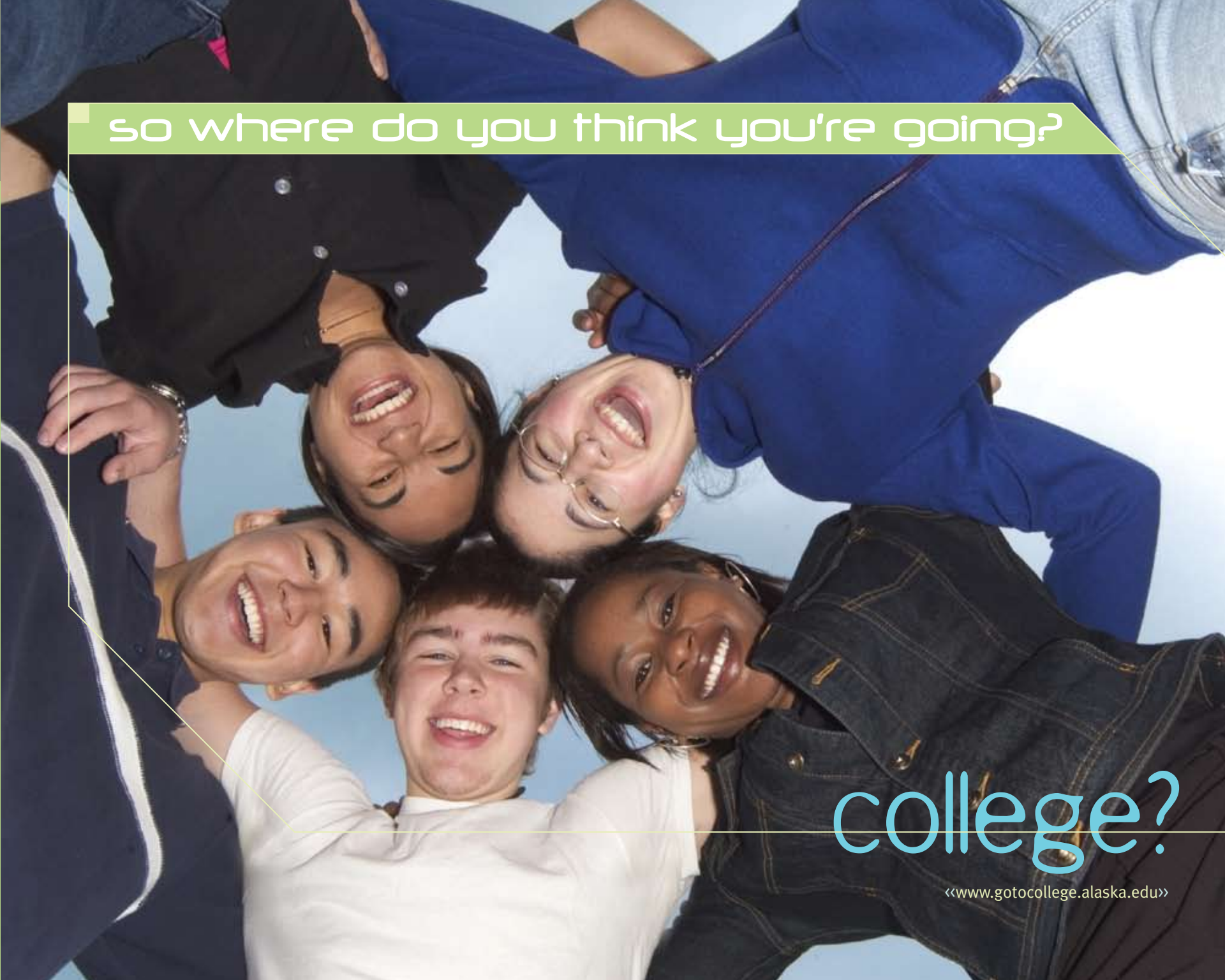
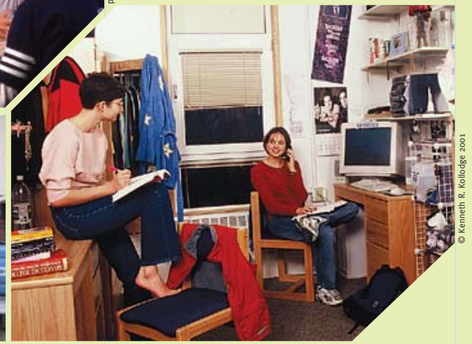

so where do you think you're going?
college?
«www.gotocollege.alaska.edu»

photo by Clark James Mishler



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UAF photo by Lyle Croft

HOW ABOUT A HALF A MILLION TO $1 MILLION?

