

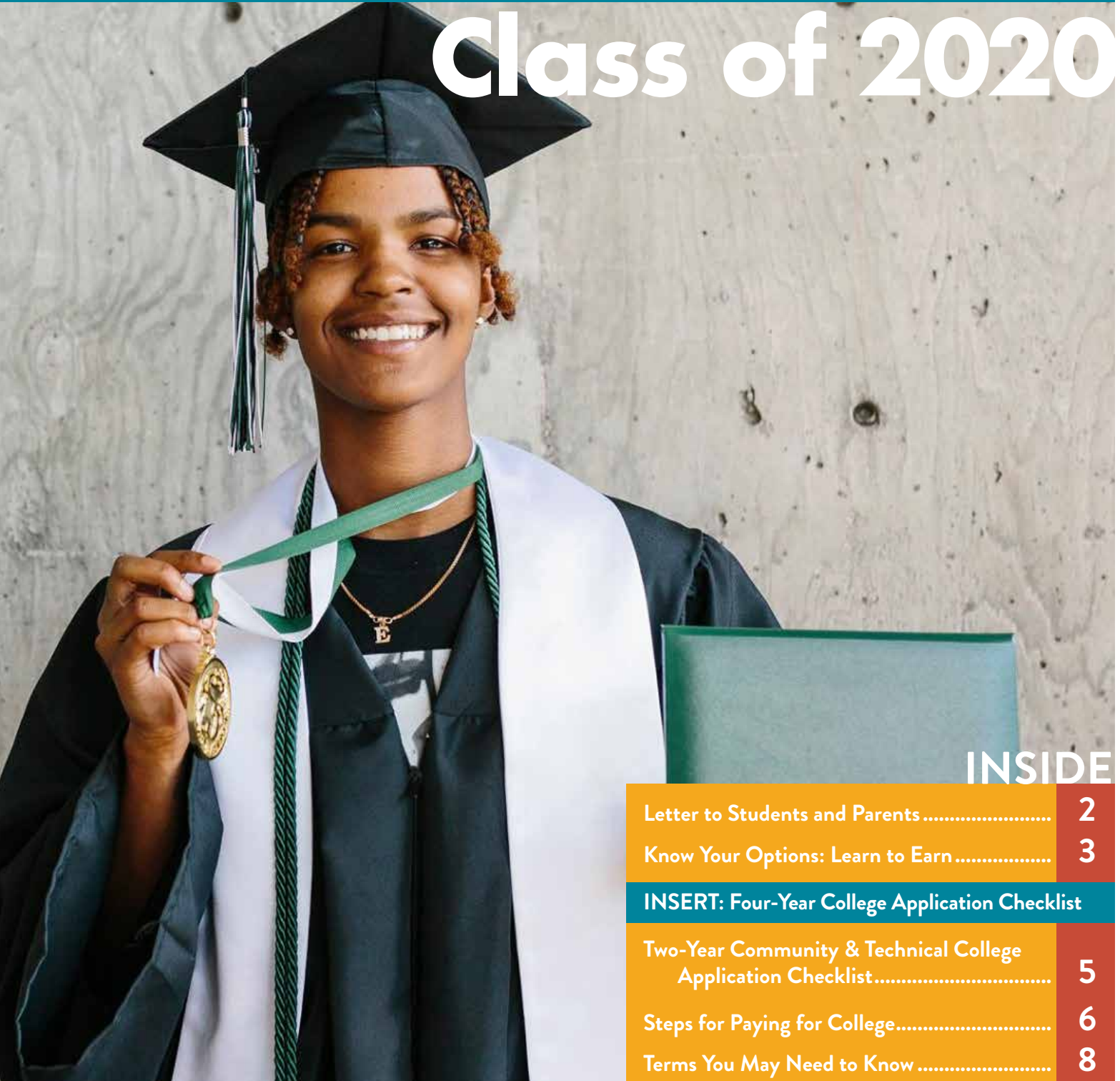
# GRADUATE! TACOMA

Every Child. One Community. Cradle to Career.

## COLLEGE AND CAREER SENIOR TOOLKIT

For Students and Parents

# Class of 2020



### INSIDE

Letter to Students and Parents .....	2
Know Your Options: Learn to Earn .....	3
<b>INSERT: Four-Year College Application Checklist</b>	
Two-Year Community & Technical College Application Checklist.....	5
Steps for Paying for College.....	6
Terms You May Need to Know .....	8

**ACTION  
STEP**



**Share this Toolkit** and the steps in it with a supportive adult who can help you set goals and achieve your future. Save this in a notebook to refer to and ask when you need help.



