

College Webquest using

You will be using Big Future website today to get some important information about colleges and other options available to you after you graduate. This is a self-guided ‘tour’ of the website and we hope this will be a website you can use this year and beyond.

Navigate to: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>

1. Sign-Up

Click on the “Sign-up” link”. This will allow you to use the site continuously throughout high school in your collegiate planning and building your understanding of the college-bound processes. Save your username and password here or maybe in your phone so that you always have it.

Username: _____

Password: _____

2. College Compare:

Now we would like you to start searching for colleges. You will be comparing 3 today. These can be in-state or out-of-state. You can choose community colleges or universities. Whatever works best for you. You may already have a college in mind. We would still like you to do a search to see what is available to you. Follow these directions to do the college search and add 3 colleges to your ‘compare colleges’ chart.

Home / Find Colleges / Compare Colleges

Compare Colleges

Use this tool to compare up to 3 colleges you're interested in. You can compare up to 3 colleges at a time. Remove a college to add a new one.

COLLEGES	ASU ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	GOC GRAND CANYON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
	Arizona State University Tempe, AZ Add to My College List <small>Remove college from comparison</small>	Glendale Community College Glendale, AZ Add to My College List <small>Remove college from comparison</small>	Northern Arizona University Flagstaff, AZ Add to My College List <small>Remove college from comparison</small>
LOCATION	Tempe, AZ West	Glendale, AZ West	Flagstaff, AZ West
TYPE	Public	Public	Public
CAMPUS LIFE	42,477 Undergraduates enrolled	19,000 Undergraduates enrolled	26,506 Undergraduates enrolled

- Toward the top you will see the ‘Find Colleges’ tab. Click on that and then go to ‘College Search’.
- Use the list of filters on the left-hand side to filter out what is important to you. You don’t have to answer every question, only what is important to you. Once you are finished you will see a list of colleges meeting your requirements. If this list is too large, add in more filters.

- c. Once you click on the school's name it will take you to more information on the school. Go through the list and choose 3 schools that are interesting to you. You may click on a few schools before you find 3 you are most interested in. Once you find a school you want to compare, choose the blue 'Add to My List' button near the top right. This will add it to the chart for you and let you look at the schools side by side.
- d. Now you can compare your 3 school choices. Hover over "Find Colleges" and click on the blue 'Compare Colleges'.
- e. From here you can type in the names of the colleges or go to your list to compare all 3. You can go back to your search and look for more colleges. We want you to have three on the 'College Compare' chart that you can look at.

Write the 3 colleges you listed and the website for that college:

Name _____ Web address: _____

Name _____ Web address: _____

Name _____ Web address: _____

- f. Of the 3 colleges, which for you is the best fit at this time? Why?

- g. From here, we'd like you to go the web address of the college that is the best fit right now and spend some time exploring more in depth.

What are the admissions requirements you will need to focus on going forward?

What did you learn about campus life and activities? What are you interested in about the college? What draws you in?

Here is a check list for your Junior year. Check it out and see if there is anything you can check off. Make a plan for what you need to do going forward.

SPRING

- Contact your counselor** before leaving school for the summer if you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.
- Develop a list of 15 or 20 colleges that are of interest to you.** You can find many colleges at which you'll be happy and get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and then finding colleges that will meet your goals.
- Stay open to all the possibilities — don't limit your search.** To find the best college for you, you should apply to colleges of varying selectivity. Selective colleges admit a portion of students who apply. Some colleges are highly selective while others are less selective. Make sure to apply to public, private, in-state, and out-of-state schools so that you have plenty of options from which to choose.
- Take the SAT.** The test is typically offered in March, May, and June. Make sure you start preparing for the test several months in advance using the tools available at satpractice.org. And remember, if you're not happy with your scores when you get them, you might want to test again in the fall. Many students take the test a second time as seniors, and they usually do better.
- Start to gather documents for financial aid:** Be sure to keep a copy of your tax returns handy. You'll use these to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on Oct. 1.

SUMMER

- Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center** if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college (ncaaclearinghouse.net).
- Get your FSA ID:** Before you can fill out your FAFSA, you need to get a username and password (also known as an FSA ID).
- Find a full-time or part-time job,** or participate in a summer camp or summer college program.
- Visit colleges.** When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you're there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors, and students. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admission counselors.
- Create a résumé —** a record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and work experiences since you started high school.
- Download applications.** Go to the website of each college's admission office and either complete the application online or request a paper application from colleges to which you'll apply. Check application dates — large universities may have early dates or rolling admission.
- Visit some local colleges —** large, small, public, and private. A visit to a college campus can help you decide if that college is right for you. Make a plan ahead of time to get the most from your visit. Check out the campus checklist at bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/campus-visit-checklist. Attend college fairs, too.
- Scan local newspapers** to see which civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area award financial aid to graduating seniors. Start a file.