

CEC College and Career Guidebook

This document provides information and helpful links to websites to assist students on their college and career exploration, planning, and application.

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College Planning

College Planning Timeline

Freshman Year

- Work with your CEC Academic Advisor to choose classes that are appropriate for your goals, and abilities.
- Focus on getting good grades as your high school transcript will be an important part of how colleges evaluate you.
- Take the PSAT9 in the spring. Scores are not sent to any colleges, but practicing the exam has proven to increase scores on the SAT.
- Get involved!
 - Participate in a club
 - Volunteer for an organization you care about
 - Play sports or follow whatever your passion may be outside of school.
- Start the conversation with your parents/guardian about what they think they can afford for college.

Sophomore Year

- Continue to work with your Academic Advisor to choose appropriate classes.
- Start to research colleges and universities that may offer degrees in which you are interested. Keep a list. (Links to tools to help you research colleges are below)
- Keep track of your accomplishments, awards, and community service to build a resume.
- Take the PSAT10 in the spring. Scores are not sent to any colleges, but practicing the exam has proven to increase scores on the SAT.
- Continue with extracurricular activities

Junior Year

- Continue to make getting good grades a priority!
- Take some College Personality Quizzes (see links below) to help you identify colleges that may be a good fit for you and to help you narrow down your college list.
- Do more in-depth research into colleges on your list and gather information about their entrance requirements.
- If possible, start to plan some in-person college visits.
- Take the SAT in the spring. If colleges on your list require SAT scores, use your free score report option to have them sent.
- Continue with extracurricular activities, or consider getting a summer job to boost your resume.

Senior Timeline

Your senior year will be the most active. Here is a month-by-month breakdown of activities.

September/October:

- October 1-March 1: Complete the [FAFSA application](#) if you are a US Citizen or Permanent Resident. If you are not a US Citizen or Permanent Resident, complete the [Colorado Application for State Finance Aid \(CASFA\)](#).
- October 18-20: During [Colorado Free Application Days](#), you can submit college application to most state colleges for free!
- Complete the online Graduation Application before your spring academic advising appointment.
- Pay attention to early application deadlines for the colleges to which you are applying.
- Register to retake [ACT &/or SAT](#) tests if original scores were lower than desired.
- Begin requesting letters of recommendation for college applications. Email staff directly for recommendations.
- Fall is a great time to take your senior photos!

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November:

- Submit college applications and plan visits (ongoing)
- If you think there are errors on your CEC transcript, submit a [CEC Transcript Correction Form](#)
- Graduating with a degree or certificate from Arapahoe Community College or other community college? Log into your community college student portal to apply for graduation.
- Request CEC Transcripts through [Parchment](#).

December:

- [CEC Transcript Correction Form](#) due to Registrar by December 1
- [CEC Graduation Application](#) Form due to Registrar by December 1
- Apply for college scholarships (ongoing)
- Complete and submit college financial aid applications if not already done.
- Submit college applications, if not already done.

January:

- Order yearbook (link to order coming soon)
- Complete [FAFSA application if you haven't done so already](#).
- Senior Pictures and Senior Ads due (T.B.D).

February:

- CEC auditions for walking graduates wishing to perform in the ceremony is T.B.D.
- Contact the admissions office for the college(s) to which you have applied, and make sure you have submitted all necessary paperwork
- Place Jostens order for graduation announcements (link to order coming soon)

March:

- Contact the financial aid office at the college(s) and make sure your information was received
- Order cap and gown (link to order coming soon)

April:

- Complete [CEC Post-Graduate Questionnaire](#)

May:

- Decide on which college you are attending and notify the school by May 1
- CEC fees and books due by (Date and Time T.B.D.) (diplomas and transcripts will be held until balance is current)
- CEC Yearbooks arrive and distributed
- Graduation Rehearsal: Date and Time T.B.D.
- Senior Breakfast: Date and Time T.B.D.
- CEC Graduation: May 19 (tentative)

June:

- CEC diplomas available for pickup in front office in June (account must be current; records will not be released if there is a balance on the student account)
- Send final transcript to the college you plan on attending

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Researching Colleges

College match quizzes

[US News and World Report—College Personality Quiz](#)

[Niche-Find your best fit colleges \(profile required\)](#)

[College Covered \(Discover Card sponsored\)](#)

College Directory/Information Website Links

These were the top sites listed by US News and World Report. Some of these sites require you to make a profile which may lead to unwanted emails.

[College Navigator](#). The graphics aren't slick, but this federal website contains more data on the nation's colleges and universities than any place else on the Internet. Using the College Navigator's school search engine, you can scour the country for schools based on your criteria, which is handy if you aren't sure where to hunt for schools beyond the obvious name brands and your own state institutions.

