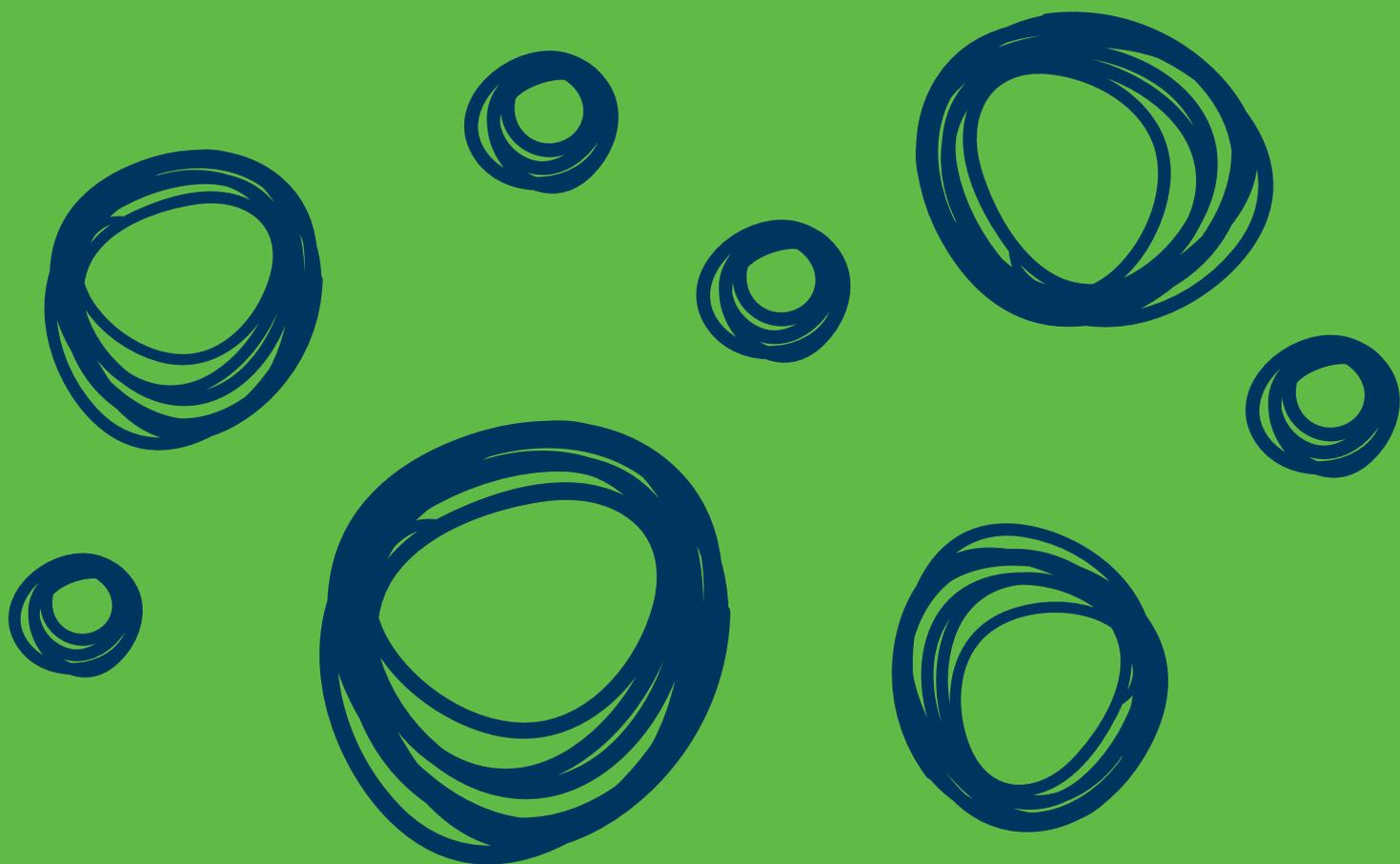


Minnesota Office of Higher Education

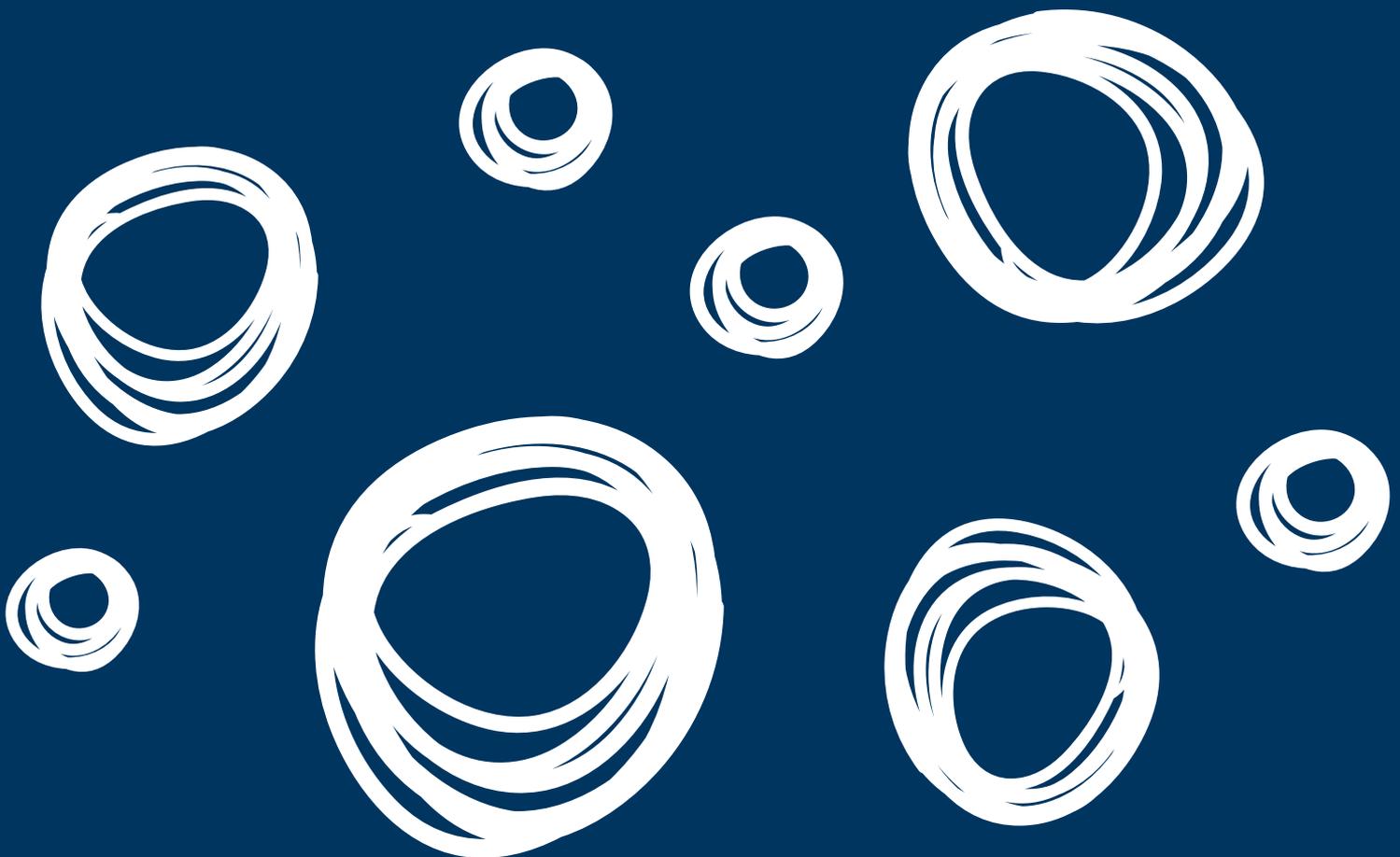
# CHOOSING A COLLEGE



# Find a college that's just right for you.

Choosing a College is published by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education to help you learn more about the many college opportunities in the state. You can find information about the colleges that interest you.

Minnesota is home to some of the finest postsecondary institutions in the country. From campuses large to small, urban to rural, close to home or far away, the state's public and private colleges and universities offer a broad spectrum of educational opportunities and experiences that might surprise you.



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# What's Inside?

Choosing a College can help you explore your Minnesota college options. Tips on preparing for college including information on courses you should be taking in high school, activities to help you identify your interests and strengths and resources to connect you to professional staff on campus.

