



COLLEGE & CAREER RESOURCES FOR SOPHOMORES

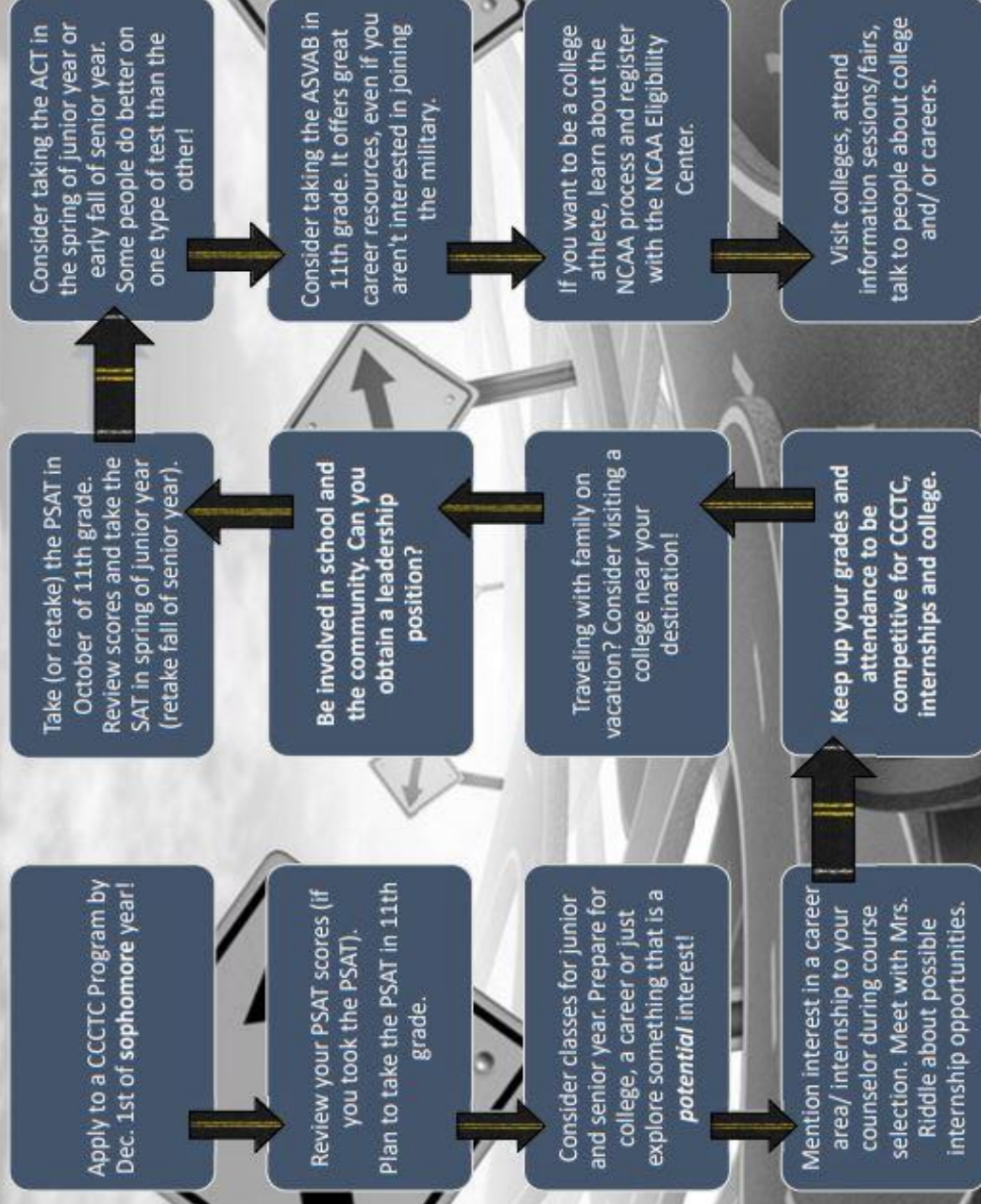
In this handbook, you will find the following items:

- Roadmap from Sophomore to Senior Year
- Graduation Requirements
- Dual Enrollment and Internships
- Employment and Occupation Projections
- Using Naviance Guide
- SAT and ACT information
- Post-Secondary Options
- Helpful Websites for Sophomores

Prepared by the South Carroll High School Counseling Center

(available at <https://sch.carrollk12.org/counseling/college-and-career-planning>)

Road Map: From Sophomore Year to Senior Year



Graduation Requirements for Class of 2027 and Beyond

Credit Requirements: A minimum of 25 credits must be earned to meet graduation requirements. Many of these credits are required in specific areas as outlined in the chart below.

