



Mustangs on the move:

*What you need to know to help get you
ready for life after high school.*

**Brought to you by the Counseling Department of
Evergreen Park Community High School**

Name: _____

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What is your path? What goals do you have for the future?

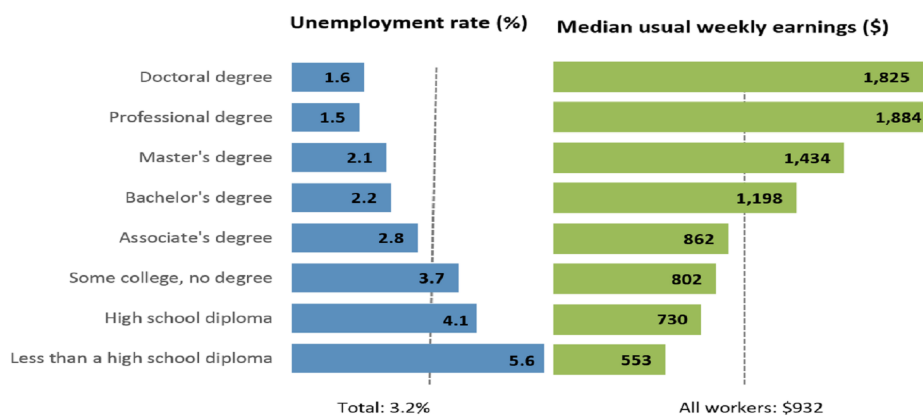
At this point in your high school career, you should be giving serious thought to what it is you would like to do after graduating from EPCHS. The decision on what you will do post-high school should be based on your interests, abilities, and knowledge of potential occupations. The most common post-high school paths are:

- 4-year college or university
- 2-year community or junior college
- Trade or vocational school
- Military
- Work force

This booklet will provide detailed information about each of these possible paths and hopefully allow you to make an informed decision about how to proceed as you move through junior year and beyond.

At this point, we want you to decide which path you believe is best for your future and read through that section. At the end of this process, think to yourself, is this truly the best route for me?

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2018



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

4-year College and Universities

Finding your Fit

Our goal is not to dictate to students which college they should go to, rather our hope is to assist them in finding the school that provides them and their family with the best fit academically, socially, and financially. If you decide to attend a college that is not a fit for you in one of these areas, it could be problematic in ensuring a positive, lasting experience at that college.

1. Academic

- Likelihood of acceptance
- Have potential major options
- Internship/Research Opportunities



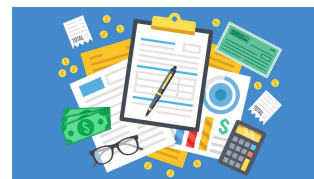
2. Social

- Comfortable size & location
- Have groups/clubs of interest
- Has that right “feel” to the student



3. Financial

- Out-of-pocket cost is within student/family budget
- Offers scholarships that student might be eligible for
- Student will not be overloaded by student loans
- Positive return on investment



What do colleges and universities consider in undergraduate admissions?

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)

The **minimum** GPA to qualify for the majority of 4-year colleges or universities is typically a 2.0. The average GPA of students who actually get accepted is significantly higher. Many academic scholarships require a 3.0 GPA.

Class Rigor

Colleges are looking to see if students are challenging themselves by taking Honors or Advanced Placement courses, as well as if they are taking courses that are relevant to a potential major (e.g., taking Anatomy & Physiology for future nurses).

Class Rank

Traditionally speaking, most colleges or universities are looking for class ranks that are at least in the top half of their graduation class.

SAT and/or ACT scores

Colleges do not care which exam you take, they will accept scores from both tests. The majority of schools are looking at the highest composite total of score of the test taken when considering admission and awarding merit-based scholarships. This is why it is a great idea to take the test multiple times. For reference, please see the chart below for SAT averages or score ranges for accepted students at some of the more popular universities that students from EPCHS apply to:

<i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	<i>1315</i>
<i>Illinois State University</i>	<i>750-1250</i>
<i>Eastern Illinois University</i>	<i>960-1190</i>
<i>DePaul University</i>	<i>1120</i>
<i>Western Michigan University</i>	<i>960-1190</i>
<i>Northwestern University</i>	<i>1400-1560</i>
<i>University of Iowa</i>	<i>1140-1370</i>
<i>Western Illinois University</i>	<i>980-1150</i>
<i>University of Notre Dame</i>	<i>1350-1540</i>
<i>St. Ambrose University</i>	<i>1050-1221</i>
<i>University of Illinois-Chicago</i>	<i>990-1230</i>
<i>Southern Illinois University-Carbondale</i>	<i>880-1130</i>
<i>St. Xavier University</i>	<i>925-1205</i>
<i>Purdue University</i>	<i>1214</i>

Test Optional

Many colleges and universities have gone to a test-optional policy which gives students the option of whether they want to submit their test scores to be used in the admission process. For students who elect not to submit their test scores, more of an emphasis is placed on GPA and class rigor to determine if the student should be admitted to the respective school.

- Personal Essay
- Recommendations
- Extra-curricular activities / community service

Every college establishes their own criteria on how much they factor each of these components into their evaluation of applicants

College Selectivity

Because students are all different, the range of selectivity will be different for each student. One student's safety school might be another student's reach school. It is important to know the selectivity of the schools that you are interested in, along with the average GPA and test scores of admitted students.

1. ***Highly-selective schools.*** A highly-selective, or long shot school, accepts very few (like 5 – 15%) of its applicants. In fact, chances will be slim for everyone, including valedictorians and students with perfect standardized test scores. Harvard, University of Chicago, Stanford, Duke, Yale, and Vanderbilt are all examples of highly-selective schools. Applying to these colleges is a little like playing the lottery (see the table below).

College	ACT Range	# of Applicants	% accepte
Brown	31-34	32,390	9
Cornell	31-34	47,200	7
Harvard	32-35	39,.41	5
Northwestern	32-34	35,100	11
Notre Dame	32-34	19,505	18
Penn	31-34	38,918	9
Princeton	32-35	29,303	7
University of Chicago	32-35	31,484	8
Yale	32-35	31,445	6
Stanford	31-35	44,073	4%
M.I.T.	33-35	19,020	8%
Vanderbilt	32-35	32,442	10%

2. **Reach school.** A reach school accepts a higher percentage of applicants than a long shot school but is still a stretch for you. You'll be at the low end of this college's GPA and ACT ranges, and your chances of getting in might be around 25%.
3. **Probable school.** A probable school is one to which you are likely to be accepted, but it's not at all guaranteed. You'll be within this college's middle 50% GPA and ACT ranges, and your chances of getting in might be around 75%.
4. **Safety school.** This is a college that you're very likely to get into. You'll be near the top of the college's GPA and ACT ranges, and your chances of getting in might be 90% or better. It's important that your safety school be one that you are willing to attend (if nothing else works out) and that your family can afford, too.
5. **Community/Junior College.** We have a tremendous resource right in our backyard in Moraine Valley Community College. Please see the section on 2-year colleges, located on page

**Aside from the Highly-Selective schools, these types will vary based on your individual academic record.

Factors to consider when considering colleges or universities

Price - Public *versus* Private

The listed, or sticker price, for private colleges, are usually more expensive than public universities. However, after merit & financial aid awards are included, private colleges can end up being more affordable after scholarships and awards.

An additional component of attending a public school out-of-state is that they will charge an a higher tuition rate for non-residents. This is typically about \$8,000 or more than what they charge for students who are residents of that state. For example, an Illinois resident that plans on attending Indiana University is charged \$35,000 in yearly tuition, while a student that lives in Indiana and attends IU will be charged \$11,000 in tuition.

Some public schools participate in the **Midwest Tuition Exchange Program**, in which they will give discounted out-of-state tuition rates to students from Illinois. The list of colleges that participate in this program can be found at: <http://msep.mhec.org>

We don't want you to feel "priced out" yet by any college. We will encourage you strongly to apply to colleges that you like, both public and private, in order to have the best options available to choose from once acceptances and financial aid awards are in.

Example Cost of Attendance for Illinois State University:

Tuition	\$14,516
Room & Board	\$9,850
Books & Supplies	\$910
Transportation	\$1,200
Personal Expenses	<u>\$5,392</u>
Total estimated costs	\$29,758

Big *versus* Small

Another important decision will be "big or small"? Schools of all sizes can present wonderful opportunities for students. We ask the students to consider, "What type of student am I and what kind of education am I looking for?".....and be honest.