[College Discovery](#). College Discovery is a free-forever service and powerful recommendation engine that helps students discover colleges through predictive analytics. More than just a search engine, College Discovery utilizes billions of historical and real-time insights to offer suggestions that go beyond obvious recommendations, helping students to expand their search to include likely-fit and hidden gems. Students will be able to search schools of interest and browse "Related Colleges."

[College Results Online](#). Families assume that their children will graduate from college in four years, but that's sadly not true for most. This great website provides four, five, and six-year graduation rates of schools across the country. What I also like about College Results Online is that it breaks down graduation rates by gender and ethnicity.

[Cappex](#). This website is an online matchmaker that borrows features from Facebook that should appeal to teenagers. Through Cappex, you can access Meritaid.com, which provides a valuable directory of scholarships that thousands of schools offer.

[CollegeMajors101](#). Wondering what you can do with a degree in biology or dance? College Majors 101 offers lots of information about what you can do with dozens of majors, as well as what you can expect academically if you pursue these majors.

[College Insight](#). College Insight, which is the brainchild of the Institute for College Access and Success, has gathered detailed information on thousands of colleges. You can find statistics for any school on such topics as college affordability, graduation rates, and college diversity, including the racial and ethnic breakdown of students and professors.

[Project on Student Debt](#). This website is devoted to helping families make the best economic choices when tackling college costs. You will find tons of information about college debt and student loans. The site also has a list of schools that have pledged to limit or eliminate the use of student loans in their financial aid packages.

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[College Board](#). I am always turning to the College Board when I want to check some quick facts about a particular school. You can easily retrieve the academic profile of a college's freshman class, financial aid and merit aid stats, available majors, and much more.

[Unigo](#). This site, which has teamed up with the *Wall Street Journal*, serves up the unvarnished scoop on schools from the students themselves. You won't find spin from admission offices here. Unigo urges college students to share their take on their own schools through comments, photos, and videos.

[College Scorecard](#). Created by the United States government, the College Scorecard is an online tool that allows you to compare colleges and universities across five data points: cost, graduation rate, employment rate, average amount borrowed, and loan default rate.

Other College Research Tools

[Big Future by the College Board](#)

[National Center for Education Statistics](#)

[Trade Schools, Colleges and Universities](#)

[National Center for Education Statistics](#)

[College Confidential](#)

[Colorado Community College System](#)

[Petersons](#)

[The College Board](#)

[GoCollege](#)

[NCAA Eligibility Center for College Sports](#)

How Do I Apply to College?

- Step 1:** Look on your prospective college websites for important application deadlines and requirements like letters of recommendation. We recommend getting a wall calendar or some other type of calendar and start to mark the deadlines on the calendar for the various universities.
- Step 2:** Meet with your advisor if you need assistance. College planning can be done during your regular advising appointment each semester or email your advisor to schedule a separate appointment.
- Step 3:** Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Colleges and most scholarship applications require that you submit a FAFSA. The Application for the following school year opens October 1st.
- Step 4:** Start the application process for your chosen universities! Check to see if the universities you have chosen accept the Common App. For students applying to Colorado universities, there is a free application day October 18-20 where application fees are waived and free community college transcripts can be ordered.
- Step 5:** Don't forget to request letters of recommendation from teachers and advisors. While the request may be sent through the common app, it's common courtesy to reach out to your teacher and advisor to let them know you are requesting a letter. Make sure you are giving them ample time to write the letter. Click here for the letter of recommendation request form.

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Step 6: Order your CEC transcripts through Parchment. Create a Parchment Account [here](#).

Step 7: Take the SAT and/or the ACT. CEC offers the SAT for free in the spring. Many students take the SAT or ACT more than once to improve their scores. Additional tests come with a fee, but you can register to take them again through the College Board. You will also go to College Board to request your scores be sent to the universities to which you are applying.

Application Assistance Website Links

[Colorado Free Application Days](#)

[Commonapp.org](#)

[Common App Writing Prompts](#)

[Common App Writing Requirements by College](#)

[How to approach the essay – Common App](#)

[CECDC Parchment](#) (ordering CEC transcripts)

[Sending SAT Scores](#)

[Test Optional advice compiled by CDHE](#)

Financial Aid/Scholarship Search Engines

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- [How to fill out the FAFSA video](#)
- [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
- [FAFSA 4Caster](#)
- [FAFSA YouTube Channel](#)

Scholarships

Following are links to scholarship search engines. These enable students to pinpoint scholarships that may apply to their interests and abilities. Before you start looking for scholarships using a scholarship search service, you may want to read this [article by Collegescholarships.org](#) that reviews some of the search services.

