Bridge to Success

2018-2019 Edition

Name: _______________________  A guide to college from Paterson students for Paterson students
Bridge to Success is a college guide created by the Journalism III class at John F. Kennedy Educational Complex in Paterson, NJ in cooperation with the Paterson Educational Fund, The Record and NorthJersey.com. Special thanks to Ms. Lories Nye & Mr. Carlos Rios for all their help putting the college guide together. Also, special thanks to Sayeda Choudhury (School of Education & Training class of 2019) and Reem Hajjar (School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics class of 2019) for their extraordinary proof-reading skills.

This year’s college guide theme focuses on the foundations necessary for students to build their own personal and unique bridges to success. Our hope was that we could help ease some of the stress students encounter when they are planning their futures. We present some first-hand accounts from current and past students of the Paterson Public Schools with the hopes that our stories will be more relatable. After reading the articles in this guide, we hope that you will have an easier time building the bridge to your success.

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Upward Bound students take a break from their tour of colleges during the November break. Students visited Pennsylvania colleges like Temple and Villanova.

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The transition from high school to college can be scary. There are a lot of unknowns and expectations, students who graduate from high school and move on to college expect college to be a certain way.

Incoming college freshmen start the year with many questions: How will my relationship with professors be different than my relationship with my teachers in high school? Will the work load be different? Will I struggle with the curriculum? How will I make friends?

In order to explore the expectations of new college freshmen, we interviewed some 2019 graduates and compared their expectations to the reality of students finishing their first year of college.

Prospective students look forward to the opportunity to make their own class schedule and the freedom that a college course schedule can offer. “The biggest difference between high school and college will be my course load. We can plan our own class schedules and won’t have to take eight different 40 minute classes,” said School of Business, Technology, Marketing and Finance senior Ny’deja Taylor.

Many students looked forward to the many freedoms that college can offer, but they also recognized the cost of them. “In college everything is on us; time management, grades, social life; we are on our own,” said School of Science, Technology, Mathematics and Engineering senior Nahian Ahmed.

Although some students are fearful of the prospect of making friends in college, they are also excited to meet new people. “I’m excited to bond with my roommate next year. I hope to have a more active social life when I get to college,” said Ivana Nina, a School of Education and Training senior.

Regardless of how different the reality is from the expectations, it is important to remain flexible and positive.
**Freshman Year**

**Fall (September- November)**
- Start the year with positive energy.
- Meet new people, learn about them and learn from them.
- Keep your grades high.
- Prepare for the PSAT.
- Take the PSAT.
- Remember that you will be taking the PSAT again. Do your best and utilize this year’s score to learn what skills you have to focus on for next year’s test.
- Get involved with extracurricular activities.

**Winter (December- March)**
- Continue to keep your grades up.
- Make a College Board account to see your PSAT scores.
- If you struggle with any subject, ask teachers about their tutoring periods.

**Spring/Summer (April- August)**
- Don’t get distracted.
- Practice for the PSAT.
- Talk to your guidance counselors about your schedule for next year. Let them know what you are interested in.
- Find programs that will provide you with summer educational activities/opportunities.
- Read as much as possible during the summer.

**Junior Year**

**Fall (September- November)**
- Make a list of the top colleges you want to attend.
- Research the standardized test scores that the colleges require.
- Go on college tours.
- Keep your grades up.

**Winter (December- March)**
- Take the SAT/ACT for the first time.
- Look into options for financing college.
- Start researching and applying for scholarships.
- Keep your grades up!

**Spring/Summer (April- August)**
- Prepare to start applying for colleges. Get recommendations from teachers.
- See what topics are required for the college essay. Pick one and begin your college essay.
- Apply for scholarships.

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I stayed away from the negative vibes.
-Jason Robertson, ACT

I kept myself active by playing sports.
-Carlos Vivieca, ACT

I worked hard to stay on honor roll.
-Brian Acosta, ACT

I went to college fairs with the Compete For Life program.
-Ziyion Simpson, SET

I took more math classes to prepare for my intended major, which will be engineering.
-Jordy Mota, SET

In addition to going on college tours, I worked hard to keep up my GPA.
-Nadira Stamps, SET
**Sophomore Year**

**Fall (September-November)**
- Don’t let your grades slip.
- Use Khan Academy for PSAT practice.
- Take the PSAT very seriously.

**Winter (December-March)**
- Attend college fairs and gather information to make your career decision.
- Join new clubs and help your immediate community.
- Build up your resume.

**Spring/Summer (April-August)**
- Take practice exams for PSAT and SAT.
- Continue to research your major.
- Go on college tours.
- Sit in on a college class and talk to the current college students to learn about their experiences.
- Ask your teachers for suggested summer readings.
- Take part in educational summer programs.

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**Senior Year**

**Fall (September-November)**
- Take the SAT/ACT again.
- Fill out college applications. Do not wait until the last minute.
- Get recommendations from teachers and get your transcript from your guidance counselor.
- Begin to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) & the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA).
- Keep your grades up. Colleges will look at your grades from your senior year.

**Winter (December-March)**
- Be on the lookout for acceptance letters.
- Apply for more scholarships.
- Complete the FAFSA.
- See and compare financial aid packages that you are being offered. Familiarize yourself with the different types of aid available.

**Spring/Summer (April-August)**
- Choose your college of choice. Notify the school and send in the deposit by the deadline.
- Start preparing for college.
- Apply for housing, if needed.

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I’ve been going on college trips.
-Demilio Watson, STEM

I took a lot of honors classes so I would have a good GPA.
-Jerome Walters, STEM

I participated in extra curricular activities.
-Brittany Montero, STEM

I kept my grades up.
-Carina Blanco, BTMF

I paid attention more in my classes.
-Dynasty Randolph, BTMF

I’m taking ESL now and I will continue studying English at PCCC and then transfer to a 4 year college.
-Elen Veras, BTMF
Test scores
By: Darisleidy Ortiz

What do you need to graduate from high school?

When you enter high school, you realize that there is so much more to graduating than just passing your classes. There are specific required courses that you need to take and standardized tests that you need to pass. Although you may get frustrated, you just need to focus and keep on top of all of the graduation requirements.

The specific standardized tests that you need to take vary according to the graduation year.

It is important to stay in contact with your guidance counselor to ensure you have the most up-to-date information. Additionally, you should keep track of the course requirements you need in order to graduate. Imagine getting to your senior year only to find out that you can not graduate because you are missing freshman health credits.

School of Business, Technology, Marketing and Finance senior Christina Hines does not get out early like her peers. She is in school zero through 8th period because of some bad choices she made during her freshman year. “I would have kept up with my work, not wasted time by fooling around and would not have cut class,” Hines said when asked what different choices she wished she had made when she was a freshman.

Hines’ advice to incoming freshmen is to “stay focused and don’t lose your way. If there is a toxic person in your life, cut them off before they bring you down with them.”

This 2019 senior is now on track to graduate and ready to move on with the rest of her life.

High school course requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English/Language Arts</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Includes English I – IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Algebra I and Geometry, plus one additional class that builds on Algebra I and Geometry and prepares students for college and 21st century careers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Physical Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>At least 3.75 credits in Physical Education and 1.25 credits in Health &amp; Safety during each year of enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Lab biology/life science; lab chemistry, physics, or environmental science; an additional lab/inquiry based science class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>US History I &amp; II, the integration of civics, economics, World History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Languages</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Or approved student demonstration of proficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Century Life and Careers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Business, Family &amp; Consumer Science, Technology or Vocational Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial, Economics, and Entrepreneurial Literacy</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Consistent with the Core Content Curriculum Standards, and integrated throughout the curriculum as listed above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual and Performing Arts</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Art, music, drama and dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technological Literacy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class of 2020 - 2022

- Demonstrate proficiency on NJSLA1/PARCC2 ELA 10 and/or Algebra I; or
- Demonstrate proficiency in ELA and/or mathematics by meeting the designated cut score on one of alternative assessments such as other high school-level NJSLA/PARCC assessments, the SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER as defined in the Graduation Assessment Requirements chart; or
- Demonstrate proficiency in ELA and/or mathematics by submitting, through the district, a student portfolio appeal to the NJDOE.

Class of 2023 & Beyond

- To be determined. The NJDOE is committed to providing fair notice to student and educators and will continue to collaborate with stakeholders to transition to the next generation of statewide assessments.
College prep programs in Paterson

By: Yarelí Rojas

There are students in high school who want to go to college, but they struggle academically. Luckily, there are college prep-programs provided for these students that can help. These programs help students explore academic interests and provide them with a taste of college through various immersion programs.

These programs take place after school, on weekends and during the summer.

Students involved in these programs have the opportunity to visit different colleges. Many of the college prep programs for high school students take place on local college campuses and focus on various subjects like journalism, entrepreneurship, and computer science to expand students’ understanding of their interests.

