



College and Career Senior Toolkit For Students and Parents

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Congratulations, it's Senior year! Graduating high school is such an important milestone and major step toward your student's future. It's going to be a busy year...now is the time for students to finalize plans and meet deadlines for the transition to college, technical school or career. There are many paths your student can take to earn the higher education degree or technical certification needed for the career field he or she chooses.

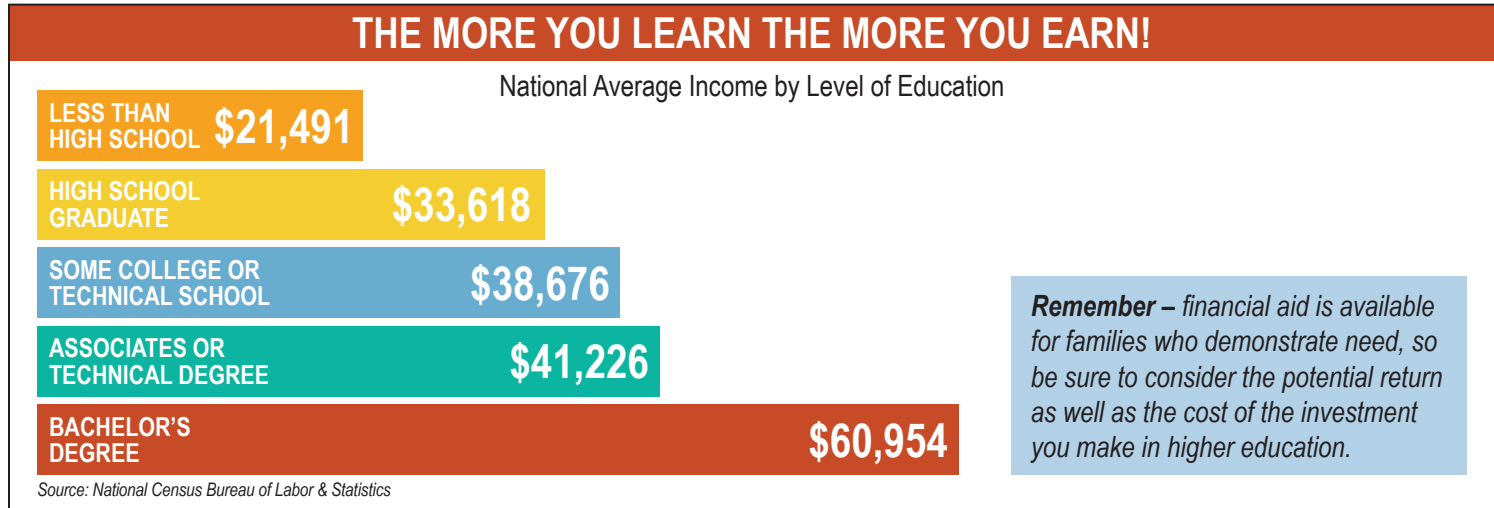
This packet contains some tools that can help you and your student navigate through this important year. Enclosed you will find items to discuss with your student and checklists to help your family keep organized and meet important due dates over the next several months.

Be sure to check out Plan4College.ME, for additional information.

In the packet you'll find:

<input type="checkbox"/> Know Your Options	<input type="checkbox"/> Paying for College
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Checklists for 2-Year and 4-Year Colleges	<input type="checkbox"/> Terms You May Need to Know

While future income is just one of the factors when choosing a career, it's important that your student is aware that more and more of the jobs that pay well across the nation require a college degree or a technical certificate.



Get Connected:

Each high school's Career Counselor (listed below) can answer additional questions, and many schools also have very knowledgeable college prep staff. Don't hesitate to seek help.

FOSS , Juanita Cantrell-Jeffreys.....	571-7358	SOTA	571-7900
LINCOLN , Jamila Jones	571-6659	SAMI	571-2300
MOUNT TAHOMA , Sativah Jones.....	571-3823	STADIUM , Natalie Hart.....	571-3153
OAKLAND , Glen Burden	571-5106	WILSON , Nancy Sprick	571-6019
RE-ENGAGEMENT CENTER	571-3270		

Have a great year!





