



Welcome to Junior Guidance. Our goal today is to help you know what steps you will need to take to prepare yourself for your post high school plan.

# Step 1: Choose a Pathway

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- *Apprenticeship*
- *Military*
- *Two-year College*
- *Four-year University*

**Part of your HSBP is to begin to choose what you will do after high school. You have been building this plan with every class you have taken and the skills and assessments you have completed.**

Each of these pathways are considered post high school education, People who seek education beyond high school are likely to be better off in terms of economic well-being, physical health and community involvement.

# Apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships are offered by employers (such as Boeing), **trade unions** and independent programs. (welders, firefighters, electricians, adv. manufacturing, roofers)
- **Programs typically last 2-5 years** and are a good way to start a career in a well-paying field.
- Apprenticeship programs offer certifications, licenses, and/or college degrees.
- Find opportunities on the [Washington Labor and Industries website](#).



Apprenticeships are an opportunity to learn a trade while you are earning a good income. There are apprenticeship preparation programs and apprenticeship search tools on the Washington Labor and Industries site. Please see the College and Career center if you would like further apprenticeship information.

# Military Options

- [Today's Military](#)
- Explore Branches
- Full and part time options
- Enlisted and officer paths
- Learn useful trades or make a career in the military
- Take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) a multi-aptitude test
- Talk to recruiters



Today's Military.com is a great starting point to discover your military options. The military can be a career or a way to pay for college or prepare for the workforce. Using [todaysmilitary.com](http://todaysmilitary.com) You can explore branches, full and part time options, enlisted and officer paths and more. Students interested in the military should consider taking the ASVAB test and talk to recruiters. We currently offer virtual recruiting sessions and the college and career center can connect you with recruiters as needed.

## Two-year College: Community or Technical School

- Associates Degrees
- (DTA) Direct Transfer
- Certificate Programs
- Applied Bachelor's Degree
- Technical: hands on learning style; preparation for specific career
- Save Money
- Live at Home

Many students choose to attend a two year community college or technical school. **Both offer** an associates degree, a direct transfer degree which allows you to transfer to a four year university as a junior to complete your bachelors degree. There are also certificate programs which range from 6 weeks to almost 2 years depending upon the program. You will also find a limited number of four year bachelors degree options at most community and technical schools. **Technical schools** offer more of a hands on style of learning and are often specific to a career. The obvious advantage to starting at a two year school is the cost savings, tuition is almost half that of a four year school. With so many local options students are able to live at home to save money as well.

## Four-Year College and University: Public or Private

- Bachelor's Degrees
- Master's Degrees
- Doctoral Degrees



Four year colleges and universities offer the widest span of **bachelor's** degrees which typically take four years to complete. You can choose a public or private school based on your interests. Private schools often have a higher sticker price but offer more scholarships, don't rule them out on price alone. You will be applying as a first year undergraduate. **Many careers** also require a master's or doctoral degrees which students pursue at various points their academic and professional careers.

A yellow rectangular graphic with a white rounded rectangle on the left side containing the number '2'. To the right of the number, the text 'Step 2: Explore Colleges' is written in blue. The entire graphic has a subtle drop shadow.

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## **Step 2: Explore Colleges**

In saying college, we are referring to all post high school options. All pathways will require research and preparation. We are focusing on four-year because those deadlines are the soonest and will keep your options open to all other pathways.

## Develop a College List



Use tools to filter schools by specific criteria

Now is the time to create a college list. We are going to give you some tools and different things to consider when searching colleges.



## Search Criteria

- **Type of College**
- **Location**
- **Academics**
- **Test Scores and Selectivity**
- **Academic Credit**
- **Campus & Housing**
- **Cost of Attendance**
- **Sports and Activities**
- **Learning Support**
- **Diversity**
- **Grad rates/retention**
- **Quarter vs semester**

Instead of starting with a list of colleges based on where your friends are going or what you think of as a good school, consider asking yourself the question "What educational and social experience do I want?" Use this as your guiding question as you research colleges.

You may want to consider how easy or difficult it is to be accepted, whether test scores are required or considered, will AP test credit or college in the high school transfer, are there dorms, do they offer the clubs and sports you are interested in joining, what type of academic support is offered etc. Remember, one of the most important considerations should be does the school offer the major or majors you are considering studying?



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### College Search

- [Collegeboard Big Future\\*](#)
- [Career Planner](#)
- [Niche](#)
- [Unigo](#)
- [CampusReel](#)
- [Collegexpress](#)
- [Tuition Tracker](#)
- [College Scorecard](#)

### College Visits

- Virtual
- In-person
- Virtual College Fairs
- Glacier Peak College and Career Center hosts admission representatives in the fall

Using the search criteria from the previous slide, we encourage you to use these **college search** websites to develop your college list. Big Future is my favorite to start a search. Using the provided filters will help identify schools and will provide you an overview of each institution. The others are great to dig deeper or look by obscure lists and perspectives. Campus Reel is focused on videos of campus, College Scorecard offers apprenticeship information as well as college and university search options. **College** Visits are a great way to learn more about a campus. An advantage to applying during a pandemic is most colleges now offer a virtual tour as part of their website. If you have an option to attend in person, we recommend you do when able. There are also a number of virtual college fairs available in both the spring and fall, lastly we encourage you to take advantage of the fall college visits in the College and Career center, the admission representatives that visit are often the same ones that read your application. Meeting with them can be good to create a relationship and answer specific application questions.

