

College Guide

DISCOVER your path.
DESIGN your plan.
OWN your future through
higher education.



2012-2013

About College In Colorado

CollegInColorado.org™

GO FURTHER  GO TO COLLEGE

Colorado ranks in the top five states nationwide for the greatest number of degree holders per capita, yet only one in five Colorado ninth-grade students will earn a college degree, ranking the state in the bottom quartile nationally. College In Colorado was initiated by the Department of Higher Education (DHE), which serves the citizens of the state of Colorado by promoting access to, affordability of, and success in higher education for all students. College In Colorado is charged with helping all Coloradans explore career and education pathways, break down barriers to postsecondary attainment, and create a plan for their postsecondary and workforce success. A cornerstone of the campaign, www.CollegInColorado.org, offers a one-stop resource to help students and parents plan, apply and pay for college.



Individual Career and Academic Plan

Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)

The School Finance Act of 2009 specified that every 6th grade student must have a CollegelInColorado.org account, and that each district in Colorado must provide access to, and assistance in, student development and maintenance of their Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP). College In Colorado is working to reduce any additional burden these requirements may impose by providing the best tools and features possible on CollegelInColorado.org. **Parents, check**

with your school for more information on your student's ICAP progress.



Not sure where to start?

The College Guide is designed to assist you as you make your way through the ICAP, career, college and financial aid planning process. It is a resource that will help you better navigate the College In Colorado Website, as well as provide an overview of the features available to you and your family. **Once you have read through this booklet, go online to CollegelInColorado.org and start planning your future.**

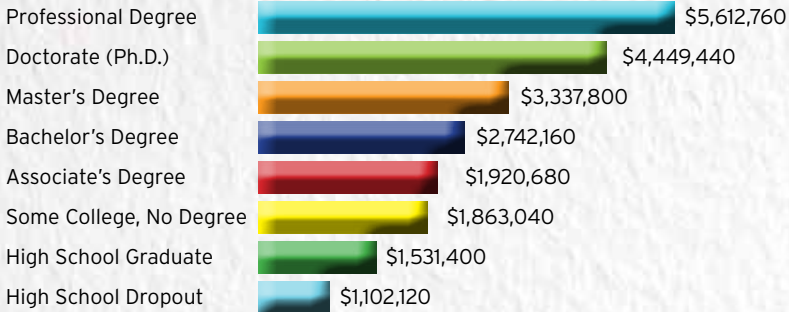
Take a **virtual tour** of CollegelInColorado.org or use the **Guideways** to walk through the site step-by-step.



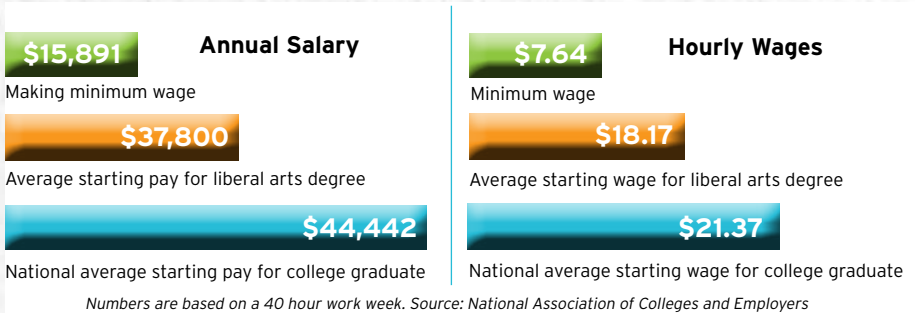
For more information go to CollegelInColorado.org or call (720) 264-8560.

Top 10 Reasons to Plan for Your Future

- 1. Increase your income.** College graduates earn \$1 million more over their lifetime than high school graduates.



- 2. Open the door to opportunity.** By obtaining a college degree, you open up the doors to more possibilities to lead, and to map out your own path.
- 3. Support your family.** Obtaining a degree will allow you to support yourself and your family more comfortably.



- 4. Pave the path for others in your life.** Set an example for your brothers or sisters, even your friends, to pursue their own college and career goals.
- 5. Be prepared for the workforce.** More than 44% of college graduates reported a close relationship between what they studied in college and their first job.
- 6. College is fun!** You will make lifelong friends, do amazing things, become more confident, take on new challenges, and learn how to think and express yourself.

- 7. Make educated decisions.** Nearly 50% of recent college graduates said they would have taken more care in choosing a major or would have chosen a different major.
- 8. Expand your horizons.** In college you gain new experiences, can study abroad, learn about different cultures, and meet new people.
- 9. Find a career you love rather than a job that just pays the bills.**
By planning for a career path, you can study subjects that you enjoy, that will prepare you to be an expert in your field, and start a career that interests you.
- 10. Make a difference.** To stay competitive in the world's economy, our country needs 20 million people to obtain some education beyond high school by 2025. Be part of a brighter future!

Your Top Reasons to Plan for Your Future

Middle School

Career Exploration →

- Learn about yourself.
- Use the **Career-O-Matic** and see what happens when you leave your career choice to chance.
- Use the **Career Key** to explore your interests, careers and future possibilities.
- Discover **Career Clusters** and which clusters relate to your interests.
- Begin your college savings plan if you haven't already.

High School Planning →

- Start thinking about high school courses that fit with your career interests.
- Learn about the Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR).
- Talk to your counselor about taking college courses during high school.
- Use the **High School Planning Timelines** to help you along the way.
- Double check with your counselor to ensure your coursework plan is on track for graduation.

