



High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

February 2017 

10th Grade

College Applications: Essays & Interviews

When you apply to college or a training program, you will need to complete an essay as part of the application and you might be asked to come to an interview. These are opportunities for you to show admissions officers who you are and to provide information that did not fit in other areas of the application.

The essay also reveals what you can do with time to think and work on a writing project. The number one piece of advice from admissions officers about this essay is **"Be yourself."** The number two suggestion is **"Start early."** Check out these [other tips](#) so you know what to expect.

The college interview is another possible part of the college application process. Not all colleges have them. If the college or program you are applying to does, you could be meeting in person to talk with the admissions office, a current student or a graduate of the college. Or perhaps, you might even have a video interview, often via Skype.

The interview is rarely the deciding factor in whether the college or program will accept you, but it can give a representative from the college or training program a chance to get to know you better giving you an opportunity to:

- Show an interest in the college or training program.
- Share information beyond what's listed on a transcript.
- Bring up anything in a record that you'd like to explain, like a temporary drop in your grades.
- Discuss future goals and the reasons to attend
- Ask questions about the college or training program.

Learn how to prepare and find tips at [Big Future](#).

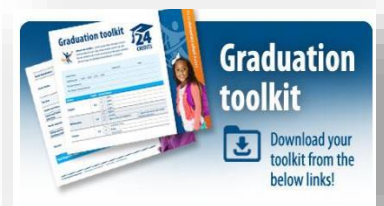


Have Naviance Questions?

naviance@everettsd.org

★ **New district-wide course catalog is now [ONLINE!](#)**

Visit Everett Public Schools' [Graduation site](#) to explore the Graduation Toolkits!

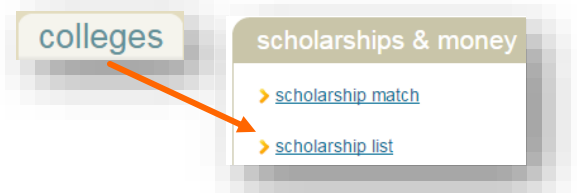


Did You Know?

A wide range of scholarships are available to Washington students. Although scholarship application processes are competitive, many are targeted to students based on their interests, desired campus or major, or their background. Students should register on www.theWashBoard.org to be matched to scholarships in WA. Of the nearly 500 scholarships listed on theWashBoard.org in 2011-12, only one out of ten required a GPA higher than 3.0.

Source: [The Washington Student Achievement Council](#)

Also check out all the scholarships posted in Naviance [each week!](#)



Myth Buster

MYTH: College application essays don't really matter.

REALITY: The essay is an incredible opportunity for students to say something positive and memorable about themselves. Yet most students waste the opportunity of the essay.

Lots of students think the objective is to write about something that will "impress" the admissions office. In part, that is true, but what impresses an admissions officer is an essay that conveys something positive about the applicant. This allows the committee to get to know the student a bit better than what grades and test scores can show.

The essay is an opportunity to provide a different perspective about the applicant, a reason to accept a student. This is an opportunity your sophomore won't want to waste.

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Student Checklist

- ☐ **Continue extracurricular activities** since admissions officers will look at your extracurricular activities when considering you for admissions.
- ☐ **Try to make a list about what matters to you in a college** (i.e., the location, size, programs or classes they offer, or extracurricular activities like athletics).
- ☐ **Visit two college websites using Naviance**
- ☐ Create or update a profile on thewashboard.org to begin your search for college scholarships.
- ☐ Check out the **scholarship list** (*Updated weekly!!) and **National scholarship search** in Naviance.

Family Checklist

- ☐ **Make a college wish list together.** Talk with your sophomore about qualities he or she may want in a college in terms of location, size, majors offered and so on. Check out [How to Find a College That Fits You](#) to learn more about deciding on college must-haves.

Sources: [Federal Student Aid](#), [BigFuture](#), & [ReadySetGrad](#)

 [Check Student
Online Grades Here!](#)



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