

# OPC SCHOLAR COLLEGE PLANNING

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## CHOOSING A COLLEGE

What is on your “WISH LIST” for college?

For example:

Great sports team; small student-teacher ratio; good food; able to live on campus; etc.

Write your “WISH LIST” in the chat/messages area

## OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Do you want to go to a Community College or University/College?
- Public or Private Institutions
- Campus size
- Available Programs of Study
- Where the school is located?
- What services are available to students with disabilities?

**You may not get everything you want in one college, so you might have to prioritize with your Parents, Guidance Counselor and Teachers what is most important to you.**

## GETTING HELP

There are many ways to get the information that you need to make this decision. You can"

- Talk to people who know you best and who have graduated from college (**e.g., parents, family members, teachers**).
- Meet with you Guidance Counselor to help you explore options.
- Research college information online.
- Attend college fairs.
- Visit college campuses or take a virtual tour on a college's website.
- Contact the Admissions office and the office that support students with a disability.
- Consider reviewing books like **Peterson's Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities or AD/HD** and **The K&W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Differences** on support services and specialized programs.



IF MONEY WERE NO OBJECT, WHAT  
KIND OF WORK WOULD YOU LOVE  
TO DO?

WRITE YOUR DREAM JOB IN  
CHAT/MESSAGES AREA!

## WHAT IS A MAJOR

- A Major is a specific subject that allows you to build knowledge and skills around an area of study or career interest.
- To earn a Degree in a particular Major, each institution requires you to pass certain courses.
- Most Majors also requires general education courses such as English; Math; Science; etc.

# CONSIDERING COLLEGE TYPES

## COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- Some programs provide first 2 years of a Bachelors Degree
- Also offer career specific programs and training
- Students can receive – Certificates, Associates Degrees

## 4-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Can be Public or Private
- Students must meet certain requirements to be accepted
- Students can receive – Bachelors Degree, Masters Degree and Professional or Doctoral Degree

## OTHER TYPES OF COLLEGES

- Technical Colleges/Institutes
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)
- Women’s Colleges

## CAREER PATHWAY EXPLORATION

From the pathways below, circle those careers that sound interesting to you. If you think of other careers that are not on the list add them to the list.

Training Requirements	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Art & Communications	Business, Marketing & Information Systems	Engineering & Technology	Home, Health & Recreation	Social, Human & Government
<b>Professional</b> 4+ years college	Park Ranger Landscape Architect Veterinarian Fish & Game Warden Agriculture Inspector Agricultural Engineer Farm Manager Biologist Water Resource Manager Conservation Scientist Agricultural Research Scientist Zoologist Range Manager Teacher Geologist Agricultural Advisor	Photojournalist Newspaper Reporter Animator Conductor Composer Newscaster Film/Book Editor Periodical Editor Advertising Technical Writer Author Journalist Film Director Singer Musician Music Teacher Free-Lance Artist Museum Curator Free-Lance Writer Art Restoration	Business Administration Accountant Investment Broker Computer Programmer Financial Analyst Management Consultant Sales Representative Purchasing Agent Sales Manager Financial planner Human Resources Officer Hospital Administrator Business skills Teacher Hotel manager Bank Examiner Computer Systems Analyst	Aeronautical Engineer Architect Electrical Engineer Mechanical Engineer Computer Science Engineer Automotive Engineer Civil engineer Industrial Engineer Chemical Engineer Technology Teacher	Physical Therapist Registered Nurse Dentist Social Worker Counselor Dietician Pharmacist Chiropractor Recreational Therapist Teacher Psychologist Sports Manager	Social Worker Lawyer Psychologist FBI Agent Judge School Counselor Teacher Librarian Military Officer Speech Pathologist Occupational Therapist City Planner Teacher
<b>Semi-Professional</b> Community College and/or Technical School; High School plus 1 or 2 years of college	Animal Health Technician Wildlife Technician Landscape Contractor Forestry Technician Florist Ornamental Horticulture Soil Technologist Watershed Management Horse Trainer Park Station Manager Grounds Maintenance	Graphic Artist Fashion Designer Interior Designer Actor/Actress Camera Operator Recording Engineer Set Designer Photographer Choreographer Printer State Manager Florist Dancer	Independent Small Business Owner Buyer Office Manager Hotel Management Claims Agent Insurance Underwriter Computer Technician Court Reporter Administrative Assistant Real Estate Agent Customer Support Production Planner Food Services Manager	Draftsperson Surveyor Automotive Technician Aircraft Mechanic Engineering Technician Carpenter Electrician Plumber Mechanic General Contractor Welder Building Inspector	Dental Hygienist Recreation Leader Chef EEG/EKG Technician Medical Assistant Surgical Technician Hospital Lab Aid Physician Assistant Dental Assistant Medical Lab Technician Licensed Vocational Nurse Caterer Home Decorator	Firefighter Paralegal Mental Health Worker Legal Assistant Residential Counselor Flight Instructor Flight Attendant Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Police Officer Beautician Library Technician Bus Driver
<b>Entry Level</b>	Nursery Worker Tree Pruner Logger Wild-lands Firefighter Fish Hatchery worker Dog Groomer Farm Machine Operator Animal Caretaker	Floral Designer Photo Processor Disc Jockey Potter Merchandise Displayer Stage Technician Model	Computer Operator Payroll Clerk Cashier Bank Teller Bookkeeper Receptionist File Clerk Retail Salesperson	Auto Body Repair Machine Shop Assistant Roofer Painter Construction Laborer Electronic Assembler Bicycle Mechanic	Psychiatric Aide Hospital Orderly Optician Assistant Home Health Aide Short Order Cook Camp Counselor Professional Athlete Playground Leader	Postal Clerk Library Clerk Security Guard Child Care Provide Playground Leader Instructional Aide Seamstress/Tailor Lifeguard