College Planning →

- Explore education options after high school.
- Look at college programs and majors that fit your career interests.

Financial Aid Planning →

- Learn about scholarship opportunities.
- Talk with your parents about ways you can start saving for your higher education plans.

Your Portfolio and Goals →

- Discuss your future ambitions with your parents and set goals to achieve them.
- Reflect on your goals and make sure to update them as you go along.
- Save all your work in your CIC portfolio.

Find all your tools on CollegelnColorado.org

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with icons for Career Planning, High School Planning, College Planning, Financial Aid Planning, and Your Portfolio. The main content area is titled "MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT" and includes sections for Career Planning, High School Planning, College Planning, and Financial Aid Planning. A "SIGN IN" section is on the right, and a video player is below it.

Parent Tips:

- Use the **Financial Aid Calculators** to understand the costs of college and to start saving now.
- Encourage your student to work on goals for high school and beyond.
- Start searching for scholarships - it's never too early!
- Use the **College and Financial Aid Planning Timelines** to make sure your student is on track.
- All work can be saved in your student's lifelong portfolio.

High School

Career Exploration →

- Explore career options based on your interests.
- Attend career fairs.
- Use the **Career Surveys** to learn about careers and how they connect to your postsecondary options.
- Save at least three careers in your portfolio.
- Review and update careers as you discover new options.
- Create your resume and cover letter using the **Get a Job** section.
- Record your thoughts about careers that interest you.

High School Planning →

- Create a **Plan of Study** based on one or more of your career interests.
- Review and update your **Plan of Study** as you discover new interests.
- Discuss your future plans with your parents.
- Explore dual credit/concurrent enrollment options.
- Use the **ACT/SAT Test Prep** to prepare for exams.
- Plan and keep track of your classes, grades and community service.
- Look into job shadowing or internship opportunities.
- Use the **High School Planning Timelines** to help you stay on track.

College Planning →

- Attend college fairs at your school or at another location near you.
- Explore colleges and universities across the country in person or with **Virtual Tours**.
- Save at least three postsecondary options in your portfolio.
- Prepare for college applications using online resources.
- Apply to at least one college or university.
- Create your after high school transition plan.
- Use the **College Planning Timelines** to help you along the way.

Financial Aid Planning →

- Learn about financial aid options.
- Apply for the College Opportunity Fund (COF).
- Identify scholarship opportunities using the **Scholarship Finder** and apply to at least three scholarships.
- Talk with your parents about ways you can start saving for your higher education plans.
- Apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Use the **Financial Aid Planning Timelines** to help you along the way.
- Use the **Financial Aid Calculators** to understand the costs of college.
- Use online resources to understand financial matters and ways to manage your money.

Find all your tools on CollegelnColorado.org



Your Portfolio and Goals →

- Reflect on your after high school transition plan.
- Reflect on and update your career and postsecondary goals.
- Save all your work in your CIC portfolio.

Parent Tips:

- Encourage your student to start thinking about plans after high school.
- Be sure to sign off on your student's **Plan of Study**.
- Find all the information you need about financial aid.
- Use the **Financial Aid Calculators** to understand the costs of college.
- Find scholarships.
- Use the **College and Financial Aid Planning Timelines** to make sure your student is on track.
- All work can be saved in your student's lifelong portfolio.

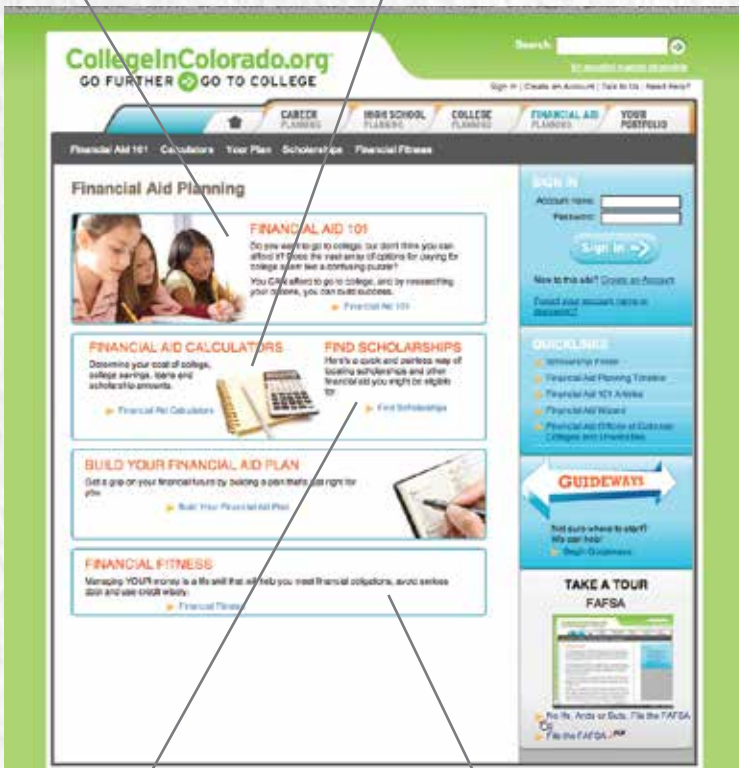
All you need to know about Financial Aid

Financial Aid 101

Understand the financial aid basics.

Financial Aid Calculators

Use calculators to help determine the costs associated with college, how to pay, and how to save.



Find Scholarships

Find scholarships that match your skills, background, and accomplishments.

