

9TH GRADE TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER ALL ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL

Learn about what you need to do to graduate and how to be successful in high school.

OCTOBER BENEFITS OF COLLEGE AND CAREER EDUCATION

Explore the benefits of going to college and learn how a college degree or certificate can help you get a job.

NOVEMBER TYPES OF COLLEGES / ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

Discover the different types of colleges and training options there are to choose from.

DECEMBER BUILDING YOUR COLLEGE PROFILE

Focus on doing well in high school, staying organized and getting involved in activities.

JANUARY PICKING THE RIGHT HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

Talk to your counselor, family and friends about your post-high school plans.

FEBRUARY ALL ABOUT COLLEGE BOUND / THE COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP PLEDGE

If you signed up, learn about the College Bound Scholarship and the Pledge.

MARCH COLLEGE AND CAREER CONNECTIONS

Understand how what you study in college can get you the job of your dreams.

APRIL WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Learn about different types of money that can help you pay for college.

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

GETTING READY: ALL ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL

High school is a time to build your skills and explore your interests to prepare you for life after high school. In order to graduate there are requirements you must meet and it's important to become familiar with them.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

Earn required credits – Students in Washington State must complete a **minimum of 24 credits** to graduate from high school. However, your high school may have slightly different credit requirements.

Every class you take in high school counts towards graduation.
Talk with your counselor to get a list of your school's requirements.

Meet standard on state assessments – You must take and pass **state assessments** in English language arts, math and science or take and meet standard through one of a variety of state-approved alternatives.

Complete your High School and Beyond Plan – Starting in 7th or 8th grade you will create a plan to help you think about your future and choose classes that prepare you for your goals after high school.

TIPS:

- * **What you do in high school can influence your future**
- * **Pay attention in class and keep track of your grades**
- * **Use a planner to stay organized** and write down assignments, due dates and other responsibilities
- * **Don't be afraid to ask for help.** Be an advocate for yourself and ask for support from your counselors, teachers, family members and mentors.

SOME SCHOOLS HAVE ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Check with your school counselor to see if you have any other requirements to earn your **diploma**.

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) – The College Bound Scholarship and some school districts require at least a 2.0 GPA to graduate. The higher your **GPA**, the more college and scholarship options you will have available.

Service learning – You may need to complete service learning hours, where you give back to the community and reflect on your experience.

SEPT: GRADE 9 and 10



ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: BENEFITS OF COLLEGE AND CAREER EDUCATION

The **knowledge, fulfillment, self-awareness,** and **broadening of horizons** that come from a college experience can transform your life — and the lives of those around you — in valuable ways. **More security, better health, closer family,** and **stronger community,** in addition to **greater wealth,** are the real value of a college education. (College Bound Advocacy & Policy Center)

Less than High school: **\$30,780**

High school graduate: **\$38,792**

Some college or associate's degree: **\$44,720**

Bachelor's degree: **\$64,896**

Advanced degree (master's professional and doctoral degrees): **\$90,844**

AVERAGE INCOME BY EDUCATION LEVEL

(Bureau of Labor Statistics)

WHY SHOULD I GO TO COLLEGE?

There is a growing, **massive wage gap** between college-educated and less-educated young professionals. Young adults with an **associate's degree** earn an average of **\$5,000 more per year** than those with a high school diploma (Kena et al., 2016).

Young professionals with a high school diploma are **3 times more likely** to be unemployed than young professionals with a **Bachelor's degree.**

Individuals with a college degree are **much more likely to receive employer-provided health insurance** than those with only a high school diploma. The likelihood of reporting **health to be very good or excellent is 44% greater.**

A college degree can lead to a stronger community. Individuals with a college degree are **more than twice as likely to volunteer** as those with only a high school diploma. College graduates' **neighborhood interactions and trust are significantly higher.** (Lumina Foundation, College Bound Advocacy & Policy Center).

THERE'S MORE THAN JUST ONE CHOICE WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT

Life after high school has more college and career education options than you might think! The new Washington College Grant isn't just for college students—it also supports income-eligible apprentices enrolled in approved programs. **Apprenticeships** can get you **on-the-job**, hands-on training for a **trade**, and Washington College Grant can help pay for **tuition**, instructional fees, and materials. Students have more access to **financial aid** than ever before. This means more students are eligible to receive **state financial aid**, and they have more options to choose from. Check **wsac.wa.gov/WCG** for more information.

GOOD TO KNOW:

What you study in college matters. Some degrees are in higher demand and lead to careers with higher pay. Currently, degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), health and business lead to the highest entry level pay.

OCT: GRADE 9 and 10



ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: TYPES OF COLLEGES

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

WHERE SHOULD I GO FOR COLLEGE?