4 - Year College Application Checklist

REMEMBER: If you are confused, ask for help – early and often! Counselors and college support staff are available to help at each high school.

SEPTEMBER

- Research 3-10 colleges** – Create an e-mail account to manage your college search. Sign up for mailing lists for each college of interest. Do any use the “Common App”? (see enclosed “Terms You May Need to Know”) If so, this form is available online to begin filling out now.
- Create your customized calendar** – You can download calendars with key college planning dates, from: Plan4College.ME
Be sure to list all application, financial aid, and scholarship deadlines!
- Visit as many colleges as possible** to help you know which are a good fit.

College/University	Use Common Application?	Application Deadline	Financial Aid Deadline
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		

- Begin drafting application essay** – Start early!
- Research scholarships** – Download or request applications; deadlines start early – add them to your calendar.
- Request 2 Teacher Recommendation Letters** – Be sure to ask at least one month before deadlines!
- Discuss your family budget for college** (See enclosed “Paying for College” for financial aid information.)
- Update your resume** – Include extra-curricular activities and job experience.

OCTOBER

- Start your online applications** – Start your online applications - Every school's deadline may be different, so double check that each is submitted on time. If several of your choices use the Common App, submit by the earliest due date.
- Narrow your college list** – To 3-4 that you will apply to, some students apply to more. Include your “Reach” schools, even if they are more expensive. Many private schools offer substantial scholarships and aid packages. Consider 2 years at community college as a cost-effective alternative.
- Attend the TPS College Fair** – University of Puget Sound Fieldhouse, Oct 15 (5-7pm).
- Meet with college representatives** – As they visit your school this month.
- SAT or ACT Testing** – Make sure you have all testing times and locations noted on your calendar. You can practice the test. See www.collegeboard.org & www.actstudent.org for more details.
- Consider Early Action/Decision** – If considering, confirm your college's application deadline.
- Applying to private colleges?** – Get the CSS/Profile financial aid application.
- Inquire about financial aid forms** – Some colleges require their own forms, in addition to FAFSA.

NOVEMBER

- Finalize all parts of your application** – Complete all forms and application essay. Ask others to review everything.
- Submit Early Action/Decision Applications** – Most colleges are due Nov 1 or 15. Check yours.
- Request your transcripts** – To be sent to your college choices.

DECEMBER

- Application deadlines begin** – Start regular submissions. Ask your counselor for application fee waivers, if you think you might be eligible.
- Financial Aid** – Attend Financial Aid Information Night at your school. Double check financial aid and scholarship deadlines to stay on top of opportunities.
- Early Action/Decision** – Watch for replies, if you applied Early Action/Decision.

JANUARY

- Financial Aid** – Attend a FAFSA hands-on help session at high schools or local colleges. Check Plan4College.ME for dates, times and locations throughout Tacoma.
- FAFSA & WASFA** – Filing begins Jan 1. The sooner you file, the better your chances for aid. You do NOT need to complete your 2015 income tax return before submitting your FAFSA.
- Submit college applications** – Most are due this month, but each school is different. Be sure to confirm and submit by the correct due dates for each college you are interested in attending.
- Follow up with colleges** – Confirm that all your materials have been received.

FEBRUARY – MARCH

- FAFSA & WASFA** – If needed, update after filing taxes. Double-check your Student Aid Report from FAFSA.
- Request your 1st semester (mid-year) Grade Reports** – To be sent to colleges, if needed.