NOTE: This chart may be subject to change pending any State (MSDE) revisions to graduation requirements.

Subject	Required Credits	Required Courses
English	4	-English 9 -English 10 <i>or</i> English 10: AP Seminar -English 11 <i>or</i> AP Language and Composition <i>and/or</i> AP Seminar -English 12 <i>or</i> AP Literature and Composition <i>and/or</i> AP Research* (AP Seminar <i>or</i> AP Language and Composition may be taken as well)
Social Studies	3	-Government <i>or</i> AP United States Government and Politics -United States History <i>or</i> AP United States History -World History <i>or</i> AP World History
Science	3	-Conceptual Physics <i>or</i> AP Physics 1 -Chemistry of Earth and Space Science -Biology
Mathematics	4 All students must enroll in a mathematics course each year of high school.	-Algebra I -Geometry -Other credits must be 1 credit in duration and may be selected from the Program of Studies Mathematics course offerings.
Physical Education	1	-Physical Education I <i>or</i> Unified Physical Education (½ credit) -½ credit of any other Physical Education course to fulfill 1 credit graduation requirement.
Health	1	-Health I -Health II
Visual and Performing Arts	1	-Completed credit in any Visual and Performing Arts course may be applied to the state Fine Arts graduation requirements unless otherwise indicated.
Technology Education	1	-Foundations of Technology <i>or</i> Exploring Computer Science <i>or</i> Principles of Engineering (part of Project Lead the Way completer program), <i>or</i> AP Computer Science Principles.
Graduation Pathway: • World Language • <i>Or</i> American Sign Language • <i>Or</i> State Approved Career and Technical Education Completer Program	2 2 3 - 9	-2 credits of the same World Language -2 credits of American Sign Language -See Completer Programs in the Program of Studies.
Financial Literacy	½	-Financial Literacy <i>or</i> -Managing Personal Finances Using Excel (1 credit)
Electives	4 ½ - 12	
Total Credits Required	25	

*Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar *and* AP Research receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™. Students who *also* earn scores of 3 or higher on four additional AP exams at any time in high school receive the AP Capstone Diploma™.

Notes

- Credit will be awarded for high school courses completed successfully in middle school.
- Students who successfully complete high school level mathematics courses prior to high school can count the earned credits toward their requirement but still need to be enrolled in a mathematics course in each year of high school.

Student Service-Learning Requirement

The state mandated 75 hours of service-learning requirement may be met by completing the course-related option and/or the exemplary service option. Students must earn 55 service hours to earn senior status. Additional information can be found on the [CCPS Service-Learning page](#).

Additional Requirements

- Four years of approved study beyond grade 8.
- Four credits must be earned after the completion of grade 11.
- Students must meet the High School Assessment requirements for Algebra I, English 10, Biology, and Government. Testing requirements and passing scores vary based on the year of course completion. Details related to each content area are provided below.
- All students shall be assessed no later than grade 10 to determine if the student meets the Maryland State Department of Education criteria for College and Career Readiness in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- Transition courses or other instructional opportunities will be provided to students who have not achieved College and Career Readiness by the end of grade 10. Additional information about College Career Readiness can be found at [College + Career Readiness – Blueprint \(marylandpublicschools.org\)](#).

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)/ Maryland System of Testing Academic Readiness (MSTAR)

NOTE: These assessment requirements may be subject to change pending any State (MSDE) revisions or requirements. In Maryland, all students in grades where State assessments are administered (grades 3 – 8 and high school) must participate in either the regular or the alternate State assessments.

