2025-2026 College & Postsecondary School Planning & Self Help Guides

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How Education Can Change Your Life

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

—Malcolm X

Presentation Overview

- **Postsecondary Plans After High School Options**
- **College Application Steps – "Student Actions"**
- **Paying for College –Info and Sessions**
- **Exploring Jobs Opportunities, Military or other Career Pathways**

Education After High School

-Here are the types of schools to consider. This could be a career and technical education institution, community college, junior college or a four-year college or university.

Career and Technical Education

Community or Junior College

Four-Year College or University

Education After High School

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Career and Technical Education

Community or Junior College

Four-Year College or University
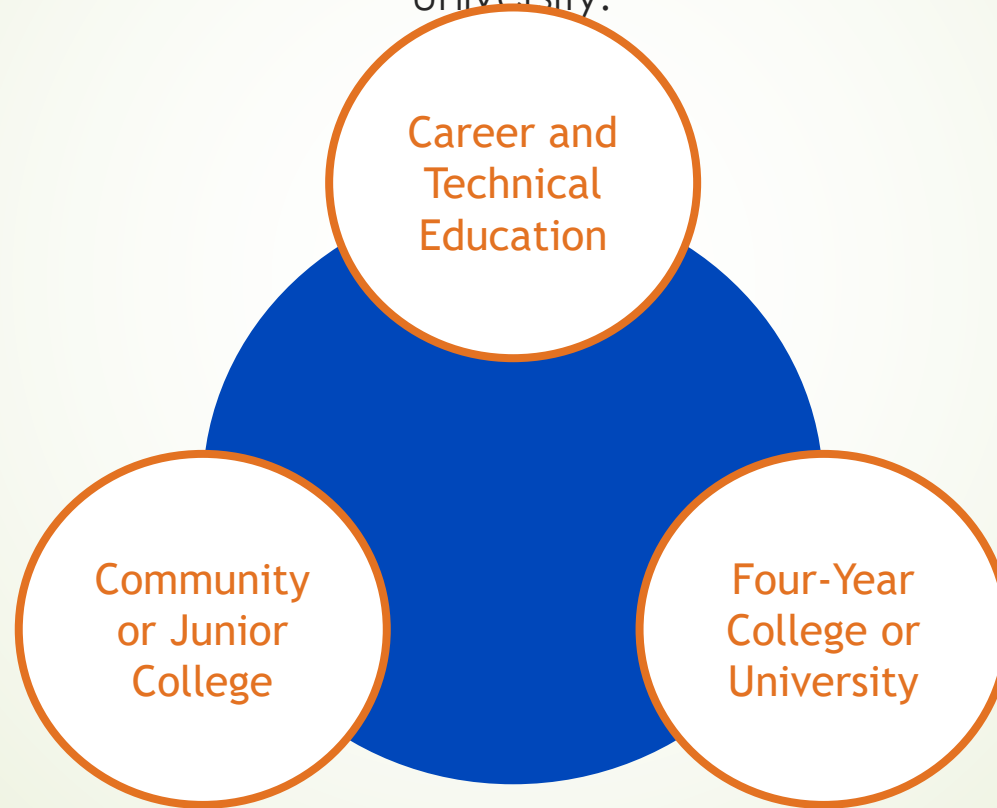
Career and Technical Education

