



Great Thought  
Inspiring Great Thinkers

# The College Process

## October 12, 2010

Intellect, Character, and Ideals in the Classical Tradition



# Agenda



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- 1. Timeline for preparing for college**
- 2. Graduation Requirements/Testing**
- 3. College Options**
- 4. What are colleges looking for?**
- 5. Finding colleges that fit /Choosing a major**
- 6. Application Process**
- 7. Scholarships and Financial Aid**

# Timeline for preparing for college



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## Freshman Year

- Meet with your counselor to discuss your college plans.
- Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.
- Get more involved with extracurricular activities.
- Go to college fairs in your area.

# Freshman Year



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## Learn about Colleges

- Learn about college cost and how financial aid works.
- Use the college cost calculator provided by [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) to see how much money you'll need for college, whether you're on track to save enough, and what you need to do to reach your goal. Talk to your parents about financing college.
- Visit colleges while they're in session.
- Find out about college first-hand from college friends who are home for the holidays

# Freshman Year



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## Explore Summer Opportunities

- Look for a great summer opportunities: job, internship, or volunteer position.
- Check with your counselor and search online for summer school enrichment programs for high school students at colleges.

# Sophomore Year



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## Plan for the Year Ahead

- Meet with your counselor to go over your transcript.
- Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.
- Get more involved with your extracurricular activities.
- Use college searches to find out the required courses and tests of colleges that you might be interested in attending.

# Sophomore Year



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- Go to college fairs in your area
- **Take the PSAT/NMSQT® given at Nova in October**
- When taking the PSAT/NMSQT check “yes” for student search Service® to hear about colleges and scholarships.

# Sophomore Year



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- Use the access code on your PSAT/NMSQT score report to sign in to [My College QuickStart™](#). With this personalized planning kit, you can prepare for the SAT using a study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT results and explore lists of suggested colleges, majors, and careers.
- Visit colleges while they're in session.
- Find out about college first-hand from college friends who are home for the holidays.

# Junior Year



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## Take the PSAT/NMSQT

- **Take the PSAT/NMSQT® in October. This test counts for the National Merit Scholarship Program (paid for by Nova).**

## Continue with Your College Search

- **Make lists of your abilities, preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.**
- **Research majors and careers.**
- **Use College Search to find colleges with the right characteristics.**

# Junior Year



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## Start Thinking about Financial Aid

- Talk to your counselor about your college plans and attend college night and financial aid night at your school. Use financial aid calculators to estimate your aid eligibility and college costs.

# Junior Year



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## Get Ready for the ACT/SAT

- Visit the SAT/ACT Preparation Centers on [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) or [ACT.org](http://ACT.org)<sup>TM</sup> to take a free full-length official practice test and get a score and skills report.

## Explore Colleges

- Start visiting local colleges: large, small, public, and private. Get a feel for what works for you. Develop a list of 15-20 colleges that interest you.

# Junior Year



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**Prepare for AP® Exams.**

**Plan Ahead for the Summer & Senior Year**

- Review your senior year class schedule with your counselor. Challenge yourself with honors and AP classes and stick with sequences you've begun, in the languages, for example.
- Plan summer activities early. Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship, or signing up for special summer learning programs.

# Junior Year/Summer



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## Keep Your Momentum Up This Summer

- Visit colleges. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, schedule interviews with admissions counselors. Be sure to bring your campus visit checklist.
- Request applications from colleges to which you'll apply. Check important dates; some universities have early dates or rolling admissions.
- Make a list of teachers from whom you'll want a recommendation.

# Senior Year



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## Pulling Your Applications Together

- **Narrow your list of colleges to between 5 and 10 and review it with your counselor. Get an application and financial aid info from each. Visit as many as possible.**

## Make a master calendar and note:

- **Test dates, fees, and deadlines**
- **College application due dates**
- **Required financial aid applications and their deadlines**
- **Recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials**

# Senior Year



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## **Make a master calendar and note (continued):**

- Ask for recommendations. Give each person your resume, a stamped, addressed envelope, and any required forms.
- Write application essays and ask teachers, parents, and friends to read first drafts.