Smaller colleges can provide more personalized attention, which includes small class sizes, low faculty/student ratios, and professors that are actually teaching the classes and know who their students are.

Larger colleges and universities can offer more majors and specializations, and often have the funding to allow undergraduates to participate in ongoing research. They also will have more clubs and student organizations available than smaller schools. They also will have more alumni to network within for internships or potential job opportunities. However, many introductory courses may have 100-200 students in them and are often taught by graduate assistants and may not have an attendance policy.

If they have trouble paying attention in their high school classes, are they going to pay attention in a class of 150? Or are they even going to go to class?

Close versus Far

How far from home are you willing to go? How far from home to you want to go? How far is your family willing to let you go?

Most students that go away to school usually end up within 4 hours from home. This is most common because it allows the student a sense of independence while still allowing them to come home if they get homesick. They will, it happens to everyone. For parents, it is a distance in which many can still visit their children regularly or get to them quick in the event of an emergency.

For those who would like to go far away from home, this would likely be the first time you have been away from home for a significant amount of time in your 17 or 18 years. Experiencing a different part of the country can be a tremendous and worthwhile experience, but we recommend taking multiple visits including weekend stays at long-distance options before committing to going there.

If you want to go away but don't feel that your family can afford it, we recommend that you apply to some colleges that are near home and some that aren't. Until you have your acceptances and financial aid package results, you won't know if going away is affordable or not. A great scholarship away from home may make a far-away college the most affordable option.

Urban versus Suburban versus Rural

Do you thrive in cities? Or are you ready for a break from the madness? Will applying what you learn to an urban reality be important to you? Or would you prefer to be a bit removed and focus on your studies? Looking at it another way – are you likely to get distracted easily by urban life and then not do well in college? Or can you balance big city fun with college rigor?

Diversity

Diversity Matters: When in doubt, assume that diversity has a significant impact on a college's admissions and scholarship decisions, especially if the college is private or highly-selective, has large endowment funds, is small, and/or is able to offer a holistic application review.

Following are common diversity measures:

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Geography (colleges love talking about how many states & countries their students are from)
- Family educational history (family alums or if you are in the first generation in your family to go to college).

Colleges want a well-rounded freshman class, with unique interests and talents. Do you play the banjo? Or maybe are a part of a fencing team? Believe it or not, colleges do look at these types of talents when making admissions decisions. If you have a unique talent, please be sure to share it on your application, maybe there is a scholarship for it you would never have known about.

College Deadlines

Early deadline programs

Early Action (or called Priority)

There are quite a few benefits to students that apply to colleges under the Early Action (sometimes called priority) deadline, which is often November 1st.

- It provides students with a better opportunity to be accepted, as statistically, a higher percentage of students are accepted during this period than later in the year. Often competitive majors, like nursing or engineering, will encourage students to apply early because they can only allow a certain number of students in their programs.
- It also provides additional scholarship opportunities since that college still has the majority of its allotted funds available. Many of the more competitive scholarships typically require students to apply by their earliest deadline.
- Students are notified of their admissions decisions earlier in the year, usually in December or January. If accepted, it allows the student to continue to further evaluate if that college is the best fit for them. If denied, there is still time left to apply to many other quality institutions.

Early Decision

Early Decision applications are usually due around November 1st and the college will give an answer before January 1. You are only allowed to apply to **1** college Early Decision, and the colleges do check (so you don't want to try to fool them!). If you fill out an Early Decision application and get into the college, **you ARE legally bound to attend**. Really! Thus, an Early Decision application makes sense only if you have done your research and the college is your absolute #1 with no close competitors for that top spot. You will be committing to attend that college without any knowledge of the financial commitment for you and your family.

Other deadlines

Rolling Admissions.

Rolling Admissions has no specific deadline. Colleges consider applications when they come in and usually give an answer within 2 – 6 weeks, and sometimes within 24-48 hours!

Regular Admissions deadline.

Regular Admissions is, well, regular and final. The deadline will usually fall between January 1 and April 1 (but could be earlier), and students will typically get their decision by mid-April or sooner. Colleges will not accept applications after this date.

Naviance / Requesting Transcripts

Naviance is a software program that is the central organizing and communication tool of the college research and application process at Evergreen Park High School. If you use your Naviance account often, you will benefit most. The account on Naviance will be available to both students and family members, but not to the general public. Almost all of you have already logged in and used the site.

