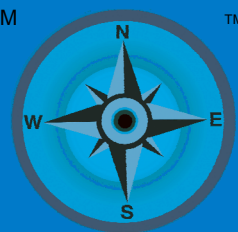


NAVIGATION 101TM

NAVIGATOR



A Newsletter for Students & Families

JANUARY 2009

FINDING FINANCIAL AID • WHAT IS THE FAFSA? • SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES • WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? • INTRODUCING CAREER CLUSTERS • CTE: COMBINING SCHOOL & CAREER

FINDING FINANCIAL AID

College can be expensive. But don't let money stop you. No matter what you want to do, there's probably **financial aid** available to help you.

Here are some resources for you and your family on the three main types of financial aid (see the next page as well for two scholarship opportunities):

1 SAVINGS. Saving money ahead of time can be a good way to pay for at least part of the costs for college.

The **Washington State Guaranteed Education Program** lets you pre-pay the tuition for any public college or university in Washington State. It's a great way to save! Learn more at

www.get.wa.gov.

2 NEED-BASED AID. If you can't save enough money for college, you might qualify for need-based aid. You'll need to complete the FAFSA (see below) for need-based aid, which includes:

- **Grants and scholarships:** these can help with tuition, room and board, or books and don't have to be repaid.
- **Student loans:** loans do need to be repaid, but you can often wait to pay until after you graduate and are earning money.
- **Work-study:** many colleges have part-time jobs available for students who qualify.

3 MERIT-BASED AID. You can also get help with your college expenses because of merit: your grades or test scores, athletic or musical ability, being in the military, or because of your background, parent's employer, or your interests.

To learn more about all types of aid, log on to www.hecb.wa.gov and then click on "Paying for College."



WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

The screenshot shows the FAFSA website interface. At the top, it says "START HERE! GO FURTHER! FEDERAL STUDENT AID" and "Free Application for Federal Student Aid". Below that are navigation links like "FAFSA Home", "Student Aid on the Web", "Application Deadlines", "PIN Site", "Help", "Contact Us", "FAQs", "Site Map", and "About Us". A main heading reads "Federal Student Aid FAFSA". Below this, there are three numbered steps: 1. Before Beginning a FAFSA, 2. Filling Out a FAFSA, and 3. FAFSA Follow-Up. Each step has a brief description and a list of tasks or links. For example, step 1 includes "Determine Your Dependence Status" and "FAFSA on the Web Worksheet". Step 2 includes "Fill Out Your FAFSA" and "Open Your Saved FAFSA or Correction Application". Step 3 includes "Check Status of a Submitted FAFSA or Print Signature Page".

The **FAFSA** is the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. If you would like to receive financial aid for college, you and your family **must** complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st of your senior year of high school.

To begin the FAFSA, log on to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

If you're not a senior yet but you and your family would like to learn more about the FAFSA and the amount of financial aid you could be eligible to receive, try the **FAFSA 4Caster** at www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov.

GET READY FOR MATH & SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Are you interested in a career in math or science?

Will you be graduating from high school in 2010 or later?

If so, you could be eligible for a [GET Ready for Math & Science Conditional Scholarship](#). This scholarship will pay for up to four years of full college tuition for low- and middle-income students who have top math and science scores. To be eligible, students must:

- Score a 4 on the math or science section of the 10th grade WASL or score about the 95th percentile on the math section of the SAT or ACT.
- Have a family income at or below 125% of the state's median income (for a family of four that means an income of about \$93,925 or less).
- Be a Washington State resident.
- Plan to earn a degree in math or science at a Washington college or university.
- Agree to work full-time in math or science for at least three years after college.

Ask your advisor if you're interested in learning more about this scholarship opportunity. [Applications](#) will be available starting April 1, 2009 and will be due by June 30, 2009.

COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP

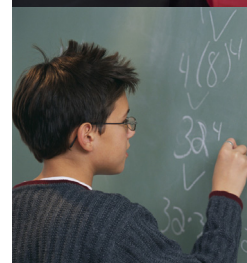
Are you in 7th, 8th, or 9th grade?

Do you want to go to college?

If so, you may be eligible to apply for the [College Bound Scholarship](#). This scholarship will pay the full cost of tuition plus \$500 for books for a Washington State two-year, four-year, or technical college, or for an apprenticeship. Eligible students include those who:

- Qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches;
- Are foster youth;
- Sign a pledge to stay in school;
- Demonstrate good citizenship;
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA; and
- Graduate from high school.

Ask your advisor if you are interested in learning more. Students in 7th, 8th, or 9th grade must submit an [online application](#) by June 30, 2009. After 2009, only 7th and 8th grade students will be eligible to apply.