Students interested in participating in one of the many college prep programs that the district has to offer should contact their guidance counselors for recommendations.

College Bound Gear Up

The College Bound Gear Up program is a year round academic pre-college program that serves 6th - 12th grade students attending target schools in the Paterson school district.

The program provides academic support and college preparation activities to middle and high school students. They provide guides for students on the path to a college or university and provide tools for academic success. Passaic County Community College provides this program for students in Paterson. For more information on how to apply to the program go to http://www.pccc.edu/collegeboundgearup.

Upward Bound

The Upward Bound program is a federally-funded educational program for students who are currently enrolled in high school who come from low income families and/or who are potential first generation college students. Upward Bound provides guidance, engagement and empowerment to the young scholars who are committed to their education. Some students have the opportunity to earn college credits while in the program. Montclair State University and Ramapo College provide the Upward Bound Program for students from Paterson. For information about the program you can visit https://www.montclair.edu/csam/programs-and-opportunities/upward-bound/ or https://www.ramapo.edu/tas/upward-bound/.

Student Voices

I have been involved in the Upward Bound program for three years. I started it during the summer between my freshman and sophomore year. I was chosen to go on the Alternative Spring Break trip to Costa Rica. The director of my Upward Bound program (at Ramapo College) asked all of the seniors involved if they wanted to go and I was the only one who took the initiative. It was a community service based trip where I fed animals, cleaned their enclosures, planted plants and rebuilt a walkway in the Santuario de Lapos Natura in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. The trip benefitted me because I was able to overcome a couple of fears I had, like leaving the country or flying on a plane. The trip also opened my mind because I saw a part of the world that gave me a better understanding of how poverty is here versus poverty in a third world country. I realized how much we have in this country. The trip made me aware of issues that affect the world and made me want to be a part of solutions that could make the world a better place.

-Jae’l Rumph, School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics class of 2019

The International Baccalaureate is a rigorous program aimed to help students prepare for college. There are only 15 high schools in New Jersey that offer this prestigious course of study and one of those schools is in Paterson: International High School. Students interested in gaining admission to the program must show they possess the 10 IB learner profile criteria. Below is a first-hand account of junior Salman Chowdhury, a student in the IB program in International High School.

To be selected to be part of the program, I had to go through an interview and application process in order to determine if I had the IB student profile. I learned how to write college-level papers and take college-level exams. When I graduate and go to college, I won’t be as overwhelmed thanks to the courses that were provided to me in this program. A lesson I learned is that things will not always go your way in the IB program. I faced many difficulties, but no matter what happened, I tried to face each challenge with my head up high, a smile and a cool head.

This program taught me how to use my time wisely. If I am not studying for a test, I’m writing a paper. Time management is an essential skill for when I get to college.

One obstacle I faced in the program was with my Mandarin class. I had a hard time learning in this class, and sometimes, I feel like I’m falling behind everyone else; however, this has only driven me to work harder in that class.

After high school I hope to study Information Technology at NYU. After that, I would like to get my master’s degree from ETH Zurich in Switzerland. After I graduate, I hope to work for a company such as Google or Apple.
Importance of having good grades  By: Kency Oliva

In order to graduate from high school in New Jersey, a student needs 125 credits; however when applying to college, it is not just quantity of grades, it is also quality. Earning and maintaining good grades matters for many reasons. Getting good grades and achieving a high grade point average (GPA) can only help in the future.

When colleges review the numerous applications they receive, an important factor is a student’s GPA. According to Petersons.com, a popular website about college and the application process, “many colleges set a 3.0 GPA as a baseline for freshman and transfer admission.” This type of GPA starts with strong freshman year grades.

Although students with lower GPAs can get into college, the better their GPA is, the better their chances of acceptance are.

Another reason grades in high school are important is because employers may use them as an indicator of your work ethic. Good grades usually mean that you are a hard worker.

Keeping your grades up can open doors to future financial opportunities, like earning scholarships for college. Although grants are need-based, scholarships are merit-based. There are many public and private scholarships for students with good grades. The state of New Jersey offers a program called NJSTARS that provides free tuition at community college for students who rank in the top 15% of their class (see page 17 for more information).

The benefits of obtaining good grades are endless. It is worth the effort we put into every project and every assignment because, in the end, we will see the results and this will help us in the future.

Although I didn’t have to work that hard in school to earn my class rank, I was able to learn what my strengths were and, most importantly, the type of people I should surround myself with. Teachers and peers who motivate you to be better are the type of people you want around.

- Dafne Lopez, salutatorian class of 2018

In the end, working hard benefited me because I got accepted to all of the colleges I applied to and got really great financial aid offers from all of the schools. Make sure you keep school as a top priority, because education will take you far in life.

- Sayeda Choudhury, valedictorian class of 2019

The effort I put in in high school helped better prepare me for college. College is definitely a lot harder and more time-consuming than high school, but having learned good study habits in high school helped a lot. Having these foundations from high school made the transition to college easier.

- David Santiago, salutatorian class of 2015

The figure to the left shows the average undergraduate GPAs for four-year American colleges and universities from 1983-2013 based on data from almost 100 schools across the United States. Although the national average GPA that colleges are looking for has risen, researchers are not sure whether it is a true indicator of the standards. Have the grades that high schools give out been inflated over the past twenty years or have students earned better grades? For a more detailed explanation of this idea, visit http://www.gradeinflation.com.
Did you know you can start earning college credits in high school? According to Collegeboard.org, “you can save money on college costs and improve your chances of graduating on time (by taking classes that offer college credits in high school).”

Although the process may be stressful, it’s worth taking the chance. Here are some ways you can start earning college credits in high school:

**Taking Advanced Placement Courses & Tests**
The College Board offers advanced placement tests in a wide range of subjects; however, every school does not offer a corresponding course. For example, most high schools offer the Advanced Placement class for English Literature and Language, but only a few schools offer the AP class for studio arts. To find out what courses your school offers, speak to your guidance counselor. One issue with AP classes is that you have to score well on the Advanced Placement test at the end of the year in order to earn the college credits.

**College-Level Examination Program Exams (CLEP)**
This exam is accepted by over 2,900 universities. If you take any of the 33 CLEP exams and pass, you can then earn 3 to 12 credits towards your college degree and move on to advanced courses once you start college. The number of credits you earn depends on the exam subject and the policy at the college you attend.

**Participate in the IB Program**
The International Baccalaureate (IB) program offers college level courses that provide students with an intensive education with a focus on developing critical thinking skills. Some colleges offer credits to students who earn high scores on the IB exam.

**Take Dual Enrollment Classes**
Dual enrollment refers to students who earn academic credits at two institutions – their high school and a college or university that participates in dual enrollment programs. High schools in Paterson offer classes in partnership with Passaic County Community College, where students can take courses at their high school to earn college credits.

**Take College Courses**
Some high school students start their college studies while still in high school by taking day, evening or weekend classes at a local college. Students can take courses at Passaic County Community College to jump start their college careers.

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**Benefits of college level study in high school:**

- Learn the time-management skills, study skills and discipline you’ll need in college
- Improve your chances of getting into the college of your choice
- Improve your chances of qualifying for scholarships
- Free up enough time in college for you to take part in programs like study abroad or to double major
- Graduate from college on time or early, which will save you money

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Student Perspective

I prefer dual enrollment classes over AP because they are guaranteed credits if you pass the class; whereas in an AP class you need to pass the AP test. Most colleges only accept the credits if you score a 4 or 5 on the AP exam. Not many people are able to get these scores. I personally don’t feel confident about my AP test scores; however, I do feel confident about earning college credits through my dual enrollment class. I also feel like a dual enrollment class will help prepare me for college.

-Zaima Chowdhury, STEM class of 2019

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Student Perspective

I prefer Advanced Placement classes because a former teacher of mine informed me that not all credits from dual enrollment classes transfer to every college; whereas credits from taking and passing AP classes and exams transfer to all colleges. I wouldn’t want to take a more advanced class if I knew I wasn’t going to get the college credit for it. So far, I only have credits from taking the AP Language and Composition exam last year. I don’t know how many credits exactly, but I know I have them. My advice would be to focus more on actually learning, rather than being worried about the test all year. Everyone worries more about the timing on the exam, then the test itself. If you have an understanding of the subject, then the time you have to take the test will not matter.

-Shailyn Perez, BTMF class of 2019
Many people wonder what the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) & ACT (American College Testing) are. These tests are an important part of the college application process because most of the universities and colleges in the US still require the reports from these tests.

Both the SAT and the ACT are standardized tests that help colleges and universities determine how prepared a student is for college-level courses. Although the tests are similar, there are some major differences: time allotted per question, scoring and content.

The overall tests are similar in the amount of time to complete them; however, the SAT allows more time per question for every section of the test, whereas the ACT requires you to move faster through the questions. This means that each section of the ACT has more questions than the SAT.

