

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

**A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT ACROSS ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE
COMPREHENSIVE COLLEGE READINESS INFORMATION**

DEVELOPED
WITH
**STUDENT
INPUT**



pcccrn
Puget Sound College and Career Network

Road Map
Project 

 WASHINGTON STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

WCAIN WASHINGTON
COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

2 GETTING READY

IN THIS CHAPTER:

ALL ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL

PICKING THE RIGHT HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

BUILDING YOUR COLLEGE PROFILE

PREPARING FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR

Need help with our terms? See the **glossary** on our websites:

WCAN.ORG | PSCCN.ORG | READYSETGRAD.ORG | ROADMAPPROJECT.ORG

GETTING READY: ALL ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL

High school is a time to build your skills and explore your interests to prepare you for life after high school. In order to graduate there are requirements you must meet and it's important to become familiar with them.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

Earn required credits – Students in Washington State must complete a **minimum of 24 credits** to graduate from high school. However, your high school may have slightly different credit requirements.

Every class you take in high school counts towards graduation.
Talk with your counselor to get a list of your school's requirements.

Meet standard on state assessments – You must take and pass **state assessments** in English language arts, math and science or take and meet standard through one of a variety of state-approved alternatives.

Complete your High School and Beyond Plan – Starting in 7th or 8th grade you will create a plan to help you think about your future and choose classes that prepare you for your goals after high school.

TIPS:

- * **What you do in high school can influence your future**
- * **Pay attention in class and keep track of your grades**
- * **Use a planner to stay organized** and write down assignments, due dates and other responsibilities
- * **Don't be afraid to ask for help.** Be an advocate for yourself and ask for support from your counselors, teachers, family members and mentors.

SOME SCHOOLS HAVE ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Check with your school counselor to see if you have any other requirements to earn your **diploma**.

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) – The College Bound Scholarship and some school districts require at least a 2.0 GPA to graduate. The higher your **GPA**, the more college and scholarship options you will have available.

Service learning – You may need to complete service learning hours, where you give back to the community and reflect on your experience.

SEPT: GRADE 9 and 10



GETTING READY: PICKING THE RIGHT HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE?

The classes you take in high school prepare you for your post high school plans. Whether you choose to pursue an **apprenticeship** or a **technical, 2-year, 4-year college**, or military academy, you will want to learn their admission requirements.

THINGS TO KNOW:

- Your high school graduation requirements **may not** be the same as college admission requirements.
- 4-year colleges have the most selective requirements.
- Technical and 2-year colleges have less selective requirements.

MATH IS IMPORTANT:

- Most college programs, apprenticeships, and military options require you to take math. Taking more math in high school may mean taking less math in college and opening more post-high school options.
- Over 50% of high school graduates are not ready for college-level classes.
- Taking four years of high school math will help you get ready for college and can help you save on tuition costs!

REMINDER:

Make sure to look at the academic and class requirements for the colleges (2-year, 4-year, or technical) you are interested in attending.

WHAT ARE COLLEGES LOOKING FOR?

- A challenging class schedule, including courses where you can earn college credit. Examples include, **Advanced Placement (AP)**, **International Baccalaureate (IB)**, **Cambridge International**, College in the High School, Running Start or **CTE Dual Credit** (formerly Tech Prep) that can lead to a career credential or associate's degree.
- Electives that match your career and college interests including career and technical education programs of study.
- Some colleges may have additional entrance or admission requirements such as taking the **SAT** or **ACT**.
- Consider taking academic classes for your elective requirements such as foreign language and/or multiple lab sciences.

JAN: GRADE 9 and 10



GETTING READY: BUILDING YOUR COLLEGE PROFILE

Colleges don't only consider your grades.

They want applicants who contribute to the **campus** and/or the community. Specific activities can make you a more competitive applicant and help you build your work resumé. They should also be documented in your High School and Beyond Plan that is required for high school graduation.

WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES SHOULD I PURSUE?

- Athletics
- College access programs
- Community service
- Faith-based/religious programs
- Family responsibilities
- Jobs or internships
- Music, drama and arts
- Summer programs
- School clubs
- Student government

GOOD TO KNOW:

The level of **commitment and leadership** in your activities **matter more** in the admission review process **than the number of activities.**

WHAT IS AN ACTIVITIES LOG/ RESUMÉ

Some applications require an activities log/resumé. This list of your **extracurricular activities** provides a sense of your involvement in and outside of school. You should also include a short description of your involvement for each activity.

start to keep track...

