



# CAREER PLANNING GUIDE



# Connect

# INTEREST TO CAREER

**Did you know?**

You can turn your interests into a job you love!

Think about your hobbies and the things you're interested in. No matter what you like to do, there will be many different career opportunities within your field of interest. For example:

**If you like:**  
art

**You could be a:** Graphic Designer, Animator, Fine Artist, Art Historian, Photographer, Web Designer, Illustrator, Fashion Designer, Museum Curator, or Props Artist.

**If you like:**  
animals and nature

**You could be a:** Veterinarian, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Park Ranger, Zoo Keeper, Wildland Firefighter, Environmental Engineer, Geologist, or Wildlife Photographer.

**If you like:**  
puzzles, math, and science

**You could be a:** Detective, Architect, Auto Mechanic, Doctor, Forensic Anthropologist, Engineer, Software Developer, Archeologist, or Computer Programmer.

**If you like:**  
stories and history

**You could be a:** Psychologist, Author, Teacher, Historian, Anthropologist, Archivist, Librarian, Editor, Journalist, Lawyer, or Script Writer.



# WHY COLLEGE?

## Did you know?

Those with a Bachelor's degree earn about \$1 million more on average in their lifetimes than those with only a high school diploma

### UNLOCK JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Many jobs require a certain level of education, and beyond that, many jobs require specialized training in a specific field before you can apply for them.



### MAKE CONNECTIONS

College can help you meet new people and build relationships that could become the foundation of a professional network including advisors, professors and other alumni.



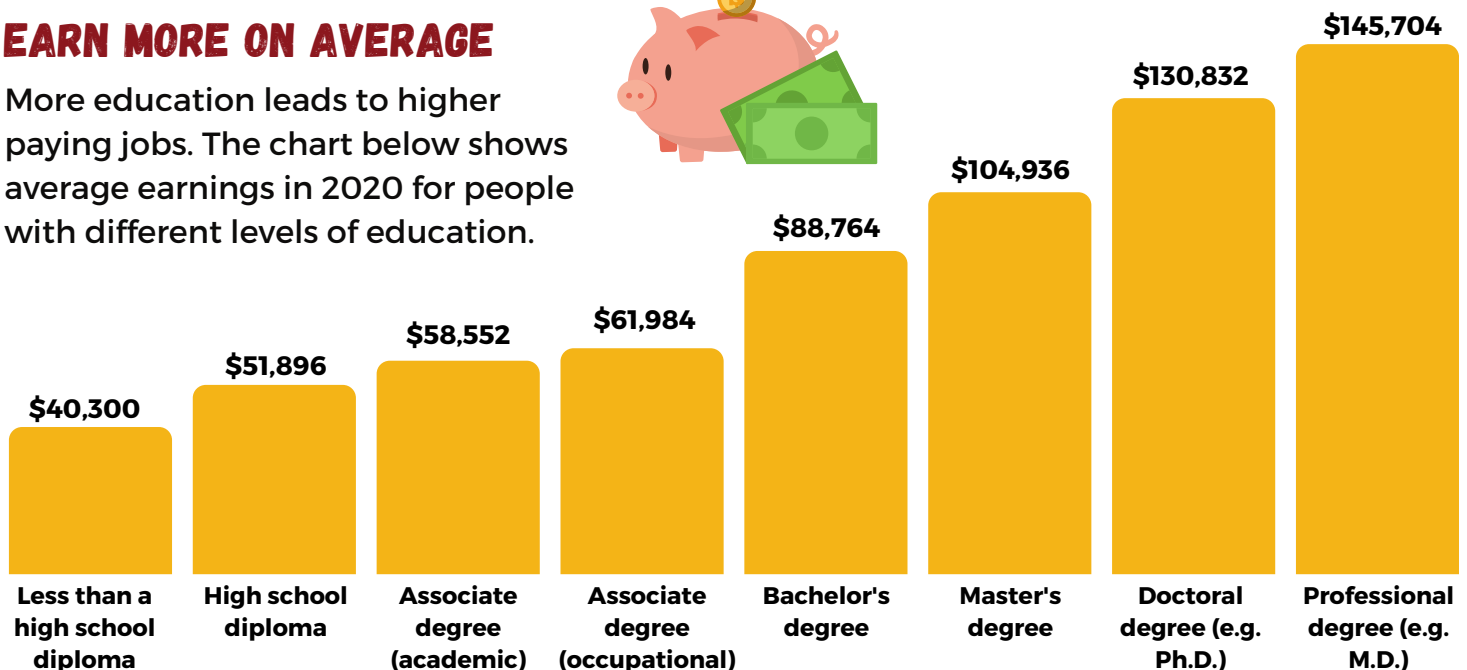
### LEARN NEW SKILLS

College can help you build practical job skills that will prepare you for your future such as the development of good time management strategies, communication skills, responsibility and global thinking.