The scoring is also vastly different between both tests: the ACT scores an average of each section on a scale of 1-36, while the SAT scores each section on a scale of 200-400, with a total score of anywhere from 400-1600 points.

Both tests include math and English sections. In terms of math, both tests focus on algebra, but the ACT also has more questions about geometry and trigonometry. The ACT allows the use of a calculator on the test; whereas the SAT only has one section where the test taker can use a calculator.

The ACT also has a science section, which the SAT does not have. The test consists of several science passages, each of which focuses on one of the following subject areas: biology, chemistry, earth/space sciences, and physics.

### What to expect on test day

- All test centers open at 7:45 am and doors close at 8:00 am, unless otherwise noted on your admission ticket. You cannot be admitted once testing has started. If you’re late or absent on test day, you can reschedule. We recommend rescheduling as opposed to re-registering—it will cost less.
- Testing starts between 8:30 am and 9 am.
- Your seat is assigned, not chosen by you.
- The test coordinator will tell you when to start and stop working on each section.
- You may not go ahead to a new section if you finish a section early.
- Do not skip sections. Doing so may result in score cancellation, delays or both.
- For most students, there is one 10-minute and one five-minute break during the test, the only times you can eat and drink.
- Keep your ID and admission ticket with you at all times. They’ll be checked every time you enter the testing room.
- Test books, answer sheets, and calculators must remain on your desk during breaks.
- You can’t use this time to power up devices, like cell phones—if you do, your scores will be canceled.
- Your ID must be an original, physical document (not photocopied or electronic).
- Your ID should be in good condition, with clearly legible English language text and a clearly visible photograph.

### What to bring on testing day

- Your admission ticket
- Acceptable photo ID
- Two No. 2 pencils with erasers
- An approved calculator
- Epinephrine auto-injectors (e.g., EpiPens) are permitted without the need for accommodations. They must be placed in a clear bag and stored under the student’s desk during testing. For policies on other medications and medical devices, contact Services for Students with Disabilities.
Private vs public college/universities

What’s the difference between private and public college?
The major difference between public universities and private colleges lies in how they are funded. This affects students because funding is tied to tuition prices. This influx of public money is why tuition is lower at a public university. The real cost of an attendance is subsidized by the government. College is expensive no matter how you look at it, but the biggest fundamental difference between public and private colleges is in the cost. For the 2015-2016 school year, the average tuition for a public university was $9,410 for in-state students and $23,893 for out-of-state residents.

Are private colleges always more expensive?
Tuition at private colleges (particularly elite, well-known universities) is often thousands of dollars more expensive than at public colleges, especially if you attend a public college as a resident of the state.

Are public colleges cheaper than private?
Public university tuition varies by school and state, and out-of-state students may pay more than double what residents pay. Some private colleges offer merit-based scholarships to most incoming freshmen, while others – including many top-tier private schools – offer mostly need-based scholarships.

How to read a financial aid award letter

Financial aid award letters can be confusing and/or overwhelming. Letters are filled with confusing terms and most look vastly different from one school to the next. Since students rely on these letters as a means to make a decision about which college they will attend, it is important to know how to read them. Below is a breakdown of some terms from a sample award letter. If you get an award letter and do not understand what part of it means, ask for help. Talk to a guidance counselor, teacher or the bursars office at the college so you have a clear idea of your financial obligation.

Sample award letter from William Paterson University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Direct Cost</th>
<th>Estimated Direct Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>$13,292.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Cost</td>
<td>$13,292.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Indirect Cost</th>
<th>Estimated Indirect Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room &amp; Board</td>
<td>$3,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$2,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$2,250</td>
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</table>

| Cost of Attendance | $23,188.00 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018-2019 Estimated Financial Aid</th>
<th>Yearly Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NJ Tuition Aid Grant</td>
<td>$6,010.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Subsidized Loan</td>
<td>$3,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Unsub Loan</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pell Grant</td>
<td>$5,645.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Awards                     | $17,155.00   |

| Estimated Remaining Net Cost     | $3,863.00    |

Direct Cost- Costs that are directly paid to the college, like tuition and fees.
Indirect Cost- Costs that are not directly paid to the college, like books and transportation.
Total Cost of Attendance- The total amount it will cost to attend college each year.
NJTag Grant- Is a state program which provides aid for New Jersey students who demonstrate a financial need.
Federal Direct Sub Loan- A loan available to undergraduate students with a financial need. The loan does not start gaining interest until you graduate. Because it is a loan, it must be paid back.
Federal Direct Unsub Loan- A federal loan for college students to help them pay for tuition. It is similar to the subsidized loan; however, it starts gaining interest as soon as you take it out.
Pell Grant- Money the government provides for students who need it to pay for college. Grants do not need to be paid back.
Estimated net cost- Is what the family pays after scholarships, loans and grants are deducted.
Choosing a major

By: Kevin Francis

Choosing a major is one of the most important choices you will make in college. A major is your specialized area of study and can, for the most part, determine your career path. You can choose a major because of your love for the subject or because you want to pursue a career in that field.

It’s important to put a lot of thought into choosing a major because changing majors can cost time and money. According to “Choosing Your Major” on the Gustavus Adolphus College website, “A quick and ill-thought-out major decision may only lead to frustration if you choose something and then discover that it bores you or that you don’t have the necessary skills. For example, if you are thinking of majoring in economics because you heard it would be a good background for an MBA degree, but you’ve done average or less than average work in mathematics courses in high school and/or college, you may need to ask yourself if economics is a realistic choice.”

If you are unsure about what to major in, it is possible to enter a college as undecided. Some local colleges have undecided programs that help students figure out their career and major goals. Below is a chart that demonstrates sample college majors, possible careers connected to that major and the starting salary of those careers. For more information you can visit the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Career</th>
<th>Starting Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Law Enforcement Officer</td>
<td>$57,000 a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>$44,000 a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Operations Manager</td>
<td>$104,426 a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Management</td>
<td>Administrative Services Manager</td>
<td>$64,000 a year</td>
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<td>History</td>
<td>Museum Document Restorer</td>
<td>$32,000 a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Clinical Nurse</td>
<td>$94,000 a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Financial Advisor</td>
<td>$50,000 a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Human Resources Manager</td>
<td>$59,000 a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Human Resources Specialist</td>
<td>$59,000 a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Copywriter</td>
<td>$42,000 a year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Starting college with a declared major gave me the advantage of being able to explore more about my major. I also have the peace of mind because I have a clear starting point. My counselor can also help me even more since she knows everything I need to accomplish in my major,” said Chavez.

Although Chavez feels confident with her choice to begin college as a criminal justice major, there is one drawback. “The only drawback is that I can’t explore other majors since my focus is on my required classes. It is not impossible, but it would be more time-consuming,” she explained.

Ways to choose a major

- College tours
- College fairs
- Talk to your guidance counselor
- Identify interests, values, passions and abilities
- Getting involved in activities
- Research careers
- Ranking your priorities
- Investigate job connections
- Take a personality test and see which careers fit your personality type (you can try this one at http://www.humanmetrics.com)
- Visit the Big Future section of the College Board website
- Visit the Bureau of Labor Statistics website to look into the salaries and outlook for various careers
- If possible, audit college courses while still in high school to see what classes interest you

Don’t be afraid to be undecided

Starting college with an undeclared major can be a scary prospect; however it shouldn’t be. Going in undecided gives you the opportunity to explore the many options available. Most schools will expect you to choose a major by the end of your second year.
Finding and applying for scholarships

By: Tarek Hammouda

According to Max Fay’s article “Scholarships & Grants for College Students” on the website debt.org, each year an estimated $46 billion in grants and scholarship money is awarded by the U.S. Department of Education and the nation’s colleges and universities. Additionally, $3.3 billion in scholarship money is awarded by institutions like corporations, churches, non profits, service clubs, unions and other types of organizations.

Individuals also offer scholarships to young people. For example, the family of Nicolas Akershoek, a former English teacher from John F. Kennedy, provides a scholarship for a graduating, college-bound senior from one of the school’s at JFK.

Students should start researching scholarships during their junior year, so they can start applying as early as possible during their senior year.

All scholarships have different deadlines, so make sure you keep track of them.

Keep in mind, you may need outside resources, like letters of recommendation, for some scholarships. Don’t wait until the last minute to ask teachers or guidance counselors for this information.

Student Perspective

I spent at least two to four hours every other week applying to scholarships. It takes a lot of dedication and patience to apply for one scholarship and the chances of winning them can be very slim at the same time; however, we miss 100 percent of the shots we never take and this is why I applied to as many scholarships as I could, like the Gates Millennium Scholarship, Coca Cola Scholarship, DELL Scholarship and so on. I would advise the upcoming seniors not to be discouraged by rejections and to continue the grind till the end.

