

11TH GRADE TIMELINE

OCTOBER TYPES OF COLLEGES / ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

Narrow down your college or training options and meet with your counselor to review your post-high school plans.

NOVEMBER RESEARCHING COLLEGES

Attend a college and career fair or schedule a college visit to learn which colleges might be a good fit.

DECEMBER WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Understand how to pay for college using financial aid and scholarships.

JANUARY ACCESSING THE COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP

So, you have College Bound: Make sure you complete the requirements so that you can access your scholarship.

FEBRUARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Learn about types of scholarships and how to apply for them.

MARCH PARTS OF A COLLEGE APPLICATION

All colleges and certification programs have unique application requirements. Learn about the different parts and what you need to apply.

APRIL PREPARING FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR

Learn what you need to do to graduate high school and be college ready.

MAY ALL ABOUT FASFA / ALL ABOUT WASFA

Learn about the FAFSA or WASFA eligibility and how to apply to help you pay for college.

Need help with our terms? See the [glossary](#) on our websites:

ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: TYPES OF COLLEGES

The term college includes technical colleges, 2-year community colleges, **vocational** or trade schools and 4-year colleges or universities. There is not one type of college that is perfect for everyone, so it is important to explore your options.

WHERE SHOULD I GO FOR COLLEGE?

Private 2-year College/ Vocational/ Trade Schools

Private 2-year, vocational or trade schools provide education for a specific career. Students that graduate from these schools can become a chef, massage therapist, or paralegal.

Public and Private 4-year College/University

These schools offer bachelor's degrees, usually completed in 4 years of full-time study. Private schools typically charge a higher **tuition** but can offer a significant amount of **scholarships** to make attendance affordable. Students that graduate from these schools can become a robotics engineer, business analyst, or nutritionist.

Make sure to review ANY school's **accreditation** and job placement rates.

Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs)

These schools offer **associate's degrees** and **certificates**, including for specific **trades**. Washington state has 34 public CTCs. Students that graduate from CTCs can enter many careers, such as nursing, automotive repair and cybersecurity.

Learn more about the programs they offer at checkoutacollege.com



Some CTCs now offer **bachelor's degrees**.

OCT: GRADE 11

NOV: GRADE 9 and 10

40% of 4-year graduates in Washington started at a community college.

This chart shows common characteristics for each type of college in Washington state.

	Community and Technical Colleges	Public 4-year Colleges	Private 4-year Colleges
Selectivity All require an application . Moderate and highly selective colleges typically require applicants to submit essays, grades, test scores and other components.	Least selective	Moderate to highly selective	Moderate to highly selective
Campus Size number of undergraduate students	5,000-30,000	Over 10,000	Less than 5,000
Tuition Tuition per year for full-time enrollment (for local residents)	Low (around \$4,000)	Medium (\$7,000-\$11,000)	High (over \$30,000)
Undergraduate Degrees Offered	Certificates and associate's degrees (AA, AAS)	Bachelor degrees (BA or BS)	Bachelor degrees (BA or BS)

ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

In an apprenticeship, you can **earn money while learning** through a combination of hands-on, **on-the-job training (OJT)** and related academic classes.

Apprenticeships are competitive and rigorous, and are typically more demanding than **internships**.

WHAT JOB CAN I GET AS AN APPRENTICE?

Apprenticeships are available in a variety of industries, such as **aerospace, advanced manufacturing, construction, energy and marine technology**.

Examples of careers include:

Aircraft mechanic	Electrician
Automotive mechanic	Fire fighter
Bricklayer	Plumber
Carpenter	Truck driver
Cement mason	Welder

* HOW DO I BECOME AN APPRENTICE?

APPRENTICESHIP



Apprenticeships are offered by employers (such as Boeing), **trade unions** (such as electricians or roofers) and independent programs. **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**.

HOW MUCH WOULD I GET PAID?

Apprentices earn money while in the program; the pay increases as they progress. Upon graduation, they become “journey-level” workers.

Starting apprentice – minimum \$18/hr + **benefits** (e.g. medical, dental and vision)

- For example, Seattle City Light apprentices earn at least \$30/hr to start.

