

so where do you think you`re going? college!



take our
quiz on the web

how to make a
million bucks
pg. 2

special pull-out
poster inside

how to get tons
of money for college
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top 5 coolest
things about
college pg. 6

www.gotocollege.alaska.edu



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how about a half a million to \$1 million?

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 further 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 to put you in charge of your career and your life.

snapshot lyle nashookruk SENIOR, TIKIGAQ HIGH SCHOOL, POINT HOPE



UAF photo by Todd Paris

"I'm looking forward to college because I want to find something that I love to do and make a career out of it."

ready to ride

declaration of independence

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? 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 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.

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. 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.

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UAF photo by Todd Paris

snapshot jessie leonard SENIOR, SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL, ANCHORAGE



"I'm going to college to expand my mind. The things I learn and the people I meet will give me the knowledge and experience to go places I can only dream about."

on the move



UAF photo by Laurel Ford



photo by Kevin Myers

adventure starts here

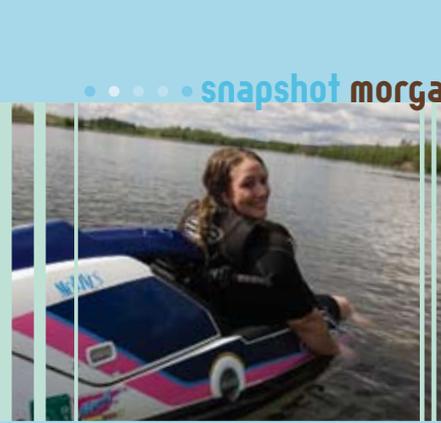
You're going to learn more than you ever thought possible in the classroom, but that's just one part of going to college. It's the complete package – campus living, concerts, dances, theater, athletics and recreation, fraternities and sororities, social and cultural events, and more. You'll find new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



UAF photo by Stefanie Attwood



UAF photo by Todd Paris

snapshot morgan franich SENIOR, HUTCHISON HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRBANKS

"I've been saving money and will probably take out a student loan to pay for college. But at the end of it all, I'll have my life on track and be ready to get a good job."

making waves

Here's a sampling of funding sources – you can find more information at www.gotocollege.alaska.edu:

savings

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.

service programs

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

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.

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.

work study/student jobs

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

great grades
+ alaska students
\$ for college

affordable?

College is a big expense, but there are a lot of resources to help make it more 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.

visit www.gotocollege.alaska.edu

snapshot bronson cokeley JUNIOR, JUNEAU DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL, JUNEAU



"College is going to be a whole new chapter in my life. I am preparing for it by taking classes at the university while attending high school."

taking flight



“My favorite thing about UAA is the feeling of community. In the School of Engineering, I feel at home. As a part of the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, I was able to help start the sister program in Hawaii.”



UAF photo by Ryan Wilson

www.gotocollege.alaska.edu

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don't break the bank

Going to UA also makes sense for your – or your parents' – bank account. UA costs less, like a public, in-state university, but has low student-teacher ratios and 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.

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five best things about ua

There are a ton of cool things about going to UA – dorm life, independence, sports, new friends. Here are some of our favorites.



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1 what do you want to be when you grow up?

With more than 400 majors and certificates, and two-year, four-year and graduate programs to choose from, chances are you can find what you want at the University of Alaska. Some options include journalism, theater, aviation technology, computer science, physics, education, and engineering. If your plans include being a doctor, dentist or lawyer, you can get the undergraduate degree you need at UA. For a full list check out www.gotocollege.alaska.edu.

And if you don't know what you want to do yet, that's fine, too. UA is a great place to get started on all those prerequisites, take some fun classes and figure out what direction you're headed.

2 on the road

Choosing to go to school in your home state doesn't mean you can't experience new and exciting places. With three main campuses, in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau, and a network of community campuses and extension centers, you can go to school around the corner or across the state.

Looking for more adventure? UA has exchange programs in Nevada and New Zealand, Scotland and Sicily – and lots of places in between. If you 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 students at UA is from somewhere else, from Maine to Missouri and Panama to Poland.

“UAF has offered me amazing exchange opportunities. Already, I've gone to the University of Connecticut and now I'm gearing up for an international exchange to the University of Stirling in Scotland.”



UAF photo by Todd Paris



“UAS is a great place to learn and have fun. People around campus know your name and students are on a first name basis with their professors. Getting connected in your field can be easy because professors are willing to recommend you for jobs and advise you in your major.”

3 your very own place

At college, you can have your very own place to decorate however you want, and clean (or not clean!) as much as you like. UAA, UAF and UAS all have on-campus housing, and you can choose the living arrangement that works best for you – roommate or no roommate, dormitory or apartment-style. You can also choose to live with people who have similar interests and lifestyles. Take a virtual housing tour at www.gotocollege.alaska.edu.



5 fun outside the classroom

You can choose to spend your free time cheering on the Division I ice hockey teams, Division II men's and women's basketball, or other Division II intercollegiate sports teams. Or maybe you'd rather join one of the intramural sports teams.