Career and technical education institutions teach students skills related to the qualifications and training required for a particular job and may provide a certificate for completing the program of study but may also offer degree programs.
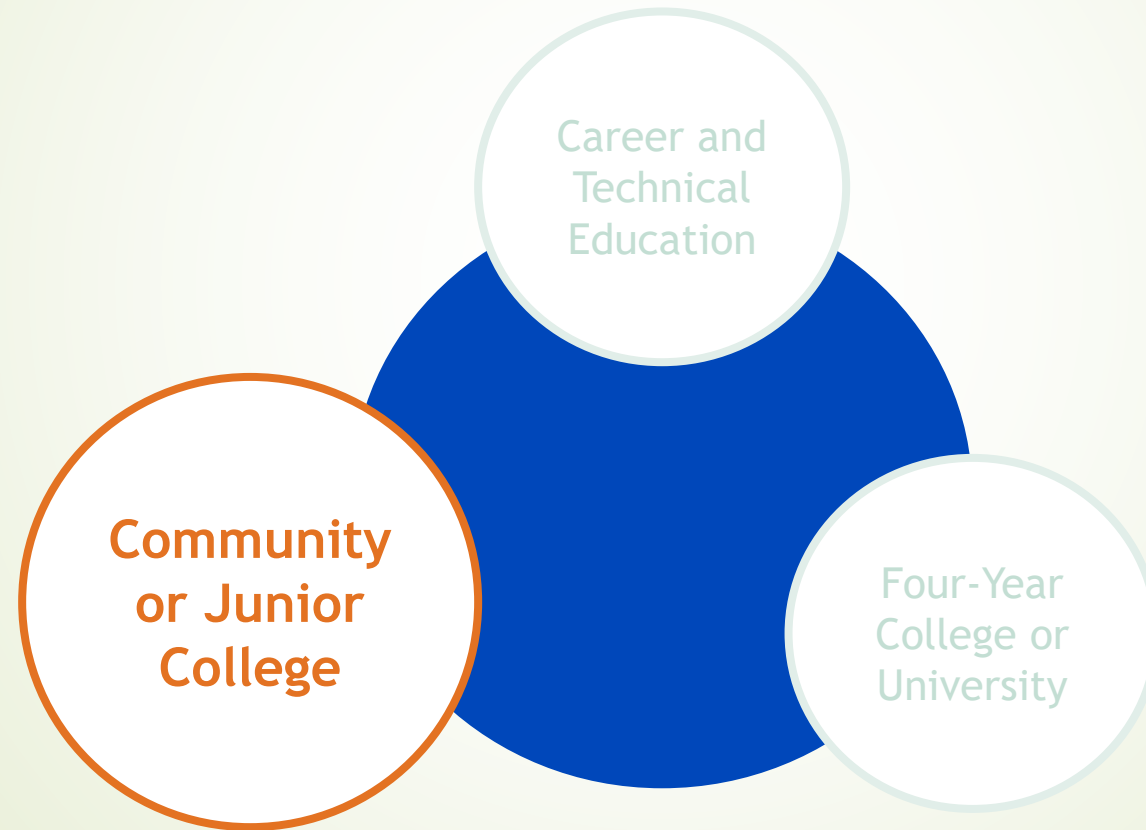
Training is in a particular industry or career with the majority of classes focused on the skill, trade or career you are studying. This education option is geared for students who want to learn a specific skill and find employment within two years. Examples include cosmetology, HVAC, culinary and automotive technology.

Studies recently conducted by ECMC Group show that 74% of students surveyed think a career-base education makes sense today and that 80% stated that the top careers they want are offered through career and technical education.

(Source: https://www.aacc.nche.edu/research-trends/fast-facts/)
(Source: Question The Quo, https://questionthequo.org/)

Education After High School

Career and Technical Education

Community or Junior College

Four-Year College or University

Community or Junior College

- Community colleges offer programs that last up to two years that lead to a certificate or an associate degree. This includes junior colleges.

- Students attending a community college can earn their associate, or two-year, degree. Some community colleges also offer CTE programs for students to complete a certificate of completion while a few others offer bachelor's, or four-year, degrees.

- Many students start at a community college to complete their associate degree then transfer to a four-year college or university to finish and obtain a bachelor's degree. Community colleges often have transfer agreements with state schools so that credits earned at the community college are easily transferable from the community college to a four-year college. This is a good way to keep costs down. Community colleges are generally a less expensive way to complete general requirements as the cost per credit may be lower. Students save even more money by living at home while attending community college.

Education After High School

Career and Technical Education

Community or Junior College

Four-Year College or University

Four-Year College or University

- Students attend four-year colleges to obtain their bachelor's degree. Colleges (especially liberal arts colleges) tend to be smaller than universities and offer fewer majors. Some also offer associate degrees while others offer graduate degrees, such as a master's and/or doctoral degree.

- Universities are often larger than standard colleges and offer more majors and degree options (including master's and doctoral degrees). Most universities contain several smaller colleges, such as colleges of liberal arts, engineering or health sciences. Universities can prepare you for a variety of careers or for graduate study.

What Are Your Goals?

- Learn a trade
- Obtain a certificate or degree
- Not sure about your goals?
  - https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org
  - https://roadtripnation.com
  - www.bls.gov/ooh

When Choosing Postsecondary School Option

Decide on your pathway: 4-year college, 2-year college, trade school, military, or workforce.