Journey-level worker (apprenticeship graduate) – minimum \$30/hr + benefits (e.g. medical, dental, vision and retirement)

- For example, King County plumbers and pipe fitters earn around \$77/hr while cement masons in Yakima earn \$40/hr.

1 Make sure you meet the requirements.

Generally, these include:

- High school **diploma**
- Specified abilities (may require math)
- Valid driver’s license and reliable transportation

2 Find a program and apply.

- Each program has unique procedures for applying.
- To learn more about the process, talk to your high school counselor or visit apprenticeship.lni.wa.gov

Information adapted from: Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. (2012). *A Parents’ Guide to Apprenticeships*.

OCT: GRADE 11

NOV: GRADE 9 and 10

5 APPLYING FOR COLLEGE: RESEARCHING COLLEGES

HOW DO I RESEARCH COLLEGES?

- Visit: wcan.org/resources/college-map for a list of colleges in Washington state
- View college websites
- Sign up for college mailing lists
- Attend **college fairs**
- Tour colleges

College search takes time. Schedule a few hours each week to work on researching colleges.

WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER?

Type of college – technical, 2-year, 4-year

Location – distance from home, weather, urban or rural, etc.

Degrees available – **associate's, bachelor's, certifications** and **apprenticeships**

Programs available – subject areas or **majors** offered

Public vs. private – public colleges are partially funded by government funds and private colleges are not directly publicly funded

Special focus – colleges that focus on a specific interest or student population such as arts, single-sex, religiously affiliated and specialized-mission colleges

Diversity – the types of cultures, languages and demographics represented on campus or in the community

Size – number of students, campus size, class size, city population, etc.

Cost of attendance – in- or out-of-state **tuition, college fees**, books, transportation and housing

Selectivity – measured by the percentage of students who get accepted based on admission requirements

Graduation rate – number of students who graduate within 4 or 6 years from that college

* GOOD TO

KNOW: Community colleges offer 2-year degrees with a path to **transfer** to a 4-year school and some offer bachelor degree programs.

* DON'T FORGET:

Consider the admissions requirements and determine if the school is a **reach, solid, or safety** for you. It is recommended that you apply to at least one school in each category:

Reach – You might not get in, but it's worth applying to because it's your dream school

Solid – You're a competitive applicant and will likely get accepted

Safety – You'll definitely get accepted, and it's a backup in case the others don't work out

TALK TO:

Your high school counselor

College and career center adviser

College **admissions counselors** or representatives who visit your school

Family members, teachers, mentors and community members who have been to college

NOV: GRADE 11

4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE: WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

College costs are different at different schools. Each college estimates the **Cost of Attendance (COA)** by adding together some or all of the below expenses:

Tuition Fees

Room and board
Transportation

Books and supplies
Other living expenses

HOW DO I PAY FOR IT?

The cost of college can be overwhelming, but there are many different resources to help you pay for college. People often use various sources of financial aid to pay for college in addition to what they may have saved or earn from their job. Financial Aid resources include any **grant or scholarship, loan, or work study** offered to help you meet your college expenses.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

Financial Aid

- In order to be considered for financial aid, you need to complete the **FAFSA** or **WASFA** your senior year and every year while in college.
- Each college determines financial aid eligibility for federal, state and institutional types of aid based on awarding policies at that campus.

Scholarships

- There are thousands of scholarships that can help you pay for college. Different scholarships have different application requirements. Most scholarships require that you complete the **FAFSA** or **WASFA**.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID:

Scholarships – Money awarded to students based on academic or other achievements to help pay for education expenses. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid.

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.

Work Study – A financial aid program (federal or state) that allows a student to work on-campus or with approved off-campus employers to earn money to pay for **college expenses**.

Loans – Money you can borrow and repay over time, with interest added in most cases.

KEEP IN MIND:

Knowing the different types of financial aid is only the first step. You may not need to take out financial aid to cover the full cost of attendance.

APR: GRADES 9 and 10
DEC: GRADE 11

3 COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP: ACCESSING IT

You're about to graduate and go to college. It's time to start thinking about what you need to do to get your College Bound Scholarship. There are forms to complete and deadlines to meet, and it's important that you and your family understand the process.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO:

1. Meet the College Bound Scholarship pledge requirements.
2. File the **FAFSA** or **WASFA**. You may file as early as October 1 of your senior year. Remember that each college has their own financial aid deadlines that you must follow.
3. Be admitted to and enroll in a college in Washington within one year of high school graduation.
4. Be a U.S. citizen, eligible non-citizen, or have been granted **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** status.

