

**Alumni Resource Handbook**

2020

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# **Introduction**

## *How to Use this Document*

There are countless resources available to students as they attempt to navigate their high school experience and plan for their future – so many that students often find the most daunting aspect is simply getting started. This document was created to serve as an overview and a guide to help you navigate some of the most common milestones that you will encounter over the next few years. Each section gives a brief explanation on the importance of the topic, several resources (both local and national) that are available to help you handle these experiences successfully, and timeline for when you should be thinking about and pursuing these opportunities.

As you use this document, it’s important to keep two things in mind:

1. Everybody moves at their own pace. While this document does offer suggested timelines, you should plan to discuss these activities and milestones with your support networks (including family, friends, teachers, guidance counselor, LEARN Alumni Support Services, etc.) and move at a speed that is appropriate for your interests, capabilities, and goals.
2. Your goal should not be to work through this document as an exhaustive checklist or pursue every opportunity mentioned throughout the following pages. Instead, think of this as your first point of investigation for any questions or concerns you have throughout your high school experience.

# **Academics**

## *Starting Strong*

The beginning of your high school career is an exciting time filled with new friends, opportunities, and experiences. The foundation you set for yourself early in the process will stay with you throughout your time in high school and beyond, so establishing good habits and a strong support network as a freshman will position you for long-term success.

As you start your high school journey, there are a few key steps that you can take to set yourself up for long-term success:

1. Meet with you guidance counselor (or advisor)
   * Your guidance counselor will be one of the most useful resources to you throughout your time in high school. From advice on how to structure your schedule and which activities to get involved with, to support with your college search, your guidance counselor will play a major role in shaping your high school experience. Make time early in your high school career to meet with your guidance counselor to introduce yourself and discuss your goals. Once you’ve developed a relationship with your guidance counselor, be sure to check in regularly and keep them in your corner!
   * Some examples of topics to talk with your guidance counselor about:
     + Class selection (AP or Honors Course Selection)
     + Extracurricular activity selection
     + Time Management Strategies
     + SAT/ACT test preparation and guidance
     + The college application process
     + Any personal concerns in classroom or socially with peers

Helpful Links:

* + - [20 Questions to Ask Your Guidance Counselor](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/building-support-network/20-questions-to-ask-your-school-counselor)

1. Talk to your teachers
   * Introduce yourself to your teachers early in the school year and be open with them about your interests as well as your strengths and development areas. If you are really interested in a particular subject, be sure to let your teacher know so they can give you additional opportunities to learn and explore beyond your day-to-day coursework. Similarly, if you aren’t particularly strong in, or passionate about, a certain subject and find yourself struggling as a result, be sure to let your teachers know so they can work with you to develop your interest or find a system that works well for you to get the knowledge you need.
   * Helpful Links:
     + [10 Tips for Talking to Your High School Teachers](https://blog.collegevine.com/10-tips-for-talking-to-your-high-school-teachers/)
     + [9 Things Your High School Teacher Wishes You Knew](https://www.noodle.com/articles/what-teachers-really-want-to-hear-from-high-schoolers)

## *Advanced Coursework & Exams*

Advanced coursework refers to classes that provide students the opportunity to earn college credit in high school. Such courses include, but are not limited to, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and dual enrollment.

Research shows that rigorous high school courses contribute to postsecondary success, and students who enter college with six or more credits are more likely to earn a degree.

(Source: <https://edtrust.org/students-cant-wait/advanced-coursework/>)

### [*Advanced Placement (AP)*](https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/)

* Overview:
  + AP enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies—with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both—while still in high school.
* Available Curriculum:
  + 38 courses across 5 academic categories (Arts, English, History & Social Sciences, STEM, and World Languages & Cultures)
  + [Full list of AP Courses](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse)

### *College in High School / Dual Enrollment (CIHS/DE)*

* Overview:
  + Classes are college-level courses which are taught at the high school by high school teachers using college curriculum with oversight from college faculty and staff. Students earn college credit by passing the course and paying reduced tuition for the credits. Grades are recorded on a permanent college transcript. Students remain at their high school while completing college coursework and fulfilling high school graduation requirements at the same time.
* Available Curriculum:
  + Varies by academic institution – talk to your guidance counselor and teachers for additional resources and information.
  + [Chicago Public Schools Dual Enrollment Program](https://chooseyourfuture.cps.edu/high-school-college-career/programs/dual-enrollment/)

## *Standardized Tests*

Throughout your high school experience, you’ll be required to take certain standardized tests to compare your performance with that of your peers. While there are several different types of standardized tests, we cover the most commonly encountered examples below.