## Minnesota Resources

**Minnesota State Colleges and Universities:** Seven state universities and community and technical colleges. [www.mnscu.edu](http://www.mnscu.edu)

**University of Minnesota:** Minnesota's flagship research university in the Twin Cities and four universities in greater Minnesota. [www.umn.edu](http://www.umn.edu)

**Minnesota Career Colleges:** Private career schools that make up the Minnesota Career College Association. [www.mncareercolleges.org](http://www.mncareercolleges.org)

**Minnesota Private College Council:** 17 private, not-for-profit colleges and universities. [www.mnprivatecolleges.org](http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org)

**Career information:** A gateway to Minnesota information on careers, training, education, employment and the workforce. [www.iseek.org](http://www.iseek.org)

## Student Advocacy and Consumer Protection

If you believe an institution has not met its promises, you can file a complaint through our Student Advocate. The Minnesota Office of Higher Education will investigate complaints regarding colleges who are out of compliance with state standards.

## File complaints here:

Minnesota Office of Higher Education  
(651) 259-3975 or 1 (800) 657-3866  
[info.ohe@state.mn.us](mailto:info.ohe@state.mn.us)

To check the legitimacy of a claim of accreditation, contact the accrediting agency directly.

- **U.S. Department of Education**

[ope.ed.gov/accreditation/](http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/)  
(202) 219-7011

- **Council for Higher Education Accreditation**

[www.chea.org/directories/](http://www.chea.org/directories/)  
(202) 955-6126

# Advice for Students w/Disabilities

If you're a student with a learning or physical disability, it's important that you know what you need, and to make sure that the colleges you are interested in can meet those needs. In college, it is the student's responsibility to request accommodation and provide documentation of the disability.

## Below are a few tips to help you with your college search:

- Make a list of questions to ask a college's disability services office.
- Make a list of accommodations you need.
- Talk with other students.
- Call the college disability services office and visit the college to find answers to your questions.
- Tell the disability services office which modifications you can provide for yourself and which you need the college to provide.

(Colleges are not required to provide the same level of accommodation as high schools, even if requested.)

## Disability Resources:

Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation Services:

[www.positivelyminnesota.com/vrs](http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/vrs)

HEATH Resource Center:

[www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu)

National Center for Learning Disabilities:

[www.nclld.org](http://www.nclld.org)

# Have QUESTIONS?

## Waiting for the answer to fall from the sky?

A better option is to ask someone you trust, like a parent, relative, mentor or friend. Ask your favorite teacher. Find your way to the school counselor's office. Talk with someone who's in college now.

**Teachers:** Ask them about their experiences in college, what they enjoyed most (or least) and how they decided on a career. Your teacher can also help point out where you are strong academically and places where you might need to improve.

**Counselors:** Your school counselor can help you explore interests and career options and may arrange college campus visits and schedule financial aid events at your school.

**Family and Friends:** Ask your parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, second cousins or even a friend's family about their job, how they chose it, the type of education they needed, what they like or don't like, or what they wish they had done differently.



- Private 4-Year College
- Private Career
- ▲ Public 2-Year College
- ◆ State University
- \* Tribal College



# Why College?

Right Now ... Everyone tells you what to do, but things are going to change. Pretty soon you'll be free to make decisions on your own. You will decide how to spend your time and how to earn and spend your money. Going to college is also your choice. It's something you do for yourself to get a job you enjoy and to help you achieve your dreams.

## Consider your options

Before you make higher education choices, make sure you have all the information.

Along with your new freedom comes some important decisions:

What's important to you?

What do you like to do?

What do you dream about when you think about the future?

What kind of person do you want to be?

How will you get there?

Now is a good time to begin thinking about these choices. The single most important thing you can do today is to focus on school. You don't have to have a career plan or get perfect grades. You just need to stay with it and do your best to create your options after high school.

## The Future Belongs to You!

At some point, you and your friends will be in the driver's seat.

But before that happens, you need to develop 10 key talents:

1. Reading to understand information
2. Writing to express ideas
3. Critical thinking to identify problems and explore solutions
4. Researching to find answers to questions
5. Technology literacy to create and promote information, products and services
6. Creativity and curiosity to explore possibilities and diverse perspectives
7. Cooperation to work with others
8. Independence to fulfill responsibilities
9. Initiative to begin and follow through on commitments
10. Lifelong learning to expand and update knowledge and existing skills

# 4 Reasons to go to College

## 1. Knowledge

A college education teaches you to think critically and abstractly, to express your thoughts and opinions, to weigh options and make informed decisions.

## 2. Potential

College brings you a world of information as you explore your interests, and helps you understand the issues that connect communities, the nation and the world.

