

# College & Career Center News

*from Auburn's College & Career Counselors*

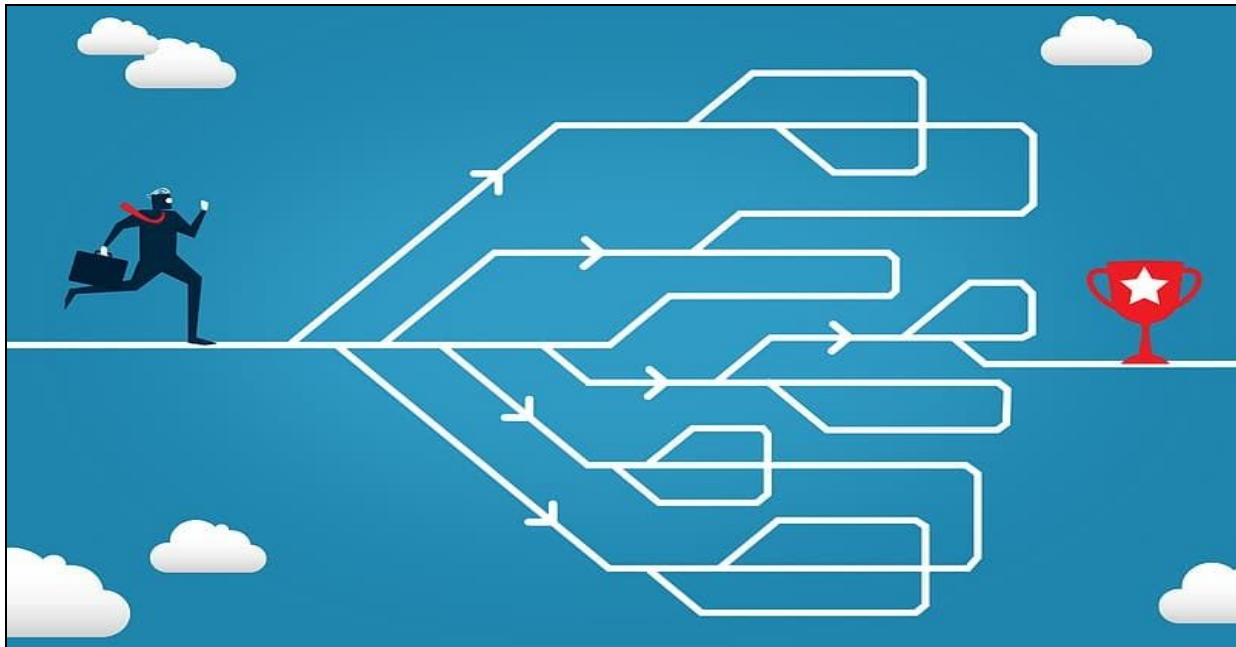
## College and Career Counselors

**Auburn High School:** Anna Marshall, [amarshall@auburn.wednet.edu](mailto:amarshall@auburn.wednet.edu)

**Auburn Mountainview High School:** Stephanie Glenisky, [sglenisky@auburn.wednet.edu](mailto:sglenisky@auburn.wednet.edu)

**Auburn Riverside High School:** Steve Mead, [smead@auburn.wednet.edu](mailto:smead@auburn.wednet.edu)

**West Auburn High School:** Shelly Veazey, [sveazey@auburn.wednet.edu](mailto:sveazey@auburn.wednet.edu)



## New for third quarter

- Scholarship opportunities
- Tips for writing letters of recommendation
- Virtual college fairs for all students
- Green River and Highline information for seniors
- Financial aid reminders
- Next steps for seniors

# Scholarships

## Auburn Community Scholarship

The [Auburn Community Scholarship application](#) can qualify seniors for more than 80 scholarships worth \$250-\$2500 each. Please complete the application and attach two letters of recommendation by March 26, 2021.

## Letters of recommendation

Need a [letter of recommendation](#)? [Here are some tips](#). Fill out and provide this form to the people from whom you are requesting a letter of recommendation.

## Scholarship opportunities

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

## March 15 scholarship events

All students are invited to attend one of the virtual scholarship events from 1-2 p.m. and 4-5 p.m. on Monday, March 15. Counselors and financial aid representatives will be available to assist students with scholarship applications or to help students begin a scholarship search. Click [here](#) for more information and the Google Meet link.

# College Information

## Virtual college fairs

Explore hundreds of colleges and universities in one Sunday afternoon. The virtual college fair allows Auburn School District students in all grade levels and their families to connect with colleges and universities from Washington, across the country, and around the world. ★ Explore options ★ Ask questions ★ Gather information ★ Plan ahead

**10 a.m.-4 p.m. once a month on Sundays: February 28, March 21, and May 2**

You must register before attending a fair: <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/events>

## HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) Real Talk

Join the College Board for a special, two-night Real Talk: HBCU Edition at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, and Thursday, March 4. Students will have an opportunity to connect with admissions representatives from the best HBCUs in the country and get questions answered in real time. We'll cover topics such as financial aid, scholarships, academic offerings, career paths, student organizations, Greek life, housing, and more!

All ages and academic achievement levels are welcome. We look forward to connecting with you soon for *real talk*. [RSVP today and share the event with your networks.](#)

## Green River's Getting Started in High School series

Green River College is excited to offer two information/application sessions for students in the Auburn School District at 1 p.m. on March 1 and 6 p.m. on March 2. These offerings are designed to provide information about GRC academic offerings and support services. They are also part of the *Getting Started in the High School* (GSHS) series.

The GSHS program provides a seamless transition and careful navigation for students who make an early commitment to attend Green River College. It is designed to bring the college to prospective students by reducing admission and enrollment barriers. In these sessions, Green River staff will provide specific guidance for application, placement, pre-advising, and **priority registration** for those who sign up in the program.

Click [here](#) for more information and for access to the Zoom link.

## Discover Your Pathway at Highline College event

This event is perfect for undecided seniors or seniors that have no post-secondary plans beyond high school. [Discover Your Pathway at Highline College](#) is coming up from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You and your students will find this event an effective tool that connects students to educational opportunities and resources. Activities include virtual classroom visits, career advising, and career exploration.

Students must register individually in advance for this webinar using this [link](#).

# Standardized Testing

## SAT and ACT

The Auburn School District is offering the school-day SAT for juniors and seniors on Wednesday, March 24. Students who registered will receive information from their schools with logistics.

Students interested in taking the test at another time can find registration information [online](#). Upcoming SAT dates are May 8 and June 5. Students wanting to take the ACT can find registration information [online](#). Upcoming ACT dates are April 17, June 12, and July 17.

## 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 at the end of April at each high school. Students who are interested in take the ASVAB should complete [this survey](#).

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# Financial Aid

## Getting started on financial aid applications

### Students with Social Security Number or Eligible Non-Citizens

#### **Getting your FSA ID -- The 1st 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](https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019_wasfa_updated_instructions.pdf)

## Next steps after submitting the 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://readysetgrad.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.waopportunityscholarship.org/students/applicants/announcing-Calendar-Juniors.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!