### *PSAT*

* Overview
  + Background:
    - More than 3.4 million high school students (mostly juniors and sophomores) take this nationwide, multiple-choice test every year
    - PSAT scores are used to identify National Merit Scholars and award merit scholarships
    - Some of the highest scoring students may win scholarship money, so while you shouldn’t stress about the PSAT as it doesn’t count towards college admission, strong performance could help you finance your college education
  + Duration:
    - 2 hours, 45 minutes
  + Sections:
    - Math, Evidence-based reading and writing
  + Cost:
    - Fees are paid by the schools
  + Link for further information:
    - [The Princeton Review: About the PSAT Test](https://www.princetonreview.com/college/psat-information)
* Preparation:
  + The best way to prepare is to ask the school you attend what resources are available
  + There are many online resources, such as Khan Academy, that will help in preparation
    - Given the test is similar to the SAT, consult SAT resources to help prepare for the PSAT
  + Additional online resources are listed at the links below:
    - [College Board: Resource Library](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/k12-educators/resource-library)
    - [Kaplan: Prep for the PSAT](https://www.kaptest.com/study/psat/)
    - [The Princeton Review: PSAT Prep](https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/psat-vs-sat)
    - [College Board: PSAT Practice Test](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10)

### *SAT & ACT*

* The SAT vs. ACT
  + The SAT and ACT are nationally recognized standardized tests and are admission requirements to attend most U.S. colleges
  + Test prep for the SAT and ACT is important. Begin a test prep class during the fall of your junior year and summer before senior year
  + It is recommended to take the test spring of junior year to allow time to retake it during fall of senior year as needed
  + After initial studying and practice testing, the student can decide which test to focus on based on their strengths and weaknesses
  + No matter what the student’s initial test scores are, it is essential that the student prepares prior to taking the official exam
  + In addition to classes and online resources, mentorship programs offer SAT/ACT tutoring as well
  + *For additional information, visit the link below:*
    - [*https://blog.prepscholar.com/act-vs-sat*](https://blog.prepscholar.com/act-vs-sat)
* Target SAT/ACT Class Program: UChicago Whatever It Takes
  + Location:
    - University of Chicago in Hyde Park
  + Class Offering:
    - Ten week class from 10AM-2:30PM (ACT classes on Saturday; SAT classes on Sunday)
    - Apply late winter/early spring for an April 1st notification of acceptance via the website ([Whatever It Takes: Apply](https://whateverittakes.uchicago.edu/apply.htm))
  + Cost:
    - Free if accepted to the program
  + Instructor Description:
    - Each subject taught by dedicated instructor who is a University of Chicago student
    - Class size is ~20 students; students are divided on basis of diagnostic score
  + Requirements
    - Necessary for student to purchase single textbook made by Barron’s test prep company
  + Additional Notes:
    - Once accepted, if the cost of the book is an issue, the organization will help financially
    - Link for more information:
      * [Whatever It Takes Website](https://whateverittakes.uchicago.edu/index.htm)
* Reputable SAT/ACT Online Resources
  + [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org/sat)
    - Strong resource to brush up on numerous math and verbal/grammar topics
    - 100% free personalized training for SAT and ACT prep
    - Resourceful for teachers/tutors as well—90% of teachers have found Khan Academy effective for support material
    - [Free SAT Practice Test](https://www.khanacademy.org/sat) from Kahn Academy
  + [Chegg](https://www.chegg.com/test-prep)
    - Partnered with Kaplan for interactive SAT/ACT prep material
    - Self-paced ACT course: $299
    - SAT prep course: $99
  + [Socratic](https://socratic.org/)
    - Free academic site that provides questions and answers to math and English questions
    - Not SAT/ACT specific, but resourceful for individual topics and potential other academic needs
* Benchmarking SAT/ACT Scores for School Attendance
  + It is important to consistently track performance in order to see how your practice scores line up to the SAT/ACT scores of the university you would like to attend
  + Please visit the link below to see the score ranges of accepted attendees at U.S. colleges:
    - [Average ACT/SAT Scores for U.S. Colleges](https://www.compassprep.com/college-profiles-new-sat/)

## *Timeline by Grade*

The timeline below highlights high-level actions that you should keep in mind as you progress throughout high school. This list is not meant to represent every activity/action you should take, but rather, should serve as a helpful guideline for things that should be on your radar at a given point in time.