That's how much more the U.S. government estimates a college graduate can earn over his or her lifetime than someone who doesn't go any further than high school. Even someone with a two-year associate's degree is likely to earn a quarter of a million dollars more than a high school graduate. 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 that you like? One where you can use your skills and do things that interest you? Will it be a job that you choose, or one you settle for because you're not qualified for anything better?

what's in it for me?

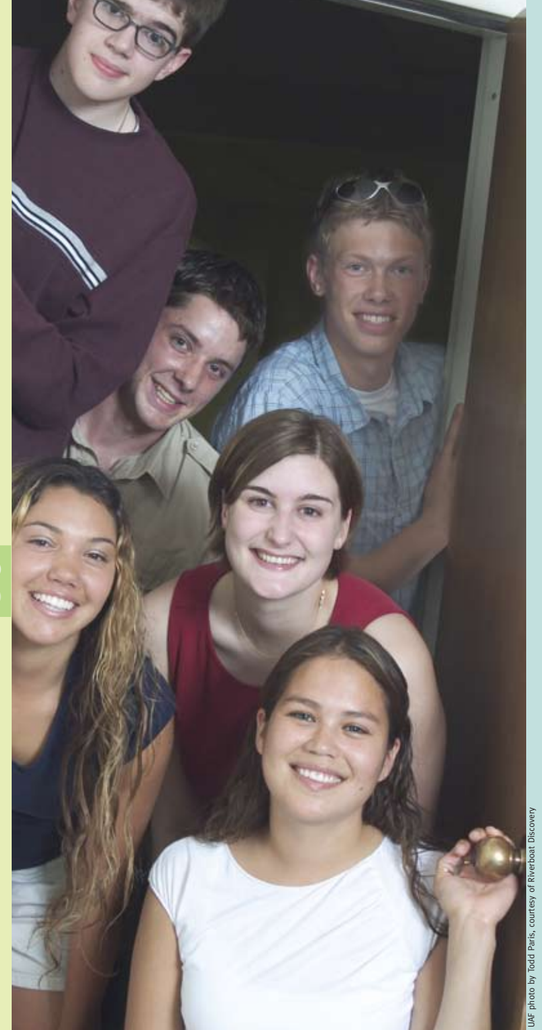
At college, you'll gain a better understanding of science and technology, of your community and your world. You'll fine tune your ability to think and express yourself, to make decisions on and off the job. College can help to put you in charge of your career *and* your life.

SNAPSHOT

UAF photo by Todd Paris

"I don't know what I'm going to be doing in 10 years, but I know that having a post-secondary education is a stepping stone to whatever I choose. There are no negatives to continuing your education."

chinonye chukwu
2003 GRADUATE OF
WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRBANKS



UAF photo by Todd Paris, courtesy of Riverboat Discovery

UAF photo by Todd Paris

"I've been participating in as many extracurricular activities as a 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."

Jakob Johnsen
JUNIOR, WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRBANKS

SNAPSHOT

declaration of independence

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.

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?

You don't know??? That's OK.

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.

UAF photo by Todd Paris

UAF photo by Stefanie Attwood

UAF photo by Todd Paris

SNAPSHOT

UAF photo by Todd Paris

Jared Williams
Senior, Klawock High School, Klawock

"Being in a different part of the state with my peers is something I really look forward to. There will be more things to do and more kids my own age to interact with. I'm looking forward to being on my own – learning more responsibility and learning from my own mistakes."

adventure starts here

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. There are research opportunities where you learn by doing. And courses that could help you find a solution to global warming, engineer futuristic buildings, become a famous broadcaster, or start your own business. It's up to you.

College will take you to places you've never been before. It's an opportunity for experiences you can't have anywhere else. But you'll only get there if you start planning your journey now.

