Researching Your Future

Spring 2025

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT



Mrs. Mohn

A - D



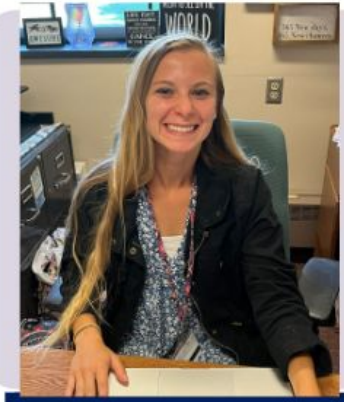
Mr. Hensel

E - Le



Mrs. Gergenti

Lf - R



Ms. Hall

S - Z

Exploring Career Options

Before beginning the post-secondary search, it is important to identify your interests and strengths that could align with possible career options.

Questions to consider while researching careers:

- What do I enjoy learning or doing?
- What am I good at?
- What is the projected employment growth by the time I graduate?
- What type of certification or education is required for this career?



Helpful resources to explore career options:

- Smart Futures
- Naviance Surveys
- ASVAB

You can access both Naviance and Smart Futures through the Clever App on your iPad, using your DTSD credentials

Types of Post-Secondary Education



Employment

Gap Year

Military

Apprenticeships

2 year college (Trade School)

4 year college

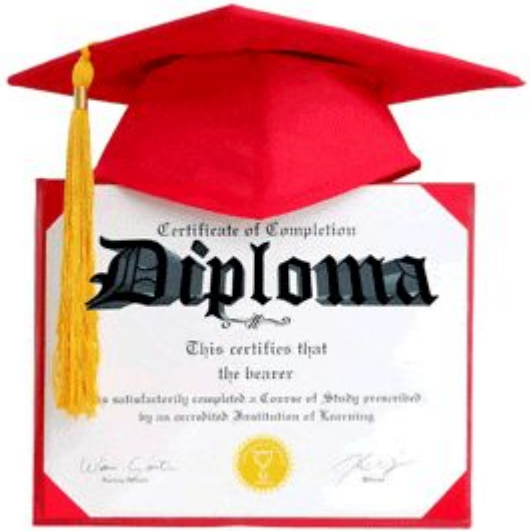


Employment

Joining the workforce after graduation is another option for students. The jobs listed below are the top 5 jobs that require a high school diploma and can provide on the job training.

1. Dispensing Optician
2. Community health care worker
3. Pharmacy Technician
4. Gaming manager
5. Mail carrier

*As of June 2021



Military



- 6 different branches
  - Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force
- Options after high school
  - Enlist
  - ROTC
- Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)
  - College program offered at over 1,700 colleges
  - Earning a degree while training to be an officer in one of the military branches
  - Graduates must serve 3-4 years in active duty upon college graduation

Your counselor can set up a meeting with a recruiter if you are interested in the military

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offer **full-time employment and on the job training, while earning a salary.** Upon successful completion of an apprenticeship, individuals will be certified in their field.

Some careers that offer apprenticeships:

- Boilermakers
- Carpenters
- Ironworkers
- Plumbers
- Masonry workers

Table 1 provides a list of careers that are projected to grow **faster than the national average** between 2018-2028.

Local 520 Plumbing & Pipefitters Apprenticeship application process (look for field trips!)

Ironworkers Local 404 Apprenticeship application process

Independent Electrical Contractors Info/Application

Table 1. Selected occupations with many apprentices, 2018



Selected occupations with many apprentices: employment growth, projected 2018–28, and employment and median annual wages, 2018

Occupation	Employment growth, projected 2018–28	Employment, 2018	Median annual wage, 2018
Carpenters	8% (Faster than average)	1,006,500	$46,590
Construction laborers	11% (Much faster than average)	1,405,000	35,800
Electrical power-line installers and repairers	8% (Faster than average)	119,400	70,910
Electricians	10% (Faster than average)	715,400	55,190
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	5% (As fast as average)	1,958,800	43,680
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	14% (Much faster than average)	500,300	53,910
Sheet metal workers	8% (Faster than average)	143,000	48,460

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (employment growth, employment, and wages), U.S. Department of Labor

Apprenticeships



-Apprenticeships require you to be 18 years of age and have a HS diploma or GED

-Most apprenticeships are offered through the actual employer; networking is KEY! Go on the Career Center trips!

-Most apprenticeships require some sort of basic aptitude test to apply (measurement math, tool identification, physical fitness test, etc.)