Participation Requirements

1. Students in grades 3–8 and 10 must participate in MCAP/MSTAR assessments only for the grade in which they are enrolled. For example, students enrolled in 7th grade will participate in the Grade 7 MCAP/MSTAR Mathematics assessment.
 - **MIDDLE SCHOOL EXCEPTION:** Effective March 17, 2025, MSDE was granted a waiver allowing students in grades 6 – 8 who are enrolled in a high school mathematics course to take the corresponding MCAP/MSTAR mathematics assessment instead of the statewide grade level assessment. For example, students in grade 8 who are enrolled in an Algebra I course will be permitted to participate in the MCAP/MSTAR Algebra I assessment. Once in high school, these students will participate in the MCAP/MSTAR Geometry, MCAP/MSTAR Algebra 2, and/or other assessments identified through ESSA as their more advanced mathematics assessment. This waiver is in effect from SY 2024-2025 through SY 2027-2028.
2. Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®) alternative assessments are administered to eligible Maryland students with significant cognitive disabilities for any federally mandated assessment.
3. Beginning in SY 2023-2024, students entering the ninth grade, the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment for science (LS MISA) and government (American Government) shall account for 20 percent of the student's final grade in the respective high school level science and government courses (COMAR 13A.03.02).

DUAL ENROLLMENT



Why Dual enrollment?

- Get an early start on your college credits.
- Possible FREE Tuition.
- Earn both college and high school credits at the same time, for the same class!
- Receive weighted AP grades toward your GPA.
- Challenge yourself.

Requirements:

- For free tuition...
 - Must meet the College & Career Readiness (CCR) standards defined by MSDE.
 - Must select courses from the following list... [Dual Enrollment - Carroll Community College](#)
- Students who do not meet CCR standards AND students who wish to take a class that is not listed on the approved list, may still take Dual Enrollment classes. However, the student/family will be responsible for tuition and fees.

Steps:

- Please talk to your School Counselor
- Complete the on-line [Dual Enrollment Request Form](#).
- Complete the [Carroll CC enrollment application](#)

For more information, visit the [Carroll Community College website](#)

INTERNSHIPS AT SCHS

Why do an internship?

- To gain experience in your chosen career.
- To decide if this is the career field for you.
- To build a competitive resume.
- To network and make connections for future employment.
- To leave SCHS for a mod or two during your senior year.
- Possibly receive a scholarship or a paying job from your internship!

Requirements:

- Must be a Senior with...
 - 94% attendance
 - 2.5+ weighted GPA
 - 75 Service-Learning Hours completed.
 - Enough classes and credits on your transcript/schedule in desired career completer or major

What career majors have internships?

- Almost every career major has an internship. A *few* examples are:
 - Fine Arts, Graphic Communications, Business Operations, International Business, Law & Legal Services, Sports and Recreation, Life Sciences
- For a detailed list of career majors and course requirements... [CareerPathways2026-2027.pdf](#)

Where can I do an internship?

- Cavaliers have interned in many different places, some examples are:
 - Applied Physics Lab
 - Law firms
 - Human Service Programs of Carroll County
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - Catoctin Zoo, Piney Run
 - Accounting Offices
 - Real Estate Agencies
 - Carroll County Public Schools

Ask your School Counselor or Mrs. Riddle for more information.

Fastest Growing Occupations

Fastest growing occupations: 20 occupations with the highest projected percent change of employment between 2025–35.

Click on an occupation name to see the full occupational profile.

OCCUPATION	GROWTH RATE, 2025–35	2025 MEDIAN PAY
Nurse practitioners	41%	\$132,300 per year
Solar photovoltaic installers	37%	\$53,140 per year
Data scientists	35%	\$120,230 per year
Wind turbine service technicians	30%	\$64,120 per year
Medical and health services managers	24%	\$123,860 per year
Physical therapist assistants	23%	\$68,380 per year
Psychiatric technicians	22%	\$45,130 per year
Computer and information research scientists	22%	\$140,300 per year
Occupational therapy assistants	21%	\$72,300 per year
Ophthalmic medical technicians	21%	\$45,570 per year
Physician assistants	21%	\$135,880 per year
Information security analysts	21%	\$129,180 per year
Occupational health and safety technicians	19%	\$61,560 per year
Hearing aid specialists	19%	\$65,160 per year
Epidemiologists	19%	\$87,220 per year
Occupational health and safety specialists	18%	\$90,150 per year
Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors	18%	\$59,350 per year
Home health and personal care aides	18%	\$35,800 per year
Health specialties teachers, postsecondary	18%	\$107,310 per year
Industrial machinery mechanics	18%	\$64,520 per year

Last modified date: August 27, 2026

Using Naviance



- 1) Login with Clever
- 2) Look for important ***“Tasks From My School”*** and ***“What’s New”*** on the Home Screen.