## IDENTIFY YOUR INTERESTS

To begin identifying your potential interests, meet with your Guidance Counselor to discuss your interests and assessment resources available at your high school. Below are some website to help you explore your career interests:

- **Big Future Major and Career Search** - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/majors-careers>
- **CareerShip – Mapping Your Future** - <http://mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/careership/>
- **My Next Move** - <https://www.mynextmove.org/>

## APPLYING FOR COLLEGE

- Application overview

The college application process can occur over the course of a year. Each college has it own application requirements, forms, fees, deadlines and acceptance procedures.

Most colleges will have an application form to complete online. You can apply thru the college website or by using the Common Application. The Common Application is a program you may use to apply to hundreds of colleges and universities.

## WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial Aid is monetary assistance that allows individuals to pay for college when their own resources are not enough. Some Aid, such as scholarships, does not need to be repaid. Other types, like loans, do require they be repaid. There are four types of Financial Aid:

- **Grants** – Aid that generally does not have to be repaid.
- **Loans** – Money borrowed which must be repaid. Usually comes with interest and payment typically start after the student has graduated or left school.
- **Work-study** – Employment that enables a Student to earn money.
- **Scholarships** – Gifts and awards based on a specific criteria (sports, academic achievement, background, etc.)

### SENIOR-YEAR TASK

Lead your IEP meeting.

Meet with school guidance counselor early in the year to discuss your plans.

Explore assistive technology that you may need in college.

Visit Colleges (Start early in the year).

Pay close attention to the instructions and deadlines.

### SENIOR-YEAR TASK

Continue to develop your advocacy skills.

Continue exploring possible college majors that are consistent with your career goals.

Find out how to get accommodations in college. It's very different process from high school!

Apply to two or more of your preferred colleges.

Contact your local vocational rehabilitation counselor to determine your eligibility for services while in college



## RESOURCES

- <http://going-to-college.org/index.html> (2009) Going to College: A resource for teens with disabilities – Virginia Commonwealth University (**VCU**) and VCU Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workplace Supports and Job Retention
- <https://www.nacacnet.org/advocacy-ethics/initiatives/steps/> (2016) Step by Step: College Awareness and Planning for Families, Counselors and Communities – National Association for College Admission Counseling (**NACAC**)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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