Here are a few examples of how Naviance can be helpful for you. It has general information on all colleges as well as links to college websites – saving you tons of time. Naviance also lists all the application deadlines and type of deadlines for every college in the U.S. – saving you lots of work.

Naviance will also be the platform that students use to request their transcript to be sent to colleges that they apply to. The steps for students to request transcripts are as follows:

1. Go to evergreenpark.org
2. Click students, then click Naviance
3. Click login with Clever, and enter EPCHS gmail credentials
4. From the Naviance home page, click on “Colleges I’m applying to”
5. Click on the pink (+) icon
6. From the next screen, enter the name of the college you are applying to, the application type, and method of submission
7. Last, click “Add and request transcript”

Naviance/Common App Matching

The Common App is an application platform that allows students to complete one application that can be used for all 900+ colleges that use this platform. Students completing the Common App are able to match their accounts with Naviance so that transcript requests can automatically be generated. In order to do this, **STUDENTS MUST USE THEIR EPCHS EMAIL ON THE COMMON APP** so the two accounts can link! Students must also have completed their FERPA release authorization on the Common App (found under the “My Colleges” tab) prior to matching the accounts and enter our school information under the “Education” tab. Please do not add recommenders in the Common App, all recommendations will be sent through Naviance. The steps to match the two accounts are as follows:

1. Go to evergreenpark.org
2. Click students, then click Naviance
3. Click login with Clever, and enter EPCHS gmail credentials
4. From the Naviance home page, click on “*Colleges I’m applying to*”
5. At this screen, you will see a pink bar across the top of the page. Click on the “Match account” icon on the right side of the pink bar.
6. Enter your Common App email address (**this needs to be your EPCHS email!**) and date of birth. Then click “Match accounts”
7. You’re all set, the accounts are matched!!!

Making Yourself Known

College admissions, scholarships, and even financial aid are relationship-based games, and the name of these games is communication. We know the college representatives and help them to get excited about Evergreen Park and our students. They are the people that will make decisions about your applications. The more they know about you and have a positive impression of you as a student and person, the more they can advocate for you.

It might seem weird, but most colleges take notes on you. Every time you make a contact (email, visit, phone call), that contact is recorded in their files. This is how they gauge your interest in their college. And when it comes down to you and another applicant, and you’ve been in close communication and the other applicant hasn’t, there is a strong likelihood that you will be admitted and the other student won’t. ***These contacts count!!!***

BE SMART ABOUT YOUR USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA!!!!!!!!!!!!

One of the first things an admission officer may do is a search of Google, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, etc., to see how you are trying to portray yourself to the world. While they aren’t trying to dig up something negative about you, if half your pictures are of you doing something that someone your age shouldn’t be doing, or sending not-so-polite messages to

people, it's a big red flag for those schools. They will also see who you are connected with and will see what kind of people they are as well.

Email Outreach

The primary way that you will connect with college admissions reps is via email, so it's important to have an **appropriate** email address. Getting to know the people who will play a part in deciding whether you are admitted to a school is a really good idea. They are also the people that will know about upcoming events, special visits, scholarships, etc.

EP Visits

When a college of interest to you comes to EP to visit with students either in person or virtually, do whatever you can to be there. Most visits occur during lunch time, don't just pass them by. If you can't meet then – let the rep know that you want to visit with him or her but can't due to a class obligation. This contact will make a difference. Otherwise, the rep may just think that you've lost interest.

Campus Visits (you need to visit!!)

You wouldn't buy a house without walking through it, so why would you attend a school that you have only seen picture of? This is also the best way to get a personal feel for the school and to determine if this is the right campus environment for you. Making the effort to visit the campus of a college of interest to you is the #1 way you can show that you're serious about them. When you go, be sure to visit the admissions office, sign in, and otherwise let them know that you are there. You are allowed 2 excused absences during junior year and senior for college visits. Your parents/guardians can call the attendance office prior to your visit to give them advanced notice of absence. If a call has not previously been placed to the attendance office, parents/guardians will then have to call in the attendance office the morning you will be out. You will also have to bring in proof of your visit (like a letter from the school or a business card from the admissions representative that you met with) to the attendance office when you return to school.