Courtesy of: [Peterson’s Educational Services Company](https://www.petersons.com/)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **9th Grade** | | |
| **Fall** | **Winter** | **Spring + Summer** |
| 1. Meet your guidance counselor (or advisor) and talk about your future plans 2. Get involved in extracurricular activities 3. Pick the right mix of classes that align with your future goals | 1. Be sure to get your grades off to a good start 2. Explore your interests and possible careers 3. Start to think about how you’ll finance your college education (e.g., create a college savings plan) | 1. Start to build your credentials and create a resume 2. Learn more about college and the opportunities available to you 3. Make summer count by getting involved in the community/obtaining a job or internship |

See the full timeline: <https://www.petersons.com/blog/9th-grade-college-planning-timeline/>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **10th Grade** | | |
| **Fall** | **Winter** | **Spring + Summer** |
| 1. Take a practice PSAT and begin to prepare for the SAT/ACT 2. Continue to work hard in class and be sure you are on track to graduate 3. Begin to learn about college admissions & career opportunities | 1. Stay involved with extracurriculars and take on leadership roles 2. Develop your reading and writing skills to prepare you for success in higher level courses 3. Talk to your counselor about AP courses 4. Go on a college tour | 1. Assess your academic progress through your first two years and make changes as needed 2. Start your college search process and research schools that interest you 3. Stay involved in the community and / or pursue a summer job/internship opportunity |

See the full timeline: <https://www.petersons.com/blog/10th-grade-college-planning-timeline/>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **11th Grade** | | |
| **Fall** | **Winter** | **Spring + Summer** |
| 1. Take the PSAT for National Merit qualification and make a testing plan for the SAT/ACT 2. Evaluate your education options and determine which path is best for you 3. Continue to gather college information and start to narrow your list 4. Enroll in a SAT/ACT prep class | 1. Prepare and register for the standardized test(s) you need for college admission (SAT/ACT) 2. Talk with your family about the many post-high school options available 3. Learn more about financial aid and the various ways that you can finance your education | 1. Meet with your counselor/college counselor to be sure you have a plan to complete required coursework 2. Begin to search for scholarships (both nationally and locally) 3. Visit your target colleges and meet with admission representatives and students to learn more 4. Take the standardized tests required by the schools you’re applying to (SAT/ACT/SAT Subject) |

See the full timeline: <https://www.petersons.com/blog/11th-grade-college-planning-timeline/>

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **12th Grade** | |  |  |
| **Fall** | **Winter** | | **Spring + Summer** |
| 1. Organize a list of all deadlines and materials for college applications 2. Complete applications and secure letters of recommendations from teachers, coaches, etc. 3. Complete the standardized tests required by the schools you’re applying to (SAT/ACT/SAT Subject) 4. Meet with your college counselor | 1. Follow up on applications with your counselor and school representatives 2. Submit all required financial aid forms and continue to apply for scholarships/grants 3. Send mid-year grade reports to schools you applied to and prep for final AP exams | | 1. Hear back from colleges and consider your options (e.g., financial aid, waitlists, etc.) 2. Make your final college decision and complete enrollment paperwork 3. Finish your academic coursework and requirements for graduation |

See the full timeline: <https://www.petersons.com/blog/12th-grade-college-planning-timeline/>

# **Extracurricular Activities**

## *The Importance of Extracurricular Activities*

### *Becoming Well Rounded*

* College admissions representatives are increasingly commenting on the desire for applicants who are “well rounded,” but what does that really mean? To be clear, this does not mean participating in every extracurricular opportunity that is available at your high school or in your community. Instead, it means that you should have a strong base of activities that align with your interests / passions, challenge your ways of thinking and enable you to develop leadership skills throughout high school. Try to limit your extracurricular activities to three main activities that you can pursue during all four years of high school. Extracurricular activities, like sports, music, and drama, are ways for you to do things you genuinely enjoy and learn about being part of and contributing to a team/community.