Program of study

Support programs

School/class size

Extracurricular activities

Location

Cost

Naviance – College, Career, & Life Readiness (CCLR) Framework

- All seniors have a personal access to our Naviance CCLR platform and are encourage to use the resources to complete college applications and explore careers and postsecondary school options

Naviance – College, Career, & Life Readiness (CCLR) Framework

Features include:

- College Planning
- Scholarships
- Career Planning
- eDocs and College Application Tools

Naviance Student College Planning Tools

❑ **Super Match College Search -** Find best-fit colleges according to criteria that is important to you.

❑ **College Match** -Review colleges that other students who have favorited the same schools as you are interested in. Also, review colleges that have accepted students with a GPA and test scores like yours

❑ **College Events** -Find and sign up for events that colleges are hosting.

❑ **Advanced College Search -**Search for colleges that match your interests and then save the search for future reference

❑ **College Lookup -**Search for a college using filters such as name, country, state, or college group. Click the heart icon to favorite a college

❑ **Colleges I'm Thinking About -**Build and maintain a list of colleges that you are interested in

Use Naviance to find your best fit ..

Overview

Use the college planning tools in Naviance Student to locate the schools that best fit your interests, passions, and criteria. To access college planning tools, select **Colleges** and choose **Colleges Home** or an option from **Find Your Fit** or **Research Colleges**.

Colleges

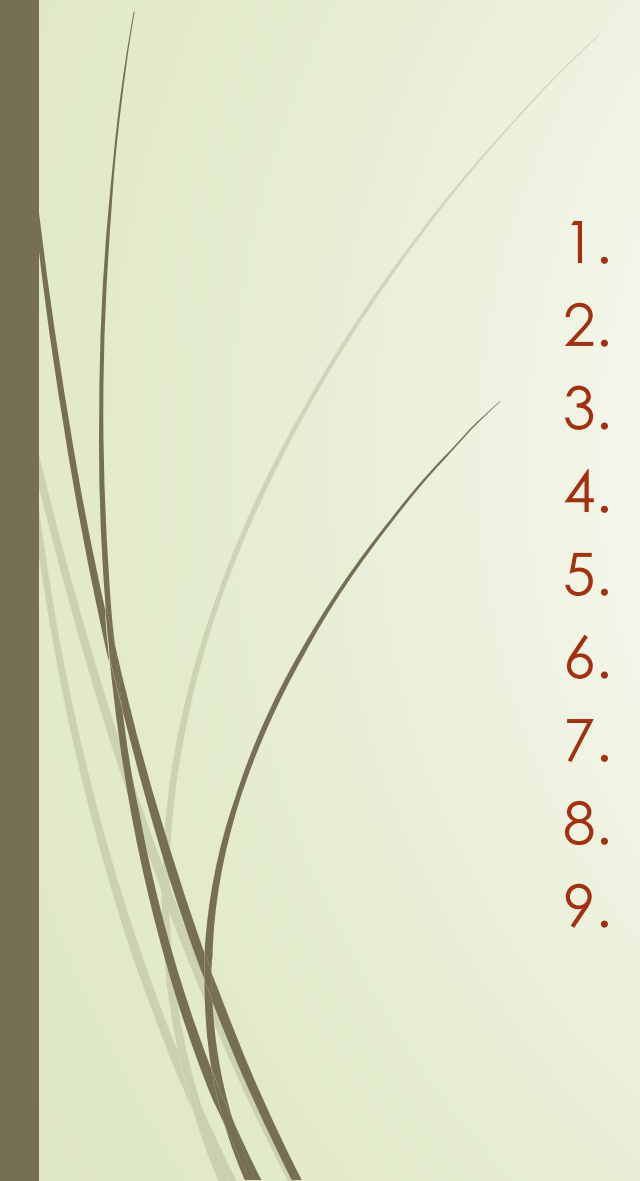| 🏠 College Home	**Research Colleges**	**Apply to College**	**Scholarships & Money**
Find Your fit	❤️ Colleges I'm Thinking About	Colleges I'm Applying to	College-Specific Scholarships
SuperMatch College Search	College Visits	Manage Transcripts	National Scholarship Search
College Match	College Compare	Letters of Recommendation	Scholarship Search
College Events	College Resources	Test Scores	❤️ Favorite Scholarships
Scattergrams	Acceptance History		
Advanced College Search	Enrichment Programs		
College Lookup	College Maps		

College Application Step By Step Plan..

- Let' Take Action ..

