Do you want more information about the University of Alaska? Fill out this form online at www.gotocollege.alaska.edu or complete this card and mail it back to us.

Sure, Patty McCormick studies hard and is saving for college—she knows it takes more than a good GPA to get where you want to go in life. That’s why she’s involved with school clubs and sports, like cheerleading, and volunteers her time at the local hospital. “When I toured a few Ivy League schools this summer, I learned that community service and school involvement is very important.”

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

University of Alaska System
P.O. Box 755020
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5020

Junior, West Valley High School, Fairbanks

UAF Photo by Todd Paris

Cover photos from left to right: © 2004 Matt Hage, UAF Photo by Todd Paris, UAF Photo by Stefanie Attwood, © 2002 Matt Hage, UAF Photo by Todd Paris

University of Alaska Anchorage
P.O. Box 75020
Anchorage, AK 99510-0905

last   first  middle
That’s how much more the U.S. government estimates a college graduate can earn in a lifetime over someone who doesn’t go any farther than high school. And today, most of the new jobs in the U.S. require more than a high school education.

But money’s not the only reason to go to college. Odds are you’ll find a job even without a college degree, but what kind of job? Will it be a job you choose, or one you have to settle for? At college, you’ll gain a better understanding of science and technology, of your community and your world. You’ll fine-tune your ability to think and express yourself, to make decisions on and off the job. College can help put you in charge of your career and your life.

Less than four years until high school graduation: 42 months … 1,300 days. (But who’s counting, right?) So what are you going to do when the time comes? Maybe you know exactly what you want to do … or maybe you don’t have a clue. That’s OK – a lot of students don’t know what careers they want to pursue when they start college. And some of them change their minds once they’re there. But the more education you have, the more options it gives you.

Even if you don’t know what you want to do, it’s time right now to begin identifying your interests and skills. Need help? Ask your teachers, counselors, parents or other adults you trust to help you get ready.

When Dominique Brinson thinks about his future, he sees himself playing basketball in college, pursuing a career in engineering – and meeting some cool people along the way. He’s on the right track. Dominique is working hard and also participates in his high school’s Early Scholars Program, which helps prepare Alaska Native and other Native American students for college.

WHAT’S IN YOUR FUTURE? Dreams about being an engineer.
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.

You’ll find that even the classroom is an adventure. Many colleges offer exchange programs where you can attend college in another state or country. And there are research opportunities where you learn by doing.

College will take you to places you’ve never been before. But you’ll only get there if you start planning your journey now.

WHAT’S IN YOUR FUTURE?
Life-long dream is to be an orthopedic surgeon – and being a pilot would be cool, too.

RAHI
Staying in the dorms. Eating in the cafeteria. Taking college classes. High school students get a chance to do all these things as part of UAF’s Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI), which helps high school students from rural Alaska make the transition to college life.

Jordan Jeffery is looking forward to meeting new people at college – and getting an education that will help him find a job doing something he enjoys.

WHAT’S IN YOUR FUTURE?
Not sure yet – the sky’s the limit.
START CONSIDERING SCHOOLS BASED ON YOUR SKILLS AND INTERESTS, including four-year colleges and universities, two-year junior and community colleges and technical schools.

MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR to explore colleges and their requirements, and make sure you’re taking the right classes.

TAKE THE PSAT to prepare for the SAT and ACT and to notify schools of your interest in them. You can also take the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) starting this year.

EXPLORE COLLEGES ON THE WEB, or tie a campus visit into vacation plans.

INVESTIGATE FINANCIAL AID and SCHOLARSHIP OPTIONS from government and private sources. Your school counselor can help.

IDENTIFY PEOPLE TO ASK FOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION – employers, teachers, counselors, etc.

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

TAKE REQUIRED ENTRANCE EXAMS – ACT and SAT tests and any others you’ll need for admission to colleges you’re interested in attending. High test scores can help you qualify for scholarships. You can also re-take the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE).

GET FAMILIAR WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR and college prep resources at your school.

VISIT WITH COLLEGE RECRUITERS when they are at your high school or at college fairs.

THINK ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, and ask adults you know about their jobs and the educational requirements for their professions.

LOG ON TO www.gotocollege.alaska.edu to begin your college planning.

PLAN WHAT COURSES you’ll need to take in high school to get into college.

GET OFF TO A GOOD START. Maintain high grades to qualify for the UA Scholars Program and other scholarships.

PREPARE A FIRST DRAFT of your personal essay.

TAKE REQUIRED ENTRANCE EXAMS – ACT and SAT tests and any others you’ll need for admission to colleges you’re interested in attending. High test scores can help you qualify for scholarships. You can also re-take the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE).

FINALIZE COLLEGE PLANS with your school counselor, for universities, two-year junior and community colleges and technical schools.

SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES that interest you and help you learn about your career choices. It could also help you get scholarships.

FINALIZE ESSAYS.

COMPLETE FINANCIAL AID FORMS, especially the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and apply for scholarships.

FINISH APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION. Follow the instructions, and pay close attention to deadlines. At least start working well before deadlines, and coordinate your required documents to colleges where you’re applying - transcripts, letters of recommendation, test scores, etc. Remember, your application will be processed faster if all required documents are submitted together at least three weeks before deadlines. Ask teachers and counselors to submit required documents to colleges where you’re applying - transcripts, letters of recommendation, test scores, etc. Remember, your application will be processed faster if all required documents are submitted together.

DETERMINE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS and deadline dates.

CAREFULLY PREPARE YOUR APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION. Follow the instructions, and pay close attention to deadlines. At least start working well before deadlines, and coordinate your required documents to colleges where you’re applying - transcripts, letters of recommendation, test scores, etc. Remember, your application will be processed faster if all required documents are submitted together at least three weeks before deadlines. Ask teachers and counselors to submit required documents to colleges where you’re applying - transcripts, letters of recommendation, test scores, etc. Remember, your application will be processed faster if all required documents are submitted together.

APPLY FOR ON-CAMPUS HOUSING, or research other options.

FINALIZE ESSAYS.

COMPLETE FINANCIAL AID FORMS, especially the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and apply for scholarships.

FINISH APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION. Follow the instructions, and pay close attention to deadlines. At least start working well before deadlines, and coordinate your required documents to colleges where you’re applying - transcripts, letters of recommendation, test scores, etc. Remember, your application will be processed faster if all required documents are submitted together at least three weeks before deadlines. Ask teachers and counselors to submit required documents to colleges where you’re applying - transcripts, letters of recommendation, test scores, etc. Remember, your application will be processed faster if all required documents are submitted together.

SAVE money for college.

Take CHALLENGING COURSES in required subjects and electives.

Get INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES that interest you and help you learn about your career choices. It could also help you get scholarships.

Work hard and study hard. GOOD GRADES and taking the right courses all play an important role in receiving financial aid and gaining admission to the schools you choose.

RESEARCH different schools on the Web.

GET TO KNOW PEOPLE who can help you get into college. This could be your school counselor, teachers, college recruiters, or other professionals.
Charlie Sokaitis
As the sports reporter for KTVF Channel 11 in Fairbanks, UAF graduate Charlie Sokaitis is doing exactly what he dreamed of. “I love when the camera goes on, thousands of people are watching and it’s live TV. Anything can happen and that’s what makes it so exciting. Plus, every day is different, so it’s hard to get bored,” Charlie says he wouldn’t be where he’s at today without his college education and the encouragement from his teachers. “I remember my journalism professor asking ‘Is this what you really want to do? Because I think you could be really good at it.’ It was the moment I decided what I wanted to do after college and now I am doing it.” Charlie has his own encouragement for students in high school. “High school is supposed to be fun, but I’ll let you in on a secret - college is better.”

So you like to draw, you get A’s in art and you think your career choices consist of painting pictures or … painting pictures? Well, think again. Here’s a tiny sampling of the jobs you could get where you can apply your skills and interests – even art!
WHY SHOULD I START PLANNING FOR COLLEGE NOW?
The choices you make now – classes, study and work habits, and extracurricular activities – will determine what your options are in the future. Plan for how you’re going to meet the requirements to get into college. Take the right courses, maintain a high grade point average and complete the necessary exams like the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE), PSAT, SAT and ACT.

WHAT COURSES DO I NEED TO TAKE IN HIGH SCHOOL?
Requirements vary from college to college, but typically you’ll need:
• 4 years of English (literature and composition)
• 3-4 years of math
• 2-4 years of science and foreign language
• 2-3 years of history and geography
• 1 year of arts (music, art, dance, etc.)
• 1-3 years of challenging electives (such as economics, communications or computer science)
Trade schools and community colleges generally have fewer pre-requisites.

HOW MUCH DOES COLLEGE COST?
College and related expenses can tip the scales at $10,000 to $36,000 a year. Sticker-shocked? You have tools available that can help you pay for college. All universities provide financial aid. Keep in mind that it’s less expensive to go to school in your home state, and that public schools are less expensive than private schools.

IS A MORE EXPENSIVE SCHOOL BETTER THAN ONE THAT’S LESS EXPENSIVE?
Not necessarily. The best approach is to match your skills and interests with the programs a college offers, then determine if the college is affordable for you and your family.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?
Visiting www.gotocollege.alaska.edu is a great way to start.
Where do you want to go to college? How much does it cost? Getting an early handle on this will help you figure out how much you’ll need to save, earn or borrow.