# COLLEGE AND CAREER SENIOR TOOLKIT

## For Students and Parents

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

The Graduate Tacoma Community would like to welcome you to the start of your senior year! Graduating high school is such an important milestone and major step toward your 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, apprenticeship, military, or career. There are many paths to take on the way to earning the higher education degree or technical certification needed for the career field you choose. You are not alone and the Graduate Tacoma Community is here to help.









Use this toolkit to help you navigate through this important year. Enclosed you will find items to discuss together and checklists to help your student keep organized and meet important due dates over the next several months. Use the list of College and Career Guidance Specialists below for any support you may need.

Be sure to check out  [@GraduateTacoma](#) and [Plan4College.ME](#) for additional information.

### College and Career Guidance Specialists

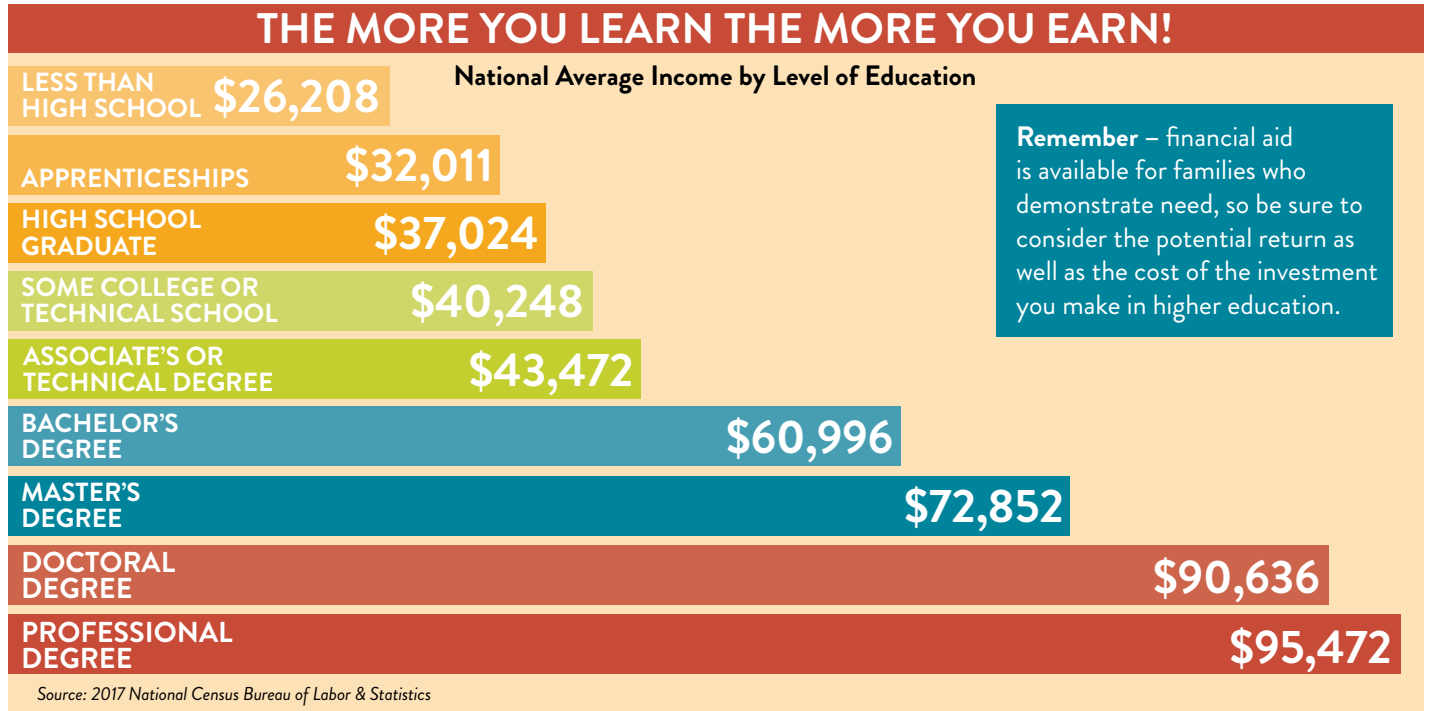
Your high school's College and Career Guidance Specialists can answer additional questions, and many schools also have very knowledgeable college support staff. Don't hesitate to seek help. Employers and colleges highly value "self-advocacy" - or your ability to speak up for yourself.