College Application Step By Step Plan – for 2025-2026

1. Create your best fit college list
2. Create a common app account
3. Link your common app account to Naviance
4. Complete application via Naviance
5. Request Transcripts
6. Request Teacher Recommendations
7. Complete the FAFSA
8. Apply for Scholarships
9. Attend college visits to Wright Tech. (sign up in Naviance)

<u>Building</u> a list of Colleges I'm Applying To..

❑ **Log in to Naviance - Choose Colleges –Choose from College Home**

The College Planning tools in Naviance bring the common tasks involved with college planning into one system.

➡ Tips to get started

Depending on your goals and objectives, encourage students to:

- Start by researching colleges using tools such as <u>SuperMatch™</u> and <u>Advanced College Search</u>.

- Narrow their college search by adding colleges to their <u>Colleges I'm Thinking About</u> lists. Consider to sign up for college rep. visits to Wright

Build your best fit.. Log into Naviance
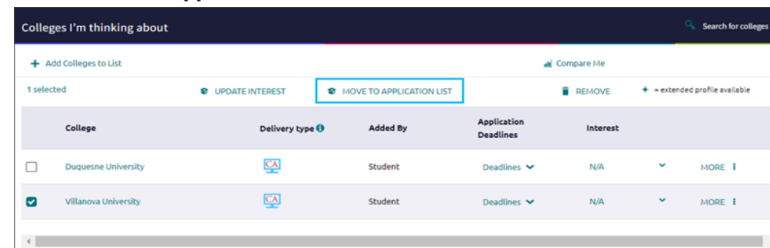
❑ **Build an Application List**

You can build an application list by:

- Moving colleges from your Colleges I'm Thinking About list to your Colleges I'm Applying to list.

Move Colleges to Your Colleges I'm Applying to List
1. Select **Colleges** and then select **Colleges I'm Thinking About**.
2. Select the colleges you want to move to your application list.
3. Select **Move to Application List**.
4. From Step 1, answer the questions, indicate if you have submitted your application to the college, and then click **Add Applications**.
5. Alternatively, click **Add and Request Transcripts**. Select the transcript type to request and click **Request and Finish**.

Add Colleges to Your Colleges I'm Applying to List

1. Select **Colleges** and then select **Colleges I'm Applying To**.

2. Click **Add**.

3. Enter the name of the college to which you are applying and select it from the list.

4. Select an **App Type** from the list.

5. Optionally, indicate how you'll submit your application, if you have submitted your application, and if you plan to submit SAT or ACT scores with your application.

6. Click **Add Applications**.

7. Alternatively, click **Add and Request Transcripts**. Select the transcript type to request and click **Request and Finish**.

How to Create Common App Account and Link it to Naviance ..

The Common App lets you apply to multiple schools through one platform.
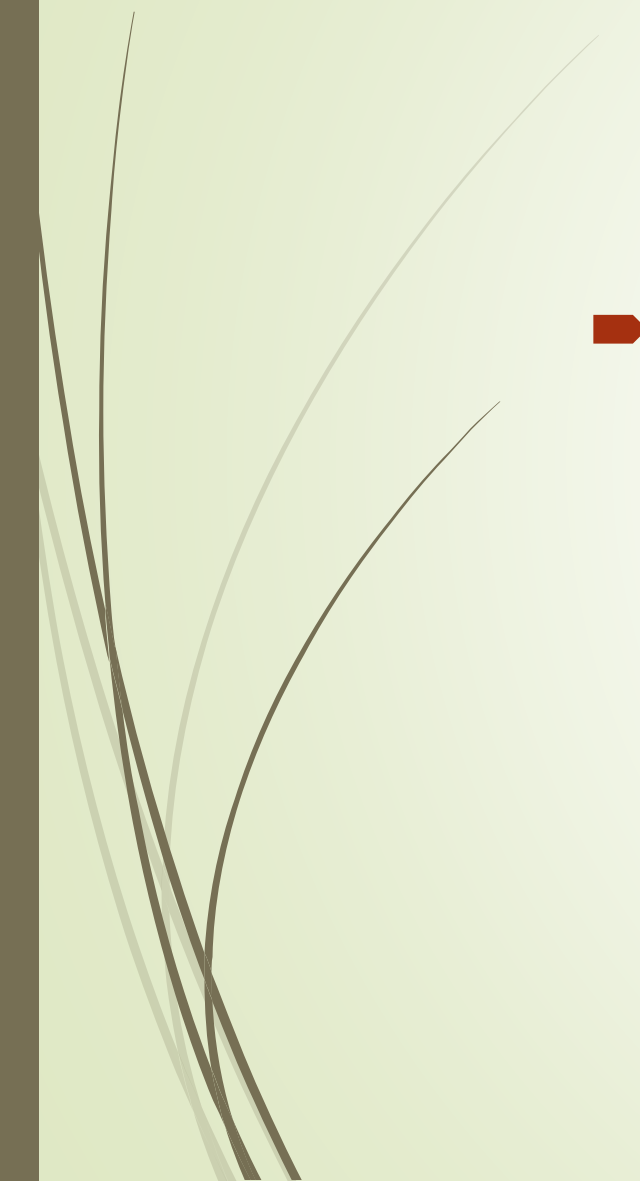
➡ **Student Actions**