# Senior Year



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- **Applying Early Action or Early Decision?**
- **November 1: For early admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November. Send your SAT® scores at [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) and ACT scores at [ACT.org](http://ACT.org)**
- **Ask if your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility**
- **Get Financial Aid Info**
- **Attend financial aid info events in your area.**
- **Talk to your counselor about CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® and learn about it with Completing the PROFILE.**
- **Use Scholarship Searches, review scholarship books, and ask your counselor about local and state funding sources.**

# Senior Year



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- **Application Details**
- Most regular applications are due between January 1 and February 15. Keep copies of everything you send to colleges.
- Have your high school send your transcript to colleges.
- Contact colleges to make sure they've received all application materials.
- **Financial Aid: Apply Early. Apply Right.**
- You and your family should save this year's pay stubs to estimate income on aid forms that you'll file early next year.
- Submit your [FAFSA](#) as soon after January 1 as possible. Men 18 or older must register for the selective service to receive federal financial aid.
- Many priority financial aid deadlines fall in February. To get the most attractive award package, apply by the priority date. Keep copies of everything you send.

# Senior Year



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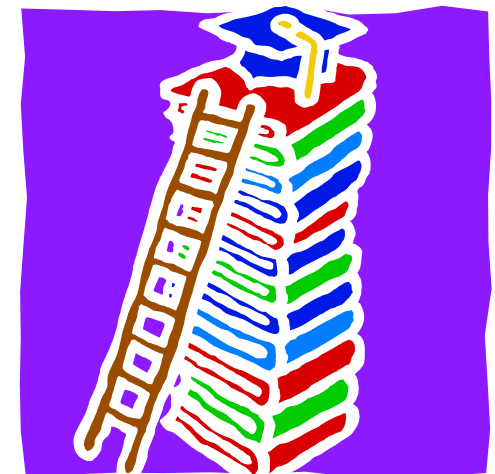
- **You should get acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April.**
- Compare Your Aid Awards to compare awards from different colleges. Questions? Talk to financial aid officers. Not enough aid? Ask if other financing plans are available.
- If you haven't already, visit your final college before accepting.
- **May 1: Making Your Final Choice**
- You must tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1. Send a deposit to the college you choose.
- Wait-listed? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask if funds will be available if you're accepted.

# Graduation!



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- Ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college.
- Start preparing for the year ahead.

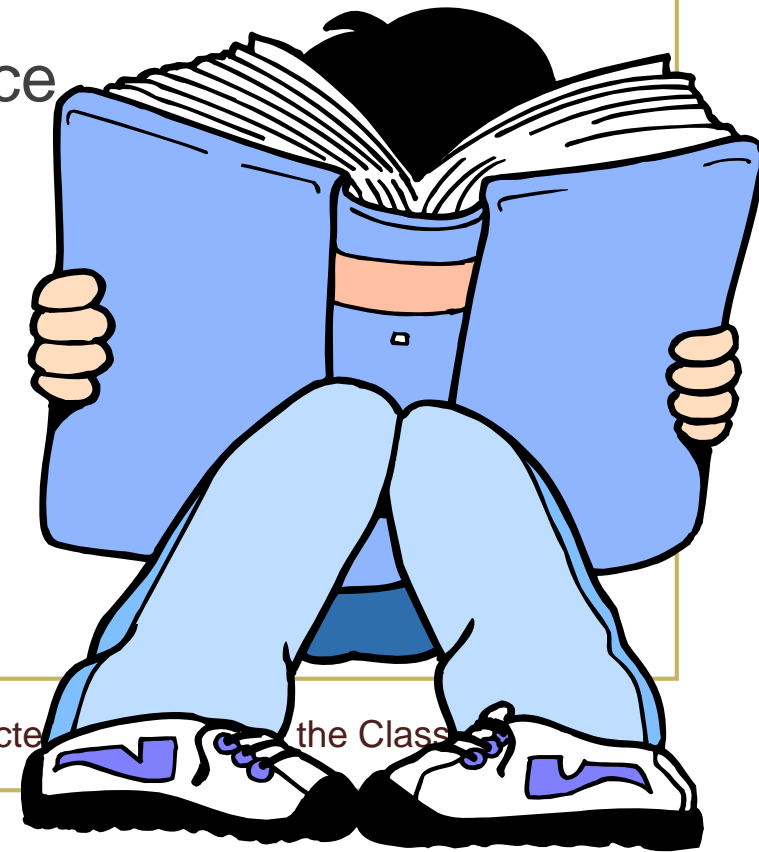


# Graduation Requirements



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All Nova students take a college preparatory curriculum that not only meets the graduation requirements for the state of Minnesota, but for entrance requirements for state, university, public and private colleges.