APRIL – MAY

- Acceptance Letters** – Time to celebrate! All colleges should notify you regarding your application. If your application was denied, you can contact the college's Admissions Office. Some colleges offer an appeals process through which applicants receive additional review and reconsideration. Another alternative would be to take your first two years at a community college.
- Review your choices** – If you were admitted to several colleges, talk with family and friends about the pros and cons of each opportunity. Does one have a better record for providing internships or job placements? How do the financial aid offers align with your family spending plan?
- Notify all schools** – Accept or decline admission offers by **National Signing Day – May 1**. Also, submit your Verified Acceptance from Next Institution (VANI) to your high school guidance counselor.

SAT – SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST

All Tacoma seniors are scheduled to take the SAT at school for FREE **October 14**

This is the only test most colleges require. However, some colleges may require SAT Subject Tests. You can also retake the SAT tests, to try to improve your score. Registration required for both.

REGISTRATION	TESTING
September 3.....	October 3
NONE REQUIRED.....	October 14
October 9.....	November 7
November 5.....	December 5

ACT – AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING

Some students prefer this test over the SAT and most colleges accept this test as an alternative. Be sure to check with your college choices to know your options.

REGISTRATION	TESTING
September 18.....	October 24
November 6.....	December 12

FINANCIAL AID (Also see insert *Paying for College*)

FAFSA/Financial Aid Info Night at H.S. My Date: _____
Hands-on FAFSA Help at High Schools. My Date: _____
FAFSA & WASFA – Begin Application January 1, 2016

APPLICATIONS

Key Dates – College fairs and application deadlines. Note: Evergreen, EWU & CWU on rolling admission, final deadlines in spring.

SEPTEMBER 2015						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 SAT REG	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 ACT REG	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2015						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 SAT TEST
4	5	6	7	8	9 SAT REG	10
11	12	13	14 FREE SAT TEST	15 TPS College Fair @UPS	16 Discover U	17
18	19	20	21	22 HS Confer- ences	23 HS Confer- ences	24 ACT TEST
25	26 No School Work on Apps	27 ACT SIX DEADLINE	28 Mt. T College & Career Day/Night	29	30	31

NOVEMBER 2015						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 EARLY ACTION/ DECISION	2	3	4	5 SAT REG	6 Palmer Apps Due ACT REG	7 SAT TEST
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 EARLY ACTION/ DECISION	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 2015						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 UW APPS DUE	2	3	4	5 SAT RETAKE
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 ACT RETAKE
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2016						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 FAFSA & WASFA FILING BEGINS	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 UWT APPS DUE	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 WWU & WSU APPS DUE						

More info & dates at:
Plan4College.ME



2-Year Community & Technical College Application Checklist

Process for Applying

Each college has slightly different application processes, so make sure to confirm the process and requirements for the colleges you are considering.

Explore Your Options

Create a list of career opportunities you are interested in pursuing.

Careers of Interest	Certificate or Degree Needed	Community or Technical Colleges

Research schools that provide the certification or degree you will need to get a job in that field – www.CheckOutACollege.com

If you are attending community college for 2-years to gain your Associate of Arts (AA) degree and plan to transfer to a 4-year college, talk with a college counselor about your long-term academic goals to ensure that the classes you take provide credits that will transfer to the college or university where you will complete your Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science (BA or BS) degree.

Apply Online or In-Person

- Community and Technical Colleges have an open door policy, and generally accept applications year round.
- Most Washington community colleges use the same online application: www.public.ctc.edu/ApplicantWebClient/Applicant

Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or for non-citizens, the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)

- Submit your FAFSA or WASFA to community colleges as soon after January 1, as possible. The earlier you submit, the better your chances of receiving financial aid. (See enclosed “Paying for College” for more information.)
- Many community colleges also have their own financial aid forms in addition to the FAFSA, so check with each school’s Financial Aid Office. If you do not turn in these additional forms, you can miss out on scholarship or grant opportunities that provide free money, or opportunities to earn additional income and employment experience through a Work Study job.

Take Your Placement Test

Check with the community college to see which placement test is required.

The two most common tests are **COMPASS** and **ACCUPLACER**

- You may be able to take them at your high school – check with your Career Counselor.
- These are untimed placement tests that are taken on a computer.
- The test includes math, writing, and reading, as well as English as a Second Language (ESL), if applicable.