1. Register with Common App -Go to www.commonapp.org, click **Create an account**, and then select **First year student**.

2. Follow the prompts to set up your account credentials and create your account.

3. Review the dashboard. Your CAID number is at the top of the page.

4. Select **Common App** and enter information for all sections in the side navigation. Make sure you select the correct school's name in the Education section. Many high schools have similar names.

5. Select **College Search** and add at least one college. You cannot complete the FERPA release without having at least one college on your list.

6. Select **My Colleges** to review the contact information, deadlines, and more for each college on your list.

7. From Application on My Colleges:
   a. Select **Recommenders and FERPA** and complete the FERPA release authorization.
   b. Review the Recommenders and FERPA Information. You will invite counselors and teachers from Naviance Student. Download PDF forms from here if needed.

8. Log in to Naviance Student, select **Colleges** and choose **Colleges I'm Applying To**.

9. Click **Match Accounts**.

10. Sign in to your Common App account with the email and password you used to create your Common App account

11. Review the information, select I agree, and then click **Connect** to match your accounts.
   - Colleges from your Common App account are automatically added to your Colleges I'm Applying To list in Naviance Student.
   - Request transcripts for your Common App colleges according to your high school's instructions.
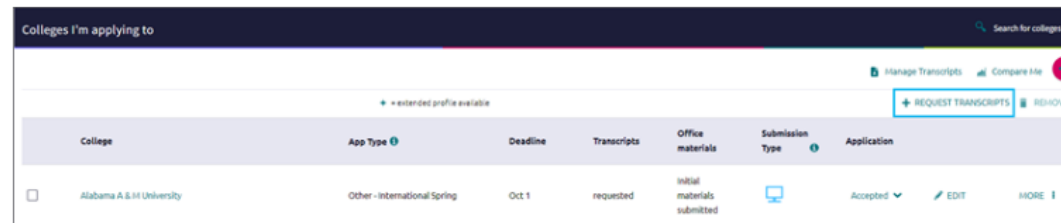
Link Naviance Student and Common App

- You must link your accounts - **Naviance Student and Common App.** After linking your accounts, you can request application materials from your school via Naviance Student.

Request Transcripts

➧ Request transcripts as you add a college to your list of Colleges I'm Applying To.

1. Select **Colleges** and then select **Colleges I'm Applying To**.

2. Select **Request Transcripts**.

Request Teacher Letters of Recommendation

Letters of Recommendation Quick Guide.docx

1. Select **Colleges** and then select **Letters of Recommendation** from Apply to College.

2. Click **Add Request**.

3. Select a teacher from the list.

4. Select **All Colleges** or specific colleges to invite a teacher to write a letter and send it to only the colleges that you have specified. You cannot request a letter of recommendation if you have already requested the maximum number allowed by the institution.

5. Optionally, select **General Request** to invite a teacher to write a letter and send it to any college that you add to Colleges I'm Applying To list.

6. Enter a personal note of up to 3000 characters. Share information that you want the teacher to highlight in their letter.

7. Click **Add Request**.

Update Applications as needed

➥ Update your application details such as app type, interest, result, and more.

1. Select **Colleges** and then select **Colleges I'm Applying To**.

2. Choose **Edit** for the college to update.

3. Update the details.

4. Click **Update Applications**.

Stop in the Counseling Office for Help
See Dr. Straker

- **Wednesdays and Fridays**
- **Period 7**

Email me - madrine.clennon-straker@cttech.org

Resource Links

- [Student Asset_The College Application Process Reference Guide.docx](#)
- [Letters of Recommendation Quick Guide.docx](#)
- [Common App Account Matching Quick Guide.docx](#)
- Review a list of student actions from [the eDocs and College Applications in Naviance Student page](#).
- [College Planning](#)
- [Scholarships](#)
- [Careers Planning](#)

Consider Visiting a College Campus

Observe the Campus Environment

Talk to Students on Campus

Explore Academic Departments

Visit in Person or Take a Virtual Tour

https://campustours.com

Ask Questions

What Is Financial Aid?