### EARN MORE ON AVERAGE

More education leads to higher paying jobs. The chart below shows average earnings in 2020 for people with different levels of education.



# Connect

# CAREER TO COLLEGE

**Did you know?**

A Bachelor's degree is the most common educational requirement for a job

Any career you choose will require you to have certain **qualifications** in order to perform the job. Many jobs require you to have specific educational degrees in specific subjects as part of these qualifications. It's important to research the **educational requirements** of the jobs you think you might be interested in. Below are some examples of educational requirements for popular careers in different fields.

## CAREER

## MINIMUM EDUCATION REQUIRED BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Auto Mechanic	A vocational school certificate or an Associate degree from a community college (at least two years of college); concentration in mathematics.
Doctor	A Bachelor's degree in a science field and a four-year graduate program that results in a medical degree (M.D.).
Fashion Designer	Vocational school certificate or an Associate degree from a community college (at least two years).
Firefighter	Vocational training certificate from an accredited training facility, academy, or community college (approximately 8-16 weeks).
Graphic Designer/ Computer Technician	A Bachelor's degree from a college or university (at least four years); concentration in computer sciences.
Lawyer	A Bachelor's degree in a social science field (at least four years) and a three-year graduate program that results in a Juris Doctor (J.D.).
Nurse	Concentration of science for an Associate degree from a community college (at least two years) for a Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) degree or a Bachelor's degree for a Registered Nursing Degree from a college or university (at least four years).
School Teacher	A Bachelor's degree (at least four years) and a teaching credential from a college or university (at least one year beyond the Bachelor's degree).
Video Game Programmer	A Bachelor's degree (at least four years) or vocational trainings (at least two years); a concentration in art and computer sciences.
Veterinarian	A Bachelor's degree (at least four years); a Doctoral degree (at least four years beyond the Bachelor's degree).



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**CaliforniaColleges.edu** is the State of California's official college and career planning platform. Create your **free account** today to get access to lessons and tools that will help you discover your interests and values and find careers, colleges, and/or training to reach your goals.

# PAYING FOR COLLEGE

**Did you know?**  
California awards more financial aid than any other state; \$2.23 billion per year!

## FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

You'll be able to apply for financial aid to help pay for college when you're a senior in high school by filling out the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** or the **California Dream Act Application (CADAA)**.

The **FAFSA** is for U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens, and grants access to **Federal** financial aid, **California state** financial aid, **institutional** (college) financial aid, and certain **outside scholarships**.

The **CADAA** is for undocumented residents of California and grants access to **California state** financial aid, **institutional** financial aid, and certain **outside scholarships**. The CADAA also allows eligible students to pay in-state tuition at any public college in California.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

There are a wide variety of scholarships available to students that are funded by many different organizations. Scholarships offered by colleges are called **institutional scholarships**, whereas **outside scholarships** are scholarships funded by national corporations, private foundations, local community organizations, and more. An example of a local scholarship resource is the Humboldt Area Foundation & Wild Rivers Community Foundation's Scholarship Finder which offers a Universal Application that houses over **170** unique scholarship opportunities!

Each scholarship provider has its own application and their own rules and eligibility requirements attached to the scholarship they offer. Many scholarships require proof of financial need from your financial aid application, but others may be based on other criteria such as merit or area of study. It's important to start thinking about pursuing extracurricular activities that might look good on scholarship applications early. Think about what you like to do and how you might be able to use that to get involved in your community.

## SAVING FOR COLLEGE

You can help your future self pay for college by saving now! College savings can include savings accounts opened for you by your parents, grandparents, or other guardian called **529 college savings plans**. 529 plans are state-sponsored investment plans that have a minimal impact on financial aid eligibility

The State of California also sets aside money for eligible California students to help them pay for college through a program called **CalKIDS**. Eligible students receive a seed deposit of \$500 in a CalKIDS account created for them that will grow over time until the student enrolls in college. To register your CalKIDS account, visit [calkids.org](http://calkids.org).





# TO DO: MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Did you know?**  
It's not too early to  
start planning for  
college!