<<www.gotocollege.alaska.edu>>

SNAPSHOT

"Tuition is going up every year, and some of the colleges I'm looking at cost as much as $35,000 a year. That's some serious money. I don't think I can expect my parents to pay for all of that, so I've made sure I have a job every summer, and I've worked hard on my grades."

Ephraim Froehlich
Senior, Juneau-Douglas High School, Juneau

affordable?

College is a big expense, but you don't have to break the bank on your way toward reaching your goals. 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:

SAVINGS

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.

GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

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.

LOANS

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.

WORK STUDY/STUDENT JOBS

Many students have jobs in college. Working helps you earn money and can give you great experience.

SERVICE PROGRAMS

Various federal programs, such as Americorps and ROTC, offer college assistance in exchange for service to our country.

UA STUDENT SNAPSHOTS

UAA photo by Mike Dinneen

Peter Bullock, UAA
Senior, Economics,
from Anchorage

"At bigger schools, it doesn't really matter whether you go to class or not; you can go through a whole semester without the professor knowing your name. At UAA, it matters. **The professors have a personal interest in you** and have expectations of you. There's a lot more 1-on-1 attention."

Alastair Newton, UAF
Senior, Biology,
from England

UAF photo by Todd Paris

"I started with a 6-month internship at UAF, then spent a year studying zoology at the University of London. London was great, but there was no opportunity for hands-on experience. At UAF, **everything is right on your doorstep**. So I came back, and I've been here ever since."

Marissa Olson, UAS
Junior, Biology,
from Wasilla

"UAS is far enough away from home that I can have my own experience, but close enough that I can get home easily and with cheaper fares. It's also a lot less expensive than going to school out-of-state; **just because a school is more expensive doesn't necessarily mean you're getting a better education.**"

What's the best thing about college?

Is it dorm life – no curfews, living with people your own age, parties? Is it competing against teams from across the country in sports like basketball, hockey, volleyball? The challenge and excitement of pursuing your own interests ... making new friends from around the block, around the state, around the world ... the social life ... the choices?

That's what's cool about the University of Alaska, too.
All of that, and then some.

UAA photo by Mike Dinneen

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 really 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.**

CAMPUSES ACROSS ALASKA

UA photo by Todd Paris

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
BRISTOL BAY • CHUKCHI
INTERIOR-ALEUTIANS • KUSKOKWIM
NORTHWEST • TANANA VALLEY

Ottack Kirkley

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SOUTHEAST
JUNEAU • KETCHIKAN • SITKA

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE
CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER
KENAI PENINSULA
KODIAK COLLEGE
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA COLLEGE
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

UAF photo by Ryan Wilson

You may 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 ...

UA is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and educational institution.

it's your choice.

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Fairbanks, AK 99775-9976

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Name _____
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

User ID __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
COPY THIS FROM THE MAILING LABEL

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:

_____

_____

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cover photo by Greg Martin

FAQ

WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL IS RIGHT FOR ME?

HOW DO I MATCH MY INTERESTS AND SKILLS, YOUR GRADES AND

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES tend to be big on choices and big on enrollment. **Your home state public university tuition will usually be the least expensive option.** If you attend a public university out-of-state, the tuition can rival costs at private schools. Public universities tend to have higher student-to-teacher ratios, meaning less personal attention. They also tend to have lots of majors, lots of sports and other extracurricular activities, and lots of social functions.

PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES tend to be low on student enrollment and high on costs. **Lower student-to-teacher ratios mean more personal attention.** Private colleges generally offer fewer majors and degrees, but still offer a variety of choices outside liberal arts like business, computer sciences and engineering. The tuition at a private college is considerably more expensive than at most public institutions.

COMMUNITY CAMPUSES AND JUNIOR COLLEGES are a great way to save money and get ready to transfer to the four-year school you want to attend. But they don't usually offer many extracurricular activities or campus living, so you have to commute.