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | Robotics club |
| | _____ |
| | _____ president |
| <input type="radio"/> | mechanic internship |
| | _____ |
| | _____ from Jan to March '17 |
| <input type="radio"/> | woods club leader |
| | _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> | _____ |

Keep in mind: Your activities log/resumé can also be useful when you apply for **scholarships** and jobs.

DEC: GRADE 9 and 10

NO TIME?

Colleges understand that many students have work, family and other responsibilities. Many applications include a section where you can **write about yourself or your circumstances.** For example, many students need to work multiple jobs to support their family. This is considered leadership.

Share your experience!



GETTING READY: PREPARING FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR

Congratulations! You've almost made it to your last year of high school. Now is **not** the time to get senioritis. You still need to do a number of things to graduate from high school and prepare for college.

WHAT SHOULD I DO THIS SUMMER?

- Register for SAT or ACT tests.** Check with your counselor to see if either test is offered at your school.
- Visit colleges** or attend **college fairs** and talk to college **admissions counselors.**
- Make a calendar** for important dates and deadlines.
- Develop a list** of several college choices (technical, 2-year, 4-year, apprenticeships).
 - Identify your top college choices and request information.
- Search for and apply to scholarships.**
- Save money** for college expenses.

WHAT SHOULD I DO MY SENIOR YEAR?

To Do:

- Schedule an advising appointment** with your counselor or college-access mentor.
- If you are enrolled in dual credit courses, **talk to your teacher and counselor** about taking **AP, IB, or Cambridge exams** to earn college credit.
- Take the SAT or ACT.**
- Complete the FAFSA or WASFA** starting on October 1st of your senior year.
- Discuss a **college budget** with your family
- Work to maintain or **increase your GPA** with senior year grades. Colleges and scholarships require you to send fall AND spring **official transcripts.**

AM I ON TRACK TO GRADUATE?

- * **Make sure** you have all the credits needed to graduate.
- * **Check in regularly** with your teachers about your grades.
- * **Continue completing other graduation requirements,** such as your High School and Beyond Plan.

APR: GRADE 11

DON'T FREAK OUT!

If you have questions, make sure to talk to a counselor, teacher, mentor, peer or family member who can help you prepare or refer you to someone who can help.



COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

GLOSSARY

Academic Advising: Helps you understand the college's academic systems, choose and apply to a major and access campus resources.

Academic Support: Services on campus that support academic success, such as tutoring, advising, etc.

Accreditation: The official certification that a school or course has met standards set by external regulators.

Admissions Counselors: College representatives (sometimes called admissions advisors) who can provide you information about the college and review student applications.

Advanced Placement (AP): A program that allows students to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school. Students may earn college credit and/or advanced placement into upper-level college courses by taking AP exams. Many colleges and universities recognize AP courses when making admissions decisions.

Application: A form that you must fill out in order to apply for colleges, scholarships, or financial aid.

Apprenticeship: A program that allows you to learn a specific skill while you work in the related field and earn money.

Associate's Degree: This kind of degree indicates the completion of a two-year college program. Many students earn an associate's degree and then transfer to a 4-year college.

Award: An offer from a college or career school that states the type (loans, institutional aid, grants, scholarships and work-study) and amount of financial aid the school is willing to provide if you accept admission and register to take classes at that school.

Bachelor's Degree: This kind of degree indicates the completion of a four-year program.

Benefits: Non-wage payment provided to employees such as health insurance for medical, dental and vision.

Cambridge International: A dual-credit program that gives students the opportunity to earn high school and college credit at the same time.

Campus: Property that is part of the college, such as buildings and land.

Campus Size: This is the number of students enrolled in the college.

Certificate: A certificate is awarded to indicate knowledge of a certain subject or skill.

Class Size: This is the average number of students in a class.

College: A technical, vocational, 2-year or 4-year private or public college or university.

College Budget: The amount of money that you are able to pay for college expenses.

College Expenses: Money used to pay for living on campus, food, books and supplies, personal expenses and transportation.

College Fairs: Events where college and university representatives provide information about their school and answer questions. This is a great opportunity to learn about different college options.

Community and Technical Colleges (CTC): CTCs is the name most commonly used to describe Washington's public 2-year colleges. These schools offer associate's degrees and certificates, as well as prepare students for specific trades. Many students earn an associate's degree and then transfer to a 4-year college. Washington state has 34 public CTCs.