-Examples of OTHER local apprenticeship programs:

-Elevator Construction Apprentice, Diesel Mechanic Apprentice, Line Cook Apprentice, Esthetician Apprentice

Current options while still in HS:

-ABC Pre-Apprenticeship Program (on hold for Fall 2025, hoping to be back by Spring 2026); once a week for duration of a semester (1 credit)

-Manufacturer's Association Pre-Apprenticeship

-Job shadows/internships with industry professionals (even within our district)

-Career exploration field trips to various program sites - PPATEC Training Program in Middletown

-Panel in the Fall: **I didn't get into DCTS but want to do a trade, now what?!**

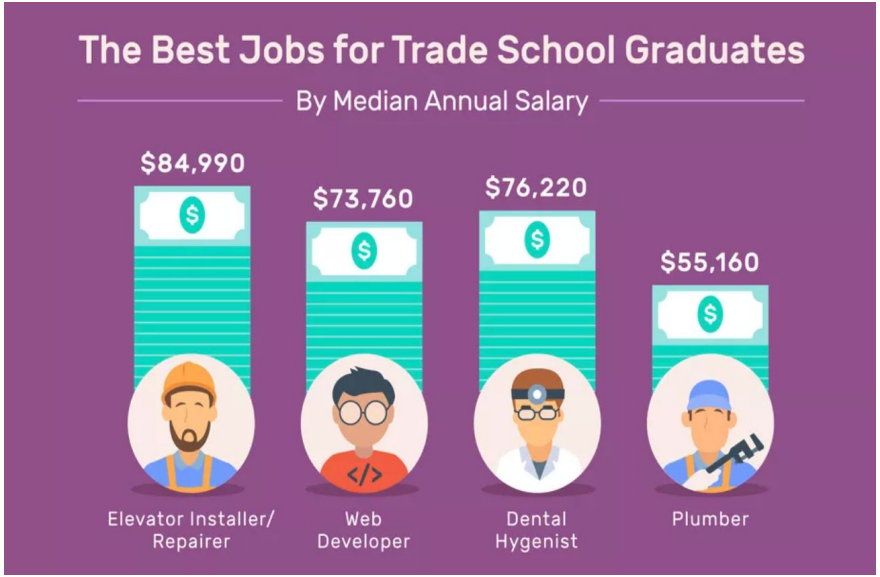
-In the process of working to develop more!

Trade/Technical Schools

Trade schools offer practical training and education to prepare students for specific skilled careers.

Local Trade Schools:

- Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology (Lancaster, PA) - *offer shadow days
- YTI Career Institute (Altoona, York, and Lancaster, PA)
- Williamson College of the Trades (Media, PA)