Links for additional information:

* + [Colleges and Employers Seek Well-Rounded Applicants](https://careervision.org/colleges-employers-seek-well-rounded-applicants-just-busy-ones/)

### *Engaging With Your Community*

* A crucial part of your extracurricular engagement is your volunteerism and engagement with your community, which can consist of helping your school with daily activities, assisting a non-profit organization or aiding a religious group, to name a just few of many examples. Colleges and employers want to see that you are willing to give back to your community and that you’re excited about being part of something that is larger than yourself. While completing community service projects, you’ll develop real-world skills that will help you succeed in college and beyond, including leadership, problem-solving, collaboration with others, time management, and communication.

Links for additional information:

* + [Community Service Opportunities in Chicago](file:///C:\Users\jdlugos\Documents\Personal\LEARN%20Advisory%20Board\Alumni%20Resource%20Catalog\2019\Community%20Service%20in%20Chicago)
  + [Why Community Service is Important](https://www.whitbyschool.org/passionforlearning/why-is-community-service-important)

*Extracurricular Programs & Resources*

There are several organizations throughout Chicago that offer extracurricular opportunities for high school students. The list below is a sampling of the opportunities available to LEARN students:

1. [One Summer Chicago](http://www.onesummerchicago.org/)
   1. **Target Demographic:**
      1. Students between 14 and 24 years of age
   2. **Description:**
      1. Provides youth with employment and enrichment opportunities during the summer months
      2. Depending on the opportunity, jobs could range from working outdoors to involvement in arts and academic enrichment programs
      3. Starts in 7th grade and finishes with transitional support program for 9th graders in program
2. [Chicago Cares](https://www.chicagocares.org/)
   1. **Target Demographic:**
      1. 8 years old and older
   2. **Description:**
      1. Through the power of the volunteer experience, we bring people together from all Chicago neighborhoods
      2. Chicagoans learn that they can and must be agents of change
      3. Chicago Cares envisions a city where we’re all active participants, fully invested in the city we call home and the success of all of our neighbors
3. [After School Matters](https://www.afterschoolmatters.org/)
   1. **Target Demographic:**
      1. Participants: All Ages
      2. Apprenticeships: Ages 14+
   2. **Description:**
      1. Provides Chicago public high school teens opportunities to explore and develop their talents, while gaining critical skills for work, college and beyond
      2. Apprenticeships – Project-based programs led by industry experts that can provide a pathway to progress in skills development and independence

# **Mentorship Programs**

## *The Importance of Mentorship*

Chicago mentorship programs present a variety of benefits to alumni, ranging from academic success to extracurricular guidance. While participating in a mentorship program may seem like just another activity that you can pursue during high school, the decision to enroll in a mentorship can have a major impact on your life and should be given serious consideration.

* Proven Benefits from Strong Mentors
  + Increased high school graduation rates
  + Healthier relationships and lifestyle choices
  + Stronger attitude about school and academic settings
  + Higher college enrollment rates and educational aspirations
  + Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence
  + Improved social skills
* Overview of High School Mentorship Programs
  + Mentorship programs present the opportunity for fostering adult and older peer relationships to high school students
  + These programs can be delivered in one-on-one, group or team formats, allowing the flexibility in activity offerings based on the number of available mentors and resources available at the site
  + These programs aim to help students achieve maximum academic success while also reaching their non-academic goals
    - Non-academic goals include extracurricular activities, transitioning into college or career settings and social-emotional development
  + These programs are usually run by school personnel or in partnership with a community-based service provider who coordinates the programs