How to get the most out of your campus visit

- Talk to an admissions counselor
- Take a tour of the campus
- Talk to the students, they often will give you an unfiltered opinion of the school
- Sit in on classes
- Visit the departments of potential majors
- Eat in the dining halls
- Stay overnight on campus if possible

Other ideas for your visit include:

1. Before you go, check the college website for any special events.
2. Also before you go, make a list of questions you want answered. This is important for your research and also because having a prepared list will make a positive impression on those you meet.
3. Try to visit on a day when class is in session, if possible. Stay for a weekend so you can experience the social life. There is a big difference in the atmosphere between during the school year and the summer.
4. Make an appointment to meet with a financial aid rep to get the inside scoop on scholarships, awards, deadlines, etc.
5. Make an appointment to visit with a professor in your probable major.
6. Visit program offices that might be of importance to you, such as the Office of Minority Student Affairs, the LGBT office, etc.
7. Take notes. After a while, the visits can blur together.
8. Have fun!!!

If you can't afford to visit a college of interest to you, see the next section.

Making the campus visit affordable

- 1.) Only visit your top 5 schools instead of trying to see every college you have thought about attending. Make a short list of 3-5 schools that match up well with your interest, goals, and preferences.
- 2.) If a friend is interested in the same school, attend the visit with them. You can help each other by sharing rides and splitting the cost of gas when checking out colleges.
- 3.) Visit college campuses if traveling or taking a vacation. Many great schools are in large cities or in other high-interest areas.
- 4.) Call your recruiter. If you are being actively recruited by a school and money is a factor, call the admission office. They may be able to help pay for a plane/train ticket if it means enticing you to attend their school.
- 5.) Visit multiple campuses in a single trip. If you are going to visit Illinois State, also consider checking out Illinois Wesleyan and Bradley University. This can save money if you were going to take additional trips to those schools and will expose you to what

similar universities may have to offer. A well-planned trip could visit all three of those schools in the same day.

Fairs

Either in-person or virtual college fairs are a great way to start getting to know colleges. Evergreen Park's evening College Fair traditionally occurs in the fall. We highly recommend that students of all grade levels attend. They are usually very crowded, though. As a result, fairs do not usually provide a good opportunity for an extended conversation. However, sometimes a fair is the only chance you'll get to meet an admissions rep. If this is the case, do your best to arrive early, right when the doors open, to beat the crowd and make an excellent first impression.

Fairs can also be a good opportunity for a "drive by." If you've met an admissions rep who is in Chicago attending a fair, it's a good idea to attend and stop by, shake his or her hand, and let it be known that you're still interested and will stay in touch. Remember – each contact will be counted and will make a difference!

2-year Community / Junior Colleges

There are many reasons for students to begin their college education at a community college like Moraine Valley CC or a junior college:

-Academic

Students who did not academically qualify for a 4-year college out of high school get a chance to essentially re-start their GPA. After a specified number of credits earned (often 24 and above) at a community or junior college, 4-year institutions often do not even need a student's high school transcript. 4-year universities place a higher emphasis on grades from CC/JUCO's. Students looking to transfer to a 4-year school will typically take general education courses, similar to what students at 4-year college take in their first two years of study.

-Financial

Depending on the community/junior college, the cost per credit hour is often 50-75% less than a 4-year college or university

Example

Cost of Attendance for ISU:
(without

Cost of Attendance for Moraine Valley CC
for in-district students

Tuition	\$14,516	Tuition (15 credit hours/semester)	\$3,840
Room & Board	\$9,850	Books	\$800
Books & Supplies	\$910	Fees	\$120
Transportation	\$1,200	Transportation	<u>\$800</u>
Personal Expenses	<u>\$5,392</u>		
Total estimated costs	\$29,758	Total estimated costs	\$5,560
		Savings of:	\$24,998

-Career Degrees & Certificate Programs

Community colleges offer a number of vocational and certificate programs intended to help student pursue a career immediately after completion of the program (within 2 years). Examples of these types of programs offered at Moraine Valley Community College include:

Radiologic Technology	Sports and Recreation Management
Paraprofessional Educator	IT Security Specialist
Nursing	Health Information Technology
Emergency Medical Services	Computer Graphics Imagery
Individualized Welding	Heating & Air Conditioning
Phlebotomy	Therapeutic Massage
Plant Engineering Mechanic	Culinary Arts Management
and many more.....	

