



High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

March 2017 

12th Grade

Deadlines & Decisions

May 1st is the deadline for students across the nation to send in their commitment to the college or university you plan to attend for the 2017-2018 school year. **If you received acceptance offers from a college, university, or training program, congratulations!** Now is the time to decide which school is the best fit.

If you are still unsure of which school to select, take the time to:

- Get more information.
- Ask questions.
- Visit — or revisit the campuses.
- Talk to current students at the college.
- Think things over.
- Compare the colleges.
- Compare financial aid awards.

Encourage your teen to use BigFuture's [Compare Your Aid Awards tool](#).

You can find it at: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator>.

It lets you compare up to four financial aid offers side by side. Is the school that offers the most financial aid the best match for finances overall? Which financial aid package is most workable for your family? Which financial aid package best matches your long-term goals?

Once you have decided which college to attend, you need to inform all the colleges that accepted you about your decision. Next, you must accept an offer of admission and submit a deposit to secure a spot at that institution. If the deposit is a hardship and you can't afford it, call the financial aid office at that school for help. Additionally, make sure to send in any items that the school has requested.

Sources: [Career Guidance WA](#), [BigFuture](#) & [WhiteHouse.gov](#)



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**Need more \$\$\$ for
college or a training
program after
graduation?**

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Naviance! Updated
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**Interested in an
internship this
summer or other type
of program?**

**Check out the
Enrichment Programs!
colleges**

[> enrichment programs](#)

Did You Know?

If you have not completed the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, make sure you do as soon as possible. In Washington State, the FAFSA opened on **Oct. 1st** and awards are made only until the funds are depleted.

Want more information about Financial Aid resources check inside **Naviance** and click on the page or go to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>.

[financial aid info](#)

Myth Buster

MYTH: College will be way too hard. It is just not for me.

REALITY:

There are many options for students after high school. There are apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, community college certificates, two-year degrees, and four-year degrees.

In some ways, college may be harder than high school. But in other ways, college may actually be easier than high school.

Students may not get the grades they expected or got in high school; however, college offers them the opportunity to explore their academic interests and pursue areas of study in which they know they will succeed.

Colleges also offer opportunities to help students succeed in school, get to know their professors, and find other helpful resources on campus like tutoring and other support services.

Student Checklist

- ☐ **Check out Naviance Enrichment Programs** for internships and summer opportunities!
[colleges](#) > [enrichment programs](#)
- ☐ **Compare financial aid awards from colleges and decide which school to attend.** Be realistic – have you calculated all your college costs and did you receive enough financial aid to cover them? Notify all colleges of your decision by **May 1**.
- ☐ Complete your **High School and Beyond Plan Senior Year** in Naviance
- ☐ If you are unsure if you're on track to graduate, make an appointment with your school counselor right away!

Family Checklist

- ☐ **Help your student process college responses.** Once your student starts hearing back from colleges about admission and financial aid, he or she will need your support to decide what to do.
- ☐ **Review financial aid offers together.** Your 12th grader will need your help to read through financial aid award letters and figure out which package works best. Be sure your student pays attention to and meets any deadlines for acceptance.
- ☐ **Help your student complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance.** Once your student has decided which college to attend, he or she will need to accept a college's offer, mail a tuition deposit and submit other required paperwork. If the deposit is a problem, call the financial aid office for help.

Source: [UW Dream Project](#)



Naviance questions? naviance@everettsd.org



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