



High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

October 2016

12th Grade

Senior Year- Get Organized!

It is important to stay organized and creating a calendar to keep track of everything can be very helpful! This should include application deadlines and other important dates. This fall, to help seniors prepare for post-high school college, training programs, and financial aid.

Students should:

- ❑ **Meet with your guidance counselor** to talk about postsecondary plans or help you come up with a plan for after graduation
- ❑ **Review your transcript** to make sure you are on track to graduate on time. If not, your counselor can work with you.
- ❑ **Learn the application process** for each college or program you are interested in. Check out [Naviance Family Connection>Colleges I'm Thinking About or Colleges I'm Applying to](#) and get started on the applications now. Start writing application essays.
- ❑ **Update résumés with senior year activities** in [Naviance Family Connection](#) Your résumé will help with your applications.
- ❑ **Submit your [letter of recommendation requests](#) through Naviance asking teachers and your counselor for letters of recommendation.** Give them at least **TWO weeks**. It will help your teachers and counselors if you fill out the **brag sheet survey** in Naviance.
- ❑ **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 college.

Source: Career Guidance WA



NAVIANCE

Have Naviance Questions?

naviance@everettsd.org

Check out **Naviance TestPrep!!**

-Self-directed practice course for **SAT & AP** exams

resources

• [Naviance Test Prep](#)



Oct. 18 @ Cascade HS
Oct. 19 @ Everett HS
Oct. 20 @ Jackson HS
Starting at 5:30pm!

[*Click here to view the flyer with details!!*](#)

Did You Know the FAFSA Opened October 1st!!?

FAFSA Facts:

- 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
- 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!
- You must file the FAFSA for every year you attend school. For example, if you are currently a college freshman, you should complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA to receive aid for your sophomore year.
- 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).

Source: [Washington Student Achievement Council](#)

Myth Buster

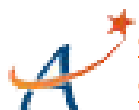
MYTH: Because of the cost of higher education, students should only apply to inexpensive schools.

REALITY: Students do not really know how much college will cost out of pocket until they apply, are accepted, and receive a financial aid package. This means that they should apply to colleges seem like a good fit, regardless of cost.

For example, private schools often have a higher sticker price than public schools but they also tend to offer more financial aid. Larger financial aid packages may lower the total cost for students to less than that of a public school.

With the availability of financial aid, students have many options for schools. It's important to consider costs as one part of the criteria for choosing which college best fits them. But it should not be the determining factor.

Source: [UW Dream Project](#)



[Check Student
Online Grades Here!](#)

Things to Think About...

If your teen has been in foster care at any time after turning 13, your child's classes will likely be paid for at most Washington State colleges.

Learn about the [College Bound Scholarship](#), the [Passport to College Scholarship](#), and/or the [Education and Training Voucher](#) (ETV) program to help pay for school.

Find details at:

www.readysetgrad.org/fostercare and www.independence.wa.gov

These are supportive adults who can help guide your teen through the financial aid process: Designated Support Staff (DSS), program staff, financial aid staff, Independent Living (IL) providers, SETuP staff.

Student Checklist

- ☐ **Attend a High School and Beyond Night** to talk to college reps and get help on completing the FAFSA
- ☐ **Contact** the admission and the financial aid offices at the colleges you are interested in attending. What are the admissions requirements? When are the deadlines? Are there fees? What forms do the financial aid offices require?
- ☐ **Register for the October/November SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Tests™** required by the schools you choose.
- ☐ Take your **SAT** or **ACT** tests as early as possible so you can re-take them if you need to. Ask your counselor if you qualify for a test fee waiver.
- ☐ Have your scores sent to the schools on your final list.
- ☐ **Prepare and submit** your applications on time if you want to apply for early action or early admission.
- ☐ Get an **FSA ID** if filing the FAFSA. An FSA ID is a username and password that you'll be using to sign the FAFSA.
- ☐ Submit your **FAFSA or WASFA** as soon as possible after **October 1**.

Family Checklist

- ☐ **Attend a High School and Beyond Night** to talk to college reps and get help on completing the FAFSA
- ☐ Help your child decide about applying early. If your senior is set on going to a certain college, he or she should think about whether applying early is a good option. Now is the time to decide because early applications are usually due in November. Read about the pros and cons of [applying early](#).
- ☐ Encourage your child to take your SAT or ACT tests as early as possible and to send the scores to the schools that he or she wants to apply to. Remember: Test fee waivers may be available. Ask the school counselor about this.
- ☐ Learn about college loan options together. Borrowing money for college can be a smart choice — especially if your high schooler gets a low-interest federal loan. Be cautious; learn about loan options and a [parent's role in borrowing money](#).

☐ Sources: [ReadySetGrad.org](#), [BigFuture](#), and [What Kids Can Do](#)

Visit readysetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.

