

College & Career Center News

from Auburn's College & Career Counselors

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New for fourth quarter

- Scholarships
- Summer timelines for college-bound seniors, juniors, and sophomores
- College visits and tips for visiting colleges
- Job and community service opportunities
- SAT/PSAT school day information, ASVAB, and test preparation
- Summer financial aid support for graduates

Scholarships

College Board Opportunity Scholarship

Students who complete all six steps are automatically eligible for one of six [Complete Your Journey](#) scholarships. The seven scholarships are listed below:

1. **Build Your College List:** Get started by exploring colleges of interest and build and save a college list on [College Board BigFuture](#) .
2. **Practice for the SAT:** Your College Board and Khan Academy® accounts must be linked.
3. **Explore Scholarships:** [College Board Scholarship Search](#). Select **Go Apply** to at least one (1) scholarship from your personalized list. You must be logged in to Scholarship Search using your College Board account and complete prompts to generate a personalized list.
4. **Strengthen Your College List:** Create or edit a college list on [College Board BigFuture](#) so that it has a minimum of one (1) “safety,” two (2) “match,” and three (3) “reach” colleges.
5. **Complete the FAFSA:** With your parent or legal guardian, fill out and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”) form, available at www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa, to apply for financial aid.
6. **Apply to Colleges:** Apply to at least two (2) colleges.
7. **Complete Your Journey:** Complete all six of the scholarship activities listed above by 11:59:59 p.m. EST on February 28, 2022, to be entered to win the “Complete Your Journey” Scholarship.

Gates Scholarship

[The Gates Scholarship](#) is a highly selective, last-dollar scholarship for outstanding, minority, high school seniors from low-income households. Each year, the scholarship is awarded to 300 of these student leaders, with the intent of helping them realize their maximum potential.

To learn more, watch this [video](#). The [application](#) opens in July.

QuestBridge National College Match

[QuestBridge](#) is a non-profit organization that helps high-achieving, low-income students gain admission and scholarships to 45 of the country’s top-ranked colleges. QuestBridge partners with these schools to identify and support students who otherwise may not apply to leading colleges. The [National College Match](#) application focuses on achievements and academic successes of students who face economic challenges, and helps to guide them through the college admissions process. The [college partners](#) ultimately decide which students to admit, and they provide the scholarships. [Video](#) about QuestBridge. [Application](#) opens late summer.

Additional scholarship opportunities

Click here to check out the [Auburn School District Scholarship Bank](#).

College Information

Timeline for college-bound students

Class of 2022 - summer suggestions

- Get your [FSA ID](#) or [WASFA ID](#): Before you can fill out your financial aid application in October, you need to get a username and password (also known as an FSA ID).
- Find a full-time or part-time job, or participate in a summer camp or summer college program.
- Visit colleges. When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you're there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors, and students. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admission counselors.
- [Create a résumé](#) – a record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and work experiences since you started high school.
- Start applying for scholarships, and create an account at [WashBoard](#). Look for civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area that award financial aid to graduates.
- Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college ([ncaaclearinghouse.net](#)).
- Create a master list or calendar for the fall that includes:
 - Tests you'll take and their fees, dates, and registration deadlines
 - College application due dates
 - Required financial aid application forms and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications)
 - Other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)

Class of 2023 - summer suggestions

- Along with your family, do some research about how to obtain financial aid. Many students use financial aid to cover college costs. Find out what financial aid is, where it comes from, and how you can apply for it. Read the [U.S. Department of Education's Funding Your Education](#) (about federal aid programs).
- Tour college campuses. If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel time to visit colleges and see what they're like. Even if you have no interest in attending the college you are visiting, it will help you learn what to look for in a college.
- Start thinking about your life after school, including the types of jobs that might interest you. Of course, these may change, but it's good to start thinking about the possibilities.
 - Identify your interests – likes and dislikes – not just in classes but also in every area. This will help you focus on your goals.

- Talk to other people, such as your school counselor, teachers, recent college graduates who are working, professionals in the community, etc., about careers you might find interesting.
- Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.
- Get familiar with the PSAT-related assessments and SAT. Most four-year colleges consider applicants' scores on college admission test. Download the free Daily Practice for the New SAT app to get a feel for the kinds of questions you might face on test day
- Are you interested in attending a U.S. military academy? If so, you should request a precandidate questionnaire.
- Start applying for scholarships, and create an account at [WashBoard](#). Look for civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area that award financial aid to graduates.

Class of 2024 - summer suggestions

- Start thinking about your life after school, including the types of jobs that might interest you. Of course, these may change, but it's good to start thinking about the possibilities.
 - Identify your interests – likes and dislikes – not just in classes but also in every area. This will help you focus on your goals.
 - Talk to other people, such as your school counselor, teachers, recent college graduates who are working, professionals in the community, etc., about careers you might find interesting.
- Save for college. It's not too late to put money aside for college. Every little bit helps! Learning about financial aid early on can also help you down the road.
- Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.
- Get familiar with the PSAT-related assessments and SAT. Most four-year colleges consider applicants' scores on college admission test. Download the free Daily Practice for the New SAT app to get a feel for the kinds of questions you might face on test day.
- Start applying for scholarships, and create an account at [WashBoard](#). Look for civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area that award financial aid to graduates.