- [FastWeb Scholarship Search](#)
- [FinAid!](#)
- [SallieMae](#)
- [CAPPEX](#)
- [UNIGO](#)
- [BIGFUTURE](#)

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- [BROKESCHOLAR](#)
- [The University Network](#)
- [Colorado College Opportunity Fund \(COF\)](#)

Scholarships for Colorado Students

[Daniel's Fund Scholarship: October 15](#)

- Be a **high school senior** graduating from a school in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming
- Be a resident of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming
- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- Earn a minimum **Grade Point Average of 3.0 in high school** (on an unweighted 4.0 scale)
- Earn a minimum **SAT Math score of 490 and a minimum Evidence-Based Reading & Writing score of 490**, or a minimum **ACT score of 18** in each category (writing score not required). Super scoring is not accepted.
- Meet financial eligibility requirements as described.

[Coca-Cola Scholarship: October 31](#)

- Current high school (or home-schooled) student attending a school **in the U.S.** (or select DoD schools) who will graduate during the 2022-2023 academic school year
- U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, U.S. Permanent Residents, Refugees, Asylees, Cuban-Haitian Entrants, or Humanitarian Parolees - based on the guidelines utilized by U.S. Department of Education for Federal Financial Aid eligibility
- Expecting to receive high school diploma during current academic year
- Planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. post-secondary institution
- Able to verify a minimum overall B/3.0 GPA in high school coursework

[Lockheed Martin STEM Scholarship](#)-January

Lockheed Martin launched the STEM Scholarship Program in 2018 as part of investment in the next generation of STEM talent. We are committed to providing access to pathways through education and into the STEM workforce for all students, particularly those from diverse backgrounds and communities historically underrepresented in STEM fields.

Each year, the STEM Scholarship Program awards \$10,000 to 200 recipients studying engineering or computer science at a 4-year college or university. Recipients may renew the scholarship up to three times for a total potential value of \$40,000 per student.

Applications for the new cycle will open in January 2023.

Applicants to the Lockheed Martin STEM Scholarship Program must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- U.S. citizen
- Demonstrated financial need
- High school senior with a 2.5 or above GPA OR a freshman or a sophomore undergraduate student with a 2.5 or above GPA
- Current or planned 4-year degree enrollment in the following majors:

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- Aerospace Engineering
 - Computer Engineering
 - Computer Science
 - Electrical Engineering
 - Electrical and Computer Engineering
 - Industrial Engineering
 - Mathematics
 - Mechanical Engineering
 - Physics
- Current or planned full-time attendance at an accredited U.S. four-year college or university
 - Interest in a paid internship with Lockheed Martin following their freshman, sophomore or junior year of college, other circumstances notwithstanding (note: the internship is not required to receive a scholarship, and scholarship recipients are not guaranteed an internship)

[Boettcher Scholarship: November 1](#)

- Be a graduating Colorado high school senior who has lived in Colorado for your full junior and senior years of high school;
- Apply during the fall of what is your final year of high school (the equivalent of your senior year), even if you are graduating early or considering taking a gap year after graduation;
- Graduate from a Colorado high school; and
- Be a citizen, legal permanent resident, or lawfully present (including through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)) in the United States OR Meet the requirements and have applied or started the process of applying for citizenship, legal status or lawful presence. (Although students can be in the application process for citizenship, legal status, or lawful presence during the Boettcher selection timeframe, in order to become a Boettcher Scholar, you must provide documentation that shows you have successfully completed the process.)

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Career and Job Research Websites

Arapahoe Community College Career Services

Since you are an Arapahoe Community College student you have access to use their [Career Services](#) which include:

- Career assessments (My Colorado Journey, YouScience, Myers-Brigg and more)
- Career Counseling
- Handshake job board

Other Career and Job search websites

- [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)
- [O*NET](#)
- [My Colorado Journey](#)
- [Career Cluster Activity](#)
- [Connecting Colorado](#)

Internships and Mentoring Resources:

[Mentor Colorado](#): Find a mentor or be a mentor

[Tallow.com](#): This is a platform like LinkedIn but it's for students looking for internships.

[Colorado Health Care Corps](#)

[MC² Medical Career Collaborative](#) (must apply as a sophomore)

[CareerWise Colorado](#)

[Colorado Health Careers Collaborative](#) (ACC)

Contact Ms. Wendy Rhodes at CEC regarding the following opportunities:

- [Lockheed Martin: Advanced Manufacturing Technician Apprenticeship Program \(AMTAP\)](#)
- Lockheed Martin High School Internship Program (must be at least 16 years old)
- Lockheed Martin [SWAP Software Associate Degree Program](#)