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS are the best route for developing a specific skill or trade, and they can get you into the work force more quickly. These schools focus specifically on preparing students for the workforce, so there are no sports, social activities or other extracurricular activities.

photo by Cook James Webber

FINDING THE RIGHT PLACE

Whether you're looking for vocational training to enter a trade, a community college experience, or to be part of a traditional college campus, you can find it at the University of Alaska. Its regional campuses are big enough to offer plenty of majors and degrees, social activities and cultural diversity, yet small enough that you'll never become a number. Enrollment ranges from 20,120 at the **University of Alaska Anchorage** to 9,390 at the **University of Alaska Fairbanks,** to 4,750 at the **University of Alaska Southeast**.

UA costs less, **like a public, in-state university, but it has low student-teacher ratios** and offers plenty of personal attention **like a private university.** It also offers funding and financial aid options to Alaska students that aren't available to them anywhere else. With **campuses all around the state,** you can attend UA several miles or several hundred miles from home ... like going to school out-of-state without ever leaving Alaska!

Campuses at Anchorage, Prince William Sound, Fairbanks, Kuskokwim and Juneau offer on-campus housing, and a network of community campuses and extension centers across the state **offer added affordability and flexibility. UA offers certificates, two-year, four-year and graduate programs.**

FAQ

WHY SHOULD I START PLANNING FOR COLLEGE NOW?

Choices you make now in terms of classes, study and work habits, and extracurricular activities will determine what options are available to you in the future. You need a roadmap now to make sure you'll be where you want at the end of your journey through high school – a plan for how you're going to meet the requirements to get into college, that will ensure you take the right courses, maintain a high grade point average and complete the necessary entrance exams like the SAT and ACT.

WHAT COURSES DO I NEED TO TAKE IN HIGH SCHOOL?

Requirements vary from college to college, but **typically you'll need four years of English** (literature and composition), **three to four years of math, two to four years of science and foreign language, two to three years of history and geography, a year of arts** (music, art, dance, etc.) and **one to three years of challenging electives** (such as economics, communications or computer science). Trade schools and community colleges generally have fewer prerequisites.

HOW MUCH DOES COLLEGE COST?

College and related expenses can tip the scales at $7,000 to $30,000 a year. Sticker-shocked? You have tools 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.

HOW DO I DECIDE WHAT CAREER I WANT?

It's basically a matter of **matching what you're good at with things that you like and enjoy doing**. There are a number of options for identifying your likes and your skills, such as preference and aptitude tests. Your school counselor, teachers, parents and other adults can help you match your skills with your interests.

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 programs a college offers, then determine if the college is affordable for yo**u and your family. Financial aid is based on the difference between what a college costs and what a federal or college formula determines a family can pay, so you could be eligible for more aid at an expensive college.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You can get help from **your parents, your school counselor, the library, the Internet, colleges and universities** where you're interested in applying, your older friends and acquaintances.

SNAPSHOT

photo by J.P.S., Anchorage, AK

"Pay attention your freshman year. Bad grades can bring down your grade point average, and once that happens, there's not anything you can do about it. You need a good GPA to get into the college you want."

Stephanie Christensen
2003 GRADUATE OF GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, ANCHORAGE

all 4 years of high school

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. **GRADES** play an important role in gaining admission to the college you choose.

RESEARCH different schools on the Web.

freshman year

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

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

THINK ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, and ask adult acquaintances about their jobs and educational requirements for their professions.

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

sophomore year

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, ACT and other entrance exams.

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

junior year

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

IDENTIFY PEOPLE TO ASK FOR RECOMMENDATIONS – employers, teachers, counselors, etc.

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.

TAKE REQUIRED ENTRANCE EXAMS – ACT and SAT Tests and any others you'll need for admission to colleges you're interested in attending.

senior year

FINALIZE COLLEGE PLANS with your school counselor, teachers and parents.

TRY TO VISIT the schools that interest you most. Schedule campus tours through admissions office.

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

CAREFULLY PREPARE YOUR APPLICATIONS) FOR ADMISSION. Follow the instructions, and pay close attention to deadlines. At least three weeks before deadlines, ask teachers and counselors to submit required documents to colleges where you're applying – transcript, letters of recommendation, test scores, etc. Remember, your application will be processed faster if all required documents are received together.

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

COMPLETE FINANCIAL AID FORMS, especially the FAFSA.

Pull out this sheet & keep it as a reminder of your high school game plan.