-Distance Community Colleges / Junior Colleges

Large universities often have junior or community colleges located very close to their campuses, providing an option to students who are looking to live away from home freshman year and get the experience of being around the collegiate atmosphere, but could not afford or qualify for the university immediately. Examples of this are: Parkland College near the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Spoon River College near Western Illinois University, and Madison Area Technical College near the University of Wisconsin. In most cases, these colleges do not offer housing options, but because of their proximity to a larger university, there are many various housing options within the community.

Process for attending a Community/Junior College

1. Complete the application in the school website (including fee if required)
2. Request to have transcript sent to college
3. Take the placement test (if required)

4. Meet with an academic advisor to select courses (do this before every semester)
5. Have final transcript sent from EPCHS to the community/junior college
6. Attend freshman orientation (if required)

Military Options

Students looking to go into military service have the option of selecting between the following branches:

- Army
- Navy
- Air Force
- Marine Corp
- Illinois National Guard
- Coast Guard
- Military Reserves

-Commitment

The typical commitment to military service is 4 years of active duty and 2 years inactive. However, each branch offers different service programs depending on the branch and enlistment type.

-Vocational Training

Career & vocational training within the military differs from branch to branch, but includes: Cybersecurity, Manufacturing, Engineering, Health Care, Business Management, Marketing, and hundreds more.

-GI Bill & educational benefits

The Post-9/11 GI Bill can pay up to full resident tuition at a in-state public university, or up to \$23,000 at a private college. The amount of tuition covered is based on the number of months served on active duty.

Process for enlisting in the armed forces:

1. Do your research on the various branches of the military
2. Speak with recruiters for the different branches
3. When you've made your selection on which branch is right for you, work with the recruiter to set up a date to visit a local MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station) facility.
4. Take the ASVAB exam to assist in vocational placement
5. Pass the physical examination

6. Meet with a service enlistment counselor to determine a career
7. Take the Oath of Enlistment
8. Determine when you will begin your service

Trade/Vocational Schools

There are many various options for students who are looking to pursue a job in the trades. Some example of these include:

- Pipefitter <https://www.pftf597.org/>
- Electrician <https://www.ejatt.com/>
- Carpenter <https://chicap.org/>
- Plumber <http://plumberslu130ua.com/plumbers-training.aspx>
- Operatoring Engineers <https://www.iuoe399.org/>
- Laborer <https://www.chicagolaborers.org/apprentice-program>
- Roofer <http://www.rooferslocal11.org/>
- Ironworker <http://www.iwlocal1.com/>
- Sheet Metal Workers <https://www.smw73.org/training/apprenticeships.html>
- and many more

The typical process of joining a **Union Trade** is as follows:

1. Look into various options and identify which type of work is of the most interest.
2. Contact representatives of those unions to find out about when applications will be accepted and the process for becoming a part of that particular trade.
3. Fill out the application for each union you are interested in and pay the required application fee.
4. Take the placement exam required by trade, which will get you on the list for apprenticeship classes if you score above the designated “cut score” Any applicant that scores below the “cut score”, may reapply during the next testing period.
5. If/when you are selected to join an apprenticeship, you will begin training as you move towards earning journeyman status.
6. Each union determines how much and how long the apprenticeship program lasts. For example, the Pipefitter and Electrician programs are 5 years.

There are also other **Vocational Schools** available to students that are looking to get licensed or earn a certificate in some of the following areas:

- Cosmetology
- Heating & Air Conditioning (HVAC)

- Truck Driving
- Automotive Mechanic
- Dental Hygienist

- Veterinary Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Culinary Arts

Vocational schools charge tuition for their services and the length of each program varies. Many vocational schools do have financial aid available for students that qualify. Many vocational schools have admissions representatives that can help guide prospective students through the enrollment process.

Financial aid & FAFSA

Financial aid refers to specific borrowed, given, or earned money that can be obtained from various sources to help pay for college. It is intended to make up the difference between what a family can afford to pay and what college costs.

Types of Financial Aid

1. Scholarships
2. Grants
3. Work Study
4. Loans

Scholarships and grants are referred to as gift aid, in that the student usually does not have to pay back any money received.

Loans and work-study are self-help aid, which requires the student to pay back money borrowed in loans, or students to work an on-campus job for work study.

