

CHOOSING A CAREER, CHOOSING A COLLEGE/TRAINING

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WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND?

- ▶ Questions?
 - ▶ Concerns?
 - ▶ Wonders?
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- ▶ *As a heads up, I will use the term “College” to encompass all post-secondary training opportunities. College in this presentation isn’t restricted to a 4 year university, but all options to further one’s education beyond high school.*

START WITH BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS

- ▶ If you could wake up tomorrow in your dream job/at your dream college, what would be going on? What does it look like? Feel like? Sound like?
 - ▶ What have you seen that is attractive to you in a career/college
- ▶ Define what an “ideal” would look like for each quality:
 - ▶ Setting
 - ▶ Size
 - ▶ Location
 - ▶ Public vs. Private
 - ▶ Types of programs desired
 - ▶ Types of resources desired
 - ▶ Direct professor contact important?
 - ▶ What sort of learning environment?
- ▶ Sort out needs and wants to open up flexibility of options

MORE BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS

- ▶ What do you, as the student desire in your career/college?
 - ▶ Who has influenced your aspirations?
 - ▶ Is there a sense of passion and/or duty behind this?
- ▶ What do you, as the student's parent/guardian desire for your student?
 - ▶ Who/what has influenced these wants?
- ▶ What do you think others want you to do for a career/college?
 - ▶ Is there an unspoken expectation for your choice?
 - ▶ How do those expectations resonate with you as the student?
- ▶ What fears/concerns do you have about finding your career/college?
 - ▶ Bring up “worst case scenarios” and look at how they can be problem solved
- ▶ **Surface all of these items and explore as a team!**

EXPLORE RESOURCES NOW TO ENROLL WITH A PURPOSE LATER

- ▶ Let students explore at their own pace. Do not turn this process into an assignment or attach a firm deadline. Any level of exploration is progress!
- ▶ Look at:
 - ▶ Interests
 - ▶ Personality type/qualities
 - ▶ Influences
 - ▶ Setting/Environment
 - ▶ Lifestyle qualities
 - ▶ Careers that connect with above items
 - ▶ Education expectations for certain careers
 - ▶ College search
- ▶ Emphasize inherent interests and strengths. This encourages the development of resilience and adaptability. Also helps with marketing relevant skills across multiple careers/areas of study.

EXPLORE RESOURCES NOW TO ENROLL WITH A PURPOSE LATER

- ▶ All 9-12th graders receive multiple forms of college and career guidance through their high school career
 - ▶ [FHS Comprehensive CCR Plan](#)

WHERE TO APPLY?

- ▶ Put together a diverse portfolio of 6-8 colleges to apply to during senior year
 - ▶ Applying to 8 or more, especially into the double digits, is not recommended. The more you do, the less attention and quality control you can give to each application.
 - ▶ Consider in-state and out of state options.
 - ▶ Don't let the theoretical price tag deter you if it is a school that fits many of your needs/wants and is a realistic choice for you . Give it a shot.

HOW TO DIVERSIFY

- ▶ Eventually narrow down to have 2 schools in each category
- ▶ **Reach**
 - ▶ Schools in which the average test scores or GPA are beyond your current standing. Also can be schools in which you meet the average standing, but they are very selective.

DIVERSIFYING, CONTINUED

▶ **Match**

- ▶ Schools in which you meet the average entrance requirements. Reasonably selective.

▶ **Solid**

- ▶ Schools in which you exceed the average entrance requirements. Not as selective. Think of this as the “given” option.

BASIC PREP BEFORE APPLYING

- ▶ Be on the lookout for scholarships during May and June of Junior year. Make a point to apply to at least one per month during the entire Senior year.
- ▶ Research application deadlines and put them on a calendar in advance to plan. Give yourself as a student your own deadlines.
- ▶ Start working on your personal statement, activities log and resume Spring of Junior year. Be constantly revising until the final edition is placed on the application.
- ▶ Visit local campuses with various sizes/settings/qualities to see if you prefer a certain composition.