Cost of Attendance (COA): The total amount it will cost you to go to college each year. This can include tuition and fees, on-campus room and board (or a housing and food allowance for off-campus students); books, supplies and transportation.

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

GLOSSARY

Credits: You typically earn one credit for the successful completion of a single course in high school. Washington requires students to complete a minimum number of credits to graduate. College credit is measured differently than high school.

CTE Dual Credit: Classes that help students transition from high school into postsecondary professional technical programs and careers.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): Program announced on June 12, 2012 by President Barack Obama to protect eligible individuals from deportation and access a work permit for 2 years. The individual must have arrived before the age of 16, have a clean record, etc. Deferred Action does not provide a green card or pathway to citizenship.

Degree: A degree indicates the completion of a two- or four-year program at a college or university. The two most common degrees are associate's degree and bachelor's degree.

Diploma: A certificate awarded by a high school to show a student has successfully completed high school.

Disburse: The payment of financial aid to a student.

Eligibility: This will vary by scholarship. Some scholarships focus on specific criteria, such as diversity, creativity and other attributes/skills.

Extracurricular Activities: Any activity that you do outside of the classroom, such as athletics, clubs, community service, etc.

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the standard form students must complete to apply for federal and state need-based assistance/and programs and, in some circumstances, campus-based assistance/aid. Learn more at fafsa.gov

Financial Need: Amount calculated by taking the cost of attendance at a college minus your expected family contribution as calculated by the FAFSA or WASFA.

Federal Loan: A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest. Loans made by the federal government, called federal student loans, usually offer borrowers lower interest rates and have more flexible repayment options than loans from banks or other private sources. For more information on the federal loan program: studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans

Fees: Money you pay to access school activities, fitness centers, libraries and student centers. Every college has different fees.

Fee Waiver: If paying an application or testing fee would cause a financial hardship, you can receive a fee waiver to remove payment.

Felony Convictions: (more serious crimes) conviction records are checked, just like all pledge requirements, prior to the awarding of the College Bound Scholarship to you.

Financial Aid: Any grant, scholarship, loan or work-study (paid employment) offered to help you meet your college expenses.

Financial Aid Office: Helps you understand your financial aid award, provides information on additional funding resources, and helps you search and apply for scholarships.

Full-Time Enrollment: To be considered a full-time student, you must enroll in 12 quarter or semester credits each term.

Grade Point Average (GPA): A way to transfer letter grades into a numerical scale. The grades received in classes are averaged together to arrive at one cumulative grade. You can find your GPA on your high school transcript.

Grants: A form of gift aid, usually based on financial need. A grant does not need to be repaid, unless, for example, you withdraw from a school and owe a refund.

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

GLOSSARY

High School and Beyond Plan: A tool to help guide you through high school. Plans are personalized and designed to help students think about their future and choose coursework that prepares them for goals after high school. This is also a graduation requirement.

Immigration Status: The legal position of people that live in a country permanently without citizenship.

Income: The total amount of money that you earn per year.

International Baccalaureate (IB): A program that offers challenging, rigorous courses of study. Students who take IB exams have the chance to earn college credit or advanced placement, or both, within upper-level college courses. Many colleges and universities recognize IB courses as they make admissions decisions.

Internship: An opportunity to work at an organization or corporation to develop work experience. Some internships are unpaid, but some are paid.

Job Requirements: Certain jobs require specific education, training, or skills to be qualified for the position.

Job Shadow: An opportunity to accompany a professional to experience what their job is like.

Letter of Recommendation: Letters that can speak to your qualities, characteristics and capabilities. These letters typically come from teachers, counselors, community or faith leaders, employers and other individuals outside your family.

Major: A specific subject that you choose to commit to studying. A large number of classes you take may be related to your major.

Match Email: A communication from the College Bound Scholarship (CBS) program when your FAFSA or WASFA and it matches with your CBS application. This is also when your colleges know you are a College Bound student.

Money Gap: The difference between the cost of a full-year of college and what grants and scholarship you are provided. This may also be referred to as out of pocket expenses which is money the student and their family will be responsible for paying.

Office Hours: Times when professors are available to answer any questions you might have about class.

