

Class of 2022!



Graduate Tacoma
919 S. 9th Street
Tacoma, WA 98405

Sophomores, the more you learn, the more you earn!



NATIONAL AVERAGE INCOME BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION

LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL	\$26,208
APPRENTICESHIPS	\$32,011
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	\$37,024
SOME COLLEGE OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL	\$40,248
ASSOCIATE OR TECHNICAL DEGREE	\$43,472
BACHELOR'S DEGREE	\$60,996
MASTER'S DEGREE	\$72,852
DOCTORAL DEGREE	\$90,636
PROFESSIONAL DEGREE	\$95,472

Did you know? The majority of the 740,000 jobs that will be opening in Washington state in the next five years will require a degree, certificate, or training after high school. Use this toolkit to start thinking about your future.

Source: Washington Roundtable

Source: 2017 National Census Bureau of Labor & Statistics



Your future is in your hands!



Sophomores, you are almost half way through high school! Use this toolkit to set goals and take important steps toward preparing for your future beyond high school.

1. Start Exploring

Sophomore year is a perfect time to start setting your sights on future college and career goals.

- ☐ **Develop talents and skills.** If you haven't already, join a club or team. This can help build your confidence, resume, and scholarship opportunities. The quality, not the quantity, of your involvement is most important, so choose something you like to do, be active, and seek leadership positions.
- ☐ **Research careers by completing your Career Cruising portfolio at [CareerCruising.com](https://www.careercruising.com).** This is a required step for graduation and will help you plan a pathway to your future. In addition, [BigFuture.org](https://www.bigfuture.org) and [ReadySetGrad.org](https://www.readysetgrad.org) are helpful search engines to begin finding colleges that match your interests.
- ☐ **Visit college campuses.** You don't need to find your dream school this year, but it's not too early to start exploring. Tacoma has many two- and four-year options to choose from. Attend college fairs or sign up for a local campus tour to get a feel for the environment and learn about the programs they offer. Visit your career center to learn more about campus tours.

Set SMART Goals for Success:

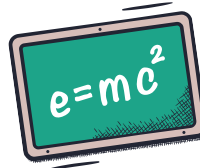
SMART Goals are **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**ealistic, and **T**imely. Use this list below as a guide and add your own goals.

1. **Participate** in at least one extra-curricular club, team, or organization in your school or community.
2. **Visit** at least one local college campus.
3. **Volunteer** at least ten hours of service with an organization of interest.
4. **Make an appointment** to meet with your school counselor to choose the junior year courses that best fit your post-high school plans, including at least one college-level or certificate class that will challenge you and build your skills.
5. **Complete your Career Cruising steps for sophomore year ([CareerCruising.com](https://www.careercruising.com)).** This will help you explore your future career interests and set a pathway for meeting those goals. See your counselor if you need help getting started or logging in to your account.

2. Choose Wisely

The right high school classes can open the doors to college and career opportunities.

- ☐ **Review your transcript with your school counselor.** Make sure you are taking the courses that will meet graduation requirements and prepare you for your career goals.
- ☐ **Build your resume.** Hands-on classes offer real-life workforce skills. Take an occupational education class offering industry-recognized certification (IRC). See your counselor for a list of classes offering certification.
- ☐ **Stay focused on your grades and assignments.** Colleges and employers look at your grade point average as a key indicator to determine how you apply yourself, overcome setbacks, and succeed. Even if your grades last year were not as high as you would have liked, colleges take note if you show improvement moving forward. High school will continue to get harder so *seek help when you need it*.



Did you know? All eligible TPS students are automatically enrolled in accelerated college level classes, including AP, IB, and College in high school. These classes allow you to earn potential college credit while still in high school.



Are you a College Bound Scholar? See your counselor to find out if you are! This scholarship provides tuition at public college rates for two- and four-year colleges and technical schools in Washington state.



For opportunities and resources visit

**GraduateTacoma.org/TCSN
& Plan4College.ME**



Every Child. One Community. Cradle to Career.



3. Get Involved & Connected

Learn what resources are available to help you plan for your future and ask for support when you need it.

- ☐ **Visit your high school career center and meet your counselor.** Meet with them routinely to make sure you are on track to achieving your goals. They can connect you to college and career support, internships, scholarship and financial aid information, and test prep help for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, and ACCUPLACER.
- ☐ **Develop relationships with faculty, staff, advisors, and mentors.** Offer to help out in class or simply stop by their office to say hi. Recommendation letters are an important aspect of the college and career application process, so maintain good relationships to help secure strong reference letters and support.
- ☐ **Make a plan for summer.** A summer job or internship will help you explore careers and develop skills. Go to [SummerLearningTacoma.org](https://www.summerlearningtacoma.org) for more information and opportunities.



Did you know? You can explore a career, earn credit, and acquire workplace skills and expertise through the Next Move Internship Program. Visit your high school career center to meet a Next Move coach. Go to [NextMoveTacoma.org](https://www.nextmoveTacoma.org) to learn more.