Financial Fitness

Learn ways to manage your money.

Not sure where to start?

Make a plan for your financial aid package, use **Financial Aid Timelines**, and apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

College Opportunity Fund (COF)



Understanding the Basics

- Created by the Colorado legislature to provide a stipend to eligible undergraduate students attending participating colleges.
- The stipend is set yearly by the Colorado legislature, and is subject to legislative oversight each year.
- The amount is deducted from your total in-state tuition.
- If you don't apply, you will be responsible for the full amount of in-state tuition.

How much for 2012-2013 students?

- Public: \$62 per credit hour.
- Private: \$31 per credit hour.

How it helps

_____ Cost of the college you are interested in (per year)
_____ Less COF (for 30 credit hours - \$1,860)
= _____ Amount you are responsible for after the COF.

Who is eligible?

If you are a high school student:

Students enrolled in postsecondary enrollment options, concurrent enrollment or ASCENT programs.

If you attend a public college or university:

Undergraduate students enrolled at state colleges and universities are eligible if they are classified as in-state students for tuition purposes.

If you attend a participating private college or university:

Undergraduate students enrolled at participating private colleges or universities may be eligible if the college or university is approved for the program by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and the student:

- Is classified as an in-state student for tuition purposes;
- Is a graduate of a Colorado high school or has successfully completed a non-public home-based educational program in Colorado;
- Is financially eligible by demonstrating financial need through the student's eligibility for the federal Pell Grant, or its successor program; and
- Meets any other eligibility requirements established by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE).

See page 14
for a list of
colleges.

How to Apply

- You can apply now if you are 13 or older.
- You only need to apply once.
- You will authorize your college to request the stipend funding on your behalf from your COF stipend account.
- Apply online by going to CollegelInColorado.org and clicking on the "College Opportunity Fund" button.

Types of Financial Aid

Scholarships

- Money toward college that does not require repayment. Scholarships are awarded to students based on a wide range of criteria, such as:
 - Academics/GPA
 - Community involvement
 - Athletics
 - Race/nationality
 - Jobs obtained
 - Gender
 - Financial need
 - Major or minor
 - Geographic location
 - Leadership
 - First-generation college student
 - Interests/hobbies

You must complete the FAFSA to receive grants, work study, federal loans and even many scholarships!

Answer these questions when searching for scholarships:

- Where do I come from? _____
- What's my family history? _____
- Where do I work? _____
- What organizations do I belong to? _____
- What organizations do my parents belong to? _____
- What makes me, me? _____

Use the Scholarship Finder on CollegeInColorado.org.

Grants

- Financial assistance that does not require repayment.
- Awarded based on financial need.
- Many colleges/universities have their own grant programs.
- To apply for grants you must first fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Never pay for help on the FAFSA or with other financial aid opportunities.

Work Study

- Provides college students with jobs on campus or nearby in the community.
- Helps students earn money while attending college.
- Funded by federal and state government.
- To apply, you must first fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Loans

- Be sure to look at federal loans, like Stafford loans, before considering private loans.
- Federal loans are financial aid and will be included in your financial aid package from the college.
- You do not have to accept loans.
- You are responsible for paying back this type of aid.
- To apply for loans, you must first fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Use the financial aid planning tools and timelines on CollegInColorado.org.

CollegeInvest 529 Savings Plan



As a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, CollegeInvest is a trusted resource providing 529 college savings plans, financial education, and scholarships to further higher education. For more information, visit www.collegeinvest.org or call 1-800-448-2424 or contact your financial advisor.

