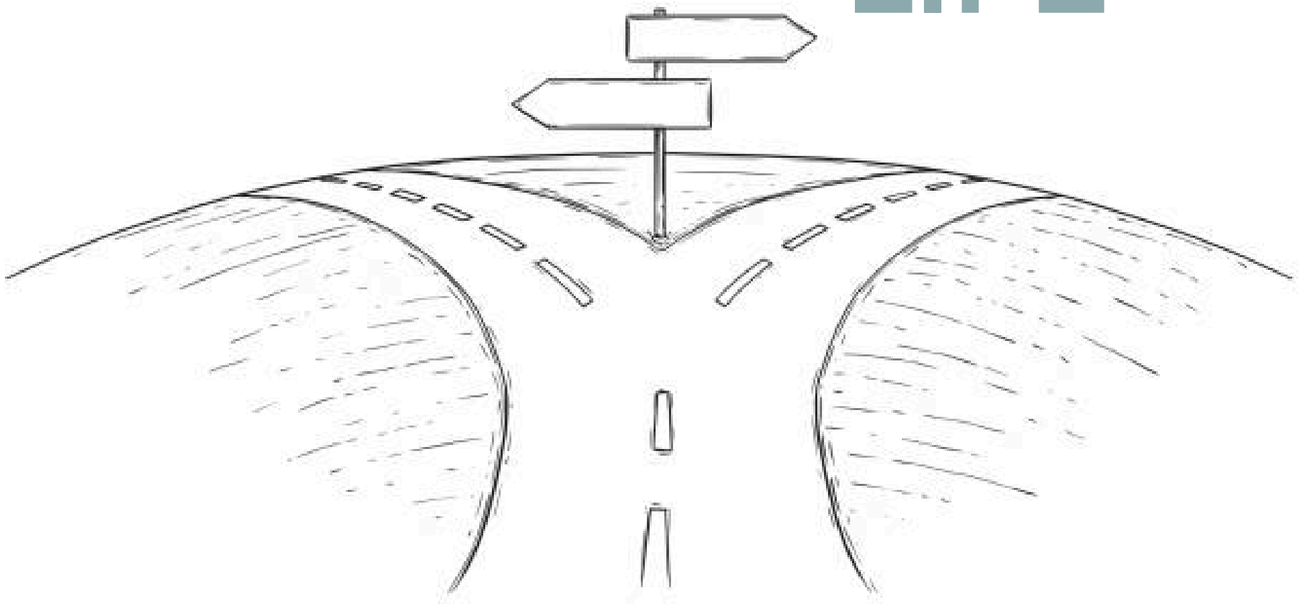
WHEN TO APPLY FOR A GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY

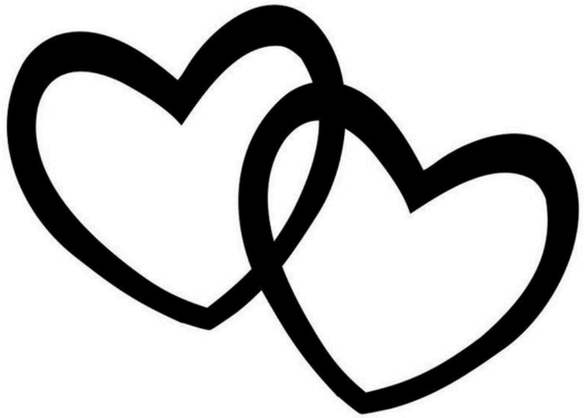


- After you have figured out what's next on the other side of the gap
- Winter/spring of your senior year

THERE IS NOT ONLY ONE RIGHT WAY TO DO LIFE







CHOOSE YOUR BEST NEXT PATH

THANK YOU

Do you have any questions?