Here is their contact information:

- FOSS, OAKLAND, WILLIE STEWART ACADEMY** ]  Juanita Cantrell-Jeffreys..... 253.571.7358..... [jjeffre@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:jjeffre@tacoma.k12.wa.us)
- IDEA** ]  Kainoa Higgins, Co-Director... 253.571.5600.... [khiggin@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:khiggin@tacoma.k12.wa.us)
- LINCOLN** ]  Jamila Jones..... 253.571.6659..... [jjones5@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:jjones5@tacoma.k12.wa.us)
- MOUNT TAHOMA** ]  Glen Burden ..... 253.571.3823..... [gburden@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:gburden@tacoma.k12.wa.us)
- SAMI** ]  Liz Minks, Co-Director ..... 253.571.2300.... [lminks@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:lminks@tacoma.k12.wa.us)
- STADIUM** ]  Brandi Junderson ..... 253.571.3153..... [bjunder@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:bjunder@tacoma.k12.wa.us)
- SOTA** ]  Bliss King, Co-Director ..... 253.571.7900 ..... [bking2@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:bking2@tacoma.k12.wa.us)
- WILSON** ]  Nancy Sprick ..... 253.571.6148 ..... [nsprick@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:nsprick@tacoma.k12.wa.us)




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



High school graduates have many options to earn the degree or certification needed to pursue their career interests: two-year or four-year colleges, technical schools, apprenticeships, and more! Below you will find helpful information to guide you in choosing your right fit pathway.

## Four-Year College or University

- Use the **“Four-Year Application Checklist”** insert 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 needs.
- It's easy to research schools online. A great first start is **CareerCruising.com**, which all seniors must complete as part of their **High School and Beyond Plan**. Here are some additional websites to research your college options:
  - [CollegeBoard.org](http://CollegeBoard.org)
  - [CollegeResults.org](http://CollegeResults.org)
  - [CollegeScoreCard.ed.gov](http://CollegeScoreCard.ed.gov)
  - [IMfirst.org](http://IMfirst.org)
- **College “Fit” Factors** to consider include majors and programs offered, size, distance from home, and how selective it is (Can I get in?).
- **Cost** is also an important factor, but don't let the published expenses scare you off until you explore financial aid options.



**TIP:** Many students are eligible for the **College Bound Scholarship**, which covers tuition for Washington colleges. See your counselor to find out if you are eligible and attend a financial aid information session at your school. **Be sure to file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), or WASFA (for students who are not U.S. citizens) starting October 1.** The FAFSA or WASFA are required to receive financial aid, so file as early as possible. See page 6 and 7 for more information on steps for paying for college.

# KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

## Community and Technical Colleges

### (Two years or less)

- Use the “**Two-Year and Technical College Application Checklist**” on page 5 to help create a list of potential schools.
- Students obtain a two-year Associates Degree and/or one of hundreds of career certificates through programs as short as three months.
- Affordable and often near home, these colleges train students for careers in computer science, health, business, trades, and many other fields.
- Students who earn an Associates Degree can transfer to a four-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) or WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) in October.** Attend a financial aid information session 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: [CheckOutACollege.com](http://CheckOutACollege.com).

## 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 [RWM.org](http://RWM.org) lists schools that offer Associate’s Degree programs in Washington and nationwide.

## Apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships are a mix of technical education and on-the-job training. Offered in multiple sectors such as trades, technology, and engineering, they allow students to earn a pay wage while learning the skills and knowledge needed for the job.
- Employers (such as Boeing), trade unions (such as electricians and roofers), and independent programs offer apprenticeships. These two- to four- year programs provide the pathway to family-wage jobs. Apprenticeship programs offer certifications, licenses, and/ or college degrees.
- Apprenticeships are competitive and require solid math skills.
- Learn more at [LNI.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship](http://LNI.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship).

## 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 [TodaysMilitary.com](http://TodaysMilitary.com).

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

### “REACH”

Someplace you would really like to go, but you think you may not get in

### “SOLID”

A good match with grades and test scores that makes it likely for you to be accepted

### “SAFETY”

You will definitely get accepted here; this back-up ensures a continuation of your education that still lets you achieve your goals



## 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.

### 1. Explore Your Options Create a list of career opportunities you are interested in pursuing.

Careers of Interest

Certificates or Degrees

Community or Technical Colleges

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Research schools that provide the certification or degree you will need to get a job in the field that interests you – [CheckOutACollege.com](http://CheckOutACollege.com)

### 2. 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: [Public.etc.edu](http://Public.etc.edu)

### 3. Assess Your Placement/ Pathway

- Many colleges now accept alternate forms of placement including the **Smarter Balanced Assessment, High School Transcripts**, and **SAT and ACT test scores**. Check with the college to see which placement measures are used.