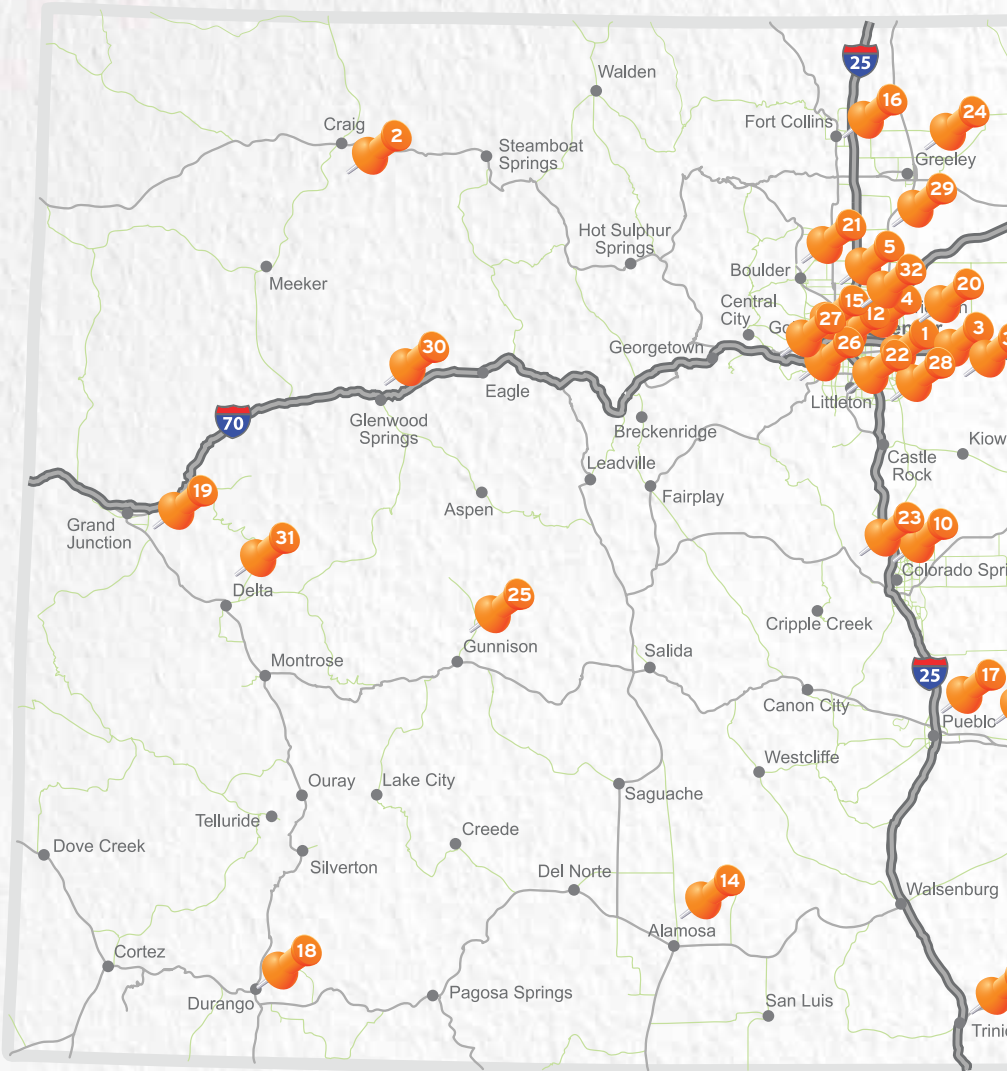
Education Cents www.educationcents.org



Make sure you have the financial know-how for college and beyond! Use the Education Cents program to learn more about both the head (the facts) and the heart (the thoughts and feelings) of making good financial decisions. Education Cents is part of CollegeInvest, a division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, so you'll find a special focus on helping families make wise decisions about financing higher education. There are even opportunities to win scholarships! Visit www.educationcents.org to learn more about this free program.

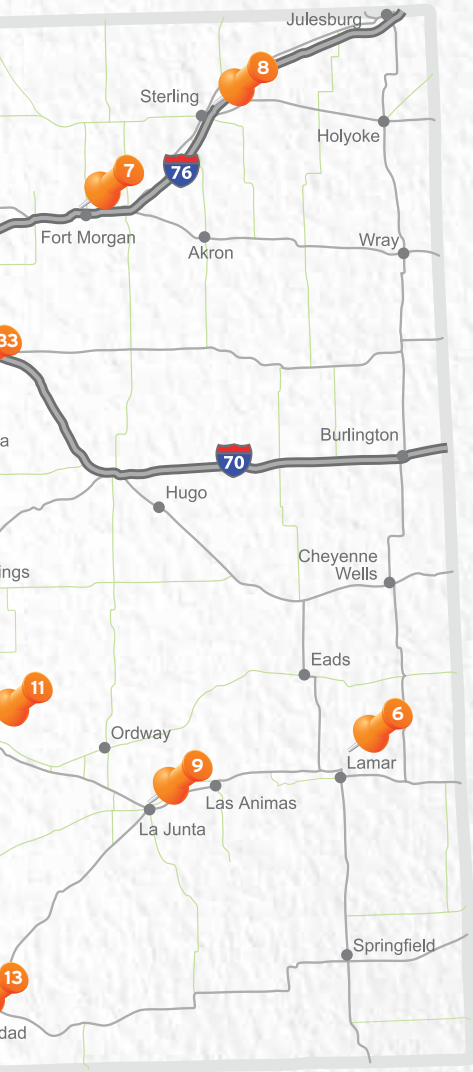
College Map

CollegInColorado.org
GO FURTHER → GO TO COLLEGE



Find more college and university options on **CollegInColorado.org**.

Take virtual campus tours, do side-by-side comparisons, and use the **Campus Matching Assistant** to find the right college for you.



Colleges and universities participating in the College Opportunity Fund (COF):

Public Two-year Colleges and Universities

- 1 Arapahoe Community College
- 2 Colorado Northwestern Community College
- 3 Community College of Aurora
- 4 Community College of Denver
- 5 Front Range Community College
- 6 Lamar Community College
- 7 Morgan Community College
- 8 Northeastern Junior College
- 9 Otero Junior College
- 10 Pikes Peak Community College
- 11 Pueblo Community College
- 12 Red Rocks Community College
- 13 Trinidad State Junior College

Public Four-year Colleges and Universities

- 14 Adams State University
- 15 Colorado School of Mines
- 16 Colorado State University
- 17 Colorado State University-Pueblo
- 18 Fort Lewis College
- 19 Colorado Mesa University
- 20 Metropolitan State University of Denver
- 21 University of Colorado-Boulder
- 22 University of Colorado-Denver
- 23 University of Colorado-Colorado Springs
- 24 University of Northern Colorado
- 25 Western State College of Colorado

Private Colleges and Universities

- 26 Colorado Christian University
- 27 Regis University
- 28 University of Denver

Public Technical and Local District Community Colleges*

- 29 Aims Community College
- 30 Colorado Mountain College
- 31 Delta-Montrose Technical College
- 32 Emily Griffith Technical College
- 33 Pickens Technical College

*These colleges do not participate in COF.

Career and College Planning Services and Resources

It's never too early to start: the decisions you make in 8th or 9th grade will affect your chances of attending the colleges and taking the courses of your choice.

