

COLLEGE/POST-SECONDARY PLANNING

Thursday, April 24, 2025



WHAT WE'LL COVER

- The various post HS options available to students.
- Minimum 4-year college admission requirements.
- How to find the right “FIT.”
- Next steps and additional planning information.

OPTIONS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL



- Public College/University
- Private College/University
- Community College
- Technical School
- Art School
- Apprenticeship
- Military
- Gap Year: Employment? Community Service? Travel?

WA MINIMUM COLLEGE ADMISSIONS STANDARDS (CADR'S)

- **4 years of English**
- ☐ **3 years of Math** (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2)
- ☐ **Senior year Math-Based Quantitative Course** (math, stats, algebra-based science, AP Computer Science A, Bridge to College Math, qualifying Career/Tech Ed Math course)
 - *If you have completed math beyond Algebra 2 (Statistics, Precalculus, etc.), you have met all CADR math requirements.*
- **3 years of Social Studies**
- **3 years of Science**
 - *2 credits must be laboratory science.*
 - *1 credit must be earned in an Algebra-based science course. WWU (and some others) specifies that applicants meet this requirement with either Chemistry or Physics.*
 - *1 credit must be earned in Biology, Chemistry or Physics.*
- ☐ **2 years of World Language** (same language)
- ☐ **1 year of Fine, Visual or Performing Arts** (or 1 credit beyond minimum in any other CADR subject area)

FINDING THE RIGHT FIT (4-YEAR COLLEGE)

The college must fit the student, not the other way around.

“Fit” is a reflection of the academic record and academic needs and interests of a given student. It should begin with the student’s self reflection:

- “Why do I want to go to college?”
- Consider goals, strengths, areas for growth, and reasons for going to college. Be realistic.
- Take advantage of the assessments on available in the High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP).
- Criteria for what type of college will meet student needs best may look very different from that of friends & classmates.
- The goal of this process is to discover a range of institutions where a student will feel happy, fulfilled, intellectually challenged & supported, and falls within the budget.

BUILDING A COLLEGE LIST

- **Budget/financial**
- **Location**
 - Urban
 - Suburban
 - Small town
 - Rural
- **Weather**
- **Institution size**
- **Classroom environment**
 - Small class size vs large lecture/auditorium
 - Hands-on vs traditional approach
- **Special area of study**
- **Social life and campus culture**
 - School spirit
 - Greek organizations
 - Intramural sports
 - Music/art scene
 - Religious/worship opportunities
- **On-/off-campus housing**
- **Intercollegiate athletics**
- **Student body/diversity**
- **Study abroad opportunities**
- **Disability and mental health services**

COLLEGE SELECTIVITY AND THE COLLEGE LIST

<p>Dream (1-2)</p>	<p><10% chance of admission: (Ivy Leagues, Stanford, Rice, MIT, CalTech, Duke, UCLA, UC Berkeley, etc.)</p>
<p>Reach (2-3)</p>	<p><20% chance of admission: Colleges that a student would love to attend, but statistically there's not a great likelihood to be accepted. A student's academic qualifications are below the average accepted student but the student may have other qualifications that make them stand out.</p> <p>Be okay with the outcome either way.</p>
<p>Target/ Match (2-3)</p>	<p>20-65% chance of admission: Colleges that are a good match for the student. A student's profile aligns with students who are typically accepted, and that they would like to attend these colleges.</p> <p>These colleges should have the most “check boxes” filled for the student as an individual. This is not a guaranteed acceptance but a student can apply with confidence and the understanding that they have a great shot.</p>
<p>Safety (2-3)</p>	<p>65% chance of admission up to guaranteed admission: A safety school is one in which a student's academic credentials exceed those of the average accepted student. There is a high probability that a student will be admitted to these schools OR a GUARANTEE they will be admitted (WWU, CWU, EWU, WSU, UWT & Evergreen State College) if they have a 3.0 GPA and the CADR's met.</p> <p>Students do not need to load up on these “just in case” – they should select only schools they would happily attend.</p>

COMMUNITY/TECHNICAL COLLEGES

- **Why a Community/2-year or Technical College?**
 - Specific area of interest or major preparation for 4-year college transfer
 - More AFFORDABLE
1 quarter tuition rates:
 - Cascadia = \$1591 (excluding fees) for 2024-25
 - UW Seattle = \$4254 (including fees) for 2024-25
 - Academic Flexibility
 - Great for those who struggled in HS or aren't sure yet of their path. Or for those who didn't get into their top choice 4-year school and want to try transfer route.
 - Transition to 4-Year College
 - Among transfer students, highest admission priority is given to those who have earned an AA degree and have 90 transferrable credits in preparation for an academic major. However, you can transfer as a "transfer student" with as few as 40 transferable college credits.

