

Life After High School

Office of Higher Education

www.ohe.ct.gov

It's never too early to start planning for your future. The earlier you start thinking about college and career possibilities, the better prepared you will be for success. The four key steps are to: 1) let everyone know you're thinking about college and would like their help, 2) work hard and don't stop pushing yourself, 3) find out which kind of school best fits you and your career goals, and 4) learn about financial aid – there's lots out there. Follow these steps and you'll find yourself well on your way to a great future.

Use your computer as your tool for discovery. Unsure of your future direction? One or more of the websites listed below may offer just the spark to explore a college or career you hadn't considered before. You'll be surprised by how easy, informative and fun navigating these resources can be.

Planning for College

Tips for Applying & Preparing for College

ACT®: College Planning – www.actstudent.org/college/index.html

College Board – www.collegeboard.org

Federal Student Aid – <http://studentaid.ed.gov/home>

Office of Higher Education – www.ohe.ct.gov

ED.gov: Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education –
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>

First Steps Toward College – www.studentaid.ed.gov/prepare-for-college/checklists/middle-school

Learn about College Entrance Exams

ACT® – www.act.org

CollegeBoard – www.collegeboard.org

College Entrance Exam Preparation

ACT® – www.actstudent.org/testprep

CollegeBoard: SAT – www.khanacademy.org/sat

ETS – www.ets.org

NUMBER2.com – www.number2.com

Vocabulary University® – www.vocabulary.com

Glossary of College Terms

CollegeBoard: College Prep Glossary – www.collegeboard.com/parents/plan/getting-ready/26304.html

FastWeb: College Admissions Glossary – www.fastweb.com/college-search/articles/759-college-admissions-glossary

Funding Your Education, The Guide to Federal Student Aid –
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/funding-your-education.pdf>

College Fairs

CollegeBoard: Find a College –

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/college-fair-checklist>

FastWeb! – www.fastweb.com/college-search/articles/763-college-fairs

NACAC: National College Fairs – www.nacacnet.org

NEACAC: College Fairs – www.neacac.org

Questions to Ask When Choosing a College – www.ohe.ct.gov/edinfo/pdfs/Questions.pdf

Explore & Apply to Colleges Online

CollegeBoard – <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/how-to-finalize-your-college-list-admissions-college-application>

College Reality Check – www.collegerealitycheck.com

Common Application – www.commonapp.org

Connecticut Office of Higher Education Academic Program Search – www.ctohe.org/heweb/ProgramSearch.asp

New England Board of Higher Education – www.nebhe.org

Peterson's – www.petersons.com

Possibility U – www.possibilityu.com

U. S. Department of Education College Navigator – <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Student-Athletes

NAIA – www.naia.org

NCAA – www.ncaa.org

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER – www.eligibilitycenter.org

NJCAA: National Junior College Athletic Association – www.njcaa.org

College Financial Aid Resources

College Goal Sunday Connecticut – www.collegegoalsundayct.org

College Scorecard – <http://collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard/index.aspx>

Office of Higher Education Student Financial Aid – www.ohe.ct.gov/SFA

FastWeb – www.fastweb.com

Federal Student Aid – www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov

Federal Student Aid Loan Counseling Tool – <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>

FinAid – www.finaid.org

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators – www.nasfaa.org

Planning Your Career

Find a Career that Matches Your Interests & Skills

College & Career Quest Exercise – www.njsca.org/col/colquest.htm

The Career Interests Game – <http://career.missouri.edu/career-interest-game>

Connecticut Department of Labor: Pathways to the World of Work for Young Adults – Self-Assessment – www.ctdol.state.ct.us/youth/assessment.htm

Mapping Your Future – <http://mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer>

Career Exploration Resources for Middle School Students

Engineer Girl! – www.engineergirl.org

The Fun Works for Careers You Never Knew Existed –

www.mydigitalchalkboard.org/portal/default/Group/Viewer/GroupView?action=2&q1=funworks

Kids.gov – <https://kids.usa.gov/teens/jobs/index.shtml> (Links to a variety of career information sites)

NASA – www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents (Information on space-related subjects and careers)

NIEHS KIDS' PAGES: Health and Science Careers – <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/explore/scienceworks/index.htm>