Nahian Ahmed, STEM class of 2019

My advice to upcoming seniors would be to pick your scholarships carefully and use whatever you have to your advantage. It took me 2 weeks and hours and hours to apply for scholarships, but it paid off in the end.

Sanjida Ahmed, SET class of 2019

Tips to find the perfect scholarship

• Ask the experts. Find students who have already applied for and won scholarships and ask them how they did it.
• Seek guidance from your guidance counselor. She may know about local scholarships that do not appear in national scholarship databases (like the ones posted here).
• Get involved. Local organizations offer scholarships to local students. For example, Oasis, a women’s shelter in Paterson, offers scholarship opportunities for students who work and/or volunteer with the program.
• Ask financial aid offices if there are any scholarships that the college or university can offer you. For example, Montclair State University offers a Presidential Scholarship for students who demonstrate academic excellence and who are motivated learners.
• Check in with your school’s teen center. They often have information about local scholarships.

Websites for scholarships

• www.Scholarships.com
• www.CollegeNet.com
• www.Fastweb.com
• www.FinAid.com
• www.CollegeBoard.com
• www.ScholarshipMonkey.com
• www.SallieMae.com
• www.Zinch.com
• www.Raise.me
• www.Debt.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of School</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<th>Tuition plus fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Cape Comm. College</td>
<td>5100 Black Horse Pike, Mays Landing, NJ 08330-2699</td>
<td><a href="http://www.atlantic.edu">www.atlantic.edu</a></td>
<td>$5,946</td>
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<td>Bergen Community College</td>
<td>400 Paramus Rd., Paramus, NJ 07652</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bergen.edu">www.bergen.edu</a></td>
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<td>Berkeley College</td>
<td>Garret Mtn. Campus, 44 Rifle Camp Rd., West Paterson, NJ, 07</td>
<td><a href="http://www.berkeleycollege.edu">www.berkeleycollege.edu</a></td>
<td>$24,300</td>
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<td>Bloomfield College</td>
<td>One Park Place, Bloomfield, NJ 07003</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bloomfield.edu">www.bloomfield.edu</a></td>
<td>$29,950</td>
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<td>Burlington County College</td>
<td>601 Pemberton-Browns Mills Rd., Pemberton, NJ 08068</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bcc.edu">www.bcc.edu</a></td>
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<td>Caldwell College</td>
<td>9 Ryerson Ave., Caldwell, NJ 07006</td>
<td><a href="http://www.caldwell.edu">www.caldwell.edu</a></td>
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<td>Camden County College</td>
<td>PO Box 200, Blackwood, NJ 08012</td>
<td><a href="http://www.camdencc.edu">www.camdencc.edu</a></td>
<td>$5,920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centenary College</td>
<td>400 Jefferson St., Hackettstown, NJ 07840</td>
<td><a href="http://www.centenarycollege.edu">www.centenarycollege.edu</a></td>
<td>$33,421</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Saint Elizabeth</td>
<td>Two Convent Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cse.edu">www.cse.edu</a></td>
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<td>County College of Morris</td>
<td>214 Center Grove Rd., Randolph, NJ 07869</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ccm.edu">www.ccm.edu</a></td>
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<td>Cumberland County College</td>
<td>3322 College Drive, Vineland, NJ 08360</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cccc.edu">www.cccc.edu</a></td>
<td>$3,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeVry University</td>
<td>630 US Highway One, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-3362</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nj.devry.edu">www.nj.devry.edu</a></td>
<td>$17,619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drew University</td>
<td>36 Madison Ave., Madison, NJ 07940</td>
<td><a href="http://www.drew.edu">www.drew.edu</a></td>
<td>$46,684</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essex County College</td>
<td>303 University Ave., Newark, NJ 07102</td>
<td><a href="http://www.essex.edu">www.essex.edu</a></td>
<td>$8,175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairleigh Dickinson University</td>
<td>Metropolitan Campus, 1000 River Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fdu.edu">www.fdu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Felician College</td>
<td>262 South Main S., Lodi, NJ 07644</td>
<td><a href="http://www.felician.edu">www.felician.edu</a></td>
<td>$31,914</td>
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<td>Georgian Court University</td>
<td>900 Lakewood Ave., Lakewood, NJ 08701</td>
<td><a href="http://www.georgian.edu">www.georgian.edu</a></td>
<td>$32,260</td>
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<td>Gloucester County College</td>
<td>1400 Tanyard Rd., Sewell NJ 08080</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gcccnj.edu">www.gcccnj.edu</a></td>
<td>$5,015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hudson County Community College</td>
<td>162 Sip Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07306</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hccc.edu">www.hccc.edu</a></td>
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<td>Kean University</td>
<td>1000 Morris Ave., Union, NJ 07083</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kean.edu">www.kean.edu</a></td>
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<td>Mercer County Comm. College</td>
<td>1200 Trenton Rd., West Windsor, NJ 08550</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mccc.edu">www.mccc.edu</a></td>
<td>$4,788</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middlesex County College</td>
<td>2600 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, NJ 08818</td>
<td><a href="http://www.middlesexcc.edu">www.middlesexcc.edu</a></td>
<td>$2,673</td>
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<td>Monmouth University</td>
<td>400 Cedar Ave., W. Long Branch, NJ 07764</td>
<td><a href="http://www.monmouth.edu">www.monmouth.edu</a></td>
<td>$38,880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montclair State University</td>
<td>One Normal Ave., Upper Montclair, NJ 07043</td>
<td><a href="http://www.montclair.edu">www.montclair.edu</a></td>
<td>$12,790</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Jersey City University</td>
<td>2039 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, NJ 07305</td>
<td><a href="http://www.njcu.edu">www.njcu.edu</a></td>
<td>$11,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>N.J. Institute of Technology</td>
<td>University Heights; Newark, NJ 07102-1982</td>
<td><a href="http://www.njit.edu">www.njit.edu</a></td>
<td>$17,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean County College</td>
<td>College Drive, PO Box 2001, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ocean.edu">www.ocean.edu</a></td>
<td>$5,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passaic County Comm. College</td>
<td>One College Blvd., Paterson, NJ 07505-1179</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pccc.edu">www.pccc.edu</a></td>
<td>$5,115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Princeton University</td>
<td>PO Box 430, Princeton, NJ 08544</td>
<td><a href="http://www.princeton.edu">www.princeton.edu</a></td>
<td>$51,870</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramapo College of New Jersey</td>
<td>505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ramapo.edu">www.ramapo.edu</a></td>
<td>$14,374</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raritan Valley Comm. College</td>
<td>PO Box 3300, Somerville, NJ 08876</td>
<td><a href="http://www.raritanval.edu">www.raritanval.edu</a></td>
<td>$3,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rider University</td>
<td>2083 Lawrenceville Rd., PO Box 3001, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rider.edu">www.rider.edu</a></td>
<td>$38,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan University</td>
<td>Savitz Hall, 201 Mullica Hill Rd., Glassboro, NJ 08028</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rowan.edu">www.rowan.edu</a></td>
<td>$13,697</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rutgers State University (Camden)</td>
<td>406 Penn St., Camden, NJ 08102</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rutgers.edu">www.rutgers.edu</a></td>
<td>$14,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers State University (Newark)</td>
<td>249 University Ave., Newark, NJ 07102-1896</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rutgers.edu">www.rutgers.edu</a></td>
<td>$14,409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rutgers State University (New Brunswick)</td>
<td>65 Davidson Rd., Rm. 202, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8097</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rutgers.edu">www.rutgers.edu</a></td>
<td>$14,974</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Peter's University</td>
<td>2641 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, NJ 07306</td>
<td><a href="http://www.spc.edu">www.spc.edu</a></td>
<td>$15,414</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salem Comm. College</td>
<td>460 Hollywood Ave., Carneys Point, NJ 08069</td>
<td><a href="http://www.salemcc.edu">www.salemcc.edu</a></td>
<td>$4,794</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seton Hall University</td>
<td>400 South Orange Ave., South Orange, NJ 07079</td>
<td><a href="http://www.shuco.edu">www.shuco.edu</a></td>
<td>$38,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stevens Institute of Technology</td>
<td>1 Castle Point on the Hudson, Hoboken, NJ 07030</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stevens.edu">www.stevens.edu</a></td>
<td>$54,014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sussex County Comm. College</td>
<td>One College Hill, Newton, NJ 07860</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sussex.edu">www.sussex.edu</a></td>
<td>$7,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The College of New Jersey</td>
<td>PO Box 7718, Ewing, NJ 08628</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tcnj.edu">www.tcnj.edu</a></td>
<td>$10,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Stockton University</td>
<td>Jim Leeds Rd., PO Box 195, Pomona, NJ 08240-0195</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stockton.edu">www.stockton.edu</a></td>
<td>$11,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Edison State College</td>
<td>101 West State St., Trenton, NJ 08608</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tesc.edu">www.tesc.edu</a></td>
<td>$6,135</td>
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<tr>
<td>UMDNJ, Schl of Health Rel. Pros.</td>
<td>65 Bergen St., Rm. 101, Newark, NJ 05107</td>
<td><a href="http://www.shrp.umdnj.edu">www.shrp.umdnj.edu</a></td>
<td>$8,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union County College</td>
<td>1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ucn.edu">www.ucn.edu</a></td>
<td>$4,710</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warren County Comm. College</td>
<td>475 Route 57 West, Washington, NJ 07882</td>
<td><a href="http://www.warren.edu">www.warren.edu</a></td>
<td>$4,710</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Paterson University</td>
<td>300 Pompton Road, Wayne, NJ 07470</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wpunj.edu">www.wpunj.edu</a></td>
<td>$13,060</td>
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<td>Room &amp; Board</td>
<td>Admission Office Phone</td>
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<td>Type of school</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>609-625-1111</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>201-447-7100</td>
<td>17,197</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed community college</td>
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<td>$13,656</td>
<td>510-642-6000</td>
<td>3,477</td>
<td>4-yr. private co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>$11,950</td>
<td>973-748-9000</td>
<td>1,937</td>
<td>4-yr. private co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>732-224-2345</td>
<td>14,360</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed community college</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>856-222-9311</td>
<td>9,570</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>$13,415</td>
<td>973-618-3000</td>
<td>1,576</td>
<td>4-yr. private co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>856-227-7200 Ext. 5005</td>
<td>23,379</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<td>$13,415</td>
<td>908-852-1400</td>
<td>2,694</td>
<td>4-yr. private co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>$12,744</td>
<td>800-210-7900 Ext. 4700</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>4-yr. private school (Day-women only; adult undergrad.-co-ed)</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>973-328-5000</td>
<td>8,705</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>856-691-8600</td>
<td>3,919</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>732-729-3960</td>
<td>17,396</td>
<td>4-yr. private co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>$14,108</td>
<td>973-408-3602</td>
<td>2,113</td>
<td>4-yr. private co-ed university w/graduate &amp; professional schls</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>973-877-3000</td>
<td>11,468</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<td>$13,824</td>
<td>201-692-2531</td>
<td>8,214</td>
<td>4-yr. private co-ed university w/graduate &amp; professional schls</td>
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<td>$11,480</td>
<td>201-559-6054</td>
<td>2,195</td>
<td>4-yr. private co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10,808</td>
<td>732-835-6644</td>
<td>2,885</td>
<td>4-yr. private liberal arts university</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>862-468-5000</td>
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<td>2-year public co-ed community college</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>201-714-7200</td>
<td>9,036</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<td>$14,470</td>
<td>908-737-7100</td>
<td>11,984</td>
<td>4-yr. public co-ed university w/graduate school</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>609-570-3139</td>
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<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>732-906-4243</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>$14,529</td>
<td>732-571-3456</td>
<td>4,706</td>
<td>4-yr. private co-ed university w/graduate &amp; professional schls</td>
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<td>$15,564</td>
<td>973-655-4444</td>
<td>16,052</td>
<td>4-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<td>$14,124</td>
<td>201-200-3234</td>
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<td>$13,300</td>
<td>973-956-3300</td>
<td>11,325</td>
<td>4-yr. public co-ed university w/graduate &amp; professional schls</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>732-255-0400</td>
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<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>973-684-6868</td>
<td>9,129</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<td>$17,150</td>
<td>609-258-3060</td>
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<td>4-yr. private co-ed university w/graduate &amp; professional schls</td>
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<tr>
<td>$11,940</td>
<td>201-684-7300</td>
<td>5,618</td>
<td>4-yr. public co-ed college with four graduate programs</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>908-562-1200</td>
<td>15,401</td>
<td>2-yr. public co-ed college</td>
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<tr>
<td>$14,860</td>
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Paying for college