**DO THE MATH**

This table gives you an idea of how much it costs to attend one year at a four-year college. In addition, you’ll also have to budget for books, miscellaneous expenses and travel. Going to college in your home state costs less, since you’re paying resident tuition and usually don’t have to travel as far. There are also programs, like the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), where you can attend out-of-state colleges at a reduced rate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State, Type of School</th>
<th>Tuition &amp; Fees</th>
<th>Room &amp; Board</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska, four-year public</td>
<td>$4,445</td>
<td>$6,400</td>
<td>$10,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada, four-year public</td>
<td>$13,420</td>
<td>$10,220</td>
<td>$23,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon, four-year public</td>
<td>$17,538</td>
<td>$7,344</td>
<td>$24,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, four-year private</td>
<td>$23,540</td>
<td>$6,930</td>
<td>$30,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California, four-year public</td>
<td>$25,827</td>
<td>$10,469</td>
<td>$36,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado, four-year private</td>
<td>$30,372</td>
<td>$8,351</td>
<td>$38,723</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some people might think a big-city girl like Naomi Raddatz would be bored at a small school in a small town. “People are typically shocked at my decision to stay here, rather than go back to San Francisco.” But Naomi has found plenty of things she likes at UAS – the Russian language courses, accessible professors and the selection at the library, to start. And, off campus, there’s even more to do – hunting for thrift store finds, hiking, kayaking, chilling out to her favorite music, hanging out with friends, and reading and writing, of course. “As in any city, if you are motivated, the possibilities for entertainment are endless.”

**WHAT’S IN YOUR FUTURE?** Hopes to go into journalism.
Profile

Trevor Hyatt likes the campus, classes and professors at UAF, but his favorite thing about college is playing for the UAF hockey team. “Hockey is what makes college life exciting — playing in front of great fans and travelling to other schools in the nation to play.” And he says hanging out with friends around enormous bonfires in freezing cold weather isn’t bad either. But the UA Scholar does his share of studying, too. “You are on your own, so you have to push yourself to not get behind in your studies, because no one else will. It will be fun if you have a good balance between your studies and fun times.”

What’s in your future?
Studying to be a civil engineer.

Profile

Great Grapes + Alaska Students = $ for College

Affordable?
Here’s a sampling of funding sources — you can find more information at www.gotocollege.alaska.edu.

Grants/Scholarships
Both are money that doesn’t have to be paid back. Grants generally are based on income, while scholarships are awarded to students meeting special requirements or demonstrating special talents. For example, UA Scholars Awards are available to the top 10 percent of graduating seniors from all qualified high schools in the state.

Affordable?
Financial aid can come from colleges, state and federal governments, 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.

Work-Study/Student Jobs
Many students have jobs in college. Working helps you earn money and can give you great experience.

Loans
This is money borrowed from a financial institution such as a bank, or from state or federal programs, and must be paid back with interest.

Service Programs
Various federal programs, such as AmeriCorps and ROTC, offer college assistance in exchange for service to our country.
Staying in your home state for college doesn’t mean you can’t experience new, exciting places. With 16 UA campuses, you can go to school around the corner or across the state! Want to hit the road? UA has exchange programs in Nevada and New Zealand, Scotland and Sicily—and lots of places in between. Want to hear some real UA student exchange stories? Visit www.gotocollege.alaska.edu.

You’ll also find that many of your fellow students are “on the road” themselves. One out of every 10 UA students is from another state—or even another country!

Think of everything you can do with the money you save by going to UA! Like other public, in-state universities, UA costs less—but it has low student-teacher ratios and plenty of personal attention, like a private university. And UA offers funding and financial aid options to Alaska students that aren’t available anywhere else.

Roommate or no roommate? Dorm or apartment? Modern or retro? To clean or not to clean? These are all questions you get to answer when you have your very own place at college. UAA, UAF and UAS all have on-campus housing, and you can choose the living arrangement that works best for you. Start dreaming about your own place with the virtual housing tour at www.gotocollege.alaska.edu.

With more than 400 majors and certificates, and two-year, four-year and graduate programs to choose from, you can learn to be anything at the University of Alaska. Check out everything from theater to aviation, and nursing to engineering—or get the undergraduate degree you need to become a doctor or lawyer.

If you don’t know what you want to do yet, that’s fine, too. UA is a great place to figure out who you are today—and who you want to be tomorrow.

There’s tons to do at UA in your free time. Show your school spirit by cheering on the Division I ice hockey teams, Division II men’s and women’s basketball, or other Division II sports teams. Or be part of the action by joining an intramural sports team. You can also join a fraternity or sorority, or dozens of other special interest clubs, like outdoor activities, debate or art. Find your favorite group at www.gotocollege.alaska.edu.