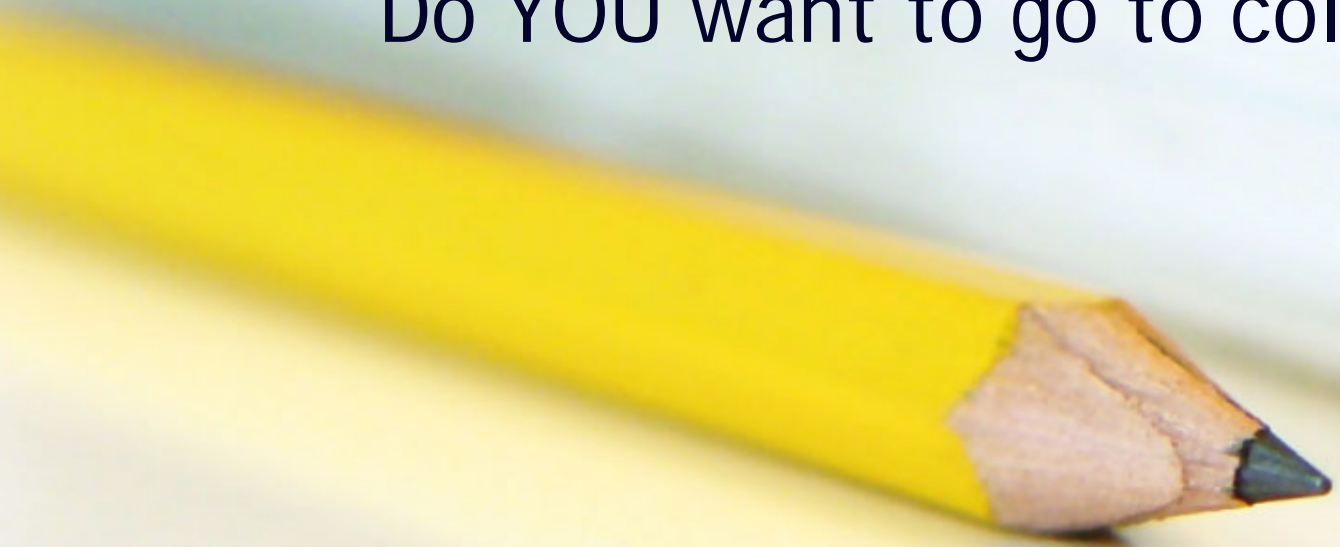


Education After High School

Do YOU want to go to college?



Produced by NASFAA's Access & Diversity Committee

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"Opening Doors of Educational Opportunity"

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Acknowledgments

This information came from several places, including:

- The Institute for Higher Education Policy
 - www.ihep.org
- Mapping Your Future
 - www.mapping-your-future.org
- The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
 - www.NASFAA.org
- Northwest Education Loan Association
 - www.nela.net

THINKING and PLANNING

- First we're going to THINK about the possibility of college.
- Then we're going to talk about how to PLAN for college.
- Let's go!

You might be THINKING now about whether to go to college

- Have you talked about it with your family?
- Ask around, read, listen: there's a lot of information out there.
- Don't fall back on everyone else's thinking.
- Check with the person who has the most riding on your decision: YOU.

Bad Reasons NOT to Go

- I don't know what I want to do with my life.
- I was never a very good student.
- Nobody in my family went to college.
- College is way too expensive.
- I want to get a job right away!
- School stinks, and so will college.

Myth: You can't go to college unless you KNOW what you want to do

- FACT: Most students decide what they want to do during or after college.
- College is a great place to explore new interests and discover what you like.
- Lots of students start out studying one subject and change their minds while they're in college.

Myth: You can't go to college if YOUR PARENTS didn't go

- Fact: Forty percent of all undergraduate students have parents who didn't go to college.
- There's no rule that says your parents had to go or you can't.
- Some colleges give extra financial aid to students whose parents didn't go to college.

Myth: You can't go to college if you don't have the MONEY

- FACT: Colleges come in all price ranges.
- Financial aid is available . . . almost half of all college students receive financial aid.
- In 2004-05 nearly \$130 billion in financial aid was distributed. Imagine!
- College is an investment in your future.
- Even though the cost of college is going up, it is still the best step you can take for a good future.

You Can Get MONEY to Go to College Because You . . .

- Need it (this is the biggest reason students get money)
- Earn good grades or take hard courses
- Have talent in music, art, sports, etc.
- Have a certain background or characteristic
- Belong to a certain organization (or your parents do)
- Have a special need or a disability

(There are lots of other ways to get money for college, too.)