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# Course of Study



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		Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
1	Literature	Humanities I:	Humanities II:	Humanities III:	Humanities IV:
2	History	1000 BC – 1400 AD	1400-1800 AD	1800-present	U.S. Culture
3	Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Scientific debates or 2 J/S electives
4	Math	Algebra II	Geometry	Trig/Statistics	Calculus or 2 J/S electives
5	Language**	Language*/ F/S Rotation	Language*/ F/S Rotation	Language/Elective	Economics/ Language/Elective
6	Rhetoric	Rhetoric F/S Rotation	Rhetoric F/S Rotation	Rhetoric Elective	Ethical Philosophy
					Senior Thesis

# TESTING AT NOVA



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Test	PLAN	PSAT	ACT	SAT	AP
Cost	Free	NOVA	NOVA	<b>\$45</b>	<b>\$87</b>
Grade 9	Sept Free	OCT NOVA	APRIL NOVA		
Grade 10	Sept Free	OCT NOVA	APRIL NOVA		
Grade 11		OCT NOVA	April/Oct NOVA	Varies. Not given at NOVA	May \$87
Grade 12			If needed	If needed	May \$87

# College Options



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## GPAs

- **Colleges are given detailed information regarding Nova's high school college preparatory curriculum to show the difficulty in our courses as compared to other schools and applicants.**

## PSEO

**The state of MN pays for Post Secondary Education for high school students their Junior and Senior year, but have several requirements for acceptance, limited spaces available in the courses taken at the college, and transportation is not provided.**

# PSEO



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- **Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) allow students to take free college courses at a college. Students attend class and complete the same assignments required of regular college students.**
- **Students may earn both high school and college credit. This can save you time and money when you actually get to college.**
- **The course work is college-level. You may do better in college classes later because you'll know what to expect.**
- **You take college-level courses at an actual college. You interact with college students from around the state, the country and even the world.**

# PSEO



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## **Do all colleges and universities accept these credits?**

- Acceptance and transfer of credits varies by college, but many do accept credits earned through the program. Others colleges may choose to award advanced placement instead. This allows you to take upper-level courses without taking the introductory, prerequisite courses. Some will allow you to earn both credit and placement. If you're interested in a specific college, be sure to ask admissions about their policy.

# College Options



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**What kind of college would your child like to attend?**

**Different types of colleges suit different types of people.**

**Take a look at these descriptions to learn about the options available to your child.**

# Liberal Arts Colleges



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## Liberal Arts Colleges

- Liberal arts colleges offer a broad base of courses in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Most are private and focus mainly on undergraduate students. Classes tend to be small and personal attention is available.

# Community College



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## Community or Junior Colleges

- Community colleges offer a degree after the completion of two years of full-time study. They frequently offer technical programs that prepare students for immediate entry into the job market.

# Universities



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## Universities

- Generally, a university is bigger than a college and offers more majors and research facilities. Class size is often a reflection of institutional size, and some classes may be taught by graduate students.

# Other Options



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## **Agricultural, Technical, and Other Specialized Colleges**

- Has your child made a clear decision about a career after college? Specialized colleges emphasize preparation for specific careers. Examples include Art, Music, Bible, Business, Health Science, Seminary, Rabbinical, and Teaching.

## **Study Abroad Programs**

Several schools offer study abroad programs once you are accepted to the college. If you are interested in studying abroad, please research your college options carefully regarding this option.

# College Choices



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## Public vs. Private

- On the one hand, public colleges are usually less expensive, particularly for in-state residents. They get most of their money from the state or local government. Check out your state's Guide to Residency. Private colleges rely on tuition, fees, endowments, and other private sources. On the other hand, private colleges are usually smaller and can offer more personalized attention.

# College Choices



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## Single Sex

- All four-year public colleges and most private schools are co-ed. However, there are colleges made up of predominantly just one gender. Although they may enroll a few members of the opposite sex, there are fewer than 100 colleges for only men and a similar amount for women.

## Religiously Affiliated Colleges

- Some private colleges are affiliated with a religious faith. The affiliation may be historic only or it may affect day-to-day student life.

# Admission Factors



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## What Are Colleges Looking For?

- As you prepare application materials, it can help to know what schools are really looking for in the piles of paperwork.
- Admissions officers evaluate applications in different ways, depending on how selective, or competitive, their college is.

# Selectivity



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## The Levels of Selectivity

- At one extreme are open admissions colleges. These schools require only a high school diploma and accept students on a first-come, first-served basis. Many community colleges have this policy. At the other extreme are very selective colleges. They admit only a small percentage of applicants each year. Most colleges fall somewhere in between.

