I've been participating in as many extracurricular activities as I can, whether it's baseball and football or debate and student council. I also make sure I maintain high grades in school. These two together greatly improve my chances of receiving both financial aid and/or scholarships.

In fact, a lot of students still don't know what careers they want to pursue when they start college. And some of them change their minds once they're there. Even most people in the workforce change their careers at least once. But the more education you have, the more options it gives you.

But it's not OK to wait until you graduate from high school to start planning. It's time right now to begin identifying your interests and skills. Take classes and get involved in extracurricular activities, work experiences and community service that will help you reach your goals. Find teachers, counselors and other adults you trust to help you get ready.

Four years might seem like a long way off, but the decisions you make today will help determine the choices that will be available to you tomorrow.

You don't know?? That's OK. So what are you going to do when the time comes? Get a job? Doing what? Go to college or a trade school? Which one? Travel? Just hang around for a while and decide later?

Less than four years until high school graduation: 45 months ... 1,400 days. (But who's counting, right?) Four years until you're on your own, free to make your own choices and decisions, all of the time.

In fact, a lot of students still don't know what careers they want to pursue when they start college. And some of them change their minds once they're there. Even most people in the workforce change their careers at least once. But the more education you have, the more options it gives you.

But it's not OK to wait until you graduate from high school to start planning. It's time right now to begin identifying your interests and skills. Take classes and get involved in extracurricular activities, work experiences and community service that will help you reach your goals. Find teachers, counselors and other adults you trust to help you get ready.

Four years might seem like a long way off, but the decisions you make today will help determine the choices that will be available to you tomorrow.

You don't know?? That's OK. So what are you going to do when the time comes? Get a job? Doing what? Go to college or a trade school? Which one? Travel? Just hang around for a while and decide later?

Less than four years until high school graduation: 45 months ... 1,400 days. (But who's counting, right?) Four years until you're on your own, free to make your own choices and decisions, all of the time.

In fact, a lot of students still don't know what careers they want to pursue when they start college. And some of them change their minds once they're there. Even most people in the workforce change their careers at least once. But the more education you have, the more options it gives you.

But it's not OK to wait until you graduate from high school to start planning. It's time right now to begin identifying your interests and skills. Take classes and get involved in extracurricular activities, work experiences and community service that will help you reach your goals. Find teachers, counselors and other adults you trust to help you get ready.

Four years might seem like a long way off, but the decisions you make today will help determine the choices that will be available to you tomorrow.
You’ve already spent the last eight years going to school. You’re looking at another four years before you get your high school diploma, and somebody’s telling you that you need to go to even more school after that?

Sure, you’re going to learn more than you ever thought possible in the classroom, but that’s just one part of going to college. It’s the complete package – campus living, concerts, dances, theater, athletics and recreation, fraternities and sororities, social and cultural events, and more. You’ll find new friends from across the state, the country and from around the world.

“This is money that usually comes from a financial institution such as a bank, or from state or federal programs, and must be paid back. Many students have jobs in college. Working helps you earn money and can give you great experience.”

If you and your family haven’t started saving yet, now’s the time to start. College savings can have tax advantages for your parents and, in Alaska, you can automatically save your Permanent Fund dividends by designating them to a college savings plan on the PFD application.

University of Alaska Scholars Awards are available to the top 10 percent of graduating seniors from all qualified high schools in the state. Both are money that doesn’t have to be paid back. Grants generally are based on your and your parents’ income, while scholarships are awarded to students meeting special requirements or demonstrating special talents such as outstanding academic performance in high school or athletic ability. University of Alaska Scholars Awards are available to the top 10 percent of graduating seniors from all qualified high schools in the state.

