



11th grade College & Career Information
Class of 2026

Today

- Time to start mapping out life after BHS-options
- College, Career and Military Information
- Next Steps
- High School and Beyond Plan

Options after BHS?

- Public College/University
- Private College/University
- Community/2-year College
- Technical School
- Art School
- Apprenticeship
- Military
- Gap Year: Employment? Community Service? Travel?

Minimum College Admission Standards (CADR's)

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of Math (through Algebra 2)
- Senior year Math-Based Quantitative Course (math, stats, algebra-based science, AP Computer Science, Bridge to College Math, qualifying Career and Tech Ed Math course)
 - If you have completed math beyond Algebra 2 (Stats, 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 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 that will best meet student needs 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

Dream (1-2)	<10% chance of admission: (Ivy Leagues, Stanford, Rice, MIT, CalTech, Duke, UCLA, UC Berkeley, etc.)
Reach (2-3)	<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>
Target/Match (2-3)	<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>
Safety (2-3)	<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 that doesn't require 4-year degree
 - Event Planning, Ultrasound Tech, IT Professional, etc.
- More AFFORDABLE
 - **3 quarters (1 school year)** tuition alone:
 - Cascadia = \$4773 (plus fees) for 2024-25
 - UW Seattle = \$12,762 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

- Most often Affiliated with a Community College.
- Education requirement minimum of GED or HS diploma.
- Earn money while you learn your job.
- 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.
- Often earn a slightly higher wage at graduation than a University graduate.
- Learn more at <https://www.lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/apprenticeship/become-an-apprentice>

Military Career

- Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard.
- Enlist – 4 years average commitment, depending on several factors
- Military Academies (Congressional Nomination required from U.S. Representative or a U.S. Senator from your state of residence-and any member of congress for USMMA):
 - The United States Military Academy (West Point) (nomination req'd.)
 - The United States Naval Academy (nomination req'd.)
 - The United States Coast Guard Academy (no nomination req'd.)
 - The United States Merchant Marine Academy (nomination req'd.)
 - The United States Air Force Academy (nomination req'd.)
- ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps)—Program offered at many colleges and universities for students to participate in military training to become commissioned officers while simultaneously pursuing their college degree. There is a large scholarship associated with ROTC. Upon completion, students have a service obligation to the military for a specific period (typically 4-6 years).
- Stop by and speak with Mr. Dawson if you're interested in a military career.
- Serving in the military is not for everyone, but the perfect fit for some.

Next Steps

- If 4-year college bound—you are no longer required to submit SAT or ACT scores to in state 4-year colleges/universities. However, make sure to check school websites for specific details on their test policy, especially if applying for scholarships or schools out of state.
 - Ivy Leavue schools and a few others are reinstating their SAT/ACT requirement
 - Fairtest.org is a great site to check which colleges are test optional
- If you want to remove transcribed grades from high school classes taken during middle school, you have until end of 11th grade to request to have them removed from your transcript. Stop by counseling office to pick up the required form.
- 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 if just virtual
 - Meet with College Rep.'s here at BHS in the fall
 - Visit schools (this summer?)
 - SuperMatch in Naviance/High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) - switching to Schoolinks starting in Fall 2025
 - Check out the applications (school websites & Common App)
- Begin Search for Scholarships
 - Washboard.org
 - Scholarship Foundation of Northshore-applications available in late October 2025
 - College websites
 - District Scholarship list-available on our [website](#)
 - Bold.org along with Microsoft Co-Pilot and other AI Platforms are also helpful for scholarship searches
- Financial Aid Night – October 2025
 - FAFSA for 2026-27 academic year will open in October 2025 (hopefully)
- Utilize the Counseling Office, our Counseling Office [website](#) & Naviance
 - We are here to help you! Our website & Naviance are great resources, use them!
- CHECK YOUR APPS.NSD.ORG EMAIL!!