## 3. Opportunity

Critical thinking and new technology skills are vital for success and advancement in today's workforce and provide you with more career and job options.

## 4. Income

A person with a college degree typically has a higher income and is less likely to be unemployed or underemployed than someone with less education.

## What's in it for me?

Pick your reasons for going to college:

- Meet new people
- Work toward an interesting career
- Earn more money in the future
- Improve my status in the community
- Become smarter
- Make new friends
- Learn new skills
- Be on my own
- Become a role model
- Travel to new places
- Participate in sports and clubs
- Help my community
- Make my family proud

## True or False?

Test your Knowledge:

- T  F 1. It's difficult to get into most colleges today.
- T  F 2. Only rich people can afford to go to college.
- T  F 3. Going to college will help you earn more money.
- T  F 4. Financial need matters more than grades when it comes to receiving financial aid from the government.
- T  F 5. You can't go to college if you don't know what you want to study.
- T  F 6. Saving for college will only hurt me in the long run.
- T  F 7. You have to get straight As to go to college.
- T  F 8. Going to college will not guarantee me a good job.
- T  F 9. You need perfect test scores to get into college.
- T  F 10. It's harder to get into college if your parents didn't go to college.
- T  F 11. Only smart students get scholarships.

# What Are Your Strengths?

List three positive qualities about yourself in each of the areas listed below. If you're having a hard time coming up with anything, ask a friend, a teacher or a coach for help. They might be better at seeing your strengths than you are.

**Character** Example: Good sense of humor

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

**School Performance** Example: Good grades

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....



**Work Habits** Example: Responsible

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

## Where Can You Grow?

List three areas in which you think you need improvement. Ask a friend, teacher or coach for help, if needed.

**Area to Improve**

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

**What You Can do to Improve**

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

# Discover your SECRET IDENTITY

Knowing what you value and what your strengths are will help you set goals for yourself. A goal is something you work toward. It helps you know where you're going, and you will work hard to get there.

## What do you value?

There are things you like to do, and there are things you value. You might enjoy rollerblading or drawing, but you might value things like traveling or friends. Write five things that you value right now.

### 5 things I value now:

Examples: family, the outdoors, health, sports, helping others, making a lot of money, living in different areas of the country, meeting all kinds of people, relationships, home, adventure, art, friends, spirituality, working in the community, education

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....

## What are your goals?

Setting goals helps you imagine the type of person you want to be, what you want to do and the things you want to have. You can set personal goals, academic goals and career goals. Finish the following statements.

### In 10 years...

I want to be:

.....  
.....  
.....

I want to do:

.....  
.....  
.....

I want to have:

.....  
.....  
.....

# 2 More Years of High School

## Make A Plan For Success

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Attend college and financial aid fairs.
- Take the PSAT in the fall to prepare for the SAT/ACT.
- Consider possible career options and investigate the type of education that is needed.
- Request materials from colleges.
- Arrange campus visits to those colleges that interest you.
- Review your high school class plan to make sure you are on track to graduate.
- Sign up for classes that may earn you college credit during your senior year.
- Register for and take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring.
- Research your scholarship options.
- Participate in extracurricular activities.
- Get a summer job to save money for college.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Visit the colleges that interest you. It's okay to go more than once.
- Take or retake the ACT and/or SAT in the fall.
- Review your high school class plan to make sure you are on track to graduate.
- Select the schools to which you will apply. Make a list of deadlines for each school.
- Apply to four to six colleges that interest you.
- Attend a financial aid event.
- Participate in extracurricular activities.
- Prepare a portfolio if you're interested in the arts.
- Search and apply for scholarships.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
- Have your high school transcript sent to those colleges to which you've applied.
- Choose a college and send in any required forms or deposits.
- Get a summer job to save money for college.

## Seek Out a MENTOR

### A mentor is...

someone you trust to support you and offer advice. A mentor can be almost anyone: a family member, a person in your neighborhood, a teacher at school or a person who leads an after-school program.

### Why have a mentor?

A mentor can help you deal with difficult things in your life and work through decisions. For example, if you want to become a doctor, maybe you will find a doctor or a college student who is studying medicine to become your mentor. This person can tell you what it's like, what you need to do and encourage you when you run into obstacles.

# 7 Ways to Earn College Credits in High School

High students may be able to earn college credit while in high school. Most of these programs are free, but not all programs are available in all schools. Participation may also require a certain academic standing. Check with your school counselor.