**As many as 10 or 15 students apply for each spot at very selective schools.**

# Selectivity



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**Less Selective:** Less selective colleges focus on whether applicants meet minimum requirements and whether there's room for more students. Acceptable grades are often the only requirement beyond an interest in college study. Test scores are usually used for course placement, not admissions.

# Selectivity



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**More Selective:** More selective colleges consider course work, grades, test scores, recommendations, and essays. The major factor may be whether you are ready for college-level study. It's possible to be denied admission because of a weakness or a lack of interest in higher education.

# Selectivity



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**Very Selective:** As many as 10 or 15 students apply for each spot at very selective schools. Admissions officers look carefully at every aspect of a student's high school experience, from academic strength to test scores. Since many applicants are strong academically, other factors—such as your essay—are critical. Although they receive a great deal of publicity, only a small number of colleges are this selective

# Admission Factors



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- **What colleges consider for admission:**

- Courses taken
- Counselor/teacher recommendations
- Ethnicity Admission Factors
- Grades
- Application questions and essays
- Geographic location
- Major/college applied to
- Class Rank
- Grade Point Average
- Personal Interview
- Alumni Relationship
- Activities
- Special talents and skills
- Admission test results

# Application checklist



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## What You'll Need to Apply

- Once you've selected several schools that interest you, ask the admissions office for **application forms** and make sure that you:
- Fill them out carefully.
- Look for application instructions in the school's catalog and follow them exactly.
- Make copies of everything you submit.
- Wait two to six weeks for a response to each application.

# Application Checklist



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- **High School Transcript:** Most colleges will require a copy of your high school transcript. You can request this be sent to the college(s) you are interested in through your high school's office or your school counselor.
- **Application Fee:** You might have to pay an application fee (anywhere from \$20-\$75). If you can't afford it, talk to an admissions counselor at the college to which you are applying. You may be able to get the fee waived.
- **College Admissions Tests:** Most four-year colleges or universities require you to submit ACT or SAT scores. If you apply to a school with open enrollment, you may not need to take the ACT or SAT. Make sure you know test dates, times and locations. Talk with your school counselor about how to sign up for the test.

# Interviews



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- **Interview:** If the school is very selective with its admissions process, you may have to schedule an interview. The best interview tip is to relax and be yourself.
- If you feel that you may be on the “edge” of being admitted to a college, it may help to schedule an interview for the school to get to know you better.

# Recommendations



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- **Letters of Recommendation:** Four-year colleges or universities often require letters of recommendation. These recommendations are about what you've accomplished, what kind of potential you have, and why the person writing the letter believes you should be admitted to that college. Recommendation can come from your teachers, coaches, mentors, church leaders, employers and people you've worked with in your community. Recommendation cannot come from relatives.

# Essays



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**Application Essay:** If you plan on attending a four-year college or universities, you may have to write an application essay. This essay is a way to let a college know the real you. If the essay topic isn't provided, you can choose your own topic. If you need help, talk with a school counselor, teacher or parent.

# Essay Topics



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- **Sometimes essay topics are provided. Other times, the student will need to choose from a list of topics. The following are some good essay topics:**

# Essay Topics



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- **An academic subject that excites and motivates the student**
- **Hobbies or out-of-classroom activities that are of special interest to the student**
- **A local or national event that has touched the student in some way**
- **A personal event that has shaped or molded the student's experience**
- **A social cause about which the student is passionate**

# Financial Aid



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## WHAT is the **CSS FAFSA PROFILE**?

The **PROFILE** is an online application that collects information used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to award institutional aid funds. (All **federal** funds are awarded based on the **FAFSA**, available after Jan. 1 at ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).)

# Scholarships



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- **Scholarship Searches are available through the college that you are applying to or several organizations. You can find a listing of these through websites such as [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com), [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com), and through state or local organizations.**
- **Schools are also notified of several local and nationwide scholarships.**

# Websites



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## Career Information

- Apprenticeships.....  
[www.dli.mn.gov/Appr.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Appr.asp)
- Construct My Future .....  
[www.constructmyfuture.com](http://www.constructmyfuture.com)
- Health Careers .....  
[www.healthcareers.umn.edu](http://www.healthcareers.umn.edu)
- Internet System for Education and Employment Knowledge ..... [www.iseek.org](http://www.iseek.org)
- MnCareers .....  
[www.iseek.org/mncareers/](http://www.iseek.org/mncareers/)
- Job Shadow .....  
[www.jobshadow.org](http://www.jobshadow.org)

# Websites



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## College Preparation & Admissions Tests

