

Seniors

Congratulations! Now is the time to execute your plan for your next steps after high school. Here's what you should be working on this summer!

The Post-Secondary Process

- There are the 4 steps, you should be taking between **NOW** and **AUGUST**:

1. Prepare

College Bound

- Decide on the schools you would like to apply to and create a list, a minimum of 5 is recommended.
- Assemble your documentation
 - College essays, letters of recommendation, a list of testing and financial aid requirements for each school, a resume/academic profile, and your unofficial transcript.
 - 2025 EHS Letter of Recommendation Packet (<https://ocps.instructure.com/users/2349156/files/261362385?wrap=1&verifier=9x0JrI6U1FjVUjTHAqA6yNewiljEOk2Ic7TA6t6v>)
 - You can request a transcript at this link: https://edgewaterhs.ocps.net/student_services/transcripts
- Create a Common App account. Common App is an application that you can use to apply to multiple schools using a single application. <https://www.commonapp.org/>
 - If any of your schools aren't listed in Common Application, create an account directly on the school's website.
- Visit the school for a campus visit or tour
 - Being able to tour your potential college campus is incredibly important. It lets you see what living and being a student at the college is really like!

Trade/Vocational School Bound

- Visit trade/vocational school campuses & take tours
- Being able to tour your potential campus is incredibly important. It lets you see what being a student at the trade school is really like!
- Apply for the trade/vocational school as soon as you can! You want to make sure you are completely set up for attending right after high school, so don't wait til the last minute!

Military Bound

- If you are interested in the military, speak to a recruiter
 - We have recruiters on campus you could speak with to determine if the military is the right path for you.
 - Study for the ASVAB & sign up for a day to take the test.

- ASVAB (<https://www.officialasvab.com/>)

School-to-Work Bound

- If you are interested in going into the workforce straight after high school, research!
 - Look into different job opportunities and the requirements.
 - See if there is any upward mobility and what they can offer you long-term.

2. Apply

- Stay on top of communications from the school or job
 - Every school will contact you through the email you provided. These emails will list any future steps you will need to take. Always use your **PERSONAL** email address.

College Bound

- Submit your application by November 1st (Universal priority deadline)
 - This is the Priority deadline. Applying by this deadline is important as it allows you to receive your potential acceptances sooner. If you wait to apply after this deadline, they may have accepted the maximum number of students to meet their quota.
- Different types of College Admissions
 - **Early Decision** is binding, meaning that if you apply under Early Decision then you commit to enrolling at that school if you're accepted.
 - **Early Action** is non-binding, this is more common and it means that you are taking action towards enrolling early but aren't necessarily committing.
 - **Regular Decision** is when you apply after the early decision deadline, typically by January 1st, and receive your acceptance decision in the spring.
 - **Rolling Admission** is when an institution reviews and makes decisions on applications continually year-round.
**Submitting your application according to the Rolling Admissions guidelines is not the focus. Rolling Admissions can get in the way of you enrolling for the term you desire or prevent you from being accepted completely.*

Trade/Vocational School Bound

- Apply for trade/vocational school
 - Apply for the trade/vocational school as soon as you can! Applications normally open in the spring. You want to make sure you are completely set up for attending right after high school, so don't wait til the last minute!

School-to-Work Bound

- Start the application process for the job you want to pursue after high school
 - If you want to join the workforce after high school, start applying for jobs now.
 - Create a resume and practice for potential interviews.

Military Bound

- Speak to a recruiter about enlisting in the military
 - After you have taken the ASVAB, share the results and speak to the recruiter about the next steps for enlisting. ASVAB (<https://www.officialasvab.com/>)

3. Financial Aid

YOU MUST KNOW YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER. ALL DIGITS OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY (9 DIGITS).

Talk to your mom or dad to get this information.

Now that you've applied and are awaiting a decision it's time to decide how to pay for it.