APPRENTICESHIPS

- **Why an Apprenticeship?**
 - Earn money while you learn your job.
 - Often affiliated with a Community College.
 - Education requirement minimum of GED or HS diploma.
 - Training and supervision by skilled journeyman worker.
 - What career sectors? Aerospace, Medical, Software and Technology, Construction and Other Trades
 - Typically takes 2 to 4 years to complete, depending on program.
 - Often earn a slightly higher wage at graduation than a University graduate—with minimal/no debt.
 - Learn more at <https://www.lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/apprenticeship/become-an-apprentice>

MILITARY CAREER

- **Branches:** Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, National Guard.
- **Enlist** – 4 years average commitment, depending on several factors with some shorter/longer.
- **U.S. Military Academies** – Undergraduate education and training for the U.S. Armed Forces.
 - Admissions process is extensive and very competitive with low acceptance rates.

Military Academies	No Nomination Required	Nomination Required
Congressional Nomination required from U.S. Representative or a U.S. Senator from your state of residence-and any member of congress for USMMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The United States Coast Guard Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The United States Military Academy (West Point)● The United States Naval Academy● The United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA)● The United States Air Force Academy

MILITARY CAREER, CONT'D

- **ROTC** (Reserve Officer Training Corps)—Offered at many colleges and universities for students to participate in military training to become commissioned officers while simultaneously pursuing their college degree. There are opportunities for scholarships. Upon completion, students have a service obligation to the military branch for a specific period.
- Serving in the military is not for everyone but is the perfect fit for some.
- Speak to your High School Counselor or Career and College Readiness Counselor, if interested.

ADDITIONAL PLANNING INFORMATION

- **If 4-year college bound:**
 - Students are no longer required to submit SAT or ACT scores to in state 4-year colleges/universities.
 - Make sure to check school websites for specific details on their test policy, especially if applying for scholarships or to schools out of state.
 - Ivy League schools and a few others are reinstating their SAT/ACT requirement.
 - Fairtest.org is a great site to check which colleges are test optional.
- **GAP Program**—Guaranteed admission to WWU, WSU, EWU, CWU, UWT and Evergreen if you have a 3.0 and above and meet the CADR's. Still need to apply to a given school in order to be accepted.
- **Learn about Colleges:**
 - Attend College Fairs/Nights in the fall—Even the virtual events are helpful
 - Students can meet with College Rep's during annual visits to the NSD HS's in the fall
 - Visit schools (during the summer?)
 - High School and Beyond Plan College Search
 - Check out the application requirements/deadlines on school websites & Common App

ADDITIONAL PLANNING INFORMATION, CONT'D

- **Begin Search for Scholarships**—typically during senior year
 - Washboard.org
 - Scholarship Foundation of Northshore—for seniors only—application due in March every year
 - College websites
 - District Scholarship list—available on each HS's website under Counseling
 - Bold.org
 - Microsoft CoPilot and other AI platforms are also helpful for scholarship searches
- **Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)**: Through WUE, students applying to participating schools in the Western US can choose from hundreds of undergraduate programs across the West and pay no more than 150% of the institution's resident tuition rate.
- **Financial Aid Night** – Evening event offered annually in the fall at NSD high schools
- **FAFSA/WASFA** (Complete during fall of senior year).
- **Utilize your school counselors**, their counseling office website & the HSBP programs.
- Remind your student to regularly **CHECK THEIR APPS.NSD.ORG EMAIL!!**

IMPORTANT LINKS

- **Bothell High School**
 - [BHS Counseling Website](#)
 - [College Readiness](#)
 - [Scholarship and Financial Aid](#)
 - [Transcript requests](#)
- **Woodinville High School**
 - [WHS Counseling Website](#)
 - [College Readiness and Resources](#)
 - [Transcript requests](#)
- **Inglemoor High School**
 - [IHS Counseling Website](#)
 - [College and Career Center Hub](#)
 - [College Readiness](#)
 - [Scholarships](#)
- **North Creek High School**
 - [NCHS Counseling Website](#)
 - [College and Career Readiness](#)
 - [Transcript requests](#)
- **Secondary Academy for Success (SAS)**
 - [SAS Counseling Website](#)
 - [College Readiness](#)
 - [Transcript requests](#)
 -
- **Innovation Lab High School**
 - [ILHS Counseling Website](#)
 - [Scholarships and Financial Aid](#)
 - [Transcript requests](#)
 -
- **Northshore Learning Options**
 - [NLO Counseling Website](#)
 - [Scholarships](#)
 - [Transcript requests](#)

IMPORTANT LINKS, CONT'D

- [College Board \(PSAT/SAT/AP\)](#)
- [AP Credit Policy Search](#)
- [Common Application](#)
- [ACT.org](#)
- [FAFSA](#) or [WASFA](#)
- [Western Undergraduate Exchange](#)
- [Northshore School District Virtual College and Career Night Event \(videos\)](#)
- [Washington State College Admissions Distribution Requirements \(CADR'S\)](#)

QUESTIONS?

- Reach out to your School Counselor or Career and College Readiness Counselor at your HS