If you and your family haven’t started saving yet, now’s the time to start. If you think you can’t afford college, there are a lot of resources to help make it more affordable. Options range from colleges themselves, to state and federal governments, to civic groups, foundations, businesses and community organizations. Today, more than half of those attending college in the U.S. receive some form of financial aid. Here’s a sampling of funding sources:

- **Grants/Scholarships**
- **Loans**
- **Work Study/Student Jobs**
- **Service Programs**
You might already know that thousands of high school graduates from Alaska choose UA for its excellent academic, athletic, social and cultural programs. But did you know that UA offers plenty of cultural variety and diversity, too? That one out of every 10 students at UA is from somewhere else … from Maine to Missouri and Panama to Poland? It’s your choice.

Did you know that UA is as close – or as far away – as you want it to be? That with three main campuses and a network of community campuses and extension centers, you can attend UA around the corner or across the state? That through exchange programs, you can pursue a UA degree in Nevada or New Zealand … and lots of places in between?

And did you know that at UA, you can get a private school education at a public school cost … some of the lowest teacher-student ratios anywhere … professors who are really committed to your success?

Did you know that at UA you will find an adventure that will last you a lifetime?

It’s all at the University of Alaska … it’s your choice.

You might have heard that UA has programs in rural Alaska studies, fisheries and ocean sciences, education and mineral engineering. But did you know it offers nearly 400 degrees in majors ranging from aviation technology and journalism, to physics and theatre? Did you know that you can become a rocket scientist at UA, or a dental hygienist, or a welder? Or that you can earn the undergraduate degrees you’ll need to become a doctor, dentist or lawyer? It’s your choice.

You might already know that the University of Alaska Anchorage, the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau all have on-campus housing. But did you know they also offer a variety of living arrangements so you can choose to live with people who have similar interests and lifestyles? It’s your choice.

You probably know that UA plays Division I ice hockey, Division II men’s and women’s basketball and other DII intercollegiate sports. But did you know that UA also has intramural competition and sports clubs in everything from badminton to broomball and flag football to water polo at its own athletic facilities? Or that there are fraternities, sororities and dozens of other special interest clubs you can join, like computing, debate and art? It’s your choice.

That’s what’s cool about the University of Alaska … it’s your choice.
so where do you think you’re going?

Name _________________________________
Address _______________________________
City, State, ZIP _________________________
User ID __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
Email address __________________________
Phone number _________________________
Birth date __/__/__
School subject or career interests

Year of high school graduation____
High school ___________________________________
Please send me more information about:
( ) University of Alaska Anchorage and associated campuses
( ) University of Alaska Fairbanks and associated campuses
( ) University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau
and associated campuses
Comments or questions:

Do you want to receive more information about
the University of Alaska? Go online at
www.gotocollege.alaska.edu or fill out and mail
this card back to us. We will send you
information about our many schools in the state.

University of Alaska System
PO Box 755020
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5020

cover photo by Greg Martin

www.gotocollege.alaska.edu
WHY IS HIGHER EDUCATION SO IMPORTANT?

Higher education is one of the most powerful tools for personal and economic growth. A college degree can lead to higher earnings, better job opportunities, and a more fulfilling life. It is also a time for personal growth and exploration, as students have the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills, learn about different cultures and perspectives, and build a network of lifelong friends and colleagues.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR EDUCATION?

There are many options for higher education, including public and private two-year colleges, four-year colleges, and graduate programs. Each option offers unique benefits and opportunities, so it is important to consider your career goals, financial situation, and personal preferences when deciding which path is right for you.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF EDUCATION?

The costs of education can vary widely depending on the type of institution and program you choose. Public institutions are often more affordable than private institutions, but they may have larger class sizes and less personalized attention. Private institutions tend to have smaller class sizes and more personalized attention, but they can be more expensive. Federal and state governments provide financial aid to help students pay for college, and a variety of private scholarships and grants are available as well.

HOW DO I DECIDE WHAT CAREER I WANT?

Choosing a career involves considering your strengths, interests, and values. You can explore different career paths by talking with guidance counselors, conducting research, and networking with people in your desired field. It is important to consider the cost and time commitment of different career options, as well as the potential for job satisfaction and personal growth.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A COLLEGE DEGREE?

