

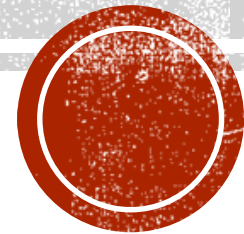
MAJOR

DECISIONS



WHAT TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Knowing your possibilities & decision making strategies



THINK ABOUT ALL THE POSSIBILITIES



CHOOSING A CAREER OR MAJOR TO STUDY

■ Ask yourself

- What are my interests? Hobbies? Things that make you happy?
- What are your skills?
- What are your talents or strengths?
- What is your personality type? Do you like working together or alone? Are you a leader or follower? Do like helping others? Are you creative/artistic or prefer structure?
- What are your values? Is financial security highly important or is it more important to have a life-work balance?
- What education do you want to pursue? How long are you willing to go to school for your career?
- Where do you want to live?

Use online career assessment tools to help guide you. Floridashines.org is a good example.

<https://mycareershines.kuder.com/landing-page>

Use your answers to guide you towards a career/field of study.



MILITARY CAREERS

- **Military offers many career options that are not combat related.**
 - **Did you know in the military you can be...pediatrician, dog trainer, professional musician, electrician, anesthesiologist, to name a few**



Benefits at a glance:

- A guaranteed paycheck and Cash Bonuses
- Education Benefits
- Advanced and Specialty Training
- 30 days annual paid vacation
- Travel
- Option for full-time or part time service
- Tax-free room, board and allowances
- Health and Dental Care
- Use of commissary and Military Exchange stores
- Special home loans and discounts
- Unparalleled sense of patriotism, duty, honor and selfless service
- Highly sought-after skills, leadership and training experience



VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- **What is the difference between vocational schools and 4 year colleges/universities?**
 - Vocational schools focus on teaching a specific job and usually programs can be completed in a shorter period of time
 - 4-year colleges/universities traditionally focus on a broad education teaching theory and critical thinking skills. Typically these are 4 years or more programs.
- **Where can you find vocational programs?**
 - State colleges often have a variety of certificate and AS degree programs that will provide the skills to enter a skilled career in 2 or less years. Schools like SSC or Valencia State College
 - Independent trade/vocational schools exist to offer specialized programs
- **There are a growing number of great paying jobs that can be done after earning a certificate, vocational degree, or AS degree**
 - Examples: Healthcare, HVAC, technology, mechanics



CREATE A COLLEGE LIST



10 THINGS EVERY JUNIOR SHOULD DO IN THE SPRING

■ Finish Strong

- The grades you have on your transcript at the end of summer before 12th grade are the grades colleges/universities and recruiters will see with your application

■ Choose challenging courses for senior year

- Rigor of coursework is one of the key things colleges look at during admission process

■ Get to know your counselor

- Many colleges & programs want a counselor recommendation.

■ Connect with teachers

- Many colleges also ask for a teacher letter of recommendation

■ Continue preparing for and taking SAT and ACT

- Colleges and universities use scores from the SAT/ACT to determine admissions and sometime scholarships



10 THINGS EVERY JUNIOR SHOULD DO IN THE SPRING

■ Update your resume

- Include awards, activities, volunteer work...anything that you feel sets you apart from other students. This is a helpful tool to give anyone writing a letter of recommendation for you

■ Attend college nights and college fairs

- You will get a feel for which colleges/schools are right for you **plus** it is a great opportunity to ask questions about the school and application process

■ Connect with colleges

- Learn everything you can about the schools you are interested in...join their mailing list, follow their social media, attend recruiting events. This will help you learn more about the school

■ Visit colleges

- This is probably the most important part of a college search. Getting a feel for the college community will give you a good idea if the school is right for you.