Precollegiate Services

Many schools offer precollegiate service programs that help students to plan for success.

Get involved! Find up-to-date programs on the CIC Partner Network at CICPartnerNetwork.org.

- **STATEWIDE PROGRAMS** - Programs like GEAR UP, TRiO programs, Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound are geared to help you succeed after high school.
- **UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE-BASED** - Programs that are offered through colleges to help with career and college prep like the CU Precollegiate Development Programs.
- **COMMUNITY-BASED** - Programs like AVID, College Summit and Goodwill Industries. These programs offer support for career and college preparation.
- **MATH AND SCIENCE** - Programs like M.E.S.A., Project Lead The Way and University of Colorado's Science Discovery, as well as the whole range of Career and Technical Education options, focus specifically on preparation for a career in STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
- **SUMMER PROGRAMS** - Check with your counselor on what programs your school district and/or community offers. Local colleges frequently offer programs, as do minority service groups, like the National Hispanic Institute and the African American Leadership Conference.
- **ONLINE PROGRAMS** - If your school does not offer a precollegiate program, look for services available online. Some examples include: Colorado Online Learning, Colorado Community Colleges Online, EduTools, CU Online, Ask Colorado and CyberSchools.
- **SPECIAL NEEDS** - Programs that serve students with special needs are also available. Examples include: Denver InterAgency Transition Team, Metropolitan Organizations of People, Padres y Jovenes Unidos, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver's Road Home, Red Rocks Community College Gateway Anti-Recidivism Program for Ex-Offenders and DQUAC (Denver Quality After School Connection).
- **PARENT SERVICES** - Programs like the Statewide Parent Coalition and the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education are available to parents.
- Other valuable resources include the Colorado School Counselor Association, Colorado Council on High School/College Relations, Colorado Educational Services Development Association, Colorado Association of Career and Technical Educators, Colorado PTA, and the Colorado Department of Education.

For detailed program information
go to CICPartnerNetwork.org.

Timelines

Middle School

- Create a free account on **CollegelInColorado.org**.
- Start thinking about career possibilities and explore different careers.
- Study, work hard and earn good grades.
 - Get help, if you are having a hard time.
- Get involved!
 - Join school clubs/programs and community extracurricular activities, which can help you find new interests, meet new people and challenge yourself to try new things.
- Talk with you counselor, family and/or mentor about:
 - Selecting the right high school;
 - Classes you want to take in high school;
 - Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR);
 - Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR);
 - What classes you will need to take to go on to a four-year college or university;
 - The different types of educational opportunities available to you during high school and beyond;
 - Saving for college now;
 - Recognizing the importance of having a good GPA.
- Look into precollegiate programs, summer programs and online courses.
- Explore career options.
- Look into opportunities - shadow a person in a job that interests you.
- Create a resume reflecting what you have done or plan on accomplishing.
- Search for scholarships.
- Take the ACT EXPLORE test to better prepare yourself for the ACT.

*Check out the tools on **CollegelInColorado.org** to complete all the tasks listed.

NOTES

Timelines

9th Grade
Freshman year

- Create a free account on **CollegelInColorado.org**, if you haven't already.
- Keep your grades up and continue your good study habits.
- Talk to your counselors/teachers about:
 - Furthering your education past high school;
 - Concurrent enrollment options;
 - Taking college prep courses;
 - Making sure your high school courses reflect your career plan;
 - Completing the Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR);
 - Meeting postsecondary and workforce requirements.
 - Career and Technical Education (CTE) options.
- Use Your **Plan of Study** on **CollegelInColorado.org** to keep track of your courses and grades.
- Use your portfolio on **CollegelInColorado.org** to save:
 - Copies of report cards;
 - List of awards and honors;
 - List of school and/or community activities, include paid and volunteer work.
- Use the **Resume Builder** on **CollegelInColorado.org**.
- Attend college fairs.
- Start looking into colleges you might want to attend and their entrance requirements.
- Use the **College Planning** tab on **CollegelInColorado.org** to take virtual campus tours of colleges across the United States.
- Take the ACT EXPLORE test, if you haven't already.
- Anytime after you turn 13 years old, apply for the College Opportunity Fund (COF).
- Start or continue your search for scholarships.
- If you're not already saving for college, it's not too late to open a 529 college savings account.

*Check out the tools on **CollegelInColorado.org** to complete all the tasks listed.

NOTES

10th Grade Sophomore year

- Create a free account on **CollegelnColorado.org**, if you haven't already.
- Keep your grades up and continue your good study habits.
- Continue conversations with your family, counselor or mentor about your future plans for college or other career aspirations.
- Talk to your counselor or teachers about:
 - Classes you have taken and plan to take to meet requirements for graduation and college admission;
 - Concurrent Enrollment or AP courses - what's available and your eligibility.
- Continue updating your **Plan of Study** to keep track of classes and grades.
- Update your **CollegelnColorado.org** portfolio.
 - Keep track of what you have accomplished;
 - Create a resume on **CollegelnColorado.org**.
- Expand in extracurricular activities.
- Attend college fairs.
- Get involved in academic prep or enrichment programs.
- Use **CollegelnColorado.org** for test preparation.
- Take the PLAN test to prepare for the ACT.
- In October - take the PSAT.
- Register for the SAT Subject Tests and take them in April.
 - This will help to prepare you for the SAT you will take your junior/senior year.
- Start or continue searching for scholarships.

*Check out the tools on **CollegelnColorado.org** to complete all the tasks listed.