Grants

Financial Aid Types

Work-Study

Scholarships

Loans

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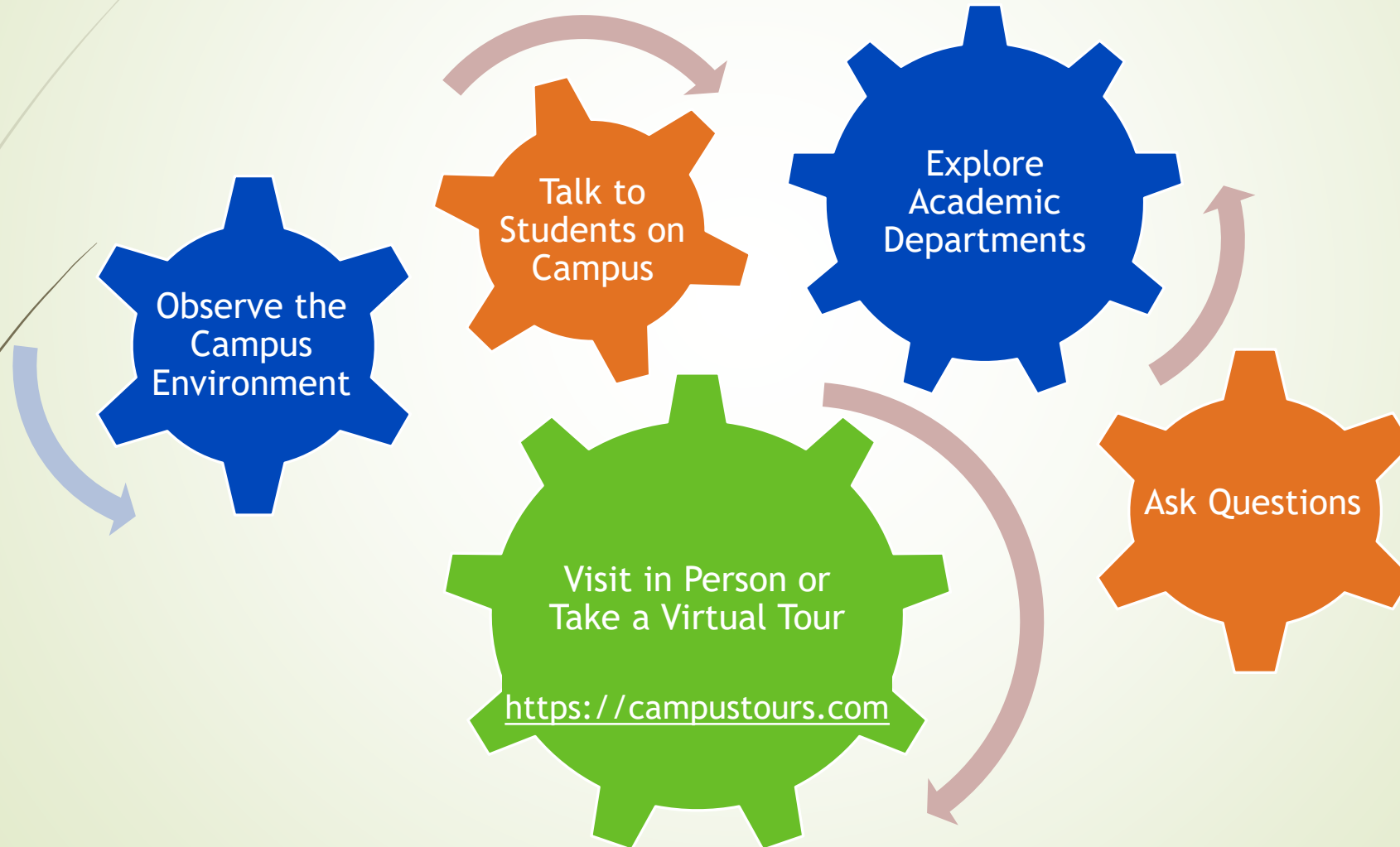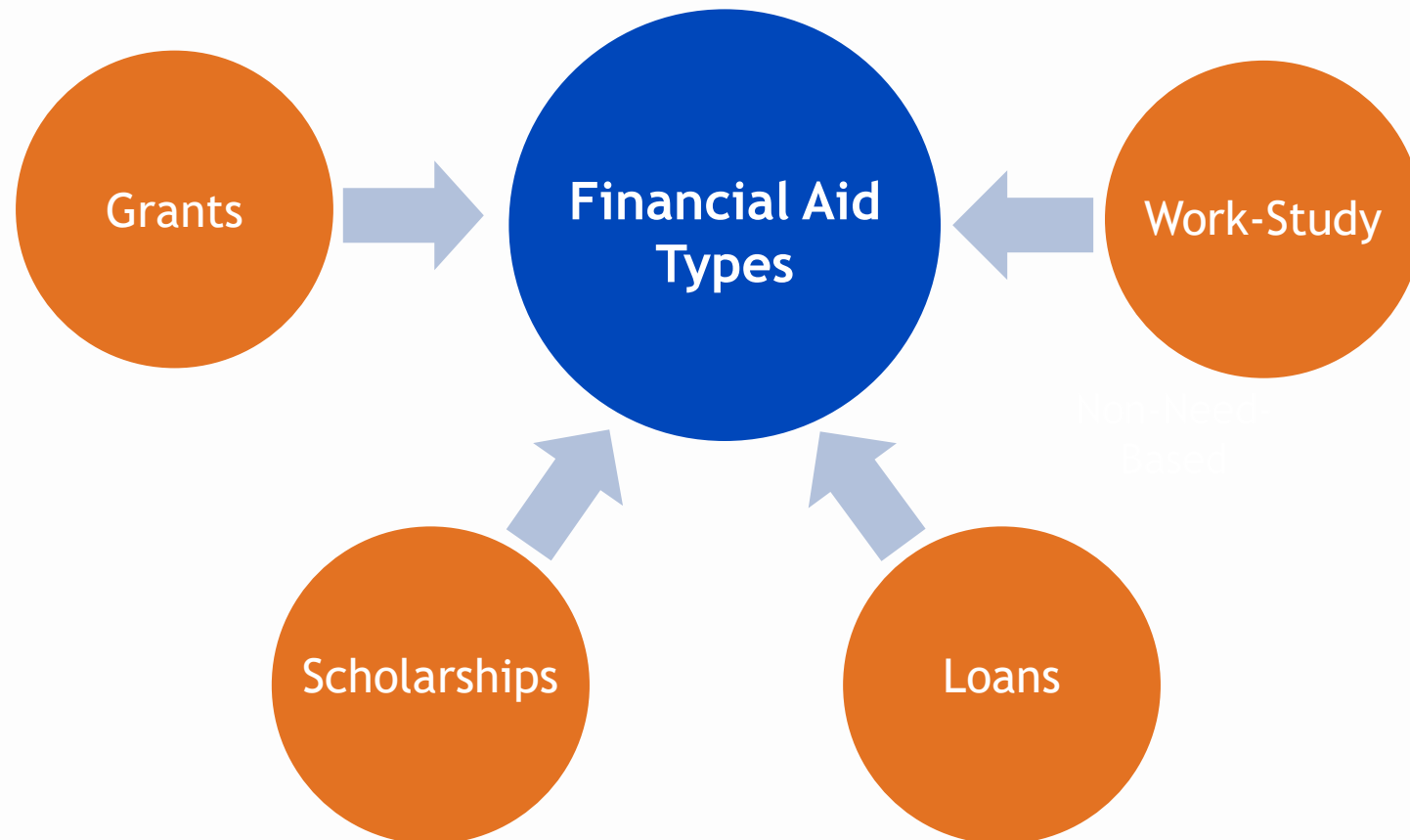
FAFSA- Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to learn if you are eligible for grants, scholarships, work-study programs, and loans for college or career school.