WHAT WILL THE COLLEGE DO?

1. **Determine** if your income meets the eligibility guidelines.
2. **Calculate** your financial aid award.
3. **Send** you a financial aid award letter (by mail or email) indicating how much financial aid you will receive.
4. **Disburse** your **financial aid** to you, including your College Bound Scholarship, before classes begin.

*** If you don't receive your "match email"** notifying you that your College Bound application matched with your FAFSA or WASFA, call **888-535-7047 (option 1)** or email **collegebound@wsac.wa.gov**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- College Bound will send you a **"match email"** notifying you when your FAFSA or WASFA is matched to your original College Bound application.
- College Bound will automatically identify you as a College Bound student to all of the colleges you listed on the FAFSA or WASFA.

GOOD TO KNOW:

Students would have applied to College Bound in middle school before the end of their 8th grade year and committed to meeting the College Bound Pledge in high school to receive the scholarship. College Bound combines on your award letter with other **state financial aid** to cover **tuition fees** (at public college rates), some **fees** and a small book allowance.

JAN: GRADE 11 and 12

4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE: SCHOLARSHIPS

WHAT ARE SCHOLARSHIPS?

Scholarships award money for education expenses based on criteria such as academics, athletics, community service or financial need. Community organizations, colleges, religious institutions and private companies are examples of scholarship providers.

Regardless of your background or immigration status, there is likely a scholarship for you.

WHERE CAN I LOOK FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

Your high school counselor is a good place to start. Here are some places to begin your research:

TheWashBoard.org: thewashboard.org

FastWeb: fastweb.com

Big Future: bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Beyond Dreaming Scholarship List:
scholarshipjunkies.org/beyond

The colleges you are interested in or local organizations such as the Act Six, College Success Foundation and Washington State Opportunity Scholarship.

HOW DO I APPLY?

1. **Research** scholarships you are **eligible** for.
2. **Submit** your **applications**. Make sure you follow instructions carefully!
3. **Complete** the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) or Washington Application for State Financial Aid (**WASFA**).

WHAT TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS CAN I APPLY FOR?

Academic/Merit: Based on GPA, test scores and/or coursework

Athletic: Based on athletic performance

Creative: Based on talent in art, music, dance

Community service: Based on involvement in your school or community

Diversity: Based on race, ethnicity, family heritage, religion, sexual orientation, etc.

Need: Based on financial need

Other: Leadership, alumni, etc.

FEB: GRADE 11
DEC: GRADE 12

* DO RESEARCH

Is the scholarship renewable? If yes, learn about the renewal requirements. If it's not, think about how you are going to replace these funds the following year.

Is it portable? Can you take the scholarship with you if you **transfer** schools? Some scholarships are bound to specific colleges.

5 APPLYING FOR COLLEGE: PARTS OF A COLLEGE APPLICATION

All colleges have an **application**. Typically, you can submit a vocational, technical, 2-year or 4-year college/university application online and sometimes in person, or by mail.

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY TO MOST COLLEGES?

Your **official transcripts** from **high school** and college if you have earned college credit

Your **test scores** from the **SAT or ACT**

WHAT ADDITIONAL STEPS MIGHT I NEED TO COMPLETE A 4-YEAR COLLEGE APPLICATION?

Personal Statement – a way for the college to get to know you and why you are interested in the school

Short Answer Responses – additional questions that may focus on specific concepts, such as diversity, culture and examples of persistence/overcoming adversities.

Activity Log/Resume – a list of **extracurricular activities** that can include clubs, sports, jobs and anything you do outside of school.

Letter of Recommendation – a letter from a teacher, counselor, coach, etc. that can speak to your qualities, characteristics and capabilities.

GOOD TO KNOW:

Some programs like **apprenticeships**, vocational and technical certifications have a unique application process. Check out **lni.wa.gov** for more information on apprenticeships or visit **sbctc.edu** for vocational and technical training programs.

ANYTHING ELSE?