The most common placement test is the **ACCUPLACER**.

- This untimed placement test is taken on a computer. Take your time, since there is no time limit.
- This multiple-choice test includes math and reading comprehension, as well as English as a Second Language (ESL), if applicable.
- While this is not a pass/fail test, it will determine which classes you are eligible to take, so it is important to do your best.
- You may take the test more than once and colleges will use the best score. This may allow you to place out of remedial classes and save money.

### 4. Submit an Application for Financial Aid

- Submit your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) to community colleges as soon after **October 1**, as possible. The earlier you submit, the better your chances of receiving financial aid. You will need to submit a new FAFSA or WASFA each year that you attend college.
- Many community colleges also have their own financial aid forms in addition to the FAFSA/WASFA, so check with each school's Financial Aid Office. If you do not turn in these additional forms, you can miss out on scholarships, grants, or opportunities to earn additional income and employment experience through a Work Study job.

### 5. Schedule an Advising Appointment or Attend Orientation

- 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 four-year school, plan ahead to ensure a smooth transition between your college experiences.
- Some schools require you to meet with an advisor before registering for classes each quarter, in order to ensure that you are on track.
- Attend an orientation, where you will learn how to access student services, make an academic plan, and register for classes.



# STEPS FOR PAYING FOR COLLEGE:

Financial aid makes paying for college possible!

OCTOBER

1

**Deadlines** To be considered for the most financial aid possible, you have to submit the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or **WASFA** (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) by the earliest priority date of the colleges to which you'll be applying in your senior year— every college's priority date is different, so be sure to check each one. The FAFSA and WASFA now open **October 1** of every year and a new application must be submitted each year.

## Submitting the FAFSA

### 1 Be prepared

- Attend a workshop at your high school to learn how to prepare for the process. Check [Plan4College.ME](http://Plan4College.ME) for dates.
- Apply for a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at [FSAid.ed.gov](http://FSAid.ed.gov)
- A parent/guardian applies for a separate FSA ID, using a separate email, at [FSAid.ed.gov](http://FSAid.ed.gov)
- Check priority filing dates for your colleges.

### 2 Gather your important documents

- Your Social Security number (or Alien Registration or Permanent Resident Card)
- Your Driver License number or state ID
- Your family's 2018 income tax returns
- Untaxed income records
- Current bank statements for you and your family
- Business and investment records for you and your family

### 3 Apply online

- Fill out the FAFSA online at [FAFSA.ed.gov](http://FAFSA.ed.gov) beginning October 1 of your Senior Year.
- On the FAFSA, list all of the schools you plan to apply to.
- Download the free FAFSA mobile App at [myStudentAid](http://myStudentAid) to begin filing the FAFSA.



## Non-citizen? You can apply for the Washington College Grant by submitting the WASFA.

Federal aid is not available to non-citizens, but you are eligible to apply for the Washington College Grant by submitting the WASFA 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 [ReadySetGrad.wa.gov/WASFA](http://ReadySetGrad.wa.gov/WASFA), available beginning October 1.

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

**GRANTS:** Money that you do not have to pay back, awarded based on family need.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Funds from colleges or other sources, often recognizing academics, sports, service, arts, or other strengths. Money does not have to be repaid.

**WORK STUDY:** Special jobs where your wages can help pay for school and personal costs.

**LOANS:** 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.

**ACTION STEP**

6



**Complete and submit your FAFSA/WASFA** as early as possible starting October 1 to be eligible for financial aid and scholarships.

**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 at four-year state school to a two-year college. Your family’s EFC and Financial Need will be different based upon your family income.

<b>SAMPLE</b>	<b>Estimated Cost of Attendance Each Year –</b> Tuition, housing, books, food, etc.	<b>Four-year Public University Live on Campus</b> \$27,896	<b>Two-year Community College Live at home</b> \$11,435
	<b>Expected Family Contribution (EFC) –</b> How much the FAFSA shows your family could provide. This can range from zero to the full cost of attendance.	<b>SAMPLE EFC</b> \$3,261	<b>SAMPLE EFC</b> \$3,261
	<b>Your “Financial Need” –</b> How much the school might offer you in financial aid.	<b>This is your Financial Need</b> \$24,635	<b>This is your Financial Need</b> \$8,174

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

**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. Some private schools require a second financial aid application called the **CSS profile** available at [CSSprofile.CollegeBoard.org](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org). The cost of attendance at private colleges is much higher, but those institutions are often able to offer more financial aid, meaning the cost you actually pay may be less.