NOTES

Timelines

11th Grade
Junior Year

Fall semester

- Create a free account on **CollegelInColorado.org**, if you haven't already.
- Start focusing on your career and college research - use the **Career and College Planning** sections on **CollegelInColorado.org**.
- Continue your extracurricular activities, if your schedule permits.
- Talk with your counselor or teachers about:
 - Your **Plan of Study** and if it meets your high school graduation requirements;
 - Concurrent enrollment options;
 - Which exams you should take, outside of the ACT;
 - College admission requirements.
- Maintain your grades - make sure to challenge yourself academically.
- Determine how you can strengthen your candidacy for the colleges that interest you.
- Search for scholarship opportunities.

August

- Get schedules and forms for the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, and AP exams.

September

- Register for the PSAT exam offered in October - it is good practice.
- Look for college fairs in your area that you can attend.

October

- Take the PSAT.
- Narrow your list of colleges to include a few that are within your current GPA range and above.
- Visit **CollegelInColorado.org** and take virtual tours of colleges/universities nationwide, or schedule a visit.
- Start researching financial aid options.
 - Use **CollegelInColorado.org** to gain an understanding of the process.
- Schedule interviews with admission counselors.
- Schedule visits or tours of the campus.
- Attend college fairs - find one in your area on **CollegelInColorado.org**.

November

- Determine your strengths and where you can improve.

December

- Review your PSAT scores with your counselor.
- Use the test prep on **CollegelInColorado.org** to help improve your PSAT, ACT, and SAT scores.
- Look into test prep programs at your school.

11th Grade Junior Year

Spring semester

January

- Continue your campus tours online at **CollegelnColorado.org** or in person.
 - Narrow your list to match your personality, GPA, and test scores.

February

- Register for the March SAT and/or the April ACT tests - this will give you time to review and retake.
- Research college application deadlines.

March

- Take the SAT exam.
- If you are interested in taking the AP exam(s), sign up.
 - You can earn college credits by taking some AP exams.

April

- Take the statewide ACT test.

May

- Take SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and AP exams if you registered for them.
- Talk to your teachers about writing recommendation letters for you.

June

- Add new report cards, test scores, honors or awards to your portfolio or resume.
- Use the **Resume Builder** on **CollegelnColorado.org**.
- Visit colleges - make appointments to talk with financial aid, admissions, and academic advisors on the campus.
 - Don't forget to send thank you letters to the colleges you visited.

Summer

- Practice writing essays for college applications.
 - Focus on the essay portions so you can decide what you want to say about yourself;
 - Ask someone to review your essays so you can improve them.
- Decide if you are going to apply to a college's early decision or early action program.
 - You will have to submit your applications early, between October and December of your senior year.
- Read any correspondence from your chosen college(s) and send reply cards to those in which you are interested.
- Take time to search for scholarship opportunities.
- Get a job or volunteer - it is good to have on your resume.

*Check out the tools on **CollegelnColorado.org** to complete all the tasks listed.

NOTES

Timelines

12th grade
Senior year

Fall semester

September

- Use your free **CollegeInColorado.org** account.
- Maintain your grades - avoid "senioritis!"
- Talk to your counselor about concurrent enrollment options.
- Save your money. Start planning for college costs, like books, room and board, and social events.
- Check your transcripts to make sure you have all the credits you need to get into the college(s) of your choice.
- See if the colleges to which you are applying to need official transcripts.
- Register for the October/November SAT I, SAT II, and ACT tests.
 - Use the test prep on **CollegeInColorado.org**.
- Review your list of colleges - add or remove as necessary.
- Give recommendation forms to your chosen teachers/counselors.
 - If needed, give them a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Early decision and early action applications are due between October 1 and November 1.
- Look into scholarship opportunities.

October

- Get involved in **College Application Month** and prepare your applications. Go to **www.CICCollegeAppMonth.org** and enter to win a \$1,000 scholarship.
- Make a final list of each school that interests you, and keep a file of deadlines and requirements.
- Make sure you meet the requirements for your chosen school and apply.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT tests.
 - Have the scores sent to the colleges/universities to which you have chosen to apply.
- Register for the December or January SAT I and SAT II if needed.
- Continue writing essays for college applications.
 - Have teachers, parents or friends edit and give feedback.

November

- Submit college applications.

December

- Look for early decision replies which usually arrive during December.
- Check to make sure your test scores are being sent to the right colleges.
- Schedule any remaining required interviews.

NOTES

12th grade
Senior year

Spring semester

January

- Talk to your parents about the status of their income tax forms.
 - You need these for financial aid applications.
- Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
 - Submit the application by financial aid priority deadlines which are January 1 and February 15;
 - If you miss this priority deadline, still send in your application;
 - Apply online at **CollegelInColorado.org**.
- Complete and submit college financial aid applications.
- Ask your high school to send your official transcripts to the colleges to which you have applied.
- Contact the admissions office for the college(s) to which you have applied, and make sure you have submitted all necessary paperwork.
- Keep an eye out for financial aid workshops you and your parents can attend.

February

- Need financial aid help? Attend College Goal Sunday. Go to **www.collegegoalsundaycolorado.org**.
- If you submitted the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA), you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR).
 - If there are errors on your SAR, make the changes and return it.
- Complete your scholarship applications, including those from your college.
- Contact the financial aid office at your chosen college(s) and make sure your information was received.

March/April

- You will likely receive acceptance letters from your colleges by April 15.
- Compare acceptance letters, financial aid, award letters and scholarship offers.
- When you choose a college, you will need to pay a non-refundable deposit for freshman tuition to ensure your place.