GRADE LEVEL BENCHMARKS

▶ 9th Grade

- ▶ Participate in the career guidance lessons
- ▶ Begin the High School and Beyond Plan to inform High School course choices
- ▶ Practice PSAT
- ▶ Connect with your school counselor
- ▶ Build relationships with your teachers
- ▶ Build and fine tune organizational skills, study skills and time management
- ▶ Get involved
 - ▶ Volunteer
 - ▶ Join clubs/sports
 - ▶ Start working on the 60 hour Service Learning requirement (choose service opportunities relevant to your interests)
 - ▶ Do a program during the summer

▶ 10th grade

- ▶ Participate in the career guidance lessons
- ▶ Revisit your High School and Beyond Plan
- ▶ Take the PSAT
- ▶ SBAC Assessments
- ▶ Connect with your school counselor
- ▶ Build relationships with your teachers
- ▶ Build and fine tune organizational skills, study skills and time management
- ▶ Get involved
 - ▶ Volunteer
 - ▶ Join clubs/sports
 - ▶ Start working on the 60 hour Service Learning requirement (choose service opportunities relevant to your interests)

▶ 11th grade:

- ▶ This is the final full year that colleges will see on your transcript. Your grades for both semesters are very important.
- ▶ Attend Franklin's College Fair and the NACAC College Fair-**October**
- ▶ Review your graduation requirements with your school counselor to make sure you're on track-**September/October**
- ▶ Attend How Can I Afford College Event for financial aid literacy-**December**
- ▶ Start to draft of list of colleges/programs that you would like to apply to and research their application requirements-**Fall/Winter/Spring**
 - ▶ Give yourself deadlines to complete applications. Put in your calendar.
- ▶ All school SAT Day-**March**
 - ▶ Consider re-taking SAT/ACT in the summer or early fall following your junior year
- ▶ Start drafting your personal statement, activities log and resume-**Spring/Summer**

▶ 12th Grade:

- ▶ This moves fast. Use your calendar. This is where your skills in time management will get put to work. You will not be able to keep all the deadlines in your head
- ▶ Review your graduation requirements and selected courses for the year with your school counselor-**September**
- ▶ Review your deadlines (applications and scholarships)
- ▶ Review ACT/SAT scores and make a plan to retake 2 months prior to any application deadline
- ▶ Review and refine your personal statement, activities log and resume-**September/October**
- ▶ Identify one scholarship to apply to each month
- ▶ Identify people who can write you a letter of recommendation and ask if they are able-**October/November**

▶ 12th Grade

- ▶ Start on your applications and attend Franklin's College Application Event-
November
- ▶ Attend Franklin's How Can I Afford College Event to improve financial aid literacy-
December
- ▶ Attend Franklin's FAFSA/WASFA Completion Event to submit your FAFSA/WASFA-
January
- ▶ Keep on the scholarships!
- ▶ Make sure you ask for letters of recommendation or Common Application requests with no less than 2 week notice
- ▶ Monitor your applications and make contact if necessary-**February and March**

- ▶ Review your acceptance letters-March
- ▶ Review your acceptance letters with your financial aid award letters-April
 - ▶ Please loop in Bill Kautz or College Access Now if you have questions!
- ▶ Make your decision for your school of choice by May 1st (for 4 year colleges, 2 year schools you have some more time to do this)
- ▶ **Always** read your physical mail and email for requirements you need to do for your selected institution. This is very important
- ▶ Request final transcripts to be sent your selected school-**June**
- ▶ Take advantage of any summer bridge, freshman orientation programs! -
Summer

- ▶ **Wow! If you have more questions, please feel free to contact me**
 - ▶ Bill Kautz, School Counselor: ELD and Career and College Readiness
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 - ▶ wrkautz@seattleschools.org
 - ▶ Track our website!