**Scholarships** Tacoma has some excellent scholarships for TPS students. Be sure to investigate the following scholarships, making note of their application due dates. Your high school may have its own scholarship page as well, so see your school website or career center for more information.

- **Act Six – ActSix.org.** A four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarship to four participating private colleges for seniors. Application opens August and due in November.
- **College Success Foundation – CollegeSuccessFoundation.org.** The CSF website has a number of scholarships specifically for Washington students.
- **Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) – WAOpportunityScholarship.org.** A four-year renewable scholarship for Washington seniors who pursue a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) major at Washington technical, two- and four-year colleges. Applications open January of senior year and close in February.
- **Washington Scholarships –** See [theWashBoard.org](http://theWashBoard.org) and your high school’s website for more scholarships.
- **Pacific Lutheran University, 253 PLU Bound Scholarship – PLU.edu/253.** A full-tuition scholarship to PLU for students who are College Bound Scholarship eligible, attend a high school in the 253 area code, and have a 3.7 or higher weighted GPA.
- **University of Puget Sound, Tacoma Public School Commitment – PugetSound.edu.** University of Puget Sound has a commitment to meet the full financial need of TPS students who are admitted.
- **University of WA, Husky Promise – Washington.edu/HuskyPromise.** Guarantees full tuition and standard fees will be covered by grant or scholarship support for all eligible Washington state students at all UW campuses.
- **Washington State University, Cougar Commitment – WSU.edu.** A commitment that full tuition and standard fees will be covered by grant and scholarship support for all eligible Washington state students.
- **Central, Eastern, and Western Washington Universities –** have their own scholarships. Go directly to their websites to learn more.

**College Bound Scholarship** Many families were eligible to sign up for the College Bound Scholarship (CBS) in seventh or eighth grade. Check with your counselor to see if you are a College Bound Scholar and how to maintain your eligibility. Students must complete applications to chosen schools, the FAFSA, or WASFA, and any additional financial aid forms for those colleges. CBS is combined with the Washington College 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 [ReadySetGrad.wa.gov/college/college-bound-scholarship-program](http://ReadySetGrad.wa.gov/college/college-bound-scholarship-program)

# HELPFUL TERMS TO KNOW

## GENERAL

- **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 GPAs 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.
- **Verification of Acceptance of Next Institution (VANI)** – All TPS seniors submit the VANI as a part of their High School and Beyond Plan to indicate their post-high school plans, including acceptance to college, vocational school, military, or apprenticeship.

## APPLYING TO COLLEGE

- **Common Application (Common App)** – Over 600 colleges and universities, mostly private schools, use a standardized application that can be filled out by students online. Learn whether your colleges of choice recognize this app here: [CommonApp.org](https://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 receive a reply in March about admission decisions.
- **Rolling Admission** – Admission decisions are processed year-round on 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. The advantage to early action is that the application may be considered with a smaller pool of applicants.
- **Early Decision** – Students use this option for a first-choice school only, and must withdraw all other applications if admitted, assuming financial aid offer is reasonable. You can only apply to one college using this option, but you can apply to other colleges using 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.

## TESTING

- **SAT** – One of the standardized tests required by most four-year colleges for admission., the SAT is taken during the junior or senior year. Measured on a 400-1600 scale, the test consists of 3 tests: reading, writing, and math, plus an optional essay. [CollegeBoard.org](https://collegeboard.org) is an excellent site for practice tests and college search and planning process. **The SAT is offered free to all TPS students on October 16, 2019.**
- **SAT Subject Test** – Offered in many areas of study including English, Math, Science, History, and Foreign Language, this test is less common. Some colleges require one or more of these tests for admission.
- **ACT** – Another test accepted by most colleges and universities for college admission, the ACT is scored on a 36-point scale, testing English, Reading, Math, and Science with an optional Writing section: [ACTstudent.org](https://actstudent.org).
- **ACCUPLACER** – A group of tests used by some colleges to determine placement for college-level courses, based on your knowledge in math and reading comprehension. It is not pass/fail and not used for admission.