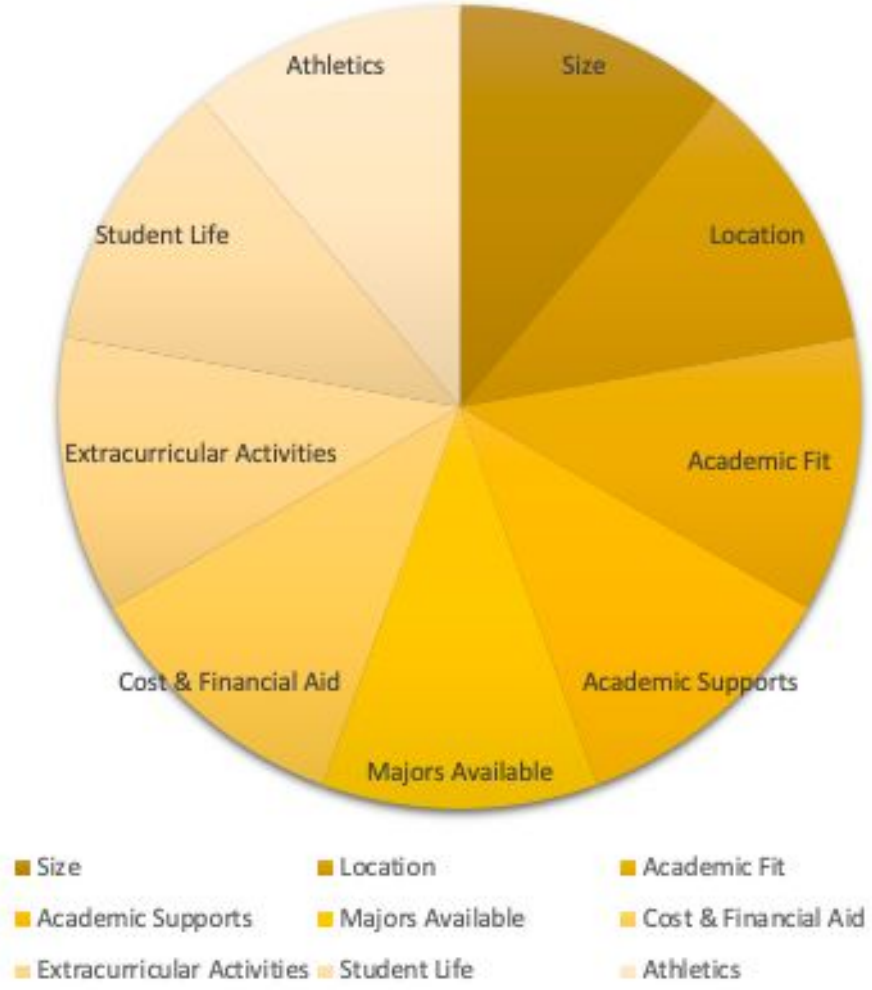
College

Junior → Senior Year Checklist

- ❏ Research colleges and their application requirements:
  - ❏ Important questions to keep in mind for colleges:
    - ❏ Do they require the SAT or ACT?
    - ❏ Are they offering virtual or in-person tours?
    - ❏ Do they have the college major that I am interested in?
- ❏ Take the SAT or ACT (if required) the spring of your junior year, or this upcoming summer or fall.
- ❏ Use Naviance Student to explore and search for colleges by major, location, size, cost, etc.

Finding the Right Fit:

What criteria should you consider in your college search?



SAT, ACT, and Test-Optional

The **SAT and ACT** are standardized tests used for college admissions and merit-based scholarships. **Test-optional** is used for schools who do not require an SAT or ACT for their application, however, they may use scores in lieu of placement tests or for merit-based scholarships.

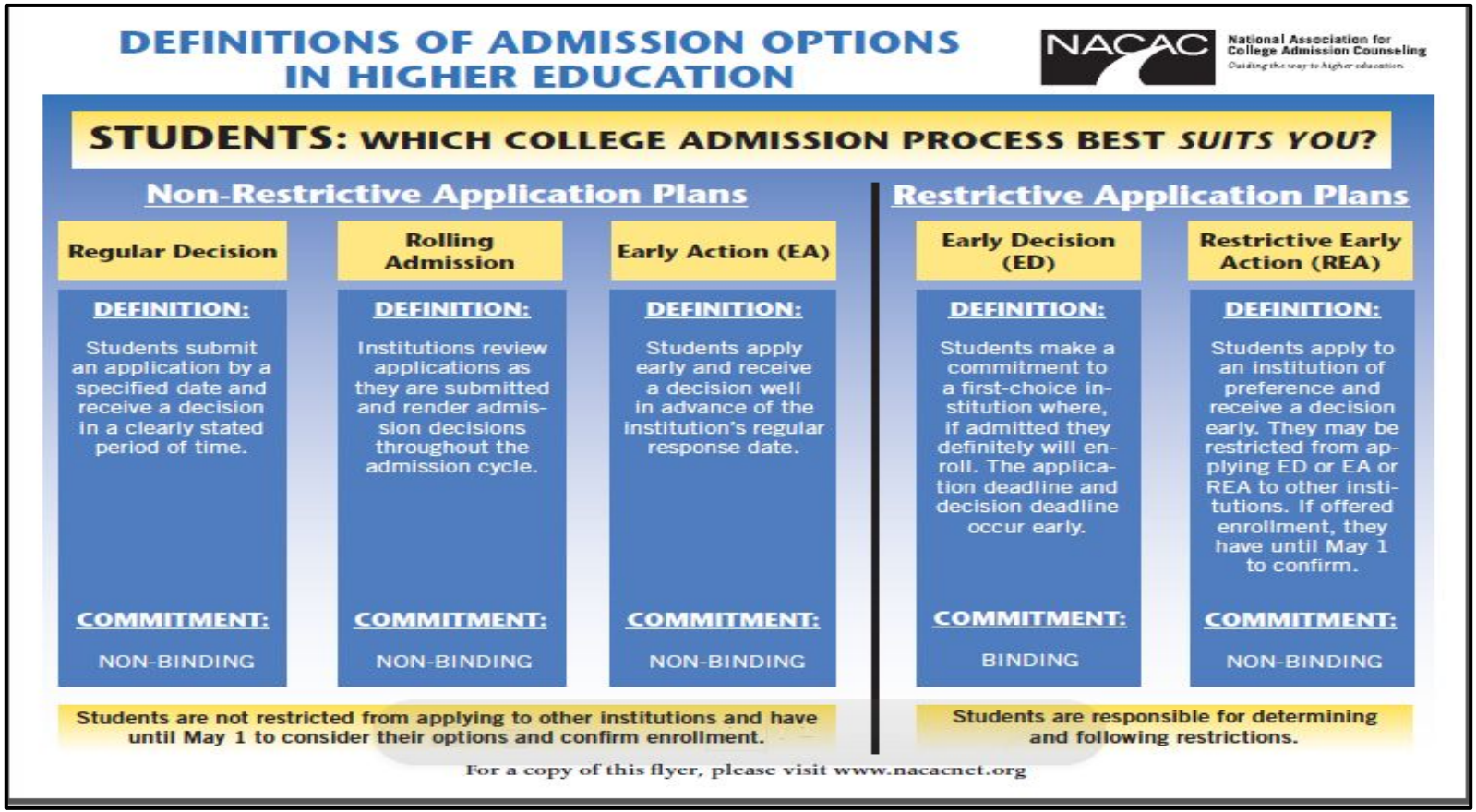
	SAT	ACT
Testing Time	2 hrs 14 minutes	2 hrs & 55 min (40 min optional essay)
# of Questions	98	215
Time per question	Approx 1 min 15 seconds	49 seconds
Score range	400 - 1600	1 - 36
Test components	Reading, Writing, Math	Reading, Math, English, and Science