College Campus Visits

College campuses are starting to open up to the public. Check out your college of choice and see whether they are having summer or fall college visits for future students. One of the best ways to select a college is to visit the college campus in person. Future college visits will be located on the college websites. Click on [here](#) to see how to prepare for a college campus visit.

If you cannot physically visit a school, try a virtual visit: <https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/>

If you are interested in doing a college search to find out what colleges have your program, check out the [Big Future](#) college search on the College Board website.

Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities

The college and career centers want to help you get a summer job. Click on this link to see whether there are any [job opportunities](#) for you.

WorkSource of Washington is another resource to search for job opportunities in the area: [WorkSource Job Opportunities](#).

Reminder that all students graduating from the Auburn School District must have volunteer hours. At this point in time, all students are required to have 10 community service hours to graduate. To find volunteer opportunities in the community, check out the Volunteer Search link below.

[Volunteer Match](#)

Standardized Testing

SAT, PSAT and ACT

The Auburn School District is offering the school-day **SAT for seniors on Wednesday, October 13, 2021**. All active Auburn School District students will be pre-registered for the test. No need to register on your own. More information will be provided in the fall.

The Auburn School District is offering the school-day **PSAT for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors on Wednesday, October 13, 2021**. All active Auburn School District students will be pre-registered for the test. No need to register on your own. More information will be provided in the fall.

The Auburn School District is offering the school-day **SAT for juniors on Wednesday, March 23, 2022**. All active Auburn school district students will be pre-registered for the test. No need to register on your own. More information will be provided in the winter.

Students interested in taking the test at another time can find registration information [online](#). To see upcoming SAT dates, [click here](#). Students wanting to take the **ACT** can find registration information [online](#).

Students who prepare for the test will feel more confident on test day. Here are some suggestions for practicing:

- [SAT Practice](#)
- [Khan Academy SAT Practice](#)
- [PSAT Practice](#)
- [ACT Practice](#)

ASVAB

Students interested in pursuing military service or wanting to learn more about their career aptitude should take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery). The test will be offered next year in the fall and spring at each high school. See your school's career center for more specific information. Students who are interested in taking the ASVAB should complete [this survey](#).

Spend some time completing [ASVAB Practice](#) in order to familiarize yourself with the test.

Financial Aid for class of 2022

Incoming juniors can start financial aid applications

Students with Social Security Number or Eligible Non-Citizens

Getting your FSA ID – The first step to completing the FAFSA and getting financial aid

Basic instructions on how to create a FAFSA ID (students should create a FSA ID now)

Go to the link <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> or type in fafsa.gov into the URL

Students without a Social Security Number Click on **Start A New WASFA** (make sure to fill out the 2021-2022 application). This link goes directly to the application:

<https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/wasfa-washington-application-state-financial-aid>

For more information on completing the WASFA, click here:

https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019_wasfa_updated_instructions.pdf

Admission and funding for graduates

Green River College is still accepting applications

Green River College is a great option for students to earn a certification or degree. GRC is available all summer to help students get started at the college. Check out the links below to see what the “Next Steps” are for starting your college experience.

- [Green River College](#)
- [Green River Virtual Support](#)
- [Paying for College/Financial Aid](#)

Continued support for 2021 graduates

Recent graduates are encouraged to [meet with a college and career counselor](#) over the summer to work on college applications and financial aid applications or to ask questions and get support. It's not too late! Complete the [Google Form](#) to request an appointment.

Next steps after submitting FAFSA

Once students submit, a family's financial information is analyzed using the federal need formula.

The Student Aid Report (SAR)

After the information students have provided is analyzed, they will receive a SAR that contains the data they entered on the FAFSA. The U.S. Department of Education will send this form to the student either by email or by postal mail.

Students should review the SAR carefully for errors (the form highlights items that may need attention) and follow directions for making and submitting corrections. Submit corrections promptly. They should keep a copy of the SAR for their records.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

On the front page of the SAR, your child will find a figure called the expected family contribution (EFC). The EFC is an indicator of your family's financial strength. It is sent to your state scholarship agency as well as to the colleges your child listed on the FAFSA. They use this number to determine your child's financial aid award. Learn more about the [EFC](#).

Other Financial Aid Forms

After students complete the FAFSA, they should make sure to submit any additional financial aid forms that their colleges require. For example, some colleges require them to submit the [CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®](#) or their own forms.

Help with the FAFSA

If you have questions about the application, FAFSA on the Web or financial aid for students, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (433-3243) / TTY 800-730-8913

Note: This information only applies to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It does not apply to students who complete the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA).

Source: [BigFuture](#)

HELPFUL LINKS

- So you want to go to college; now what? <https://readyssetgrad.wa.gov/>
- Timeline for college-bound seniors: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/timeline-12-grade>
- Timeline for college-bound juniors: <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-Planning-9th-10th-Graders.pdf>; <https://www.waopportunitiescholarship.org/students/applicants/anning-Calendar-Junior-s.pdf>;
- Timeline for college-bound sophomores and freshmen: <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-Planning-9th-10th-Graders.pdf>
- Otterbot: Text "Hi Otter" to 360-928-7281 for 24-hour help with financial aid or questions about college and careers. It's free!