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## Step 3: Prepare to Apply

- Once you know where you want to apply, you should visit each school's admission page to look at specific requirements. There is typically an admissions tab on every college website. You are looking for undergraduate admissions. The previous search tools are great to develop and narrow your list, but you will want to use the school's application and admission website for the most up to date and accurate information.



## DEVELOP A PLAN

- **Balanced college list**
- **Transcripts from College and Career Center**
- **Letters of Recommendation**
- **Essays and short answers**
- **SAT/ACT scores**

By the start of senior year you should have a balanced college list based on your research. This list should include schools to which your admission is likely, as well as a target and reach school. Doing the research now to reduce your application list will help you next year! Find out what you will need for applications. **Plan ahead: Request your transcript from the College and Career Center.** Some schools will require one or more Letters of Recommendation. Know if the college you are **applying to requires** a letter. We encourage students to use the Letter of recommendation request form posted on our website, it is a form you fill out letting your letter writer know more about you so they can write you a better letter. Please don't ask for a letter if you don't need one. **Essays and short answers** should be treated equally. A short answer should be edited and reviewed with the same time and care as your essay. Common application essay prompts are available now. Working on essays over the summer can take a lot of stress out of the fall. There are college essay books, or most of the college search tools we highlighted earlier in this presentation also offer application tips and essay help! Use the essay to highlight something new that hasn't been told in the application. **SAT and ACT scores** if you wish to send test scores with your application, you send those yourself through either the collegeboard or act.org. Glacier Peak does not send test scores on your behalf.

# SAT or ACT?



Whether you should or should not take a standardized test is one of the main questions we are hearing.

The current trend is moving away from the SAT or ACT as an admissions requirement. A lot of schools have switched from being test required to test optional. This can mean different things to different schools. For most it means your test scores will be considered if they are higher and you are on the fringe of being accepted. If you are looking for merit scholarships or considering out of state schools, a test score may be required. If a test is accessible to you this summer or fall we recommend you take it and keep your options open.

## Step 4: Apply for Colleges

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### Deadlines for Applications *August through January*

- **Early Decision**
- **Early Action**
- **Regular Deadline**

**Know the deadlines for each of the colleges to which you plan to apply. Applications Open in August and deadlines can be as early as October and November. Using a planner, like the junior senior workbook may be a helpful tool to track deadlines. Other students like to use a filing system or notebook system. Use what works best for you!**

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## Step 5: Apply for Financial Aid

**FAFSA or WASFA**

**October 1, 2021**

Before qualifying for any financial aid or scholarship, all students must complete the FAFSA. [FAFSA](#) is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid). If you are not a US citizen or or not eligible to complete the FAFSA, you will file the WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) We will bring you more information on filing your FAFSA during Senior 101 at the start of next year.

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## Step 6: Scholarships

A lot of students want scholarship information ASAP. If you have stayed organized through your applications you will be in a good position for scholarships because a lot of the information requested on a college application will also be requested on a scholarship application.



## Scholarships: What to Know Now

- Some you will automatically be considered for when you apply to the college
  - Scholarship deadlines can be earlier than regular application deadlines
- Create a washboard.org account
  - Scholarships for Washington state residents

We recommend students first look at the institutions to which they are applying to **determine which scholarships** are offered and the application procedure and deadlines. Scholarship deadlines can be earlier than general admission deadlines! A lot of institutions will automatically consider you for scholarships as part of the application process. Knowing where you are applying should be your priority.

**The local Scholarship program** which is a scholarship opportunity just for Snohomish School District students opens in December and is offered through the washboard.org. we do suggest all students create a washboard.org account. However, at this time in the school year, you will be best off focusing on applications first and then financial aid/scholarships.

# Junior Checklist: Do Now!

## **Build your Resume**

- Summer experiences/ jobs
- Community service experience

## **Finish Strong**

- GPA through Junior Year are used by college admissions.

Juniors are often asking what can we do now! Along with making your list, organizing deadlines, working on applications and essays you can continue to **build your resume** to help you stand out on college applications. The time to apply for summer experiences and jobs is now. You will need community service experience to graduate next year, you can work at arranging a meaningful community service experience that aligns with your post high school plans. This will show commitment to your plan on applications and will fulfill a graduation requirement. We encourage you to **finish strong** this spring. The GPA you will be using to apply to colleges will be the cumulative GPA that you have earned through the end of your junior year.

# Thanks!

[www.sno.wednet.edu/gphscollegeandcareercenter](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/gphscollegeandcareercenter)



Junior Spring  
Checklists