By: Nadira Stamps

According to the article, “The average cost of college in 2018” written by Sarah Goldy-Brown that appeared on the website StudentDebtRelief.us, the average Bachelor’s degree will cost a student $138,960.

Even though college is expensive, there are many different ways to fund it.

The different ways you can fund a college education is by asking the college for more money, applying for private scholarships, living off campus or enrolling in community college.

High school seniors and college students should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which awards federal loans, grants and work-study and the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), which awards state grants.

The FAFSA is located at studentaid.ed.gov. The HESAA is located at HESAA.org. Both forms may be confusing to fill out; however, students can ask their guidance counselors for help. Additionally, Passaic County Community College offers Paterson students free assistance when filling out financial aid forms.

The earlier you fill out the FAFSA, the better chance you have to get financial aid. Although you have until June 30th to submit the FAFSA, you can submit it as early as January 1st.

Tips to pay for college

• Grants- Grants are awards you don’t have to pay back.
• Ask the college for more money- You can haggle over financial aid.
• Work-study jobs- There are part-time jobs on campus. They are awarded to students who demonstrate a financial need. You must fill out a FAFSA.
• Apply for private scholarships- Ask your guidance counselor for help finding them.
• Take out loans- Fill out a FAFSA in order to qualify for low interest loans like the federal subsidized and unsubsidized loans. There is also the Plus Loan, which is a federal loan that a student’s parents can take out.
• Live off campus or enroll in a community college.
• Get good grades- Good grades can pay off in terms of merit scholarships.

*Information from the article “No scholarship? Here’s how to pay for college” by Katie Fobosco May 5, 2017 money.cnn.com

Prefering the FAFSA

Filling out the FAFSA can be stressful, intimidating, and time consuming. So a little preparation can go a long way towards making the process easier. “I wish I had more people around me who knew what they were doing because the process was confusing and I had to figure it out on my own,” said Ivana Nina, a 2019 graduate from The School of Education & Training.

Below are some things you can do to make the process go smoothly. When filling out the FAFSA you will need:

• Your Social Security Number
• Your Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
• Your federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned
• Your parents’ federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned
• Bank statements and records of investments
• Keep track of important deadlines. January 1st begins the FAFSA filing period for the year and June 30th is the last day to submit it

If you get stuck, ASK FOR HELP. It is a difficult process, but there are many resources available.

“By: Nadira Stamps

“My main issue was procrastinating. I didn’t know I had to send a parent signature until it was too late and when I sent it, it took them weeks to process my FAFSA. I had the opportunity to start late, but starting late into my first semester wasn’t something I wanted to do because you miss out on so much material and even tests. So I was not able to start college until January.”

Lizbeth Torres - School of Education & Training Class of 2018

“My good grades and hard work in high school paid off. Because of my academic achievement, I was offered the Presidential Scholarship at Montclair State University, which means I now have a full ride to Montclair. The presidential scholarship is $5,000 a year as long as I maintain a 3.25 GPA.”

Afifa Nusrat - School of Education & Training Class of 2019
**NJ STARS Program**

- The “New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship” program is an initiative created by the state of New Jersey that provides New Jersey’s highest achieving students with free tuition at their home county college.
- The NJ STARS Award covers the cost of tuition, less any state and/or Federal Grants and scholarships, for up to five semesters. The award covers these charges for up to 18 credit hours per semester. Funding for NJ STARS awards is dependent upon the amount of money the state allots for the program on any given year.
- It is for the top 15% of students in a graduating class.
- Students do not apply, they get chosen.
- [https://www.hesaa.org/Documents/FactSheets/NJSTARS/FactSheetfor2018HSGrad.pdf](https://www.hesaa.org/Documents/FactSheets/NJSTARS/FactSheetfor2018HSGrad.pdf)

**What is EOF?**

- The Educational Opportunity Fund is a state sponsored program available to students who have the will and desire to go to college, but need additional academic and financial support.
- EOF is an academic support program with a financial aid component to help students defray the cost of their education. EOF is only for New Jersey state schools.
- The Common App lets you apply for the program while you are applying to colleges (if the school has an EOF program).
- There are also non-academic benefits to the program. Students have a mandatory on-campus summer program that they must attend. In addition to an academic boost, this program is an opportunity to meet new people and make friends before the school year starts.
- [https://www.ccm.edu/student-life/campus-services/educational-opportunity-fund/what-is-eof/](https://www.ccm.edu/student-life/campus-services/educational-opportunity-fund/what-is-eof/)

**How to apply for EOF**

- Apply for undergraduate admission to a New Jersey college or state university in New Jersey.
- Submit the supplemental EOF application (FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ONLY).
- Submit the 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (NJAFAA).
- Create an ID and password for the New Jersey Financial Aid Management System (NJFAMS)
- Remember there are certain qualifications that need to be met in order to be eligible for EOF and the qualifications are different for each school.
- EOF can take a bit of the load off of your shoulders. Every EOF program is different in terms of the amount of aid they provide in grants.