## *Target Mentorship Programs*

* [Bottom Line](https://www.bottomline.org/content/chicago)
  + Overview
    - Bottom Line helps low-income and first-generation-to-college students get to and through college
    - Students receive personalized one-on-one guidance and mentoring
    - Support students from the start of senior year, throughout 4-6 years of college
    - Bottom Line students are 43 percentage points more likely to earn a degree than their peers
    - In Chicago, 1,600 students have been served with 97% of students accepted to a four-year college and 90% persisting through   
      college education
  + Application Process:
    - Apply either as rising high school senior or rising college first year student
    - Apply here: [Bottom Line Student Applications](https://bottom-line.secure.force.com/StudentApplications)
    - Contact Information
      * Names: Blenda Chiu / Monica Cohen
      * Email: info@bottomline.org
  + Requirements:
    - Meet the academic requirement of either a rising high school senior or rising college first year student
    - Students who are a resident of Greater Boston, Chicago or New York City
    - In the first generation of family to earn Bachelor’s degree and/or live in household that lives in Bottom Line’s Income Eligibility (see below):
      * [Bottom Line Income Eligibility Chart](https://www.bottomline.org/content/income-eligibility-chart)
    - Must be a U.S. Citizen, Permanent Resident, or Refugee / Asylee
    - Interested in applying to Bachelor’s degree programs at four-year colleges or enrolling in college for first time at one of Bottom Line’s target colleges
* [Chicago Scholars](https://chicagoscholars.org/)
  + General Description
    - The largest college access and success program in Chicago serving more than 3,000 scholars and alumni each year in a seven-year college access and success mentoring and career support program
    - Comprised of ~450 mentors for ~725 scholars
    - Organization works to develop deep collaborations with community-based organizations and has a national network of more than 175 selective enrollment and ivy league college / university partners
    - Mentee demographic:
      * First-generation/low income students
    - Mentorship program runs through monthly workshops with 3-4 mentors per 6-7 scholars to reduce abandonment risk
      * Mentors will also meet with mentees outside of required structure to build stronger relationships
  + Application Process:
    - Scholars apply before their senior year of high school
      * Mentored throughout their high school senior year, college and post-graduate years
    - Paired with a mentor based on group interviews, orientations and surveys
    - Contact Information
      * Name:Rachael Accavitti
      * Email: raccavitti@chicagoscholars.org
  + Requirements**:**
    - Must be a rising high school junior to apply
    - Students who live and attend high school in Chicago
    - Students who will be first-generation college students (neither parent graduated from a four-year college in U.S.) and/or students who come from under-resourced communities
    - Students who are academically ambitious, motivated and believe in possibility of unique superpowers
    - Students who are demonstrated leaders in schools, communities or homes
    - Mature students that can commit to a rigorous academic and leadership development program
    - Students with minimum GPA of 3.0 and minimum ACT score of 20 or PSAT score of 1020
    - Overall, selective program; student will need to focus throughout high school in order to gain admission
* College Possible
  + General Description:
    - National organization in field of college access and success with track record of best-in-class results
    - Utilizes near-peer coaches for high school and college students to guide mentees through young adult academic life
    - Curriculum focuses on finding best-fit college, academic preparation, financial planning and personal development
    - Students attend after-school sessions for two hours twice a week throughout junior and senior years of high school
    - After high school graduation, mentees receive coaching through transition to college and are supported all the way through college graduation
    - Mentors will assist college students by connecting them to resources on campus, tackling barriers and identifying future opportunities
    - 98% of students admitted to college
  + Application Process:
    - Scholars apply before their junior year of high school
      * Mentored throughout their high school junior and senior years and then throughout their college years
    - Contact Information
      * Name: Aileen Aragones
      * Email: AAragones@CollegePossible.org
  + Requirements:
    - Main program goes through Minnesota, Oregon and Milwaukee; however, there is program in Chicago for select high schools
    - Hold a minimum 2.5 GPA
    - Come from a low-income background
    - Attend Amundsen High School, Bowen High School, Thomas Kelly High School, Mather High School, Lake View High School or Morgan Park
  + Links for AdditionalInformation**:**
    - [College Possible Application Form](https://www.collegepossible.org/programs/student-resources/chicago-student-application/chicago-student-application-form/)

## *Additional Mentorship Programs*

There are several other mentorship programs that offer similar structures and benefits to the programs mentioned above. Given the benefits of participating in a mentorship program, we encourage you to research several options and select the program that best fits your unique needs and interests.

Chicago Mentorship Programs:

* [Minds Matter](https://mindsmatterchicago.org/)
* [Gear Up Chicago](https://www.chicagogearup.org/about-gear-up.html)
* [HighSight](http://www.highsight.org/)
* [iMentor](https://imentor.org/where-we-work/chicago)
* [LINK Unlimited](https://linkunlimited.org/)
* [OneGoal: Graduation – Chicago](https://www.onegoalgraduation.org/communities/chicago/)
* [TriO, UIC – Upward Bound / Student Support Services](https://trio.uic.edu/)
* [UChicago College Advising Corps](https://advisingcorps.org/program/chicago-2/)
* [Arrupe College of Loyola University](https://www.luc.edu/arrupe/)

# **College Preparation**

## *The Application Process*

Your college application phase is a busy, but exciting time, that becomes more manageable (and less stressful) with the proper planning and preparation. While the actual application process typically begins in the fall of your senior year, you can begin to think about all of the items below well in advance of your senior year to make life easier.