You can also join a fraternity or sorority, or dozens of other special interest clubs, like computing, debate and art. Find your favorite group online at www.gotocollege.alaska.edu.



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finding the right place

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.

The table to the right gives 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 an in-state college costs less, since you're paying resident tuition and usually do not have to travel as far.

	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	Total
University of Alaska	\$4,286	\$5,587	\$9,873
University of Washington	\$19,907	\$8,424	\$28,331
University of California, Los Angeles	\$24,882	\$10,880	\$35,762
Montana State University, Bozeman	\$14,190	\$5,500	\$19,690
Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA	\$23,140	\$3,895	\$27,035

Tuition and fees are averages and out-of-state averages are based on non-resident prices.

physical education

- firefighter
- police officer
- physical therapist
- coach
- professional athlete

information technology

- computing
- information manager
- aeronautical engineer
- PC/video game designer
- programmer
- web page designer
- publisher

art

- architect
- cartoonist
- broadcaster
- movie set designer
- photographer
- graphic designer

language

- translator
- sales & marketing
- health services
- hotel management
- journalist
- tour operator

science

- pharmacist
- chemist
- petroleum engineer
- physician
- nurse
- inventor

english

- technical writer
- librarian
- advertising & public relations specialist
- marketing
- teacher
- researcher

technology

- electrician
- landscape designer
- electrical engineer
- builder
- repair technician

math

- accountant
- economist
- banker
- mechanic
- engineer
- retail manager
- airline pilot

get a job

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!

social studies

- military officer
- urban planner
- politician
- social worker
- lawyer
- real estate agent

faq

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 prerequisites.

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.

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. 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 you and your family.

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, and your older friends and acquaintances. Also, www.gotocollege.alaska.edu is a great place to start.

snapshot aaron brown

GRADUATE, SHELDON POINT HIGH SCHOOL, NUNAM IQUA

"I want to get a degree in elementary education and become a teacher. The Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI) is preparing me to achieve my goals." (RAHI is a bridging program that assists college-bound students in rural Alaska in making the academic and social transition from high school to college.)

shooting for success



DAF photo by Todd Paris



photo by Clark James Mishler

all 4 years of high school

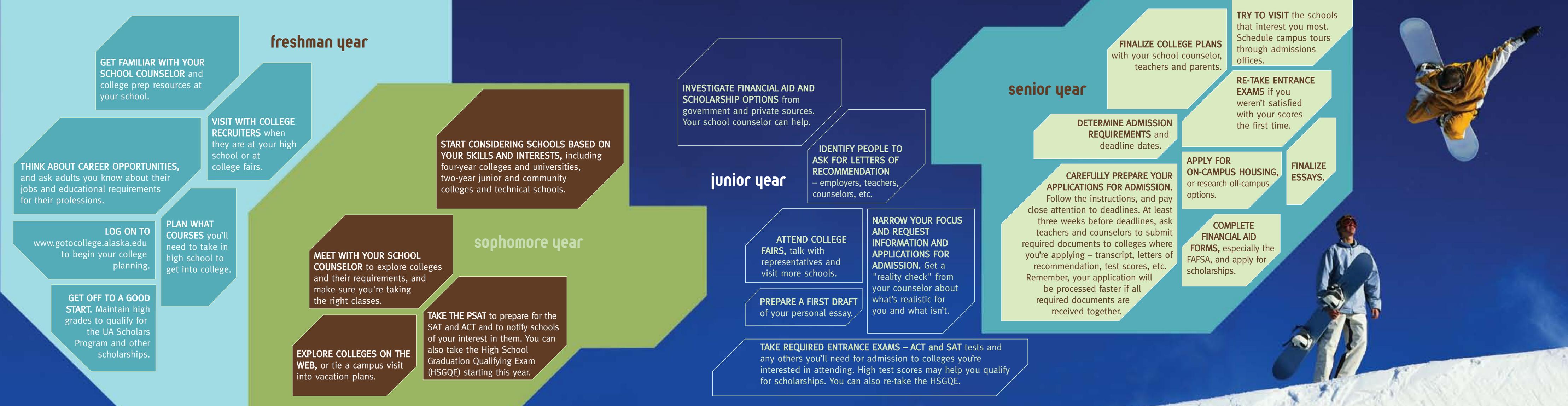
SAVE money for college.

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. **GOOD GRADES** and taking the right courses all 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.

THINK ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, and ask adults you know about their jobs and 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.

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

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.

sophomore year

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.

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 may help you qualify for scholarships. You can also re-take the HSGQE.

junior year

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.

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 offices.

RE-TAKE ENTRANCE EXAMS if you weren't satisfied with your scores the first time.

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

FINALIZE ESSAYS.

COMPLETE FINANCIAL AID FORMS, especially the FAFSA, and apply for scholarships.

DETERMINE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS and deadline dates.

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.

get a plan



pull this out and keep