- The test includes multiple choice questions that increase in difficulty when you get them right, and get easier if you get them wrong to help place you in classes aligned with your current abilities in each subject.
- Depending on the college, you may have to sign up for the test in advance, or be able to take the test at your orientation, or be able to walk-in and take the test at any time. The cost is approximately \$15-20.
- TIPS: Take your time, since there is no time limit. While these are not pass/fail exams, they do determine which classes you are eligible to take, so it is important to put your best effort into the testing process.
- To prepare, attend a **FREE ACCUPLACER** workshop at Tacoma Community College. These workshops have dramatically improved students' scores. You can also find practice **COMPASS** questions at college websites.

Schedule an Advising Appointment

- Focus your education on getting the degree or certification(s) you will need in order to pursue the career you want. If your goal is to transfer to a 4-year school, plan ahead to ensure a smooth transition between your college experiences.



Know Your Options: Find The Right Fit

Only you know the right fit for your future pathway – small vs. big school, urban vs. rural, private vs. public. High School graduates have many options to earn the degree or certification needed to pursue their career interests: 2-year or 4-year colleges, technical schools, apprenticeships and more!

4-year College or University

- Use the enclosed “**4-Year College Application Checklist**” to help create a list of potential schools and the application deadlines for each.
- There is no one perfect college, so consider a range of schools that fit your student’s needs.
- It’s easy to research schools online. A great first start is www.CareerCruising.com, which all seniors must complete as part of their graduation requirement.

Here are some additional websites to research your college options:

www.collegeboard.org

www.collegeresults.org

www.imfirst.org

Your counseling office and public library will also have copies of such resources as the Fiske Guide to Colleges, Colleges that Change Lives and others.

- **College “Fit” Factors** to consider include majors and programs offered, size, distance from home and how selective it is (can your student get in).
- **Cost** is also an important factor, but don’t let the published expenses scare you off until you explore financial aid options. For example, many students are eligible for the College Bound Scholarship, which covers tuition for Washington colleges. See the “**Paying for College**” in this packet and plan to attend an information session in December at your high school for more information on scholarships, loans and other financial aid. **Be sure to file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in January, or WASFA for students who are not U.S. citizens.**

Students should build a college application list of about 5-7 schools, including three types of schools:

“REACH”

someplace he or she would really like to go but might not get in

“SOLID”

a good match with grades and test scores so your student is likely to be accepted

“SAFETY”

your student will definitely get accepted; it provides a back-up to ensure a continuation of your student’s education to achieve his or her career interests



One of the most important things parents can do is to help your student stay organized in the application process. You can both get help at information sessions, college fairs and application and financial aid workshops listed in this packet and online at www.Plan4College.Me, the Tacoma Public Schools’ custom website designed for students and their families.

Community and Technical Colleges (2 years or less)

- Use the enclosed “**2-Year and Technical College Application Checklist**” to help create a list of potential schools.
- Students obtain a 2-year Associates Degree and/or hundreds of career certificates through programs as short as 3 months.
- Affordable and often near home, these colleges train students for jobs in computer science, health, business, trades and many other fields.
- Students who earn an Associates Degree can transfer to a 4-year university as a junior and finish in two years, a great way to cut costs.
- Financial aid is available, including the College Bound Scholarship. **Be sure to file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in January.** Attend a Financial Aid Information session in December at your high school for more information.
- Learn more about the variety of programs offered at Tacoma Community College, Pierce College, Bates Technical College, Clover Park Technical College and Washington’s other 30 community and technical colleges at: www.checkoutacollege.com
- Local colleges offer numerous information sessions and application and financial aid workshops – check their websites for details.

Vocational/Trade Schools

- These options provide education in a specific career ranging from cosmetology or criminal justice to design or health fields.
- Many vocational schools are for-profit, so check the rate of graduates’ job placement. If you choose to pursue further education, check with other colleges to make sure your credits will transfer from the vocational/trade school.
- Vocational school database www.rwm.org lists schools in Washington and nationwide.