Naviance Home Self-Discovery Courses Careers Colleges Planner

Demo's Future Planning

Plan Your Future

Quickly access your path highlights, favorite careers, information from your school, and more from this page.

Military Path Highlights

ASVAB

28 ASVAB Score

Military Resources

- Air Force
- Army
- Coast Guard
- Marine Corps
- Navy
- Space Force

Favorite Military Branches

Marine Corps

Founded in 1775, known as the nation's rapid response force.

Tasks from My School

Task Or To-Do	Priority	Date
☒ Set a Personal Short or Long Term Goal Task	None	07/15/24
☒ Complete the FAFSA Form Task	None	07/15/24

Go to My Planner

What's New

Johnson & Wales University-Providence will be visiting your school on Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 at 9:00 am [more info](#)

Trying to decide which college is right for you? [Inline Manual](#)

- 3) Learn about your Interests, Personality and Strengths to **find possible Careers.**

Naviance Home Self-Discovery Courses **Careers** Colleges Planner

Demo's Future Planning

Plan Your Future

Quickly access your path highlights, favorite careers, information from your school, and more from this page.

Military Path Highlights

ASVAB

94 ASVAB Score

Military Resources

- Air Force
- Army
- Coast Guard
- Marine Corps
- Navy
- Space Force

Career Exploration

- Favorite Careers and Clusters
- Explore Careers**
- Explore Clusters and Pathways**

Military Exploration

- Favorite Military Branches
- Explore Military Branches

Experiential Exploration

- Search Job Opportunities
- Find Work-Based Learning
- Explore Roadtrip Nation Videos**

Tasks from My School

Task Or To-Do	Priority	Date
☒ Set a Personal Short or Long T... Task	None	07/15/24
☒ Complete the FAFSA Form Task	None	07/15/24