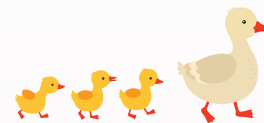
## STUDENTS

- ✓ **Think about your future** possibilities with a college education. Talk about your thoughts and ideas with your family, friends, and teachers.
- ✓ Start **saving** for college if you haven't already.
- ✓ **Check out [calkids.org](https://calkids.org)** to see if you have money for college waiting for you in a CalKIDS savings account.
- ✓ Learn about, and plan to take, the **A-G classes** in high school that are generally required for college admission.
- ✓ Ask a parent or guardian to help you **research** which high school programs are related to your interests.
- ✓ **Work on developing strong study habits.** Set aside time in a quiet place every day where you can do your homework, study for tests, and finish extra work if you have time.
- ✓ **Do your best in school** and on standardized tests. If you're struggling, don't give up - ask a teacher, tutor, or mentor for help.
- ✓ **Get involved** in school or community activities that let you explore your interests and learn new things.
- ✓ **Talk to adults**, like your teachers, school counselor, relatives, or family friends who you think have interesting jobs. Ask them what they like about their job and what education they needed for it.

### Explore:

- Learn about why you should start preparing for college **now** at [studentaid.gov/prepare](https://studentaid.gov/prepare)
- Browse "My Future, My Way: First Steps Toward College", a workbook for middle and junior high school students at [studentaid.gov/resources#my-future](https://studentaid.gov/resources#my-future).

## PARENT RESOURCES



- [Studentaid.gov/aid-estimator](https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator) is a great resource you can use to get an idea of how much federal student aid your student might receive.
- You can learn about tax advantages related to college savings plans and find links to state plans at [www.collegesavings.org](https://www.collegesavings.org).
- Visit [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/for-parents](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/for-parents) and take a look at their Parent Action Plans and their free parent webinars.
- The U.S. Department of Education has many resources for parents available in their "Helping Your Child Series" at [www2.ed.gov/parents](https://www2.ed.gov/parents).
- Explore [studentaid.gov/parent](https://studentaid.gov/parent) for information on saving for college, borrowing for college, applying for financial aid, getting tax benefits to help make college more affordable, and more.
- If you think your student may need additional academic support, try connecting with local college access programs.

# To Do: HIGH SCHOOL

**Did you know?**  
UC and CSUs no longer require SAT or ACT scores for admission

- ✔ Take challenging classes in core academic subjects. Most colleges require that you take approved high school courses (**A-G**) to satisfy admission requirements. If you know which colleges you're interested in attending, check their course requirements for admission on the university website.
- ✔ Stay involved in school or community activities that interest you or let you explore career interests. Consider working or volunteering. Remember that it's **quality**, not quantity, that counts on scholarship and college applications.
- ✔ Talk to your academic counselor and other **college access staff** about education after high school. They can answer questions about college options, admissions requirements, which classes to take in high school, and resources for financial aid.
- ✔ Ask your academic counselor about what kinds of **college access programs** are available to you at your school and how you can get involved with them.
- ✔ Attend local college and career fairs, like the annual **North Coast College and Career Expo**, to learn about college and career options, financial aid, and local extracurricular opportunities.
- ✔ Talk to your academic counselor about **Advanced Placement (AP)** courses. Find out what courses are available, whether you are eligible, and how to enroll in them.
- ✔ **Keep a list** of your awards, honors, extracurricular activities, and paid and volunteer work for use when applying for scholarships later. Consider participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, or science.
- ✔ Apply for financial aid your senior year of high school with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) or the California Dream Act Application (**CADAA**) for undocumented residents of California.
- ✔ Apply for as many **scholarships** as possible. Many scholarships are available to seniors, but there are also scholarships that you can apply for as a Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior in high school.
- ✔ Narrow down the list of colleges you're interested in attending. If you can, **visit** the schools that interest you.
- ✔ Apply to colleges you're interested in attending **as early as possible**. The different college systems have different application windows, so be sure to do your research on the different deadlines and ask your academic counselor or other college access staff for support if needed.



This guide is intended to give students and families an overview of the career and college planning process beginning in middle school and continuing through high school graduation. It includes college readiness checklists for middle school and high school as well as additional information on career exploration and accessible financial aid.

Preparing for college is a process that starts long before the student is ready to apply. Don't wait to start thinking about college; start now!

**Redwood Days** is a college access event for local 7th graders that educates students on the importance of early academic preparation and financial planning. During the field trip to College of the Redwoods, students learn tips for preparing for high school and college, are introduced to what college life is like, and get to see some of the opportunities available on campus.

This guide was created by North Coast Cal-SOAP in partnership with the Humboldt County Office of Education and College of the Redwoods.

Information for this guide comes from:

[csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov); [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov); [cccco.edu](http://cccco.edu); [calstate.edu](http://calstate.edu); [universityofcalifornia.edu](http://universityofcalifornia.edu); [aiccu.edu](http://aiccu.edu); [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org); [nasfaa.org](http://nasfaa.org); [calkids.org](http://calkids.org); [californiacolleges.edu](http://californiacolleges.edu)



Humboldt County  
Office of Education

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