Apprenticeships

- A mix of technical education and on-the-job training, students earn while they learn through apprenticeships in trades and technology.
- Offered by employers (such as Boeing), by trade unions (such as electricians and roofers) and independent programs, these 2-4 year programs provide the pathway to well-paid jobs. Apprenticeship programs offer certifications, licenses and/or college degrees.
- Apprenticeships are competitive and require solid math abilities.
- Learn more at www.exploreapprenticeship.wa.gov

Military

- Military experience teaches life skills and often provides technical education.
- Military service can also provide scholarships and help pay for future college education.
- Learn more at www.todaysmilitary.com





Paying for College

Financial Aid makes paying for college possible!

The cost of attending college is different for every school and every student. If you apply to several schools, you can compare the types of financial aid you are offered. Plan to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to become eligible for financial aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov

There are different types of funding that can help you pay for school, including:

<p>GRANTS</p> <p>Money that you do not have to pay back, awarded based on family need.</p>	<p>SCHOLARSHIPS</p> <p>Funds from colleges or other sources, often recognizing academics, sports, service, arts or other strengths. Money does not have to be repaid.</p>	<p>WORK STUDY</p> <p>Special jobs where your wages can help pay for school and personal costs.</p>	<p>LOANS</p> <p>Money you can borrow and repay over time, with interest added. Some loans have low interest, but families should think seriously about how they will repay before accepting a large loan.</p>
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Financial Aid – Sample Breakdown of Costs

The FAFSA will ask for information about your family’s finances and then calculate how much you and your family are expected to pay for your college expenses. This table is an example comparing a full-time student year at 4-year state school to a 2-year technical college.

<p>SAMPLE</p> <p>Estimated Cost of Attendance Each Year – Tuition, books, food, etc.</p>	<p>4-year Public University Live on Campus</p> <p>\$22,925</p>	<p>2-year Community College Live at home</p> <p>\$9,249</p>
<p>Expected Family Contribution – How much the FAFSA shows your family could provide. This number is called your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This can range from zero to the full cost of attendance.</p>	<p>SAMPLE EFC: \$3,261</p>	<p>SAMPLE EFC: \$3,261</p>
<p>Your “Financial Need” – How much the school might offer you in financial aid</p>	<p>Then this is your Financial Need: \$19,664</p>	<p>Then this is your Financial Need: \$5,988</p>

Use **FAFSA4caster** – <https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm> to see what your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) might look like.

Deadlines

To be considered for the most federal financial aid possible, you have to submit the FAFSA by the earliest priority date of the colleges to which you’ll be applying – every college’s priority date is different, so be sure to check each one.

The FAFSA & WASFA open **January 1** of every year and a new application must be submitted each year.

College Costs

The cost of tuition varies a lot at private, in-state and out-of-state colleges. At in-state schools, there is a different cost for Washington residents and out-of-state students while tuition at private colleges is usually the same regardless of residency. Most private schools require a second financial aid application called the **CSS profile** available at <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>. The cost of attendance at private colleges is much higher, but they are often able to offer more financial aid, meaning the cost you actually pay may be less.

Scholarships

There are many types of scholarships available that have different criteria. Look at the **Terms You May Need to Know** handout in this packet for the types.

Research scholarships at:

- www.fastweb.com
- http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college
- www.thewashboard.org
- www.collegegreenlight.com
- www.scholarships360.org

Your high school career and guidance counselors will have additional resources. Check with each college that you apply to for additional scholarship information.