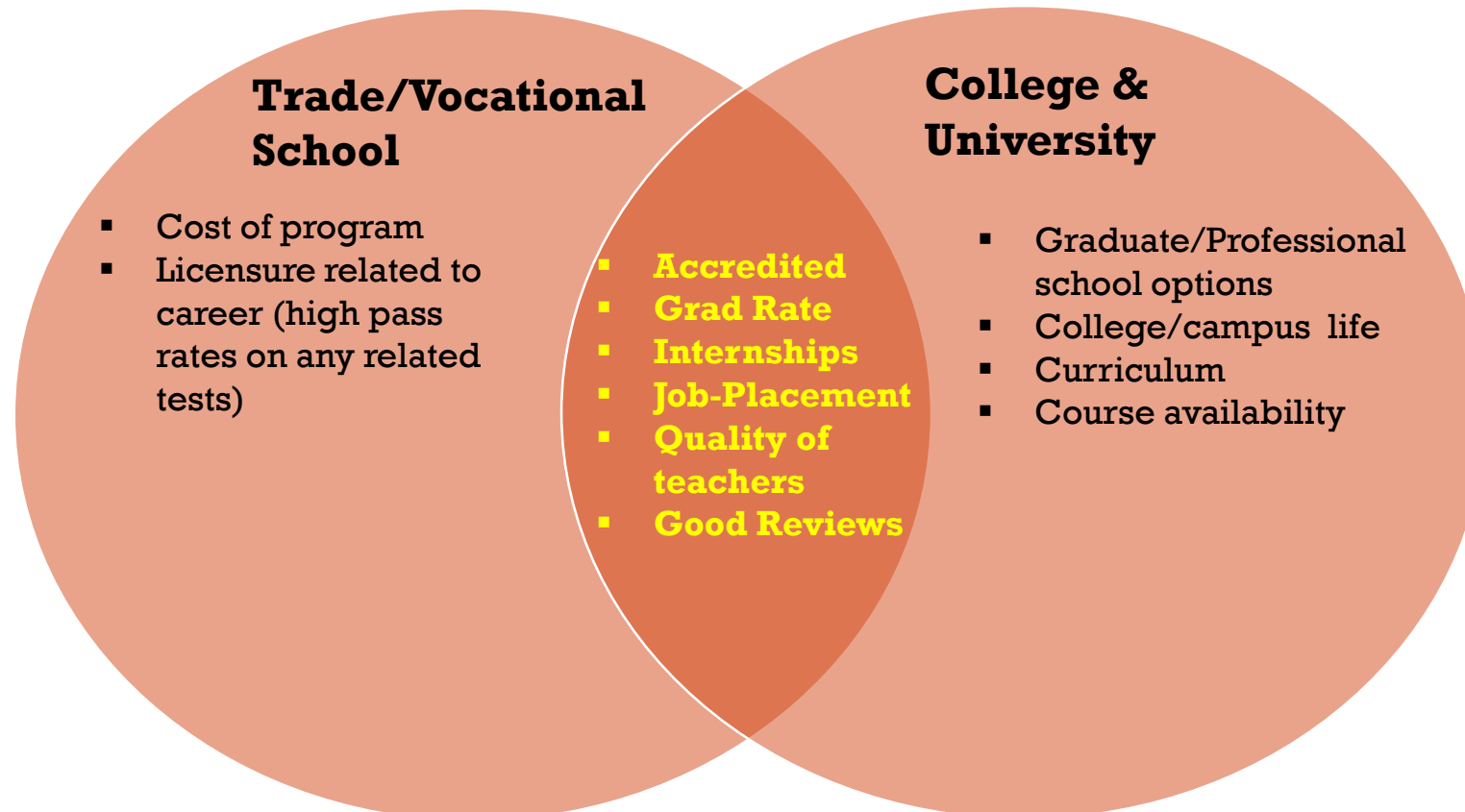
■ Plan useful summer activities

- Summer programs, internships, and volunteer work all improve your resume.



PICKING A REPUTABLE SCHOOL

Whether you are looking for a college or trade school make sure that it is a good school by researching the items below



COLLEGE VISITS



GET THE MOST OUT OF A COLLEGE VISIT

- Check the schools calendar
 - Schedule your visit while school is in session to get a realistic view of student life
- Meet the experts
 - Try to talk with current students. Admissions representatives can help make that connection. If Admissions has a check-in or sign-in make sure you fill it out. Some schools track students interest in them.
- Take a tour
 - Take an official tour. This is a great chance to see the best features of a school.
- Venture out on your own
 - Take time to walk around on your own on campus and the community around campus so you get a well rounded view of campus life.
- Be a student for a day
 - Ask if you can sit in on a class. Some schools even sponsor over night programs. Then you can experience more of what it would be like to be a student at that school.
- Make a list
 - Keep track of your impressions of a school. Make a pros and cons list or use one of the printable guides found online.





CONSIDER THIS DURING PANDEMIC

Consider the following factors while searching for schools during the COVID pandemic

- Some schools may have adjusted their requirements. Talk to the Admissions Office of each school you are interested in attending
- Look for virtual tours and college fairs to check out schools
- Look at social media accounts of each school's clubs and organizations to get an idea of student life
- Be involved in your community. Check out [VolunteerMatch.com](https://www.volunteermatch.com) to find virtual or at home options
- Grades are still VERY IMPORTANT. Some schools are waiving entrance exams so that makes your high school grades even more important.



LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ College Tips During COVID

- [How to prepare for college during COVID](#)
- [10 tips to prepare for college during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

■ College Fairs

- <https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/national-college-fairs/>

■ College Visit Guides

- <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/campus-visit-checklist.pdf>
- <http://i.infopls.com/CollegeVisitWorksheet.pdf>