Private 2-year College/ Vocational/ Trade Schools

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

Public and Private 4-year College/University


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

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

Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs)

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

Learn more about the programs they offer at **sbctc.edu**

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

OCT: GRADE 11
NOV: GRADE 9 and 10

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

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

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



1 ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

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

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

APPRENTICESHIP



Apprenticeships are offered by employers (such as Boeing), **trade unions** (such as electricians or roofers) and independent programs. **Programs typically last 2-5 years** and are a good way to start a career in a well-paying field. Apprenticeship programs offer certifications, licenses and/or college **degrees**.

WHAT JOB CAN I GET AS AN APPRENTICE?

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

Examples of careers include:

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

HOW MUCH WOULD I GET PAID?

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

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

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

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

- For example, King County plumbers and pipe fitters earn around \$89/hr while cement masons in Yakima earn \$45/hr.

1 Make sure you meet the requirements.

Generally, these include:

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

2 Find a program and apply.

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

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

* HOW DO I BECOME AN APPRENTICE?

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NOV: GRADE 9 and 10



GETTING READY: BUILDING YOUR COLLEGE PROFILE

Colleges don't only consider your grades.

They want applicants who contribute to the **campus** and/or the community. Specific activities can make you a more competitive applicant and help you build your work resumé. They should also be documented in your High School and Beyond Plan that is required for high school graduation.

WHAT IS AN ACTIVITIES LOG/ RESUMÉ

Some applications require an activities log/resumé. This list of your **extracurricular activities** provides a sense of your involvement in and outside of school. You should also include a short description of your involvement for each activity.

start to keep track...

<input type="radio"/>	Robotics club

	_____ president
<input type="radio"/>	mechanic internship

	_____ from Jan to March '17
<input type="radio"/>	woods club leader

<input type="radio"/>	_____

Keep in mind: Your activities log/resumé can also be useful when you apply for **scholarships** and jobs.

WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES SHOULD I PURSUE?

- Athletics
- College access programs
- Community service
- Faith-based/religious programs
- Family responsibilities
- Jobs or internships
- Music, drama and arts
- Summer programs
- School clubs
- Student government

GOOD TO KNOW:

The level of **commitment and leadership** in your activities **matter more** in the admission review process **than the number of activities.**

* NO TIME?

Colleges understand that many students have work, family and other responsibilities. Many applications include a section where you can **write about yourself or your circumstances.** For example, many students need to work multiple jobs to support their family. This is considered leadership. *Share your experience!*

DEC: GRADE 9 and 10



2 GETTING READY: PICKING THE RIGHT HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE?

The classes you take in high school prepare you for your post high school plans. Whether you choose to pursue an **apprenticeship** or a **technical, 2-year, 4-year college**, or military academy, you will want to learn their admission requirements.

THINGS TO KNOW:

- Your high school graduation requirements **may not** be the same as college admission requirements.
- 4-year colleges have the most selective requirements.
- Technical and 2-year colleges have less selective requirements.

MATH IS IMPORTANT:

- Most college programs, apprenticeships, and military options require you to take math. Taking more math in high school may mean taking less math in college and opening more post-high school options.
- Over 50% of high school graduates are not ready for college-level classes.
- Taking four years of high school math will help you get ready for college and can help you save on tuition costs!

REMINDER:

Make sure to look at the academic and class requirements for the colleges (2-year, 4-year, or technical) you are interested in attending.

WHAT ARE COLLEGES LOOKING FOR?

- A challenging class schedule, including courses where you can earn college credit. Examples include, **Advanced Placement (AP)**, **International Baccalaureate (IB)**, **Cambridge International**, College in the High School, Running Start or **CTE Dual Credit** (formerly Tech Prep) that can lead to a career credential or associate's degree.
- Electives that match your career and college interests including career and technical education programs of study.
- Some colleges may have additional entrance or admission requirements such as taking the **SAT** or **ACT**.
- Consider taking academic classes for your elective requirements such as foreign language and/or multiple lab sciences.

JAN: GRADE 9 and 10



3 COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP: ALL ABOUT IT

WHAT IS COLLEGE BOUND?

The College Bound Scholarship is a commitment of **state financial aid** to **eligible** students and is a four-year scholarship (12 quarters/8 semesters). Students would have applied in middle school before the end of their 8th grade year and commit to meeting the College Bound Pledge in high school to receive the scholarship. College Bound combines on your **financial aid award letter** with other state financial aid to cover tuition (at public college rates), some fees and a small book allowance.

Find other eligibility requirements at collegebound.wa.gov

The College Bound Scholarship

DOES COVER:

- Average cost of **tuition** (at public college rates)
- Some college **fees**
- \$500 book allowance

The College Bound Scholarship

DOES NOT COVER:

- Housing
- Meal plan
- Transportation
- Healthcare insurance
- Non-mandatory fees

Other financial aid may assist with these expenses. This list may vary by college.

WHERE CAN I USE IT?

The College Bound Scholarship can be used at **over 60 2- and 4-year public and private colleges, universities and technical programs** in Washington state.