A college degree can provide a range of benefits, including higher earning potential, better job opportunities, and increased job security. It can also provide exposure to new ideas and perspectives, opportunities for personal growth and development, and a network of lifelong friends and colleagues.

WHAT ARE THE DRAWBACKS OF A COLLEGE DEGREE?

The cost of higher education can be a significant barrier for many students, and the time commitment can be demanding. Additionally, some students may find the academic environment challenging and the social scene overwhelming. It is important to consider these factors when deciding whether to pursue a college degree.

WHAT ARE THE BEST RESOURCES FOR FUTURE STUDENTS?

There are many resources available to help future students make informed decisions about higher education, including college websites, guidance counselors, and online communities. It is important to research different options and consider your career goals, financial situation, and personal preferences when deciding which path is right for you.

WHAT IS THE RIGHT PLACE FOR YOU?

Finding the right place to get a college degree is a personal decision, and there is no one-size-fits-all answer. Consider your career goals, financial situation, and personal preferences when deciding which institution is right for you. It is important to research different options and make an informed decision.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE?

A college degree can open many doors, and there are many different career paths to pursue. Some common careers include healthcare professionals, educators, engineers, and business professionals. It is important to consider your strengths, interests, and values when deciding which career path is right for you.
GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR SCHOOLS, COUSINS, and college-prep resources at your school.

JUNIOR YEAR

THESE ARE YOUR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, so learn more about their jobs and educational requirements for their professions.

FINISH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL CAREER WITH A BANG!

THESE ARE IMPORTANT DECISIONS when you choose to go to college.

ATTEND COLLEGE FAIRS, talk with representatives and visit more schools.

NARROW YOUR FOCUS AND REQUEST INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION.

GET A “REALITY CHECK” from your counselor about what’s realistic for you and what isn’t.

TRY TO VISIT the schools that interest you most. Schedule campus visits, and take any required entrance exams the first time.

APPLY FOR ON-CAMPUS HOUSING, or research off-campus options.

COMPLETE FINANCIAL AID FORMS, especially the FAFSA.

RETAKE ENTRANCE EXAMS if you aren’t satisfied with your scores the first time.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

SOPHOMORE YEAR: TIME TO THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE. COLLEGES, COURSES, and major/degree choices.

VISIT T H E PLAY STORE or the web, or for a campus visit, make sure you’re taking the right classes.

TAKE THE PSAT to prepare for the SAT, ACT and other entrance exams.

ATTEND COLLEGE FAIRS, talk with representatives and visit more schools.

TAKE CAREFUL ENTRANCE EXAM PREREQUISITES – ACT and SAT.

EXPERIENCE COLLEGES ON THE WEB, or for a campus visit, make sure you’re taking the right classes.

EXPLORE COLLEGE OPTIONS, talk with representatives and take any required entrance exams.

RESEARCH PEOPLE TO ADVISE YOU ON RECOMMENDATIONS – employers, teachers, counselors, etc.

WRITE PERSONAL STATEMENTS about your goals and experiences. Take the PSAT, ACT.

FRESHMAN YEAR

FRESHMAN YEAR: TIME TO THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE. COLLEGES, COURSES, and major/degree choices.

DON’T WORRY IF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL’s COURSES, and college-prep resources at your school.

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR SCHOOLS, COUSINS, and college-prep resources at your school.

FRESHMAN YEAR: TIME TO THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE. COLLEGES, COURSES, and major/degree choices.

SAPFEE OPEN MEDIA KIDS AND SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL GROWTH. الاحتياجات التي توجه إلى تطوير العلاق.

SAPFEE OPEN MEDIA KIDS AND SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL GROWTH. الاحتياجات التي توجه إلى تطوير العلاق.

SAPFEE OPEN MEDIA KIDS AND SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL GROWTH. الاحتياجات التي توجه إلى تطوير العلاق.