- 1. Advanced Placement (AP)** is offered at many schools. These are college-level courses in English, history, humanities, languages, math, psychology, and science and more. Classes are taught at your high school. You can earn college credit if you score high enough on a fee-based exam.
- 2. Concurrent Enrollment (CE)** is often referred to as “College in the Schools (CIS)”. CE offers college-level courses at your high school through partnerships between high schools and local colleges and universities. These courses are free to the student. Students earn both high school and college credit by successfully completing the course.
- 3. International Baccalaureate (IB)** is a two-year pre-college diploma program offered at some high schools. You must pass a fee-based exam in each of six subject areas (your primary language, a second language, mathematics, experimental sciences, the arts and humanities) in order to potentially earn college credit.
- 4. Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)** allows students in grades 10 through 12 to take college courses at a local college, local university, or online. Students attend class and complete the same assignments required of regular college students. State funds cover the cost of tuition, books and lab fees. Students earn both high school and college credit for successfully completing the course. Transportation funds are available to help students from low income families get to a campus for PSEO courses.
- 5. Summer Programming** is offered by some colleges and allows eligible high school students to earn college credit through summer camp instruction.
- 6. Project Lead the Way (PLTW)** is a provider of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs. This experience requires students to take a fee-based exam.
- 7. College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)** offers students a chance to earn college credits based on what they already know. CLEP exam-takers include adults just entering or returning to school, military service members, current high school students, and traditional college students. The CLEP exam is fee-based.

# What Interests You?

Read each statement below. If you agree with the statement, place an X in the circle. When you are finished, add up the number of Xs in each column.

## I like to:

do puzzles		<input type="checkbox"/>				
work on cars	<input type="checkbox"/>					
attend concerts, theaters or art exhibits			<input type="checkbox"/>			
work in teams				<input type="checkbox"/>		
organize files, offices or activities					<input type="checkbox"/>	
set goals for myself				<input type="checkbox"/>		
build things	<input type="checkbox"/>					
read fiction, poetry or plays			<input type="checkbox"/>			
have clear instructions to follow					<input type="checkbox"/>	
influence or persuade people				<input type="checkbox"/>		
do experiments		<input type="checkbox"/>				
teach or train people				<input type="checkbox"/>		
help people solve their problems				<input type="checkbox"/>		
take care of animals	<input type="checkbox"/>					
have my day structured					<input type="checkbox"/>	
sell things				<input type="checkbox"/>		
do creative writing			<input type="checkbox"/>			
work on science projects		<input type="checkbox"/>				
take on new responsibilities				<input type="checkbox"/>		
heal people				<input type="checkbox"/>		
figure out how things work		<input type="checkbox"/>				
assemble things or models	<input type="checkbox"/>					
be creative			<input type="checkbox"/>			
pay attention to details					<input type="checkbox"/>	
do filing or typing					<input type="checkbox"/>	
learn about other cultures				<input type="checkbox"/>		
analyze problems, situations or trends		<input type="checkbox"/>				
play instruments or sing			<input type="checkbox"/>			
dream about starting a business				<input type="checkbox"/>		
cook	<input type="checkbox"/>					
act in plays			<input type="checkbox"/>			
think before making decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>					
work with numbers or charts		<input type="checkbox"/>				
discuss politics or current events				<input type="checkbox"/>		
keep records of my work					<input type="checkbox"/>	
be a leader				<input type="checkbox"/>		
work outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/>					
work in an office					<input type="checkbox"/>	
work on math problems		<input type="checkbox"/>				
help people				<input type="checkbox"/>		
draw			<input type="checkbox"/>			
give speeches				<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<b>R</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>C</b>

3 letters with the highest scores: 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_  
(This is your interest profile.)

# R Realistic

people are good at mechanical jobs. They like to work with things, like machines, tools or plants, and they like to work with their hands. They are practical and good at solving problems.

Careers Like...	Median Wage	Education
Computer Engineer	\$42.90/ hr	4-year bachelor's degree
Electrician	\$30.10/ hr	2-year associate degree or 3- to 5-year apprenticeship + license
Radiologic Technologist	\$23.00/ hr	2-year associate degree + license
Surveying or Mapping Technician	\$20.90/ hr	2-year associate degree, 1- to 12-month apprenticeship

# I Investigative

people like to watch, learn, analyze and solve problems. They like to work independently, enjoy analyzing data and tend to be good at math and science.