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

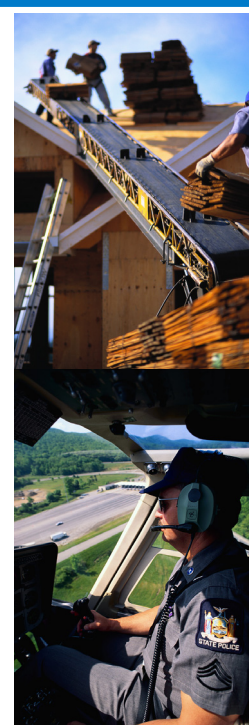
What do you want to do after high school? Ask yourself the questions below. Then see where your interests lead you!

- Do you like expressing yourself creatively or performing?** You might be interested in a career in the arts, in communications, or as a performer.
- Do you like organizing things or persuading people?** You might be interested in a career in law, business, or government.
- Do you like working on a team to solve technical problems?** You might be interested in a career in technology, science, or engineering.
- Do you like helping other people?** You might be interested in a job in health care, social services, or education.
- Do you like working outdoors?** You might be interested in a job in natural resources or tourism.

INTRODUCING CAREER CLUSTERS

What are you interested in doing? For nearly any interest, there's a **career cluster** with many different careers you might like to explore. For more information on career clusters, visit www.careerclusters.org. You'll find more sample careers, courses you should take in high school, and even an interest assessment to help you explore careers that might be a natural fit for you.

| CAREER CLUSTERS | SAMPLE CAREERS |
|--|---|
| Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources | Botanist, Ecologist, Farmer, Veterinarian |
| Architecture and Construction | Architect, Carpenter, Civil Engineer, Plumber |
| Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications | Actor, Computer Animator, Journalist, Musician |
| Business, Management, and Administration | Administrative Assistant, Entrepreneur |
| Education and Training | Child Care Worker, Coach, Principal, Teacher |
| Finance | Accountant, Economist, Financial Planner |
| Government and Public Administration | Ambassador, City Manager, Elected Official |
| Health Science | Biochemist, Dental Hygienist, EMT, Physician |
| Hospitality & Tourism | Bartender, Caterer, Sports Promoter, Tour Guide |
| Human Services | Community Organizer, Emergency Relief Worker |
| Information Technology | Animator, Database Administrator, Web Designer |
| Law, Public Safety, Corrections, Security | Attorney, Firefighter, Police Officer |
| Manufacturing | Assembler, Manufacturing Technician, Welder |
| Marketing | E-Commerce Director, Merchandise Buyer, PR |
| Science, Technology, Engineering & Math | Aerospace Engineer, Geologist, Mathematician |
| Transportation, Distribution and Logistics | Pilot, Cargo/Freight Agent, Port Manager |



CTE: COMBINING SCHOOL & CAREER

What's **CTE**? It's the abbreviation for **Career & Technical Education**, which refers to many different courses and learning opportunities for students who want to learn more about a particular career. Through CTE, students can explore a career in cooking (culinary arts), technology, gardening (horticulture), health care, environmental science, engineering, construction, and many other fields.

Most CTE opportunities are available to high school juniors and seniors, but some are available to younger students. CTE courses may be offered at your high school, at a regional "skills center," or at your local community or technical college.

Here are some CTE opportunities that may be available in your district:

- **CTE courses.** Courses are offered in many different fields, from automotive to cooking to environmental science. They feature applied (hands on) learning opportunities, in addition to book learning. Most high schools offer a wide range of CTE courses; many of them are articulated (connected) to college courses. Ask your high school counselor to learn more.
- **Skills Centers.** Skills centers are regional high schools that provide industry-defined technical education in fields ranging from firefighting to design to health care. Students can earn up to 4 credits/year, usually by attending their regular high school for a half day and the skills center for a half day. Ask your counselor if there's a skills center for your district.
- **Tech Prep.** With Tech Prep classes, students can earn dual credit—both high school and college credit at the same time! Tech Prep courses are offered in partnership with community and technical colleges, but students don't have to pay college tuition.
- **CTE & Advanced Placement.** Advanced Placement (AP) courses let students earn college credit for courses they take during high school. Some AP courses are also career focused, including environmental science and computer design.
- **Running Start for the Trades.** With Running Start, students can earn college credit by taking courses at their local community or technical college. Running Start for the Trades adds pre-apprenticeships in fields such as construction, child care, culinary arts, or health care.

CTE RESOURCES

Here are a few resources to help you learn more about CTE at your school:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Washington State CTE | www.k12.wa.us/CareerTechEd |
| Washington Tech Prep | www.techprepwa.org |
| Skills Centers | www.washingtonskillscenters.com |
| Career Clusters | www.careerclusters.org |
| Apprenticeships | www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship/default.asp |