May

- Take AP exams for any AP subject you have taken.
- Make a decision by May 1 on which college you are attending and notify the college- it may have a deadline.
- Accept your financial aid offers.

June

- Have your school send final transcripts to the college you are planning on attending.
- Contact your college to find out when fees are due.

Summer

- Participate in summer orientation programs for incoming freshmen.

*Check out the tools on **CollegelInColorado.org** to complete all the tasks listed.

Why Your ACT/SAT Score and GPA Matter?

The standards for freshmen entering into four-year colleges are based on the calculation of an admission index and meeting Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR). The index has two components: the student's high school grade point average (GPA) or class rank, and performance on the ACT or SAT standardized test. The higher your GPA and/or ACT or SAT score, the higher your admission index score.

Remember, community colleges in Colorado are open admission, which means they do not have academic requirements for admission, but a high school diploma or GED are encouraged.

Follow the steps below to find out your eligibility score and to find your Admission Eligibility Index:

- 1) Go to **CollegeInColorado.org > College Planning > Prepare for College > Calculate my index score for four-year Colorado colleges**
- 2) Click on **Get Index Score**.
- 3) Use your number to compare with the index score for freshmen at one of your desired public four-year colleges.
- 4) Decide if you need to improve your index score by improving your grades or retaking the ACT or SAT.
- 5) Use the grid below to see what the minimum index score is for each four-year institution. Remember, this is not the only component colleges will consider when determining your eligibility - there are a broad range of factors taken into account.

Colorado Department of Higher Education Index Score for First-Time Freshmen

Institution	Minimum Index Score**	Example
Colorado School of Mines	110	26 ACT/3.2 GPA
University of Colorado - Boulder	103	24 ACT/3.0 GPA
Colorado State University	101	23 ACT/3.0 GPA
University of Northern Colorado	94	21 ACT/2.9 GPA
University of Colorado - Denver	93	22 ACT/2.7 GPA
University of Colorado - Colorado Springs	92	21 ACT/2.8 GPA
Fort Lewis College	92	21 ACT/2.8 GPA
Colorado State University - Pueblo	86	19 ACT/2.7 GPA
Colorado Mesa University	85	19 ACT/2.6 GPA
Adams State University	80	19 ACT/2.4 GPA
Western State College of Colorado	80	19 ACT/2.4 GPA
Metropolitan State University of Denver***	76	19 ACT/2.1 GPA

Colorado's public colleges are ranked by levels of selectivity, from "open admission" (community colleges) to "highly selective" (Colorado School of Mines).* Under present law, all four-year public colleges also have "admission windows," that allow them to admit promising students who do not meet academic requirements. Consult your counselor for more information. **The Admission Policy is being reviewed and these requirements may change in the future.**

* Some high schools have "articulation agreements" with colleges, ensuring that their graduates are admitted: check with your guidance counselor to determine if your school has any such arrangements.

** This score is a minimum. Colleges and universities may have additional requirements for admission.

*** For students 20 years of age and older, MSCD is "modified open", requiring only a HS diploma or GED.

Higher Education Admission Requirements*

Colorado Commission on Higher Education Admissions Policy requires all students to complete:

- 4 years of high school English
- 4 years of high school Mathematics (must include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or equivalents)
- 3 years of Natural/Physical Sciences (two units must be lab-based)
- 3 years of high school Social Sciences (at least one unit of U.S. or world history)
- 1 year of high school Foreign or World Languages
- 2 years of Academic Electives (such as Art, Music, Journalism or Career and Technical)

Remediation

Students unable to perform college-level work are required to take remedial courses which cost money and do not count toward your degree. It's very important to pass the courses necessary to prepare for college studies.

If your ACT score is less than 17 (Reading), 18 (English) or 19 (Math), you will be required to take the Accuplacer Test, and may be placed in remedial courses.

The good news is that the new policy will allow you to take just the courses you need to meet the standards.

For more information go to
[highered.colorado.gov/
Academics/Admissions/](http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Admissions/)

* Some school districts have secured waivers for this requirement. Consult your counselor for more information.

Glossary

Academic Subjects: Courses such as English, science, history, social studies, mathematics or foreign language. Courses such as tech arts, student aide, farm studies, business, keyboarding and drivers education usually are not academic courses, but are sometimes considered "academic electives."

Academic Year: The academic year is divided into two terms (usually fall and spring) if your college is on a semester calendar. If your college is on a trimester calendar, the academic year is divided into three terms. A quarterly academic year is divided into four periods of about 12 weeks each.

Admission: The acceptance of an applicant by a college or university. Usually, colleges and universities base admission on an evaluation of applicants' likely success in college.

Admission Tests: Aptitude, achievement or placement tests used as part of admissions evaluations - usually the Accuplacer, ACT or SAT I. Less often, the College Board SAT II subject tests.

Advanced Placement (AP): Placement of a college freshman in an advanced class based on work completed in high school. Most often colleges and universities use the College Board's advanced placement tests to determine Advanced Placement. Advanced Placement may be given with or without credit hours.

ASCENT: Colorado's fifth year high school program for college credit.

Associate Degree: The degree for college programs requiring at least two but fewer than four years of study. Typically awarded by two-year colleges.

Bachelor's Degree: The degree for undergraduate college programs usually requiring four years of study. Also called the baccalaureate degree.

Campus: The grounds of a college or university.