College Bound Scholarship

Many families were eligible to sign up for the College Bound Scholarship (CBS) in 7th or 8th grade. Students must complete applications to chosen school, the FAFSA or WASFA and any additional financial aid forms for those colleges. CBS is combined with the Washington State Need Grant to cover tuition at public rates and a small book allowance. CBS will not be part of your financial aid award if all your need is met by other financial aid or if your family's income has risen above eligibility standard. You can learn more about the College Bound Scholarship at www.readysetgrad.org/college/college-bound-scholarship-program

Submitting the FAFSA

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend a workshop at your high school in December to learn how to prepare for the process in January. Check Plan4College.me for times and dates.• Student goes online and apply for a FAFSA PIN at www.pin.ed.gov• A parent/guardian applies for a separate PIN at www.pin.ed.gov• Check priority filing dates for your colleges
2	<p>Gather your important documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your Social Security number (or Alien Registration or Permanent Resident Card)• Your Driver License number• Your 2014 W-2 forms• Your family's 2014 income tax returns*• Un-taxed income records• Current bank statements for you and your family• Business and investment records for you and your family
3	<p>Fill out the FAFSA online beginning January 1st of your Senior Year**</p> <p>For help attend a FAFSA completion night at your high school in January. Check Plan4College.ME for dates.</p> <p>On the FAFSA, list all of the schools you plan to apply to</p>

Non-citizen? You can apply for the Washington State Need Grant!

Federal aid is not available to non-citizens, but you are eligible to apply for a Washington State Need Grant*** if you meet the program's income requirements and satisfy the residency criteria:

- Have graduated from a Washington high school or obtained a GED (or will do so before beginning college).
- Have lived in Washington for three years prior to, and continuously since, earning the high school diploma or equivalent.
- Sign an affidavit (written promise) to file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States when eligible to apply.

Complete the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) at www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa, available beginning Jan 1.



See **Plan4College.me** for more tools, including a Financial Aid Comparison Worksheet to help you compare net costs of attendance.

*Note: You do not need to file your 2015 income taxes before you complete your FAFSA application. You can simply use your income tax returns from last year to get the FAFSA completed as close to January 1 as possible.

**Note: The sooner you complete an application, the better chance you have for consideration of limited State Need Grant funds.

***Note: Colleges may require additional information. It is important to follow up with each school you have applied to in your next steps.



Terms You May Need to Know

Grade Point Average (GPA) – Average of all the grades a student receives in high school, ranked on a 4.0 scale, considered in college admission. A weighted scale awards higher scores for rigorous Honors and AP classes in which an “A” earns a 5.0, rather than 4.0 as in an average class. *Unweighted* means the school does not differentiate. Tacoma submits unweighted GPA’s to colleges.

General Education Diploma (GED) – A set of tests that certify the test taker has met high school academic skills; used as an alternative route to the traditional high school diploma.

Applying to College

Common Application (Common App) – 456 member colleges and universities, mostly private schools, use a standardized application that can be filled out by students online. Learn whether your choices use this at: www.commonapp.org

Admission – The process by which colleges and universities select and admit applicants.

- **Regular Admission** – Students apply by the final deadline. Most applicants will hear back in March for admission decisions.
- **Rolling Admission** – Decisions are processed year-round upon a “rolling basis” depending upon when the application is submitted. The earlier a student applies, the better.
- **Early Action** – Not a binding contract when applying to college, but guarantees that the applicant will hear back by a certain date. Early Action requires an earlier application due date, often in November. Application may be considered with a smaller pool of applicants.
- **Early Decision** – Students sign a legally-binding contract stating that they will attend that college if they get accepted. You can only apply to one college when using this option. However, you can apply to as many other colleges as you want for Regular, Rolling, or Early Action Admission. Early Decision is also an earlier deadline, usually by November, and applications may receive special consideration, in a smaller pool of applicants.
- **Priority Date** – Not a deadline, but a suggested date for application to colleges and universities so that you will be considered for scholarships and other special programs. Apply before this date, usually in November or December to qualify.