Good Reasons to GO to College

- It gives you more *choices*.
- It gives you better *quality of life* through *social benefits (more in a minute)*.
- It gives you a better *quality of life* through *economic benefits (more in a minute)*.

More CHOICES

- Choose from more careers.
- Choose higher paying jobs, if you want.
- Choose jobs you really like to do.
- Choose where you want to live.

Quality of Life: Social Benefits

- Like your job.
- Live healthier and longer.
- Be a better problem solver and make better decisions.
- Make a better life for you and your family.
- Increase your social status.
- Have more hobbies and leisure activities.

Quality of Life: Economic Benefits

- Last time we checked, high school graduates earned about \$25,000 a year while college graduates with a bachelor's degree earned about \$48,000.
- Over 30 years of work, that's a \$700,000 difference
- The difference may be \$1 million+.

How Much is a MILLION?

- One million is the difference between the single CD you listened to while doing your homework last night and 10,000 iPOD Nano systems!

Economic Benefits, continued

- Lower unemployment.
- Higher savings.
- Better working conditions.
- Get ahead personally and professionally.

Think OUTSIDE the Box

- It's important to get your education. It doesn't matter as much *where*.
- "College" means trade or technical schools and community colleges, not just four-year schools.
- Don't feel like you can only get jobs related to your education. Your degree may not match your career later on.

Remember the BIG Picture

- Any amount of college or training after high school is better than none
- It can bring you . . .
 - More choices in life
 - Better quality of life
 - More money! More money! More money!
- It's all up to you, so you decide!

Preparing for College Checklist

- Plan for activities grades 6-9.
- Get the [handout](http://www.NASFAA.org/PrepareChecklist.asp) at www.NASFAA.org/PrepareChecklist.asp.
- Remember four things:
 - *Study*: There's no substitute for personal effort in the learning process.
 - *Save*: Even a dollar a week over a few years can add up.
 - *Plan carefully*: Be sure your courses meet admissions requirements.
 - *Don't procrastinate*: Putting things off is a bad idea.

Checklist: Grade 6

- Think about the people you know and the jobs they do. Do their jobs sound interesting to you? Ask your parents and other adults what their jobs are like, what skills and training are needed, what they like and dislike about their careers.
- Visit your school or public library—or search the Web—to learn more about careers that interest you.
- Develop good study habits: Take clear notes, read all your assignments, work on assignments long before they are due, and study for all tests.
- Come to class prepared.

Checklist: Grade 6, cont.

- Participate actively in classroom groups or activities, even when you don't feel like it.
- Read at least one book per month in addition to assigned reading.

Checklist: Grade 7

- Keep a journal of your daily experiences. Use an old notebook, buy a journal from the book store, or use a computer (and save your work). What's important is that you start writing.
- Read newspapers and magazines or use the Web to learn about careers.
- Start thinking about your high school choices—ones which will prepare you for the career you are interested in.
- Volunteer in your community.

Checklist: Grade 8

- Apply for a Social Security Number if you do not already have one.
- Talk to your older brothers or sisters or your friends' older brothers or sisters who are attending college, vocational or technical school, or another type of college; consider how you would feel about attending that type of school. If you do not know anyone who is in a school beyond high school, ask a teacher or counselor to help you contact students to talk to about college.
- Make every school year count; prepare academically for college.

Checklist: Grade 8, cont.

- Think more about career possibilities and explore different occupations.
- Find out what courses you should take in high school that will help you to attend certain colleges or enter certain career fields.
- Study, work hard, and do your best to earn good grades. Your performance in high school can play an important part in gaining you admission to college.
- Save money now to help pay for school if you haven't already started.

Checklist: Grade 9

- Check in your school's counseling office for materials on aptitude tests or skills assessment.
- Meet and talk with your school counselor about yourself and your future. Take your parents with you.
- Ask your parents how much they can help pay for your future education. Establish a savings plan. Learn about financial aid.
- Find out about summer jobs and try to gain the skills you will need to get one. Look into volunteer activities that will expand your experience and skills.

Other Planning Resources

- Adventures in Education
 - www.adventuresineducation.org/
 - *Includes information in Spanish.*
- Mapping Your Future
 - www.mapping-your-future.org/
 - *Includes information in Spanish.*
- The College Board
 - www.collegeboard.com/

So, do you want to go to college?

- Naturally, we think so.
- But it's all up to YOU!
- Do get started on your checklist TODAY.

Good luck and happy planning!

The End!