FAFSA Help Sessions

- **When**: Wednesdays, 12:30–2:00 PM, Nov 5, 2025 through Jan 31, 2026

- **Where:** J.M. Wright Technical High School

- **Services**: FAFSA Completion Support, College Prep Advising (applications, fee-waivers where eligible, program/college exploration), and appointment sign-ups for students who need follow-through.

Prepare for your Session visit ..What to Bring..

❑ **FSA ID** for the student (and for a contributor/parent if applicable).

❑ **Email addresses** for student and contributor(s) with passwords they can access on site.

❑ **Social Security number** (or **ITIN**, if applicable) for student and contributor(s).

❑ **Date of birth** and **legal names** exactly as they appear on official documents.

❑ **2023 federal tax information** for the contributor(s) and student if filed (1040 and **W-2s/1099s**), plus any **untaxed income** details.

❑ **Driver's license/state ID** (if any).

❑ A list of **colleges/programs of interest** to add on the application.

Click link for more information:

https://cthss-my.sharepoint.com/:i:/g/personal/madrine_clennon-straker_cttech_org/EeE7Y5LfEUdDgMyG6UQSgoUBRMiz7ppBqtus79D0qPD9jA?e=95BM9x

Create Your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID

➡ https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch

Scholarships and money

Log in to Naviance – Choose – Colleges –Choose Scholarships & Money

Feature Description

- Scholarships I'm Applying To Build and maintain a list of scholarships that you are applying for.

- Scholarship List Find potentially relevant scholarships to review and add to your applications list.

- Scholarship Match Review scholarships that may be a suitable match for you based on requirements such as gender, ethnicity, and GPA.

- National Scholarship Search Access an external site hosted by Sallie Mae and search for scholarship matches based on personal criteria that you provide

Review Popular Scholarship Sites

Legitimate Search Sites

- www.fastweb.com
- https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- www.goingmerry.com
- www.cappex.com/scholarships
- https://bold.org
- www.unigo.com
- www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-scholarships.aspx

Explore Career Pathways in Naviance..

▸ Trade school, military, or workforce

Enhance Career Exploration Experience

- Explore careers in Naviance -

1. To review career information, select **Careers** and choose **Explore Careers** from Career Exploration.

2. To search for specific careers:
   1. Enter a **career title** in the search field and then click **Go**.
   2. Select title, education, or salary from the **Sort By** list.
   3. Click **Filter**, choose an option, and then click **Apply.**

3. Select the career name to display the career profile.

4. Select a category to review information about the career.

- **Favorite careers**

- Click **Favorite** to add careers to your favorites list or click **Favorited** to remove a career from your favorites list.

Explore clusters and pathways

1. To review cluster and pathway information, select **Careers** and choose **Explore Clusters and Pathways** from Career Exploration.

2. Expand a career cluster and click:

   1. **Read Details** to display the cluster profile.

   2. Favorite to add cluster or pathway to your favorites list.

   3. A related pathway to display the pathway profile.

3. Click **Back to Career Cluster** to close the profile.

➡ Favorite clusters and pathways

➡ Click **Favorite** to add clusters and pathways to your favorites list or click **Favorited** to remove clusters and pathways from your favorites list.

Explore Military branches

1. To access information about military branches and favorite branches of interest, **select Careers and choose Explore Military Branches from Military Exploration.**

2. Click on the branch name to open the official branch website.

3. Click Favorite to add the branch to your list of Favorite Military Branches.

4. Click Favorited to remove the branch from your list of favorites.

5. Alternatively, access branch information from Military Resource

Related military careers
Review Related Military Careers from the Overview section of a related career profile.

- Select Careers and choose Explore Careers from Career Exploration.

- Click Filter.

- Expand Related Military Careers and select the branches of interest.

- Click Apply.

- Select a career to display the profile.

- From the Overview section of the profile, expand a Related Military Career to:

- Display the branch of service.

- Access the branch website.

- Click the heart icon to add or remove the branch from your favorites list.

Use Search Job Opportunities

1. Select **Careers** and then choose **Search Job Opportunities** from Experiential Exploration.

2. Enter or select the search criteria and then click **Search**.

3. From the list of job opportunities:

   1. Select the title to display the opportunity details and the option to **Apply Now**.

   2. Click the **heart** icon to add the opportunity to Favorite Job Opportunities.

Use the Roadtrip Nation interview archive

- The Roadtrip Nation Interview Archive is a digital career exploration tool with access to nearly 10,000 video interviews. The videos chronicle the diverse personal stories of leaders who have turned their interests into their life's work.

1. To access Roadtrip Nation, select **Careers** and choose **Explore Roadtrip Nation Videos** from Experiential Exploration.

2. Choose one of the search options to find videos of interest.

References:

- https://student.naviane.com
- Students/Educators | ECMC

School Counseling Staff:

- Mrs. Marissa Krebs (9th & 11th)
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- Mr. Alex Queralt – (10th & 12th)
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  - **Dr. Madrine Clennon- Straker, Director**
  - **Madrine.Clennon-Straker@cttech.org**