Testing

- **Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)** – One of the standardized tests required by most 4-year colleges for admission. Taken by students during their junior or senior year. Measured on a 2400 scale, Reading, Writing and Math. www.collegeboard.org (This website is also an excellent site for practice tests and college search and planning process.)
- **SAT Subject Test** – Offered in many areas of study including English, Math, Science, History, and Foreign Language. It is less common, but some colleges require one or more of these tests for admission.
- **American College Testing (ACT)** – Another test accepted by most colleges and universities for college admission. The test is on a 36 point scale and tests English, Reading, Math, and Science with an optional Writing section. www.actstudent.org
- **ACCUPLACER** – A group of tests used by some colleges to determine placement for college-level courses, based on your knowledge in math, reading and writing. It is not pass/fail and not used for admission.
- **COMPASS** – An untimed computerized placement test. This is not a pass/fail test; it is simply used to measure academic skills in reading, writing and mathematics. This test is used for placement into programs offering certifications or degrees.

Paying for College

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – All students applying for any financial aid will complete this form yearly and send to the college the student is attending. The earlier students submit this form the more opportunities they have for receiving financial aid dollars from the college of their choice. **Can apply beginning January 1.** www.FAFSA.ed.gov

Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) – For non-citizens, you may be eligible to apply for a Washington State Need Grant. **Can apply beginning January 1.** See eligibility requirements at www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa

Merit-Based Scholarship or Aid – Money awarded for college without regard for financial need. This type of college aid is usually awarded for academic achievement, such as High GPA and/or test scores, or talents and unique traits; such as artistic, musical, service, or athletic skills.

Need-Based Scholarship or Aid – Money awarded based upon your family's financial need. All Federal Aid is need-based, so you must submit the FAFSA to be eligible.

ACT SIX – Act Six is a leadership and scholarship program that connects students with local faith and social-justice based colleges. Act Six provides a four-year, full-tuition scholarship along with intensive training, strong campus support, and ongoing leadership and vocational development. **Apply before October 27, 2015.** www.ActSix.org

Palmer Scholarship – A minority scholarship that seeks talented students of color from Pierce County, who desire to receive a post-high school education but lack the financial support to do so. Palmer Scholars receive up to \$5,000 per year of financial support, a connection with a mentor, ongoing support, networking, and professional development. **Juniors and seniors may apply before November 6, 2015.** www.palmerscholars.org

College Bound Scholarship Program – Income-eligible students who applied in 8th grade, maintained a 2.0 GPA or higher, and remained good citizens earn a commitment of state financial aid to cover the average tuition rates of public universities. www.readysetgrad.org/college/college-bound-scholarship-program

College Scholarship Service Profile (CSS Profile) – A financial aid application required by some private colleges in addition to the FAFSA. It includes a fee and is more detailed. <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>



Visit Tacoma Public School's College Resource website designed especially for students and their families:

Plan4College.ME

Website Quick Reference Guide

www.CollegeBoard.org Resources to connect students to college success and opportunity

www.CollegeResults.org Compare colleges and related information

www.ExploreApprenticeship.wa.gov Connect to apprenticeships and potential jobs available in Washington State

www.FAFSA.ed.gov Apply for Federal Financial Aid

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm> Estimate your family contribution

www.FastWeb.com and <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college> and www.WashBoard.org Research scholarships

www.ImFirst.org Dedicated to first generation college students and their supporters

www.PIN.ed.gov Students and parents/guardians individually apply to get their own pin to apply for the FAFSA

www.Plan4College.ME TPS website dedicated to college resources and more

www.Public.ctc.edu/ApplicantWebClient/Applicant Apply to most Washington community colleges on this website

www.ReadySetGrad.org/College/College-Bound-Scholarship-Program Registered College Bound scholars can learn more about how their scholarships work

www.ReadySetGrad.org/WASFA Undocumented citizens can apply for Washington State grants toward financial aid

www.RWM.org Vocational school database

Student.CollegeBoard.org/CSS-Financial-Aid-Profile Applying to a private school? Most request CSS and FAFSA.

www.TodaysMilitary.com Explore the possibility of a specialized career plan in the military