**EOF Student Perspective**

*My advice for future EOF students is to not take it as a joke. You should start building up your GPA, making connections with professors, taking actual courses, and, most importantly, learning the ropes before even becoming an official freshman. Your successful completion of the EOF program will determine whether or not you will be a freshman for the fall semester.*

*One thing that is really important is staying on top of your meetings and keeping in touch with your counselor.*

*The EOF program does provide support throughout the regular school year; in fact, it is a requirement to meet in person with your EOF counselor at least once a month to discuss academics, financials, opportunities, interests, etc. Whether you need help discovering resources, understanding documents, getting financial help or are having any other issues, your EOF counselor can help you work through them or direct you to other resources.*

*Your EOF counselor is like an on-campus advocate who wants to help you succeed.*

-Angelina Huber (right in photo) is a 2018 STEM graduate who attends Rutgers New Brunswick as an EOF student.*
How to choose a college

By Denisse Cespedes

With over 5,000 different colleges to choose from, choosing where to go to school can be challenging. However, armed with a lot of information and a little self-knowledge, the decision-making process can be a bit easier.

Take advantage of the college fairs and attend as many as possible; however, going to these fairs is not enough. Once there, it is important to visit as many tables as possible and ask a lot of questions. “Finding the right college for me was made easy because I went to many college fairs and got as much information as possible,” said School of Architecture and Trades senior Ja’Zir Mattiex.

So what type of school is best for you? Before you can answer that question, you need to know the types of schools that exist. You also need to figure out what type of career you want and what experience you want.

Community College

A community college is a post-secondary institution that typically offers courses similar to the freshmen and sophomore offerings at four-year colleges and universities. In addition to these programs that offer students the opportunity to transfer to a four-year school, many community colleges offer career-oriented certificate programs or associate’s degrees for students concerned with finding immediate employment.

A community college is a good option for students on a budget because it costs much less per credit than four-year schools. A community college is also a good option for people who want to get certified for a particular career and who would prefer to join the workforce as quickly as possible. For example, Passaic County Community College offers many certification programs in the medical, business and computer fields.

Technical School

This kind of institution is similar to a community college in that it offers specific career-oriented programs that last from a few months to a couple of years. It does not offer any degrees, only career-specific certifications. Most are specialized and offer intense training in one specific skill area.

Common certification programs include: Auto mechanic, sonography, medical billing, cosmetology, commercial truck driver, and emergency medical technician.

Military School

Federal military academies prepare officers for the armed forces—Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. These institutions require recommendations and appointments (or endorsements) by members of Congress. Private and state-supported military schools and the Coast Guard Academy operate on a college application basis. Their degree programs offered are usually in the areas of business, engineering, technology, and military science.

University vs College

A typical university has a liberal arts college, as well as several specialized colleges and graduate programs in fields like business, engineering, medicine, law, agriculture, nursing, and the arts. A college offers a curriculum leading to a four-year Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. The primary focus is on undergraduate education. Universities offer graduate programs leading to master’s or doctoral degrees.

Universities tend to have many more students enrolled. If you prefer a smaller community, a college may be the right place for you.

Community College

Technical School

Military School

University vs College

Student Perspective

Maria Torres, School of Education & Training class of 2018

“One of the main reasons I chose PCCC was because financially it made the most sense. As an NJ STAR student, I will have no debt at the end of my two years, with the potential to have free tuition at a four-year state school (through the NJ STARS II program).

Additionally, I was a little unsure about what career I wanted, whether I even wanted to go to college or if I should take a gap year. I decided to take my general courses and enter the Liberal Arts program, so I could try out different classes and find what I was interested in, without spending thousands of dollars at a four year college.
Engineering or Polytechnic College

This type of college is an independent professional institution that provides training programs in the fields of engineering, technology, and the physical sciences. Students can earn various Bachelor of Science degrees. They are often known as Institutes of Technology or Polytechnic Institutes and their degree programs range from four to five years for completion. Locally there is Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken and New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark.

Art Schools

The principle focus of this specialized type of school is the study of the visual, performing, and/or creative arts. If it is accredited as a college, an art school or art institute may grant its graduates a Bachelor or Master of Fine Arts (B.FA or M.FA) degree. Many colleges and universities also have art schools as a part of their program offerings. Students interested in a career in the arts can either attend a college where the sole focus is on the arts, like Juilliard (performing arts) or School of Visual Arts, which are both located in New York City or they attend a college that has a bachelor of fine arts program, like Montclair State University or Ramapo College.

Nursing School

Some nursing schools are affiliated with hospitals and students can receive a R.N. (registered nurse) degree upon completion of training. Other programs are affiliated with colleges or universities where graduates receive an R.N. degree and a bachelor of science degree. There are varying levels of nursing degrees that can be earned. Students interested in joining the workforce as soon as possible can earn a practical nurse degree from a technical school; whereas a student interested in pursuing advanced degrees can earn a doctor of nursing practice. Passaic County Community College offers an associate degree in applied science in nursing degree. It is a two-year program. William Paterson University offers nursing degrees at all levels: bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate.

Choosing the right school

Choosing the right college may seem like an impossible task, but if you take a moment to reflect and ask yourself some of the questions below, you may find that it is not so scary.*

- **Geography** - Do you want to commute or live on campus? Would you prefer an urban or rural setting?
- **Size** - Do you want to be a nameless face in the crowd or do you want to be a part of a small, close-knit community?
- **Type of school** - Would you feel more comfortable at a faith-based college or at a single-gender school or a historically black college?
- **Programs** - If you know what your intended major is, make sure the schools that you apply to offers it. If you want to pursue a master’s degree at the same time you are earning a bachelor’s degree, ensure the college you attend offer that program.
- **Cost** - Public universities offer much lower tuition rates to in-state students, but their fees to out-of-state residents are usually similar to private schools. Private institutions charge everyone the same tuition, but they often have privately-funded scholarships, so it’s worth applying even if the price tag may seem too high.
- **Degree type** - Do you want to earn a certification, an associate or a bachelor’s degree? The answer to this question will help you determine the type of school you want to attend.


Liberal Arts

A four-year institution that emphasizes a broad undergraduate education. It offers exposure to the sciences, history, philosophy, music and art. Pre-professional and professional training may be offered, but is not stressed. Most liberal arts institutions are private, which means tuition may be more costly; however, private colleges also have the means to offer more financial aid.

The reason I picked Montclair State University was because they had a special program for undecided students that helped us (undecided students) focus on possible majors. I wanted to be a science major, but wasn’t sure what science I wanted to pursue, so my advisor made me take an intro to computer science class, an intro to biology course, etc. After my first semester, my advisor told me to try to make my second semester schedule similar to my first one. So I took another biology course and an introduction to chemistry course. Eventually, I chose a biology major. I’m really glad that I chose Montclair because they never forced me to choose a major; rather, they helped me choose a major that I would be happy with.

Davin Goulbourne, School of Education and Training class of 2017
According to the article “College Students’ Barriers to Effective Time Management” written by Tami Strang and posted on www.blog.cengage.com, 79% of college students struggle with time management. Of the 3,000 college students surveyed for the article, 49% cited procrastination as the biggest time management issue they face.

Stress is something no one enjoys and, with some effective time management skills, you can alleviate a lot of stress during your college career.

A good time schedule can lead to a stress free day. Differentiate between personal and academic time. Block out time for your studies and another block for free time. Schedule your study time as if it was a job so that you don’t end up blowing it off.

It’s also important to prioritize. What’s more important, meeting a friend for coffee or studying for an exam? Although it is important to have time to relax, the exam should be the priority.

It is easy to get overwhelmed if you fall too far behind, which is why it is important to begin college with good time management skills; however, if you do fall behind in classes, it is important to be proactive. Speak to your professor and explain the problem to him or her. Make a realistic schedule to make-up the missing work. Make an appointment with your advisor. Most importantly, get help. Problems will not disappear if you ignore them, so seek out assistance.

With a little preplanning and knowledge, anyone can learn to effectively manage his or her time.

Student tips

My biggest issue with procrastination is when it comes to subjects I don’t like. I put off what I don’t want to do, and sometimes end up forgetting about it. Most of the time if I’m procrastinating, it’s because I don’t understand the work. Once I realized that factor, I was able to address it. So now if I don’t understand something, I seek out extra help.

- Reem Hajjar, School of Science, Technology, Mathematics & Engineering class of 2019

I find that when I’m procrastinating it’s because I’m in a bad mood. In order to get over my mood and get to work, I just think about my future goals and realize they are more important than a momentary mood.