- ACT ..... [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- PLAN ..... [www.act.org/plan/](http://www.act.org/plan/)
- PSAT ..... [www.collegeboard.com/psat/](http://www.collegeboard.com/psat/)
- SAT ..... [www.collegeboard.com/sat/](http://www.collegeboard.com/sat/)
- TOEFL ..... [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)

# Websites



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## College Searches

- The College Board ..... [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- College Navigator ..... [nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/](http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/)
- College View ..... [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)
- Internet System for Education and Employment Knowledge ..... [www.iseek.org](http://www.iseek.org)
- Peterson's / Thomson Learning ..... [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
- Princeton Review ..... [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

# Websites



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## Financial Aid

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid ..... [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- FAFSA 4caster ..... [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov)
- FAFSA PIN ..... [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)
- Publications ..... [www.fsapubs.org](http://www.fsapubs.org)
- Minnesota College Goal Sunday ..... [www.mncollegegoalsunday.org](http://www.mncollegegoalsunday.org)
- Minnesota Office of Higher Education ..... [www.getreadyforcollege.org/paying](http://www.getreadyforcollege.org/paying)
- Military Service Education Benefits ..... [www.getreadyforcollege.org/military](http://www.getreadyforcollege.org/military)
- Resources of Undocumented Students ..... [www.getreadyforcollege.org/undocumented](http://www.getreadyforcollege.org/undocumented)
- Publications ..... [www.getreadyforcollege.org/materials](http://www.getreadyforcollege.org/materials)
- Scholarships Offered by Minnesota Institutions ..... [www.getreadyforcollege.org/mnscholarships](http://www.getreadyforcollege.org/mnscholarships)
- U.S. Department of Education ..... [studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov)

# Websites



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## Military Service

- Careers in the Military ..... [www.careersinthemilitary.com](http://www.careersinthemilitary.com)
- Today's Military ..... [www.todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com)
- U.S. Air Force ..... [www.airforce.com](http://www.airforce.com)
- U.S. Army ..... [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com)
- U.S. Coast Guard ..... [www.gocoastguard.com](http://www.gocoastguard.com)
- U.S. Marines ..... [www.marines.com](http://www.marines.com)
- U.S. Navy ..... [www.navy.com](http://www.navy.com)

# Websites



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## Minnesota Colleges & Universities

- Internet System for Education and Employment Knowledge ..... [www.iseek.org](http://www.iseek.org)
- Minnesota Career College Association ..... [www.mncareercolleges.org](http://www.mncareercolleges.org)
- Minnesota Private College Council ..... [www.mnprivatecolleges.org](http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org)
- Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system ..... [www.mnscu.edu](http://www.mnscu.edu)
- Minnesota Online ..... [www.mnonline.mnscu.edu](http://www.mnonline.mnscu.edu)
- University of Minnesota ..... [www.umn.edu](http://www.umn.edu)

# Websites



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## Scholarship Searches

- American Indian College Fund ..... [www.collegefund.org/scholarships/](http://www.collegefund.org/scholarships/)
- American Indian Science & Engineering Society ..... [www.aises.org/Programs/Scholarships](http://www.aises.org/Programs/Scholarships)
- Association on American Indian Affairs ..... [www.indian-affairs.org](http://www.indian-affairs.org)
- A Better Chance ..... [www.abetterchance.org](http://www.abetterchance.org)
- College Answer ..... [www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com)
- FastWeb Free Scholarship Search ..... [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities ..... [scholarships.hacu.net](http://scholarships.hacu.net)
- Hispanic College Fund ..... [www.hispanicfund.org](http://www.hispanicfund.org)
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund ..... [www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)
- Latino Scholarship Dollars ..... [www.latinocollegedollars.org](http://www.latinocollegedollars.org)

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- Latino Scholarship Dollars ..... [www.latinocollegedollars.org](http://www.latinocollegedollars.org)
- Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation..... [www.mcsf.org](http://www.mcsf.org)
- Migrant Scholarships ..... [www.migrant.net](http://www.migrant.net)
- Military Scholarships ..... [www.todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com)
- Military.com ..... [education.military.com](http://education.military.com)
- Scholarship Experts ..... [www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com)
- Scholarships.com ..... [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- Scholarships for Military Children ..... [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org)
- Scholarships Offered by Minnesota Institutions ..... [www.getreadyforcollege.org/mnscholarships](http://www.getreadyforcollege.org/mnscholarships)
- United Negro College Fund..... [www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org)

# Questions?



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