Sci4KIDS – www.ars.usda.gov/oc/kids/index/

Science Careers – www.montereybayaquarium.org/lc/kids_place/kidseq_careers.aspx

Career Exploration Resources for High School Students

Connecticut State Colleges & Universities – www.ct.edu/academics/cot

Connecticut Early Childhood Education Interactive Career Map – <http://ctearlychildhoodcareerdev.info>

Connecticut League for Nursing: A Guide to Nursing Education in Connecticut – www.ctleaguefornursing.org/nursing-guide

Connecticut State Department of Education: Certification Information – www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cert
 (How to become a Connecticut teacher)
 H.O.T. Health Occupations and Technology Careers in Connecticut – www.healthcareersinct.com
 Institute of Sustainable Energy: Green Jobs in Connecticut – www1.easternct.edu/sustainenergy/
 Connecticut Department of Labor Job & Career ConneCTion – www.ctjobandcareer.org (A comprehensive site
 providing links to self-assessment tools, occupational information, educational resources and job search services)
 Mapping Your Future™ – <http://mappingyourfuture.org> (Outlines steps that students need to take in each grade for
 future success)
 The National Association of Music Education – www.nafme.org/music-college-and-career-resources/
 Ocean Careers.com – www.oceancareers.com/2.0/index.php
 The Riley Guide – www.rileyguide.com (A comprehensive career planning resource)
 SIAM: Thinking of a Career in Applied Mathematics – www.siam.org/careers/thinking/intro.php

Choosing a Major

Major Resource Kits – www.udel.edu/CSC/mrk.html
 What Can I Do With a Major In... – <http://uncw.edu/career/WhatCanIDoWithaMajorIn.html>

Career Descriptions & Requirements

Career Guide to Industries – www.bls.gov/oco/cg
 CareerOneStop – www.careeronestop.org
 Collegeboard.com: Major & Career Profiles – www.collegeboard.com/csearch/majors_careers/profiles
 Exploring Career Information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics: What Do You Like? – www.bls.gov/k12
 JobStar Central: Career Guides – www.jobstar.org/tools/career/index.php
 Occupational Outlook Handbook – www.bls.gov/oco
 Occupational Outlook Quarterly – www.bls.gov/opub/ooq
 O*NET OnLine – www.onetonline.org

Labor Market Information

Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment Projections: Education Pays... – www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm
 Careeronestop: America's Career Infonet –
[https://www.careerinfonet.org/Occupations/select_occupation.aspx?next=occ_rep&level=&optstatus=&id=1,11&no
 deid=2&socode=&stfips=&jobfam=&menuMode=](https://www.careerinfonet.org/Occupations/select_occupation.aspx?next=occ_rep&level=&optstatus=&id=1,11&no_deid=2&socode=&stfips=&jobfam=&menuMode=)
 Careeronestop: Salaries & Benefits – www.careeronestop.org/SalariesBenefits/SalariesBenefits.aspx
 Connecticut Department of Labor: Labor Market Information for Students – www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/students.htm

Occupational Licensure

Careeronestop: Explore Careers – www.careerinfonet.org (Click on “Certification Finder” and “Licensed
 Occupations”)
 Connecticut Licensing Info Center – <https://www.cerc.com/licenses/>

Volunteerism

AmeriCorps – www.americorps.gov
 Citizen Corps – www.citizen corps.gov
 Corporation for National and Community Service – www.nationalservice.gov
 Office of Higher Education: Connecticut Commission on Community Service – www.ohe.ct.gov/Cccs
 Peace Corps – www.peacecorps.gov
 SERVE.GOV – www.serve.gov
 USA Jobs – www.usajobs.gov (Click on “Students and Recent Graduates”)
 Volunteer.gov/gov – www.volunteer.gov/gov

Internships

Federal Government Internships – <http://gogovernment.org>
 Students.gov – <https://www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads>

Understanding the World of Work

Connecticut Department of Labor: Pathways to the World of Work for Young Adults –

www.ctdol.state.ct.us/youth/main.htm

JAN - Job Accommodation Network – <http://askjan.org>

U.S. Department of Labor: Occupational Safety & Health Administration – Young Workers –

www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers

U.S. Department of Labor: Resources for Young Workers – www.dol.gov/dol/topic/youthlabor/StudentWorkers.htm

YouthRules! – www.youthrules.dol.gov

Other Sites of Interest***Study Skills***

www.dus.psu.edu/academicsuccess/studyskills.html

www.shsu.edu/~tst_www/tips