Filling Out the Application

* All schools that you’ll be applying to will have an “Admission/Apply” page that you can utilize to start your application. The vast majority of colleges and universities that you apply to will utilize the Common Application – a central application used by [more than 800 colleges and universities](https://www.commonapp.org/explore-colleges) – that allows you to submit your background information in one location. This information includes basic personal data (name, address, and contact information), your educational and testing records, and extracurricular activities.
  + [10 College Applications Tips](https://www.commonapp.org/virtual-counselor/ten-college-application-tips)

Writing Essays

* The essay is a unique part of your college application that give schools a chance to get to know you beyond your grades, test scores, and resume. This is your opportunity to tell schools your unique story and explain why you’d make an excellent addition to their incoming class. Your essays should tell a story that doesn’t come across in the other components of your application and that shows your passions and perspectives. Be sure to start on your essays early, share them with peers and advisors for review, and make sure to proofread to be most effective!
  + [Crafting an Unforgettable College Essay](https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/college-essay)
  + [How to Write the Common App Essays](https://blog.collegevine.com/how-to-write-the-common-application-essays-2019-2020/)

Gathering Supplementary Materials

* In addition to your background information and essays, some colleges will ask that you provide supplementary materials, which may include additional essays specific to the college/program that you’re applying to, sample materials (e.g., art pieces), and letters of recommendation (most common). It’s important to be aware of which items the school you’re applying to requires so you can begin to prepare well in advance of the application deadline.
  + [How to Get a Great Letter of Recommendation](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/your-high-school-record/how-to-get-a-great-letter-of-recommendation)

## *College Visits*

As you’re working your way through the application process, it will be important for you to consider when you plan to visit some or all of the schools you’ll be applying to. While a college visit is not a requirement in the admission process, it is a valuable tool for you to use as you evaluate all of your options. While you’re on campus, you’ll have the option to meet with admission counselors, tour the campus and surrounding town, and – most importantly – talk with current students who can give you their perspective on what it’s like to attend that school.

Links for additional information:

* [Get the Most Out of Your College Visits](https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/college-visits)
* [10 Tips for an Effective College Visit](file:///C:\Users\klcasey\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Word\10%20Tips%20for%20an%20Effective%20College%20Visit)
* [The Complete Campus Visit Guide](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide)

## *Funding Your Education*

There’s no denying that a college education can be expensive, but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t be able to afford an education. The resources below outline several options that are available to help you fund your education with minimal long-term financial issues.

Types of Student Aid

* *Grants/Scholarships:* Money that doesn’t have to be repaid. Grants are traditionally need-based awards that you can apply for through the state and federal government, or other public institutions. Scholarships can be either need-based or merit-based (based on something you do, such as an ability, hobby or achievement) and can come from any number of sources, including corporations, community programs, and even the colleges themselves.
  + [How to Find Grants to Pay for College](https://thecollegeinvestor.com/21220/find-grants-pay-college/)
* *Work-Study:* Money that’s earned while attending school and doesn’t have to be repaid. Federal Work-Study provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses. The program encourages community service work and work related to the student’s course of study. Note: work-study is different than getting a job while you are in school.
  + [8 Things You Should Know About Federal Work-Study](https://blog.ed.gov/2015/08/8-things-you-should-know-about-federal-work-study-2/)
* *Loans:* Borrowed money for college or career school. You must repay your loans, with interest. Loans come in several different forms from a variety of sources, and it can be difficult to understand all of the options that are available to you. Given the long-term financial implications, it’s important to weigh all of your options before deciding to utilize loans to fund your education.
  + [Your Guide to Understanding Every Type of Student Loan Available Today](https://studentloanhero.com/featured/types-of-student-loans-every-option-explained/)

Links for additional information:

* [Guide to Federal Student Aid](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/funding-your-education.pdf)
* [Scholarship Search & Directory](https://www.scholarships.com/)

# **Conclusion**

## *Looking Ahead*

We encourage you to take the time to familiarize yourself with the advice and resources in this document and to consider how you’ll put these to use during your time in high school and beyond. Additionally, we hope that you will continue to build upon the information listed here, finding your own resources, methods, and mentors to help drive your success.

Navigating your way through a successful high school education and all of the opportunities that come with that success – college, employment, the chance to make a difference in your community – will certainly be an exciting and, at times, stressful process. More importantly, it will be a rewarding process – an accomplishment you’ll be able to take pride in and an experience that will set you on a path of success for all the great things you’ll accomplish. Best of luck!