



# High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

September 2016

12<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Senior Year- Get Organized!

There are **six** key milestones to make sure you accomplish this year in 12<sup>th</sup> grade!

1. Take postsecondary entrance and placement exams (*SAT, ACT, AP, ASVAB-military, COMPASS-community college*)
2. Develop a list of post-secondary choices within **Naviance Family Connection>Colleges I'm Thinking About**
3. Apply to post-secondary programs or institutions within **Naviance Family Connection>Colleges I'm Applying To**
4. Prepare a financial plan and apply for financial aid. (*FAFSA opens Oct. 1, 2016!!*)
5. Complete all high school graduation requirements – check your credits!!
6. Graduate!!

Source: [Career Guidance WA](#)

Every college sets its own admission requirements, so it's a good idea for you to research through Naviance Family Connection and check with the college's website to see what criteria (GPA, test scores, etc.) applicants must meet in order to be a good candidate.

Early applications are usually due in the fall, sometimes even as early as October. For regular admissions, applications are usually due in December or January. Don't delay...start those applications today!

**College** includes many options such as apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, community college certificates, two-year degrees, and four-year degrees.



Have Naviance Questions?

[naviance@everettsd.org](mailto:naviance@everettsd.org)

Are you in Running Start? Need help with Naviance?

[naviance@everettsd.org](mailto:naviance@everettsd.org)

Check out **Naviance TestPrep!!**

-Self-directed practice course for SAT & AP exams

-Log into Naviance Family Connection & click on

**resources**

• [Naviance Test Prep](#)

Other Testing Resources can be found here...

• [sat/act resources](#)

## Did You Know?

Your teen should apply to at least three colleges, one from within each of these three categories:

- **Reach** - You might not get in, but it's worth applying because you really want to go.
- **Solid** - You're a competitive applicant and will likely be accepted.
- **Safety** - You'll definitely get accepted, and it's a backup in case the others don't work out.

Source: [UW Dream Project](#)

- FAFSA helped nearly 71,000 low-income recipients receive more than \$308 million in Washington State Need Grant funds during the 2014-15 academic year.
- Completing the FAFSA takes about 30 minutes and it is available in Spanish.
- Free assistance is available via email, by phone, and on the web: [www.studentaid.ed.gov/contact](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/contact)
- You do NOT have to pay to file the FAFSA. Beware of fraudulent websites that want you to pay them to file your FAFSA. It is always **free**!

Source: [Washington Student Achievement Council](#)

## Myth Buster

**MYTH:** Just applying to college costs a lot of money (application fees, test fees, etc.).

**REALITY:** While it's true that there are a lot of fees and costs associated with college applications, students can often get fee waivers if they meet certain criteria.

A high school counselor can help students get a fee waiver for the SAT or ACT, and students should talk to each college individually about waiving your application fee.

Often, if students can show that they were given an ACT fee waiver, the college will automatically waive the application fee.

Additionally, every income-eligible senior who takes the SAT or SAT Subject Test using a fee waiver will receive **four** college application fee waivers from the College Board.

**Sources:** [UW Dream Project](#) and the [College Board](#)



## Apply for Financial Aid

You and your child should complete and submit either the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\)](#) or the [Washington Application for State Financial Aid \(WASFA\)](#). Both applications open **October 1**. You should complete this step as soon as possible.

**REMINDER:** File the **FAFSA** (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>) if your child is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Students who do not meet these eligibility requirements should file the **WASFA** ([www.readyssetgrad.org/wasfa](http://www.readyssetgrad.org/wasfa)).

## Things to Think About...

Students who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents can apply to and attend a college or university. They may even be eligible for in-state tuition rates and state financial aid. When asked for their Social Security Number in a college application, fill in the space with zeros, list the U.S. as their country of permanent residence, and write HB 1079 in the "other" section for immigration status or current/expected Visa section.

**Learn more at:** <http://readyssetgrad.org/residency-citizenship>

## Student Checklist

It is important to stay organized. Create a calendar for yourself including application deadlines and other important dates. This fall, get logged on to Naviance Family Connection to get prepared.

- ☐ **Meet with your counselor** to talk about post-secondary plans if you need to.
- ☐ **Review your transcript** to make sure you are on track to graduate in June and if you need help, ask!
- ☐ **Learn the application process** for each college or program by researching within Naviance Family Connection. Get started on the applications now!! Start writing application essays.
- ☐ **Complete the Everett Public Schools Brag Sheet Survey.** It helps staff write more complete letters of recommendations for college and scholarships if needed.
- ☐ **Ask teachers, counselors, coaches, or employers for letters of recommendation if needed.** Give them plenty of time.
- ☐ **Be sure to write a thank you note** to each person who writes a letter of recommendation!
- ☐ **Take any needed required entrance exams** and make sure scores are sent to appropriate post-secondary location.



Visit [readyssetgrad.org](http://readyssetgrad.org) to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.