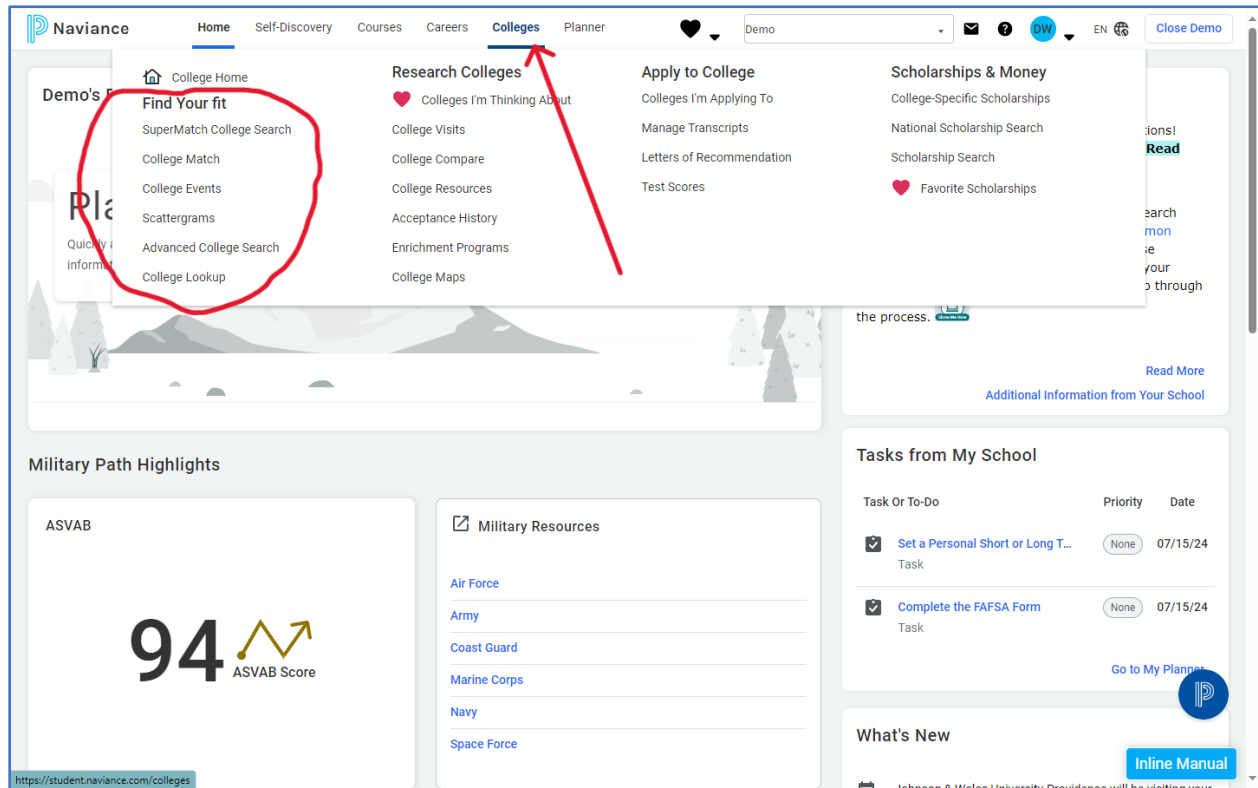
Go to My Planner

What's New

Johnson & Wales University-Providence will be visiting your school on Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 at 9:00 am [more info](#)

<https://student.naviance.com/careers2/explore>

4) Find your College Fit. Search and Explore Colleges



SuperMatch College Search: Receive a list of best-fit schools based on criteria that you deem important in your college search.

College Match: See and quickly favorite the other schools that students are applying to when they also applied to a school on your list. Also, check out other colleges that have accepted students with stats like your own.

Advanced College Search: Using multiple categories, identify colleges that match your interests – and then save your search results.

College Lookup: Lookup colleges by multiple filters including college name, country, state, or college group.

Don't forget to click on the  to save your favorite!

SAT

vs

ACT

Why Take It	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.	Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
Test Structure	Reading & Writing Math	English Math Reading Optional Science Optional Writing
Cost	\$68 <i>Fee waivers available, see your counselor</i>	\$68 \$4 for Science section \$25 for Writing section <i>Fee waivers available, see your counselor</i>
Length	<i>Reading/Writing</i> 64 minutes, 54 questions <i>Math Test</i> 70 minutes, 44 questions	<i>Reading Test</i> 40 minutes, 36 questions <i>English Test</i> 35 minutes, 50 questions <i>Math Test</i> 50 minutes, 40 questions <i>Science Test</i> 40 minutes, 40 questions <i>Writing</i> 1 Essay Prompt, 40 minutes
Reading	Short reading passages, 25-150 words. Subjects include literature, history, humanities, sciences	Short and long prose passages.
Science	None	<i>Covers:</i> Basic background knowledge of Biology, Earth/Space, Physics, Chemistry
Math	<i>Covers:</i> Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Problem solving and Data Analysis	<i>Covers:</i> Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Probability & Statistics
Calculator Policy	Bring your own. You can use a calculator on all math questions	Bring your own. You can use a calculator on all math questions.
Essays	NA	Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
How It's Scored	Scored on a standardized scale of 400–1600	Each section is scored on a standardized scale of 1–36
How to Prepare	SAT Prep on Khan Academy, Daily Practice App https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice	ACT Academy, Question of the Day https://academy.act.org/

Different Types of Colleges and Universities (from ACT.org)

➤ Public Colleges and Universities

Public colleges and universities are funded primarily by state governments. This financial support often results in lower tuition costs for in-state students, making public colleges a more affordable option for many. These institutions typically have larger student populations and offer a wide range of programs and extracurricular activities.

➤ Private Colleges and Universities

Private colleges and universities rely on tuition, donations, and endowments for funding. While private colleges often have higher tuition rates, they may offer substantial financial aid packages to offset costs. Private institutions tend to have smaller student populations, which can lead to more personalized attention and smaller class sizes. They may also have specific religious affiliations or unique educational philosophies that shape their campus culture.

➤ For-Profit Colleges and Universities

For-profit colleges and universities operate as businesses, aiming to generate profit for their owners or shareholders. These institutions typically offer career-oriented programs and flexible scheduling to attract non-traditional students.