College Application Types

- School Specific Application
  - Ex: applying to Lebanon Valley College directly through their website: www.lvc.edu
- Common Application
  - Ex: applying to Lebanon Valley College through the Common App: www.commonapp.org



Decision Options



DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

NACAC National Association for College Admission Counseling
Guiding the way to higher education

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST *SUITS YOU?*

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Restrictive Application Plans

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

For a copy of this flyer, please visit www.nacacnet.org

Paying for College?

- **What is Financial Aid?**
  - Any grant, scholarship, loan, or paid employment offered to help a student meet college expenses
  - *Free Application for Federal Aid Application (FAFSA) can be filled out starting **December 31st**
  - Financial Aid Night will be held in October 2025
- **What are Scholarships?**
  - Scholarships are a form of financial aid that **does not need to be repaid.**
  - Going Merry (scholarship website) includes HHS, local, and national scholarships.

12th grade year opportunities

1. **Work Experience (Semester 2)**
   a. Opportunity to work during school hours. Mentors must follow protocol listed in EPG, including needing to obtain clearances before starting.

2. **Internships (Semester 2)**
   a. Learning about a career through “on the job” opportunities.

   b. Students are responsible for finding their own placement and completing paperwork requirements by the deadlines provided.

Contact Information for these opportunities: Vsmith@ hershey.k12.pa.us

3. **Field Trips through the Career Center**
   a. QR code on bulletin board across from Counseling Office

Contact Information for field trip opportunities: Erosensteel@hershey.k12.pa.us



Summer → Fall



Things to keep in mind as you move into your senior year:

- Meet with school counselor for individual meetings
- Career exploration and planning is the first step! This helps to identify a path towards the career you are interested in.
- Make a plan to attend tours or open houses for colleges, contact military recruiters, or reach out to trade programs for additional information.
- If you are planning to apply to college in the summer, keep in mind that **counselors will not be sending any transcripts before the first day of school.**
- If you have any questions about specific colleges, reach out and ask them! Colleges like to see that you are actively taking an interest in their school, whether that be through tours, phone calls, emails, etc.**(demonstrated interest).**
- Individual senior meetings will be held in the fall with your counselor to help you with the post-secondary planning process.
- Common App will use the same essay prompts from the 2025-2026 school year, access will open on August 1, 2025.

Upcoming Events:

College Admissions Forum - April 23

- Hershey High School Auditorium - 6:30 pm
- Representatives from Penn State, Millersville, Gettysburg, and Elizabethtown will be available to discuss the college admissions process and answer any questions.

College Instant Decision Day

- October 15th, 2025
- Representatives from a variety of universities that will provide instant admission decisions throughout the day.



Naviance Student

Overview

Hershey High School utilizes a computer-based program called Naviance Student, a valuable resource to facilitate post-secondary planning. Students can access numerous features in Naviance Student provides to assist in career and college planning such as:

- **My Resume** – build a student resume by listing activities and awards
- **College Search** - You can conduct your own extensive searches. Start broadly by limiting your preferences to a few important factors (e.g. size, location, and selectivity, major or athletic interest.) Later you can specify additional criteria.
- **College Look Up** - Provides a basic profile of the college, including a link to its homepage on the web.
- **College Compare** - Pick two or more colleges and Naviance will produce a table of data based on recent HHS applicants to the colleges you selected.
- **Scattergrams** – Will provided a visual on how other HHS student have fared when applying to that school. The student will also be plotted on the graph. This feature will be accessible as data becomes available.
- **Surveys** – Any student requesting a counselor letter of recommendation must complete the Student Information Form.

Senior Q & A

What is your plan for after graduation?
How did you make your final post-secondary decision?
What do you wish you knew as a current junior to prepare?

Contact Information

Last Names	Counselor	Email
A-D	Mrs. Mohn	cmohn@hershey.k12.pa.us
E-Le	Mr. Hensel	bhensel@hershey.k12.pa.us
Lf-R	Mrs. Gergenti	agergenti@hershey.k12.pa.us
S-Z	Ms. Hall	kayhall@hershey.k12.pa.us

Career Center	Mrs. Rosensteel	erosensteel@hershey.k12.pa.us
Internship Coordinator	Mrs. Smith	vsmith@hershey.k12.pa.us