Official Transcript: Most colleges require your high school transcript, which is a student's academic record that includes a Registrar's signature and the issue date. An official transcript is delivered in a sealed envelope. If you have earned college credit, you will also need to submit your college transcript.

Online College Portal: Some colleges have their own website, which you can use to check admission decisions, financial aid, grades, etc.

On-The-Job Training (OTJ): Job training that completed in actual work field.

Orientation: Most colleges require new students to attend an orientation, where you learn about campus resources and registration process and meet your peers. Some college orientations are in person and others are online. Attend an in-person orientation if you can! Students may also be invited to attend a summer transition program focused on preparing you for your first quarter.

Personal Statement: A way for the college to get to know you and why you are interested in the school.

Placement Test: Some colleges will require you to take a placement test to determine some of the classes you can take. Based on this test, you may need to take an entry-level class before you can take another class required by your program.

Portable: Some scholarships are bound to a specific college. Portable scholarships can be used at the college of your choice and follow you to the school you attend.

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

GLOSSARY

Priority Deadlines: A date that you need to file a FAFSA or WASFA in order receive priority consideration in the financial aid awarding process. The deadline determines the type of funding you will be eligible for and when you may be awarded.

Private 2-Year Colleges: These school tend to focused on specific trades or vocations and are not publicly funded.

Private 4-Year Colleges: These schools offer bachelor's and may also offer master's degrees but are independent and are not publicly funded. These colleges or universities often have smaller class sizes.

Professor: The common way to address a teacher in college.

Public 2-Year Colleges: These schools offer associate's degrees and certificates, as well as prepare students for specific trades. Many students earn an associate's degree and then transfer to a 4-year college.

Public 4-Year Comprehensive Colleges: These schools tend to be smaller, are more regionally based and offer bachelor's and master's degrees.

Public 4-Year Research Colleges: These schools engage in extensive research activities and offer bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees.

Reach: A school that you might not be accepted to, but is still worth applying to because it's your dream school.

Renewable: A scholarship that can we received for more than one year as long as all eligibility requirements are met.

Room and Board: The costs associated with living on or off campus, including meal plans.

Running Start: A program that provides you the option of attending certain institutions of higher education while simultaneously earning high school and college/university credit. Students in grade 11 and 12 are allowed to take college courses at Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Northwest Indian College and Washington State University. Running Start is one way to earn college credit while in high school. To learn more about this program and other options that may be available at your school, please visit readyssetgrad.org/dual-credit

Safety: A school that you will definitely get accepted, but is a backup in case the others don't work out.

Salary: The amount of money that you earn from work. Some jobs pay a fixed salary and others offer an hourly wage.

SAT or ACT: Entrance exams used by many colleges as a part of the admission decision. You will need to submit your exam scores online through the testing agency's website.

Scholarship: Money awarded to you based on criteria such as academics, athletics, community service or financial need to help pay for education expenses. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid.

Selectivity: A measure of how difficult it is for you to be accepted into a college. This is measured by percentage of students accepted annually. The lower the acceptance rate, the more selective the school is.

Service Learning: An opportunity to participate in community service activities and then applying the experience to your academic and personal growth.

Short Answer Responses: Additional questions that you may need to write that focuses on specific concepts, such as diversity, culture and examples of persistence/overcoming adversities.

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

GLOSSARY

Solid: A school that you will likely be accepted to, because you are a competitive applicant.

State Financial Aid: Financial assistance/aid programs funded and administered by the state to help pay college costs.

State Assessments: English, math and science tests taken in high school to assess your progress in high school.

Trade: A type of school also referred to as vocational, offering specialized training, skills or education for specific fields, such as plumbing, carpentry, etc.

Trade Unions: A labor union that advocates for their rights, but also offer apprenticeship opportunities.

Transfer: A transfer occurs when you switch to a different school. Typically, community colleges offer 2-year degrees with a path to transfer to a 4-year school.

Tuition: The price colleges or universities charge for credits/classes, this pays for things like the instructor and classroom space. Every college has different tuition costs.

Undergraduate: A college student who is working to get an associate's or bachelor's degree.

Vocational: Also referred to as a trade school, these colleges offer specialized training, skills or education for specific fields, such as plumbing, carpentry, etc.

Wage Gap: The difference between how much college-educated and less-educated young professionals earn.

WASFA: Washington Application for State Financial Aid, the application available to eligible undocumented students for the State Need Grant and the College Bound Scholarship. Learn more at readysetgrad.org/WASFA

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