- Jocelyn Perez, School of Science, Technology, Mathematics & Engineering class of 2019

Time management tips

- Know your goals
- Prioritize wisely
- Plan ahead
- Eliminate distractions
- Don’t multtask
- Sleep well
- Make a to-do list
- Create a done list
- Limit your study time
- Prepare beforehand
- Have a backup plan
- Stay on task with studies
- Maintain good hygiene
- Stay active/healthy
- Complete most important assignments first
- Stay organized
- Don’t try to be perfect
- Establish a daily routine

Student Voices

The biggest obstacle I ran into during my first semester at Montclair was time management strategies. In my opinion, time management is a habit that every student should have, but I didn’t realize it until I got to college. In high school, it was easy for me to procrastinate and use my phone a lot, but in college, even though it may seem like you have more free time, it is essential to make sure you organize the time you have so you can get your school work done. A part of time management is learning good study skills. When I started college, I was not sure how to study for big exams. It is important to leave enough time to study before a test. Overall, everything gets easier with time. I feel like struggling is just a step in the process towards success.

-Gabriela Duran, School of Education & Training class of 2018

THE BAD NEWS IS
time flies.

THE GOOD NEWS IS
you are the pilot.

-Michael Altschuler
Military service offers fantastic educational benefits, yet most people do not take advantage of them. Be forewarned: you are not automatically given educational benefits, they must be earned. The military provides many different types of financial aid for college such as special loans and funds.

One way the military can help pay for school is through the Montgomery GI-Bill. Depending on the job that you choose when you enlist and the duration of your enlistment, the army may give you over $50,000 towards earning a degree or a certification at a trade school.

Members of the Reserves and National Guard are also eligible for the GI Bill, although at reduced rates.

There is also the Post 9/11 GI Bill. It is available to veterans who have served after September 10, 2001, with at least 90 days of continuous service.

It is also available to Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 have access to the same benefits as their active-duty counterparts. The Post-9/11 GI Bill pays all public school in-state tuition and fees. It also provides a stipend for books and living expenses.

The amount you can get awarded from the Post 9/11 GI Bill is determined by an individual’s length of service.

A program that works in conjunction with the Post 9/11 GI Bill is the Yellow Ribbon Program. There are some colleges and universities that contribute additional funds toward educational costs that exceed the maximums allowed by the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This can benefit students who want to attend private or out-of-state schools.

There is also a college loan repayment program, which is offered as an enlistment incentive. The Army and Navy offer loan repayment programs to help enlisted personnel pay off college loans accrued prior to service.

If you don’t have a career choice in mind, consider giving the military a try, it might be what you didn’t know you needed. The military teaches many life skills like self discipline and leadership. It’s also important to remember that there are many non-combat jobs that are just as important as the combat jobs.

Kevin Park, Jr.
Panther Academy
Class of 2016
Army

Kevin Park, Jr. joined the military after he graduated from Panther Academy in 2016. He joined the army because he wanted the opportunity to better himself physically and mentally. Additionally, joining the military can help him in his future career. “I want to be a police officer when I get out and police departments like to hire veterans. Also, the Army will teach me skills that will be useful in my career as a police officer,” he said.

Park also credits the military with his personal growth. “Joining the military was a great decision. I like the person it’s made me. I appreciate all of the cool things I’ve had the opportunity to take part in and the people I’ve met.”

Park has the following advice for people thinking about joining the military. “Do A LOT of research on the branch of service and job you want to sign up for because your experiences will vary greatly from that. Make sure it is something you really want to do because you’re going to have to work hard.”

In addition to his personal growth, there are other benefits that Park cites like, “money, housing, food, free college, and health care.”

Although not currently enrolled in school, Park does plan on going for a degree once his enlistment time is completed.

David Tejada
School of Architecture & Construction Trades
Class of 2019

I joined the JROTC because I want to join the military when I graduate from high school. Being a part of the JROTC prepared me for marching, taught me discipline and how to follow instructions. One benefit of being in the JROTC is that I will start off my military career with a higher rank and a lot of prior knowledge. I highly recommend joining the JROTC to anyone interested in joining the military. Eventually, I hope to become a radiologist.
Getting involved in college

Extracurricular activities are not just for high school students; there are many benefits to getting involved in college activities. According to the article “5 Reasons for Getting Involved in College” by Julie Mayfield from USnews.com, one of the greatest benefits is that being a part of various clubs and organizations opens up the door to new social experiences. “Since they’re leaving their family and sometimes their friends behind, getting involved helps them discover new friends with similar interests.”

Going to college and leaving your family and friends can be scary, but participating in college activities can help you make friends and make you feel more comfortable. Regardless of your interest, you can find an activity to participate in because there are many different types of extracurricular activities to choose from. The list below is a small sampling of the types of activities you can join in college.

- **Religious and Culture Clubs**- Religious or cultural clubs on campus create an environment for students to express their beliefs, celebrate holidays, and share their faith or culture with other students.
- **Academic and Professional Clubs**- Future Teachers of America, Public Relations Society and National Association of Black Accountants are just a few examples of the professional clubs and organizations available to college students.
- **Volunteer Work or Philanthropic Clubs**- If you like giving back to your community, then these may be the clubs for you. Black Lives Matter, Fight for 15 and PETA are all national organizations that have chapters on many college campuses.
- **Athletics**- Students can participate on many different levels. From the competitive Division One teams, to the club and intramural level teams, depending on a student’s interest, talent and time, there is a team for everyone.
- **Hobby Related Clubs**- Whether you love to bake or play Pokemon Go, there is a hobby related club for you... And if there isn’t, you can charter one.

Benefits & drawbacks of being active in college

- Helps you build friendships
- Allows you to discover your passions and strengths
- A resume builder
- Improves academic performance
- Allows you to become more connected to your school
- May be too time-consuming
- Can be distracting; especially if you are passionate about a cause
- Forfeiting time that should be devoted to your studies

How to get involved

Once you have decided to get actively involved in college, how do you go about finding the clubs and organizations that you want to join? Below are some ways to find out about the extracurricular activities that your college offers.

- **Club fairs**- Club fairs are a chance for students to meet, learn about and even join some of the clubs and organizations colleges have on campus, including Greek Life organizations.
- **Bulletin boards**- Check the bulletin boards in dorms and at the student center. Club information is often posted.
- **School newspapers**- Clubs usually post meeting times and dates in the school’s newspaper.
- **Student Government**- A college’s SGA will have a list of clubs and organizations.
- **Create your own club**- If a college does not have a club that you are interested in, you can charter your own club. See the SGA for details.

Student Perspective

Karyme Rivera, a 2018 graduate from The School of Education & Training and a freshman at Passaic County Community College, got involved with the campus newspaper, Visions. At first, Rivera tried out a bunch of different clubs to see what she enjoyed and where she felt comfortable.

Although being part of the newspaper can be time-consuming, ultimately, it has been a positive experience. “I benefited from joining these clubs by building my leadership skills, learning how to work with other people, learning the power that a group has and learning about other people’s perspectives,” said Rivera.
Commute or Dorm?
By: Tarek Hammouda

Should I live on campus or should I not? This a question that runs through the minds of most college-bound seniors. Although there are many factors to consider, like price, comfort and accessibility, the choice is a very personal one. What works for one person, may not work for another.

According to the article “Is it better to live on-campus or off” published on the website collegechoice.net, the decision to live on-campus or off-campus is one of the toughest choices new students make.

Although some colleges, like Yale, may require freshmen enrolled in a four-year degree program to spend their first year on campus, many colleges do not enforce a rule like that.

One of the main factors when making this choice is finances. The average cost of living on campus is $11,165 a year. In some cases financial aid will cover all or part of the cost, more often it will not. This means that you or your family will have to cover the cost.

Another factor to take into consideration is preference. How do you feel about living with a stranger? Does it sound exciting or scary to meet new people? How much do you value privacy? These are some questions you should ask yourself before committing to live in a dorm.

The choice is not only a personal one, it is also one that relies on various factors. “I’m going to commute to school because I want to stay home and help my father take care of my younger siblings. Also, I am a part of the NJSTARS program, so I have the opportunity to attend Passaic County Community College for free,” said Joselyn Palaguachi, a 2019 School of Architecture and Construction Trades graduate.

Ultimately, incoming freshmen need to reflect on their finances, their preferences and their family situation in order to determine whether living on-campus or commuting makes the most sense. Although making the choice can be stressful, it is not a binding one. If you change your mind and feel like you chose wrong, you can always make a different decision. “I lived on campus during my freshman year, but it got too expensive, so I moved back home for my sophomore year,” said Michelle Bruno, a 2017 School of Business, Technology, Marketing and Finance graduate.

**Living on Campus at a Glance**

**Benefits**
- You are close to everything
- Meet new people
- Greater independence
- $11,165 Average cost to live on campus per year

**Drawbacks**
- More expensive than living at home
- Less privacy
- More noise

**Off Campus Living**

I chose to live off campus because it is too expensive to dorm there and my parents didn’t really have the money to pay for me to live at school. Even with my scholarships, I would have had to pay out of pocket. Some benefits of commuting are that you can stay in a place where you are comfortable and you could save a lot of money. Commuter students can become a part of on-campus activities by signing up for clubs or activities. My advice to commuter students is don’t be shy, get out there and meet new people and if you want to try something out, go for it.