College and Trade/Vocational School

- ***Bright Futures*** is a Florida-based scholarship program that offers multiple scholarship opportunities to Florida students. Each scholarship has different eligibility requirements, including the amount of volunteer or work hours needed.
- ***Bright Futures (Oct. 2025)***
(<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN>)
 - Please see the community service form below. All community service forms must be approved by your guidance counselor.
https://edgewaterhs.ocps.net/student_services/community_service_forms
- ***FAFSA (Dec. 2025)*** (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>) is a federal form used to determine students' eligibility for financial aid.
- Search for potential scholarship opportunities
 - It's never too early to start looking and applying for scholarships. Do not wait until the last minute! Start now, so you can gain as much free money as possible. Look for posts in Canvas, on our social media pages (@edgewaterccrc on all platforms), and in your email for scholarship opportunities labeled "Free Money"!
- **Scholarships and Grants**
 - A *scholarship* is based on merit and what you have accomplished academically and in your extracurriculars. Your grades, volunteering, clubs, and sports are looked at for scholarships. There are scholarships for every single person out there, you just have to look! By working hard and writing essays for scholarships you can accumulate enough money to pay for college.
 - A *grant* is given based on a need, such as the *Pell Grant* which is granted based on financial need.

***Once you select your college/university you will receive a financial aid package that will include scholarships or grants that you've earned**

4. Decide!

- After you have made your final decision, let us know by updating your Senior Form, so we can celebrate with you during our Annual Decision Day!

College and Trade/Vocational School Bound

- Commit to the school that you've chosen

Military Bound

- Enlist in the military branch of your choosing.

School-to-Work Bound

- Decide what job offer you would like to accept and pursue.

Unsure about what you want to do? Here are some options.

- Xello is a useful tool for college & career placement, it can show you which careers and schools are best for you depending on what you're looking for.
 - If you're still unsure what career you want to pursue, Xello has career assessments that will match you with potential jobs that fit your interests.
 - To find Xello, log into your LaunchPad! It's the last app on the list.
- If interested in a trade, but unsure if it's for you, Edgewater High is frequently organizing field trips to different career fairs and tours of Orange Technical College campuses, make sure to sign up.
 - Use these field trips to explore and ask questions from people in the industry.
- If you are interested in a college or university but want more information, Edgewater has college representatives who come to campus.
 - Ms.Holmes always sends out information on when college representatives will be on campus, so make sure to keep up to date with your emails.
 - These visits give you a chance to get more information about a college or university and ask any questions you might have, so don't miss out!
- If you are interested in the military, talk to a recruiter to see if it's for you!

Things to keep in mind if you're aspiring to attend College/University

- It is important to have a Top 5 List of Safety Schools AND Dream Schools!
 - If you don't get into your Dream School, a safety school can always be a good option.
 - If you don't get accepted once, you can always try again! Reapply during the following year.
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- Fee Waivers
 - Institutions often have fees for their application and enrollment. OCPS Parents can complete the OCPS *Household Economic Income Survey*, to see if the student qualifies for fee waivers. This application is available in August of each school year. If a student qualifies they can potentially receive fee waivers for college and enrollment applications, as well as 2 SAT and 4 ACT waivers.

- This survey can be found on the OCPS website and must be completed by the student and parent to determine one's eligibility.
 - https://www.ocps.net/departments/food_and_nutrition_services/parents
- **Picking a Major**
 - It's important to know the field of study you want to go in, but don't stress about committing to a major.
 - Institutions are not likely to ask for you to commit to a major until your Junior year.
- **In State vs. Out of State Tuition**
 - **In State**
 - Florida institutions want Florida graduates to attend their schools, so they offer a lower price for residents.
 - For example, UCF will be more affordable for a Florida resident than it would be for someone who isn't a resident.
 - **Out of State**
 - **Out of State** means you will be attending a college or university outside of the state you live in and are graduating from (Florida).
 - Therefore, universities outside of the state of Florida will cost more to attend since they charge more in tuition for students coming from out of state.
 - If planning to attend a school out of state, understand the full cost of attendance for out-of-state admission.
 - Did you apply to and earn scholarships and grants to help with cost?

Testing

- The SAT and ACT are standardized placement exams that help to determine your readiness for Post-High School life and assist them with determining who to admit into their school.
- Make sure you are preparing for these tests, and trying your best!
- You can find your previous SAT scores, sign up for future testing dates, and send your scores to colleges or universities through the College Board website: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
- You can find your previous ACT scores, sign up for future testing dates, and send your scores to colleges or universities through the ACT Website: <https://www.act.org/>
- Don't be intimidated by testing. Take them multiple times! Taking them more than once can help you get a higher score with something called a Super Score.
- A Super Score uses your best score for each section, across all of your attempts to create your highest score.