In the 2020-2021 school year the maximum College Bound Scholarship award amounts look like this:

College Types & Potential College Bound Scholarship Dollars

Public 4-Year Research Colleges

(for example: University of Washington)
Up to \$11,540 per year

Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs)

(for example: Spokane Community College)
Up to \$4,719 per year

Private 2-year Colleges

(for example: Perry Technical Institute)
Up to \$4,719 per year

Public 4-Year Comprehensive Colleges

(for example: Western Washington University)
Up to \$7,881 per year

Private 4-Year Colleges

(for example: Pacific Lutheran University) Up to \$11,904 per year

GOOD TO KNOW:

You must use the College Bound Scholarship within **1 year** of high school graduation.

FEB: GRADE 9 and 10

If you have questions about the College Bound Scholarship, please contact the Washington

Student Achievement Council at collegebound@wsac.wa.gov
888-535-0747 option 1 or visit collegebound.wa.gov

Numbers listed here reflect the 2020-21 Maximum Washington College Grant and College Bound Scholarship award amounts.



3 COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP: THE PLEDGE

REMEMBER THAT TIME IN 7TH or 8TH GRADE

when you signed a pledge to go to college? We haven't forgotten about you. Here is what you need to know about the pledge for the College Bound Scholarship.

HOW DO I GET IT?

After completing the application in middle school, eligible students must fulfill **The College Bound Pledge**:

- Graduate from a Washington state high school or homeschool program with at least a 2.0 GPA. If you were in foster care at any point after 7th grade, please visit readyssetgrad.org/fostercare to learn more about additional options.
- Have no **felony convictions**.

- Be income eligible, as determined by your college with the information from your **FAFSA** or **WASFA**. You can view income requirements by using readyssetgrad.org/cbs-mfi
- Get accepted to and go to one of the over 60 colleges or universities or programs within one year of graduating high school. Visit readyssetgrad.org/eligible-institutions for a complete list of eligible schools.

COLLEGE BOUND OVERVIEW

The College Bound Scholarship is a commitment of **state financial aid** to **eligible** students to cover average cost of tuition (at public college rates), some college fees and a small book allowance and is

a four-year scholarship (12 quarters/8 semesters). Students apply in middle school before the end of their 8th grade year and commit to meeting the College Bound Pledge in high school to receive the scholarship. College Bound combines on your **award letter** with other state financial aid to cover **tuition** (at public college rates), some **fees** and a small book allowance.

*GOOD TO KNOW:

You must enroll in college within 1 year of high school graduation to use your College Bound Scholarship.

FEB: GRADE 9 and 10

If you have questions about the College Bound Scholarship, please contact the Washington Student Achievement Council at collegebound@wsac.wa.gov 888-535-0747 option 1 or visit collegebound.wa.gov

GET UPDATES:

Sign up to get updates on the College Bound Scholarship and other ways to get college ready by visiting: bit.ly/2gIM56L



1 ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: COLLEGE AND CAREER CONNECTION

Individuals with a college **degree** earn **\$1 million more over their lifetime** compared to those with only a high school diploma. (Khan Academy, 2014).

WHAT EDUCATION DOES MY DREAM JOB REQUIRE?

You can choose from hundreds of **majors** and **certificates**. Typically, most fall into two categories: **liberal arts** or **career-oriented**.

CAREER-ORIENTED MAJORS OR CERTIFICATES

focus on developing particular skills and knowledge for **specific careers**

Marine biology

Culinary arts

Paralegal studies

Engineering

Dental hygiene

* DO RESEARCH:

Research different colleges to figure out which ones offer the certification program, major and/or degree that you need for your career. What you choose will impact how much money you earn.

LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS

include literature, philosophy, history and languages. These majors are broader and can lead to various jobs that don't require specific or technical knowledge.

English – editor, marketing executive, writer

Foreign language – foreign service officer, translator, teacher

Political science – community organizer or activist, lawyer, policy analyst

Psychology – market researcher, social worker, mental health counselor

DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO YET?

1 Think about your interests.

List **job ideas** and interests and then research how they can connect to a job.

Visit careerbridge.wa.gov to explore careers.

2 Determine how to qualify for different jobs.

Learn **job requirements** (skills, classes, specific degrees or training, etc.)

Talk to a **career counselor**, mentor or family member.

3 Get experience.

Volunteer, get an **internship** or **job shadow**.

MAR: GRADE 9 and 10



4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE: WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

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

Tuition Fees

Room and board
Transportation

Books and supplies
Other living expenses

HOW DO I PAY FOR IT?

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

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

Financial Aid

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

Scholarships

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

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID:

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

Grants – A form of gift aid, usually based on financial need. A grant does not need to be repaid, unless, for example, you withdraw from a school and owe a refund.

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

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

KEEP IN MIND:

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

APR: GRADES 9 and 10
DEC: GRADE 11