FAFSA ([FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov))

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is the method by which colleges and universities determine the amount of aid that a student and family needs. The FAFSA for the following school year can be completed on or after October 1st. Completion of the FAFSA is also a graduation requirement in the State of Illinois. Each college that a student sends their FAFSA to and is accepted at, will prepare a financial aid award letter detailing how much they will be offering the student in scholarships, grants, loans, and/or work study. The amount of aid given will vary from college to college. Students and one parent/guardian will have to complete the form and sign it electronically for each year a student wishes to receive aid. The FAFSA can be located at: [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) . Here is the link to a wonderful series of Financial Aid videos information series developed by Ripon College (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uAZuH5FCs0>)

SCHOLARSHIPS

All EPCHS Seniors are emailed a scholarship bulletin each month containing various scholarships that they may be eligible to apply to. Those bulletins can also be found on the EPCHS Counseling page at: <https://www.evergreenpark.org/Page/158> . We also encourage students to use various scholarship sites, including:

Fastweb.com

Scholarships.com

Unigo.com

Cappex.com

Senior Year Timeline

Summer

- Continue researching colleges that you have an interest in and fit with what you are looking for in an institution.
- Take college visits/tours. If you are unable to physically visit, take a virtual tour.
- Register for Fall SAT or ACT if you would like to. Taking the SAT more than once is recommended for those students who are looking to attend a 4-year college or university. Remember the highest score wins!
- Sign up with a reputable scholarship search site (FastWeb, Scholarships.com, Cappex, etc) to get continually matched with potential scholarships.

Fall

- Narrow down your list of colleges to the 5-12 institutions that you will apply to.
- Meet with your counselor to discuss your future plans.
- Compile a list of the application deadlines, including Early Action/Priority and Early Decision deadlines. Please post this list somewhere that you will see it often. Speak to your counselor about fee waivers to see if you are eligible.
- Complete the FAFSA shortly after September 1st.
- Consider re-taking the SAT/ACT.
- Begin completing the Common Application after it opens on August 1st. You must use your EPCHS email account so your transcripts can automatically be sent through Naviance.
- Begin filling out the applications for any non-Common Application colleges.
- Request transcripts to be sent to non-Common Application colleges through Naviance.
- Ask your teacher(s) for letters of recommendation. Ask well in advance of deadlines.
- Have your college essays reviewed by teachers, counselors, or other trusted adults.
- Check your EPCHS email for the monthly scholarship bulletin and other scholarships that will be emailed directly to you.
- Continue working hard in your Senior year courses.

Winter/Spring

- Check your email / physical mail to see admissions decisions. Update your Naviance account when you receive your decision from each college.
- Have your counselor submit your 1st semester grades to the colleges that require/ask for them.
- Review the Financial Aid award packages from each college that you are accepted to. Use the college cost comparison worksheet located at the end of this document
- Take additional visits to the 2-3 colleges that you are deciding between, including staying overnight if possible.
- Accept your admissions offer to the college that you will be attending before May 1st. Please inform the colleges that you will not be attending of your decision, so that admissions spot and/or scholarship money can go to another student.
- Submit your housing deposit at the college you selected, if applicable.
- Notify your counselor of your college choice so your final transcript can be sent after graduation.
- Continue working hard in your 2nd term courses. Remember that admissions decisions and academic scholarships are conditional, and can be revoked if grades/GPA drop.

***Please visit the “Student Resources” section of the EPCHS Counseling website for links to helpful college, financial aid, and scholarship websites (<https://www.evergreenpark.org/Page/121>) ***

College Cost Comparison Worksheet

	College 1	College 2	College 3	College 4
College Name				
Tuition				
Room & Board	+	+	+	+
Fees	+	+	+	+
Books & supplies	+	+	+	+
Transportation	+	+	+	+
Other expenses	+	+	+	+
Total Cost of Attendance	=	=	=	=
Gift Aid (does not have to be paid back)				
Scholarships	-	-	-	-
Federal Grant	-	-	-	-
State Grant	-	-	-	-
Institutional Grant	-	-	-	-
(Aid below must be paid back)				
Work-study	-	-	-	-
Subsidized Loans	-	-	-	-
Unsubsidized Loans	-	-	-	-
Private Loans	-	-	-	-
Out-of-pocket Cost	=	=	=	=