Careers Like...	Median Wage	Education
Biomedical Engineer	\$45.50 / hr	4-year bachelor's degree + 2-year master's degree + license
Computer Security Specialist	\$32.90 / hr	4-year bachelor's degree, but may also require certification
Medical Scientist	\$30.90 / hr	4-year bachelor's degree + 4-year doctorate
Respiratory Therapist	\$29.70 / hr	2-year associate degree or 4-year bachelor's degree + license

# A Artistic

people like to work in unstructured situations where they can use their creativity and come up with new ideas. They enjoy performing (theater or music) and the visual arts.

Careers Like...	Median Wage	Education
Animator or Multimedia Artist	\$24.60 / hr	2-year associate degree or 4-year bachelor's degree
Architect	\$35.80 / hr	4-year bachelor's degree or 2-year master's degree + license
Interior Designer	\$22.80 / hr	4-year bachelor's degree
Writer	\$26.10 / hr	4-year bachelor's degree

# S Social

people like to work directly with people rather than things. They enjoy training, instructing, counseling or curing others. They are good public speakers with helpful, empathetic personalities.

Careers Like...	Median Wage	Education
Dental Hygienist	\$35.10 / hr	2-year associate degree or 4-year bachelor's degree + license
Social Worker	\$27.40 / hr	4-year bachelor's degree + license
Registered Nurse	\$35.40 / hr	2-year associate degree or 4-year bachelor's degree + license
University or College Teacher	\$33.70 / hr	4-year bachelor's degree + 2-year master's degree or 4-year doctorate

# E Enterprising

people like to work with other people. They particularly enjoy influencing, persuading and performing. They like to lead and tend to be assertive and enthusiastic.

Careers Like...	Median Wage	Education
Health Services Administrator	\$43.10/ hr	4-year bachelor's degree
Loan Officer	\$28.00 / hr	4-year bachelor's degree
Paralegal	\$24.50 / hr	2-year associate degree or 4-year bachelor's degree + certification
Public Relations Specialist	\$27.10 / hr	4-year bachelor's degree

# C Conventional

people are detail-oriented who like structured situations. They like to work with data and have good organizational and numerical abilities. They are good at following instructions.

Careers Like...	Median Wage	Education
Accountant or Auditor	\$28.70 / hr	4-year bachelor's degree + license to be a CPA
Bill or Account Collector	\$16.40 / hr	Short-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representative	\$17.20 / hr	1-12 months on-the-job training
Pharmacy Technician	\$14.70 / hr	1-12 months on-the-job training, but many have a 2-year degree

# COLLEGE Knowledge

Education Type:	Less than a high school diploma	High school diploma	Some college no degree
<b>Description:</b>	Prepares students for <u>entry-level professional jobs</u> or <u>supplements</u> existing knowledge with new job skills.	Classroom study and on-the-job training.	Concentrates on the skills needed for a specific career or the transfer to a four-year college to complete a bachelor's degree.
<b>Career examples:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer Technician</li> <li>• Massage Therapist</li> <li>• Medical Assistant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automotive Technician</li> <li>• Carpenter</li> <li>• Electrician</li> <li>• Fire Fighter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dental Hygienist</li> <li>• Legal Assistant</li> <li>• Paramedic</li> </ul>
<b>Median weekly income:</b> <small><sup>1</sup>Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014</small>	<b>\$493</b>	<b>\$678</b>	<b>\$738</b>

## 2-YEAR Colleges

**How do I get into college?:**  
You need a high school diploma or GED.

Technical colleges or career schools offer programs that emphasize hands-on knowledge and skills that lead to specific jobs in technical and industrial occupations. Instructors have solid experience in the occupations they teach.

### What you can earn:

- Certificate (1 year or less)
- Diploma (2 years or less)
- Associate in Applied Science (2 years)
- Associate in Arts (2 years, some schools)

Community and tribal colleges provide the first two years of a four-year degree. Graduates can transfer to a college or university to complete a bachelor's degree. They also offer career-specific training and classes for students who need to brush up on basic skills. Some offer a chance to participate in athletics, clubs and activities in theater, music or the arts.