-Abed Amairah,
Class Of 2018 Panther High School
COlLEGE BOUND

While time in college is spent making great memories, there are some obstacles that students are bound to run into. Below are some of the general obstacles you may come across. This page will also explore some specific experiences that Paterson graduates had in college that may be relevant to the readers.

Time management- College courses require a lot more effort than high school classes. So your time needs to be used wisely. There will be many distractions in college, so don’t fall prey to them.

Money- The main cause of a young person’s debt is college. Student debt can follow you for years to come. Many students need to work during college in order to pay tuition, for books, for transportation and other necessities. The stress of not having enough money or of working many hours, can lead to issues with time management.

Choosing a major- There is a lot of pressure to choose a major before you get to college, so that you can begin taking the courses needed to graduate in a timely manner. Some students wait to declare their major and go in as undecided or change their major once they get to school. Either way, there is pressure to find make this choice that will potentially affect the rest of your life.

These are elements of your experience that you can control and some that you can not, but you can control your responses to any of the obstacles or adversities that you face. Remember, college does not define your experience, you define your experience.

Student Voices

Athlete

Being an athlete in college (New Jersey City University) can be so tiring. I wake up early so I can go to team lift, then right after that I go to my scheduled classes for 4 hours straight, then right back to practice. This schedule can be draining. My time is hard to manage, especially the sleeping part. Some days I end up not eating. I recover with protein bars, protein drinks or anything healthy, so I can stay energized. -Luis Garcia, International High School class of 2018

Academics

As a student at Passaic County Community College, an obstacle I ran into was the developmental classes I had to take. Taking the developmental math and language arts classes postponed my graduation date. I was lucky because I only had to take one semester of each, some people have to take a lot more. -Karla Lopez, School of Education and Training class of 2017

Language barrier

Students who speak English as a second language have some things in their favor because they can use the fact that they are multilingual in future job searches; however there are some drawbacks. Some obstacles they may face in college are not understanding how the university system works, having difficulty understanding what is happening in classes and having a difficult time communicating with advisors and professors.

Some local colleges offer bilingual programs, geared toward Spanish speaking students. Kean College has a program called the Spanish Speaking Program, which helps students who were in the bilingual program in high school, continue to learn English in college. They also offer college levels courses that are taught in Spanish. For more information you can visit www.kean.edu/academics/college-education/school-curriculum-and-teaching/spanish-speaking-program.

Felician University also offers a college level bridge program for ELL students.

For students who are nervous about entering college with a limited knowledge of English, there are some things you can do to make your transition to college easier*:

- Get to know your professors
- Ask questions if you aren’t sure
- Find out about tutoring
- Partner with another student
- Ask professors for supplemental materials
- Don’t take on too much
- Make friends with students from other cultures
- Find a cultural club or organization so you can meet students with the same background

*Information taken from https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/college-transition-guide-for-ell-students
In a predominantly white institution, being a minority is nothing short of a struggle. The constant need to prove yourself and defy adversity can put a toll on your brain.

Often I was the only person of color in a class, which made me the automatic spokesperson for ALL people of color. Professors would constantly look to me for my opinion as though I was representative of “the minority opinion.” This was annoying and problematic.

An issue I have had with some of the people who go to this school is the fact that not many white people are aware of the struggles that go on around them because they are automatically granted some form of privilege from birth.

Although some professors try to teach their classes about this privilege and the dangerous effects it has on society, many students were so deeply rooted in their privilege, they did not want to acknowledge that it even existed.

While I appreciate professors trying to shed light on these issues of privilege and race, it also made me somewhat uncomfortable. Listening to professors teach about the “underprivileged” experience of minority students, was uncomfortable because they were describing my experience! I felt as though my experience was unknowingly being researched and used to educate those more privileged. In a strange sense, I felt taken advantage of and exposed by these lessons.

Although sitting through classes like these was uncomfortable, it also made me realize that I can’t let where I am from or what I have or the color of my skin define who I am. I am smart and I deserve the same opportunities as everyone else in this school.

The culture shock is still wearing off. Although I am not the only minority in Ramapo, some days it feels like I am. When I was in school in Paterson, not only was I around people who looked like me all the time, my peers also came from similar economic and cultural backgrounds.

To cure my culture shock, I eventually got involved in the Black Student Union, which is an umbrella organization to other ethnic organizations. Finding a place where there were people similar to myself

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**Lack of diversity**

Kenneth Aponte, a School of Education & Training graduate from 2018, attends Ramapo College. Below he discusses the obstacles of being a person of color in a school where the majority of students are white:

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**Osaretin’s declassified school survival guide**

Although there will be obstacles when you get to college, there are many places you can turn to for help. It’s important to remember that you are never on your own when faced with any issues. If you look around, you can find help.

**Academic Help**- Coursework for college is very different than the work you did in high school; however, there are many resources available that can help with the transition.

- Professors have office hours that you can attend for help with a specific topic.
- There are also tutoring centers that can help with more general academic issues.
- Your academic advisor can help with issues that you have in a class, s/he can direct you to a resource or recommend a personal tutor.
- Career centers can help you with many things from creating your first resume, to teaching you interview skills, to helping you find and apply for jobs.
- A college library functions much like the media center in your high school. In addition to offering a quiet space to study, the media specialists can help you locate materials you may need for classes.

**Personal & Emotional Help**- There may be times that the stress of college and a new social life will feel like more than you can handle. Luckily there are many resources at your disposal. Below can help with these issues.

- Counseling/Hotlines- Most colleges offer free counseling sessions for students and provide hotline resources, so you don’t have to deal with depression, anxiety, or even sexual assault on your own.
- Resident Advisors- If you live on campus, you will have a student who is a trained peer leader who coordinates activities in resident halls in colleges. S/he can help you find the help that you need when navigating any college issues. S/he can also help if you have issues with you roommate.

**Other Resources**- Outside of the traditional academic or emotional help you may be looking for, there is also preventative care available.

- Fitness Facilities- Colleges have many professional level fitness facilities that are free to students. Many of the facilities also offer fitness classes, like yoga, that can help with the stress of college life.
- Health Office- Colleges often offer health care services for students. These clinics offer many services such as well and sick visits, mental health counseling and nutrition counseling.
## TEST TRACKER

Keep track of your test preparation, your test dates and your scores with this chart. Remember, colleges average your best scores, so take the SAT several times to afford yourself the greatest opportunity to do well.

### Subject SATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Score</th>
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### ACT

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<tr>
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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Composite Score</th>
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## MY COLLEGE PREFERENCES

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<tr>
<th>College Features</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<th>College of Interest</th>
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<tr>
<td>Four-Year Public College</td>
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<td>Four-Year Private College</td>
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<td>Two-Year Public College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical/Vocational</td>
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<td>Two-Year Private College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Liberal Arts College</td>
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<tr>
<td>University (rather than College)</td>
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<td>Single-Sex</td>
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<td>Co-Educational</td>
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<td>Urban</td>
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<td>Suburban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
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<td>Very small (&lt;1,000)</td>
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<td>Small (1,000 - 3,000)</td>
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<td>Moderate (3,000 - 5,000)</td>
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<td>Mid-Sized (5,000 - 10,000)</td>
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<td>Very Large (&gt;15,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extremely Selective</td>
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<td>Very Selective</td>
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<td>Minimally Selective</td>
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<td>Noncompetitive</td>
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## COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Use this college application checklist and stay on top of your application tasks, paperwork and deadlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Checklist</th>
<th>1st College Name</th>
<th>2nd College Name</th>
<th>3rd College Name</th>
<th>4th College Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request info/application</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of Regular application deadline</td>
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<td>Early application deadline</td>
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<td>Safety? Regular? Reach?</td>
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<td>Request for High School Transcript Sent</td>
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<td>Request for midyear grade reports sent</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT Required</td>
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<td>SAT Subject Tests required</td>
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<td>Release SAT Subject Test Scores</td>
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<tr>
<td>Send SAT Scores</td>
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<tr>
<td>Send AP Grades</td>
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<td>Request letters of recommendation</td>
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<td>Send thank-you notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Write and proofread admission essay/s</td>
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<td>Have two people read your essays</td>
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<td>College/on-site interview</td>
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<td>Send thank-you note to interviewer</td>
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<td>Copy all application materials and give to guidance counselor</td>
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<td>Priority financial aid deadline</td>
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<td>Regular financial aid deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>File FAFSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receive response from college</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Use this college application checklist and stay on top of your application tasks, paperwork, and deadlines.
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