## 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 October 1.** [FAFSA.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov)
- **Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)** – For non-citizens, you may be eligible to apply for a Washington College Grant. **Apply beginning October 1.** See eligibility requirements at [ReadySetGrad.wa.gov/WASFA](https://ReadySetGrad.wa.gov/WASFA)
- **Merit-Based Scholarship or Aid** – Money awarded for college without regard for financial need. This type of financial aid (separate from your FAFSA/WASFA) 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 and state aid is need-based, so you must submit the FAFSA or WASFA to be eligible.
- **College Scholarship Service Profile (CSS Profile)** – A financial aid application required by some private colleges in addition to the FAFSA/WASFA. It includes a fee and is more detailed. [CSSprofile.CollegeBoard.org](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org)



Every Child. One Community. Cradle to Career.







# Four-Year College Application Checklist

Post this checklist where you can see it daily to keep track of important steps and deadlines.

**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 five to seven 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 at [CommonApp.org](http://CommonApp.org) to begin filling out now.
- Create your customized calendar** – 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="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

- Begin drafting your application essay** – Start early!
- Research scholarships** – Download or request applications. Deadlines start early. Add them to your calendar.
- Request two Teacher Recommendation Letters** – Be sure to ask at least one month before deadlines!
- Discuss your family budget for college** – See *Paying for College*, pages 6-7, for financial aid information.
- Update your resume** – Include extra-curricular activities and job experience.

## OCTOBER

- Financial Aid** – Attend a FAFSA/WASFA workshop at your high school or local college. Check [Plan4College.ME](http://Plan4College.ME) for dates, times and locations throughout Tacoma.
- FAFSA & WASFA** – Filing begins October 1. The sooner you file, the better your chances for aid. You will use your 2018 income tax return to complete.
- 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 three or four 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 two years at community college as a cost-effective alternative.
- Meet with college representatives** – See your Career Center for a schedule of visits.
- SAT or ACT Testing** – Make sure you have all testing times and locations noted on your calendar. You can practice the test: See [CollegeBoard.org](http://CollegeBoard.org) and [ACTstudent.org](http://ACTstudent.org) for more details. [EnhancedPrep.com](http://EnhancedPrep.com) also offers free test prep support. Plan to take the free SAT on **October 16** at your high school.
- Consider Early Action/Decision** – If considering, confirm your college’s application deadline.
- Applying to private colleges?** – Get the CSS/Profile financial aid application, [CSSprofile.CollegeBoard.org](http://CSSprofile.CollegeBoard.org).
- Inquire about financial aid forms** – Some colleges require their own forms, in addition to FAFSA or WASFA.
- Attend the PNACAC College Fair** – University of Puget Sound Fieldhouse, October 30 (5:30-7:30 pm). See [PNACAC.org/college-fairs](http://PNACAC.org/college-fairs) for details.

## 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 November 1 or 15. Check yours.
- Order your transcripts through Parchment.com** – To be sent to your college choices.

## DECEMBER

- Application deadlines begin** – Start regular submissions. Ask your counselor for application fee waivers if needed.
- Early Action/Decision** – Check your email for replies, if you applied Early Action/Decision.

## JANUARY

- 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

- Request your first 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**.
- Submit your VANI (Verified Acceptance from Next Institution) and High School and Beyond Plan** to your high school counselor.

## SAT TESTING

All Tacoma seniors are scheduled to take the SAT at school for **FREE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16**.

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 is required for both.

REGISTRATION	TESTING
September 6.....	Saturday, October 5
NONE REQUIRED.....	Wednesday, October 16
October 3.....	Saturday, November 2
November 8.....	Saturday, December 7

## ACT TESTING

Some students prefer this test over the SAT and colleges accept this test as an alternative to the SAT.

REGISTRATION	TESTING
September 20.....	Saturday, October 26
November 8.....	Saturday, December 14

## FINANCIAL AID (Also see *Paying for College*, pages 6-7)

Financial Aid Info Night at H.S. My Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 FAFSA/WASFA Help at High Schools. My Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 FAFSA & WASFA – Begin Application October 1, 2019

## APPLICATIONS

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

## OCTOBER 2019 Discover U Month

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		FAFSA 1 & WASFA FILING BEGINS	2	3	4	5 SAT TEST
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	FREE 16 SAT TEST @ TPS	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 ACT TEST
27	28	29	30 PNACAC COLLEGE FAIR @ UPS	31		

## NOVEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					EARLY 1 ACTION/DECISION	2 SAT TEST
3	4	5 ACT SIX DEADLINE	6	7	8	UW APP DUE
10	11	12	13	14	EARLY 15 ACTION/DECISION	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## DECEMBER 2019

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

## JANUARY 2020

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