### What you can earn:

- Certificates (1 year or less)
- Diplomas (2 years or less)
- Associate in Applied Science (2 years, some schools)
- Associate in Arts (2 years)

Bachelor's Degree Only	Bachelor's Degree and higher	Professional Degree
<p>Requires general and specific coursework in one or two subjects for in-depth study.</p>	<p>More focused study of student's existing knowledge.</p>	<p>Advanced study of specific careers and often requires the student to pass an exam. The student may also research and write a lengthy paper, which must be defended in front of a panel of experts</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountant</li> <li>• Architect</li> <li>• Computer Engineer</li> <li>• Teacher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Librarian</li> <li>• Physician Assistant</li> <li>• School Counselor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dentist</li> <li>• Lawyer</li> <li>• Pharmacist</li> <li>• College Professor</li> </ul>
<p><b>\$1,137</b></p>	<p><b>\$1,193</b></p>	<p><b>\$1,386</b></p>

# 4-YEAR Colleges & Universities

These colleges and universities offer a variety of undergraduate programs. Private liberal arts colleges often emphasize broad knowledge in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities. Admissions requirements vary by school, but the recommended courses will allow you to apply to many of them. On-campus housing is available on most campuses.

### What you can earn:

- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree (some schools)
- Doctorate degree (some schools)
- Professional degree (some schools)

# Helpful TIPS

## High School Transcript:

You will need to send a copy of your high school transcript to each college. Transcripts can be requested through your high school counselor.

## Application Fee:

You may have to pay an application fee. If you can't afford it, talk with the admissions counselor at the college to which you are applying. They may be able to waive the fee.

## College Admissions Tests:

You will probably need to take the ACT or SAT and have the scores sent to each school. Talk with your school counselor to learn about test dates and how to sign up for the test.

## Letters of Recommendation:

These letters are written by adults who know you and help show what you've accomplished, what kind of potential you have and why the person writing the letter believes you should be admitted to the college.

## Application Essay:

This essay is a way to let a college know the real you. If the college doesn't give you a topic, you get to choose your own.

# It's important to make your **BUDGET**

# while you're in school

Use the dollar amounts at the bottom of the page to figure out how far your money will go based on the average income a person makes (before taxes) at each education level.

Education Level	High school diploma	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree
Median yearly income*	\$35,256	\$41,496	\$59,124
Median monthly income	\$2,938	\$3,458	\$4,927

\*Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2011

## Your Monthly Expenses

Housing	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Food/Supplies (1 person)	\$450	\$450	\$450
Electricity/Gas	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Telephone	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Internet	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Cable	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Transportation	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Medical expenses	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Clothing/Accessories	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Entertainment	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Savings (5% of monthly income)	\$138	\$166	\$228
<b>Total Monthly Expenses</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

## \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Monthly Expenses

### HOUSING

- \$600 1-bedroom apartment
- \$900 2-bedroom apartment
- \$1,100 Townhome
- \$1,800 Single family home

### ELECTRICITY/GAS

- \$30 Apartment
- \$70 Townhome
- \$120 Single family home

### TELEPHONE

- \$45 landline with long distance
- \$60 regular cell phone
- \$100 smart phone

### INTERNET

- \$20 dial-up
- \$40 broadband 1 (DSL)
- \$65 broadband 1 (cable)

### TELEVISION

- \$0 digital antenna
- \$40 satellite
- \$65 cable

### TRANSPORTATION

- \$0 walking
- \$10 bicycle
- \$75 public transportation
- \$275 car

### MEDICAL EXPENSES

- \$30 medication
- \$50 doctor visit
- \$150 insurance

### CLOTHING/ACCESSORIES

- \$20 bargain shopper
- \$45 average shopper
- \$120 shop-a-holic

### ENTERTAINMENT (music, movies, etc.)

- \$12 movie ticket
- \$35 eating out
- \$60 concert ticket

# Imagine...

## Yourself at College

If you could create a college that was just perfect for you, what would it be like?

**1. Where is it located?**

.....  
.....

**2. Where do you live?**

.....  
.....

**3. What does it look like?**

.....  
.....  
.....

**4. Who else goes there?**

.....  
.....