You may need to pay a fee in order to submit a college application.

However, you may be eligible to receive a **fee waiver**:

- If you are a College Bound Scholarship student
- If you receive free and reduced price lunch
- If you participate in programs like TRiO, Upward Bound, or GEAR UP
- If you are a youth in foster care
- If you took the SAT or ACT with a fee waiver
- Contact your high school counselor, college admissions office, National Association for College Admission Counseling, or The College Board to inquire about fee waivers.

MAR: GRADE 11
OCT: GRADE 12

* DON'T FORGET:

You could be competing against MANY other applicants. Make sure your answers are a clear and true representation of who you are and how you have prepared yourself!

2 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 the SAT 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 a senior/culminating project.

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.

4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE: ALL ABOUT FAFSA

WHAT IS THE FAFSA? The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the first step to apply for **financial aid**. **Completing the FAFSA is free and gives you access to the largest source of financial aid** to pay for vocational, technical, 2-year and 4-year colleges. Based on the info you provide, each college will calculate your financial aid **award**.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

As early as **October 1 of your senior year**.

Make sure you **know the financial aid priority deadlines** for the colleges you are interested in.

You need to **submit the FAFSA every year** while in college.

WHAT INFO DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

Basic info, such as legal name, birthdate, etc.

Parent and student **tax/income information**

Your **list of colleges**

DO I NEED A FSA ID? (FEDERAL STUDENT AID ID)

An FSA ID gives you access to your FAFSA info and serves as your legal signature. You AND one parent (biological or adoptive) will need to create an FSA ID (username and password). Be sure you and your parent use separate email addresses. If your parent is undocumented they should not create an FSA ID. They will instead print, sign and mail a signature page.

What information do I need to create an FSA ID? Basic info, such as social security number (SSN), legal name, birthdate, contact info, etc.

An FSA ID gives you access to your FAFSA info and

* DON'T FORGET:

Be sure to write down the answers to your challenge questions in the application and store them in a safe location with your FSA ID.

HOW DO I COMPLETE IT?

1. Create a Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID) at fsaid.ed.gov
2. Use your FSA ID to log in and complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov
3. Check for an email confirming you have successfully submitted the FAFSA.

MAY: GRADE 11
SEPT: GRADE 12

4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE: ALL ABOUT WASFA

WHAT IS THE WASFA?

The Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) is the first step to apply for **financial aid** for some *undocumented students* who live in Washington state. Completing the WASFA is free and gives eligible students access to **state financial aid** to pay for vocational, technical, 2-year and 4-year colleges in Washington. Students granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (**DACA**) status should complete the WASFA. **If you are a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident, check out the "All About FAFSA" handout and do not complete the WASFA.**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Eligibility is based on **immigration status**. Students must meet individual program and residency requirements. For specifics, use the eligibility questionnaire at readysetgrad.org/wasfaelig

HOW DO I COMPLETE IT?

1. Go to readysetgrad.org/wasfa and click on "Start a New WASFA."
2. Complete the eligibility questionnaire.
3. Create an account and save your login and password.
4. Complete and submit your application.

What is the parent signature on the WASFA? You will need to send an email invitation to one parent (biological or adoptive) to electronically sign your WASFA. Be sure you and your parent use separate email addresses.

- * **Don't Forget:** Your parent's electronic signature is needed to complete your application.
- * **Your parent must electronically sign within 72 hours of being invited.**

WHEN SHOULD I DO IT?

File as early as **October 1 of your senior year.**

Make sure you **know the financial aid priority deadlines** at the colleges you are interested in. (Often the WASFA deadline is not listed, but it is the same as the FAFSA deadline.)

You need to **submit the WASFA** every year while in college.

WHAT INFO DO I NEED?

Basic information, such as legal name, birthdate, etc.

Parent and student **tax/income info**

Your **list of colleges** (Washington state colleges only)

Your **DACA number** if you have one

Is my family's information protected?

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and colleges that access your application only use your information to determine eligibility for state financial aid. Campuses are not permitted to use the information for other purposes or share the data with other parties.

If you have questions about the WASFA, contact the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) at 1-888-535-0747, option 2 or email wasfa@wsac.wa.gov

MAY: GRADE 11
SEPT: GRADE 12