While for-profit colleges provide valuable educational opportunities, they often have different financial structures compared to non-profit institutions. Therefore, it's essential to thoroughly research for-profit colleges to ensure they provide the quality education and career support you need, including accreditation, program outcomes, and student support services.

➤ Four-Year Colleges

Four-year colleges and universities typically offer bachelor's degree programs that take about four years to complete. These institutions often provide a comprehensive education, including various majors and minors, extensive campus facilities, and a vibrant campus life with many extracurricular activities. Additionally, they may also offer graduate degrees and are more likely to allow students to engage in research opportunities, internships, and study abroad programs.

➤ Two-Year Colleges

Two-year colleges offer associate degrees and certificate programs usually completed in two years. They are often more affordable and provide flexible scheduling, making them accessible to a broader range of students. These colleges can be a stepping stone to four-year institutions or offer career-oriented programs for immediate workforce entry.

➤ Types of Two-Year Colleges and Community Colleges

Two-year colleges, including community colleges and technical schools, offer a range of associate degrees and certificate programs.

Community colleges focus on general education and vocational training, providing students with the foundational skills needed to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce directly.

Technical and vocational schools, another type of two-year college, specialize in career-specific training programs. These programs are designed to equip students with practical skills and hands-on experience in fields such as healthcare, information technology, and skilled trades. By offering targeted education and certification, these colleges prepare students for immediate employment in their chosen professions.

➤ **Liberal Arts Colleges and Universities**

Liberal arts colleges and universities focus on providing a broad-based education in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. These institutions emphasize critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills through a well-rounded curriculum. With smaller class sizes and a strong sense of community, liberal arts colleges offer a personalized learning experience that prepares students for diverse career paths.

➤ **Universities**

Universities are larger institutions that offer a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. They provide extensive research opportunities, diverse extracurricular activities, and comprehensive campus facilities. Universities often have multiple colleges or schools within them, each focusing on different academic disciplines. This variety allows students to explore various fields of study and engage in interdisciplinary learning.

➤ **Technical and Career Colleges**

Technical and career colleges offer specialized training for specific industries such as healthcare, information technology, and automotive repair. These programs provide hands-on experience and practical skills, leading to certificates, diplomas, or associate degrees that can be completed quickly. Many of these institutions include internships and apprenticeships to enhance job readiness and offer job placement services to assist graduates in finding employment.

➤ **Specific Interest College Types**

Some colleges cater to specific interests or segments of the student population, offering tailored programs and environments. These institutions focus on academic, cultural, or personal needs, helping students find a school that aligns with their goals and values. Examples include Art Schools, Military Colleges, Historically Black Colleges (HBCU) Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), Single-sex colleges, Religious Universities.

Helpful Websites for Sophomores

Resource	On-Line Address	Description
ACT, Inc.	www.act.org	ACT registration, information. PLAN help. College Search. Financial Aid Estimator.
College Board	www.collegeboard.org	SAT registration, information, and practice questions. PSAT help. College planning and search. Scholarship Search
CareerOneStop	www.careeronestop.org	Career searches. Career Planning. Salary info. Education and Training. Job search. Resume help.
Campus Tours	www.campustours.com	If you can't get there in person. On-line video tours, maps, and links to colleges.
Colleges that Change Lives	www.ctcl.org	college searches and planning
Khan Academy	https://www.khanacademy.org/	Free, online academic support for any subject. SAT Prep
My Next Move	www.mynextmove.org	Take an interest inventory to find your career. Explore jobs by industries.
Niche	www.niche.com	college searches and planning
Petersons	www.petersons.com	College search. College planning. Scholarship search. Financial aid. Student loan info. Test prep help. Online classes.
Princeton Review	www.princetonreview.com	College rankings. Majors and career info. Admission tests. Scholarship search. Financial Aid.
Raise.me	www.raise.me	Find colleges that offer "micro-scholarships" for academic and extracurricular achievements throughout high school.
South Carroll High School	https://sch.carrollk12.org/counseling	College, Career, and other helpful information for all students
Today's Military	https://www.military.com/	Military Careers. ASVAB info. Military life. Find a Recruiter
Top Trade	www.toptrade.school	Search for Technical Schools, Trade Schools, Colleges, and Distance Learning
Trade Schools	www.trade-schools.net	Search for Technical Schools, Trade Schools, Colleges, and Distance Learning