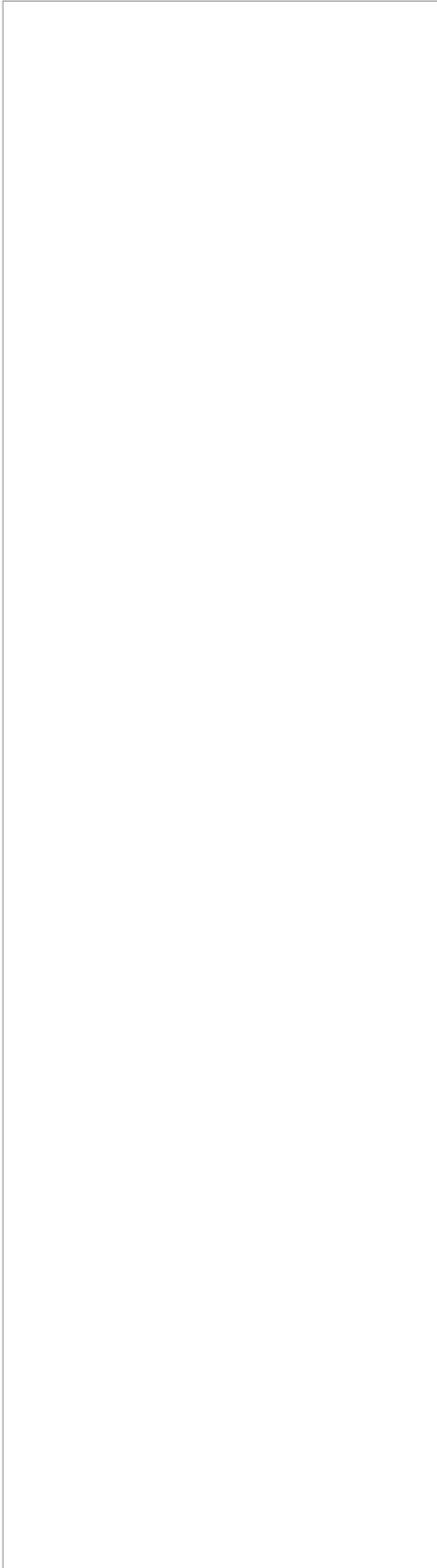
**5. What classes are you taking?**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**6. Are you participating in any extracurricular activities? If so, which ones?**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

# NOTES



## About Us

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is a state agency providing students with financial aid programs and information to help them gain access to postsecondary education.

## Other Resources Available From the Office of Higher Education:

- Web site on preparing, planning and paying for college [www.getready.state.mn.us](http://www.getready.state.mn.us)
- Paying for College: State & Federal Financial Aid Guide (60 pages)
- Financial Aid Basics: An Introduction to Paying for College

## Technical Notes

Information for each institution as well as program offerings were reported by each college to the Office of Higher Education in May 2012. Enrollment numbers represent fall 2011 headcount.

Tuition and fees were reported as estimates in May 2012. For the most current tuition and fees, contact the college or university directly or visit [www.getready.state.mn.us/tuition](http://www.getready.state.mn.us/tuition).

Any information determined to be inaccurate should be reported to the college and the Office of Higher Education. Questions may be directed to [materials.ohe@state.mn.us](mailto:materials.ohe@state.mn.us).

## Retention and Graduation Rates

The source of the graduation and retention data is the U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS Graduation Rate and Enrollment Survey for 2010.

**Retention rates** measure the percentage of first-time, full-time students enrolled in fall 2009 who return to the institution to continue their studies the following fall.

**Transfer rates** indicate the percentage of first-time, full-time students who report leaving their institution within three years of first enrolling to enroll in a different institution the following term.

**Three-year graduation rates** measure the percentage of first-time, full-time students in fall 2007 who plan to earn a two-year degree who complete their program within three years at the same institution.

**Six-year graduation rates** measure the percentage of first-time, full-time students in fall 2004 who plan to get a bachelor's degree who complete their degree program within six years at the same institution.

**Overall Graduation Rates** are used for institutions offering a mix of awards, varying in length. The rate measures the percentage of students who began their studies as full-time, first-time degree-, diploma- or certificate-seeking students who completed their awards within 150 percent of the "normal time" for completion. (For example, for students enrolled in associate degree programs, it measures the percentage of first-time, full-time students who completed within three years.)



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## Choosing a College

Minnesota Office of Higher Education  
1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55108-5227

Tel: 651.642.0567 or 800.657.3866

TTY Relay: 800.627.3529

Fax: 651.642.0675

E-mail: [info.ohe@state.mn.us](mailto:info.ohe@state.mn.us)

[www.selfloan.state.mn.us](http://www.selfloan.state.mn.us)

[www.ohe.state.mn.us](http://www.ohe.state.mn.us)

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