Certificate: The award usually given for completing a college program or Career and Technical Education (CTE) specialty requiring less than two years of study.

Class Rank: The position of a student in his or her graduating class.

College: Usually, this is an institution of higher education that offers only undergraduate programs and limited graduate programs, but it can also be a separate unit within a university like a College of Business or College of Arts and Sciences. Often colleges within a university have different admission requirements.

CollegeInColorado.org: A free Website to help you plan, apply and pay for college, offered by the state of Colorado.

College Opportunity Fund (COF): An undergraduate tuition stipend program funded by the state of Colorado.

College Preparatory Subjects: Usually the same as academic subjects. See academic subjects.

Concurrent Enrollment: See dual enrollment.

Course: A single subject usually taken for one term, either quarter, trimester, or semester.

Credit Hour: A measure of completed college work. Usually colleges give one credit hour for each hour of class time during the week.

Degree: The certificate or title awarded by a college or university to show completion of a course of study. Colleges and universities sometimes give honorary degrees to recognize outstanding achievement.

Dual Enrollment: High school students enrolled in both high school and college courses at the same time have dual enrollment. Also called Concurrent Enrollment.

Elective: A non-required course that students may choose. Note that the Higher Education Admission Requirements call for completion of academic elective courses.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the application used to determine a student's eligibility for federally subsidized loans, grants, scholarships and work-study funds. Although paper FAFSA are still accepted, processing is quicker when the FAFSA is filed online. A parent and student must complete this form to be considered for federal student aid (including student loans), state funding and most institutional awards. Most colleges require students to complete the FAFSA. The financial aid office at your college uses the information you provide in this federal application to determine the types of financial aid you are eligible to receive.

Fees: Special charges made by a college for activities or services such as health services and student government. Fees may also be for facilities such as computers or athletic lockers, or for a breakage or damage deposit in laboratory courses.

Financial Aid: The money awarded to a student based on financial need. Colleges award need-based financial aid in a financial aid "package" that may contain loans, grants, scholarships and work-study money. Financial aid also may include any money awarded to a student, including merit-based scholarships.

Grade Point Average: The number calculated by dividing the total grade points earned by total credit hours taken. A quarter or semester grade point average is only for that term. A cumulative grade point average is for all the credit hours taken at a high school, college or university.

Grant: Money awarded to a student based on financial need. Grants may come from state, federal or college funds and do not have to be repaid. Your eligibility for a grant is determined by your EFC (expected family contribution, calculated from the information provided on your FAFSA) and the amount of funding available at your college.

Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR): The Higher Education Admission Requirements are a combination of courses, primarily in the areas of English, mathematics, natural sciences and social sciences, that students must complete as preparation for entering one of Colorado's public four-year colleges or universities.

Humanities: Subjects such as English, philosophy, language and literature as distinguished from the social sciences, and natural and physical sciences.

ICAP: All students attending Colorado public schools will develop an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) by 9th grade to assist with their postsecondary and workforce success.

Junior College: Another term for a two-year college.

Liberal arts: A course of study in the arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences as distinguished from a specialized course of study in business, education, engineering, architecture, etc.

Liberal Arts College: A college that emphasizes academic programs of general cultural concern, such as languages, literature, history, mathematics and science.

Loans: A form of financial aid provided to students or parents that must be paid back.

Major: The field of study in which a student specializes.

Merit Aid: See scholarship.

Need-Based Aid: See grant.

Non-Resident Student: Any student who does not qualify for in-state tuition at a public college due to his or her residency status in another state or short time as a resident in the state where the college is located.

Open Admissions: An admissions policy that does not use traditional admissions criteria such as grades, test scores and high school curriculum. A college with open admissions usually accepts all applicants.

Placement Tests: Aptitude or achievement tests that are used for counseling or to place students in the correct level of college courses.

Quarter College: A college that divides the academic year into four terms rather than two terms.

Remedial Class: A course that helps college students overcome deficiencies from their precollegiate coursework.

Rolling Admissions: An admissions process in which colleges and universities evaluate students' applications as soon as they are complete. Students are then notified of the admission decision.

Room and Board: Lodging and food usually provided to students living on a college campus for an additional fee.

Scholarship: Money awarded to students based on merit or ability, usually academic or athletic. Sometimes scholarships consider financial need and ethnicity, but not always.

Student Aid Report: Your copy of the information you submitted on the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA). If you complete a paper FAFSA, the SAR will be mailed to you. If you complete the FAFSA online, you will receive an electronic copy of your SAR.

Transcript: An official copy of a student's academic record.

Tuition: The charge made by a college to cover the cost of teaching and instruction. Usually it is separate from other fees for special activities or programs. See fees.

Undergraduate: A college or university student who has not received a bachelor's or similar degree.

Unit: In high school, two semesters or one year of work in a single subject. A specified number of units, and sometimes specific units, are required for admission to colleges and universities. See Higher Education Admission Requirements.

Voc Ed (vocational education): Former name given to high school and college courses in the career and technical field, now defined as career and technical education: many CTE courses qualify for the Higher Education Admission Requirements and can be transferred to associate or bachelor's degrees.

Work-Study Program: A financial aid program in which students work while they attend school. Usually work study is part of a student's financial aid "package." The work may be related to a student's course of study, or credited toward payment of tuition, or simply a job to help pay expenses.

CollegInColorado.orgSM

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For more information go to CollegInColorado.org
or call (720) 264-8560.

Para más información, llame al (720) 264-8580.

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