

A Guide For Your Future

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**Understanding
Your Options
After High School**

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2023

Finding The Right College For You Can Be Stressful, Follow These Tips

Ah, the college search. One of the most exciting and confusing times of your life so far, this is your chance to decide what route you want to take after graduation.

Start early:

The best thing you can do to kick off your college search is to start now! Figuring out what you're looking for in schools and creating a list of colleges you're interested in early on will help you save time, money, and stress in the future.

Don't make your college choices based on your friends or parents:

As fun as it can be to experience college with your friends, don't choose your school simply because it's where your friends are going. Part of the fun of college is meeting new people and growing into yourself, so make the experience your own!

Just like you shouldn't go to a college because your friend is going, you shouldn't attend a school just because your parents want you to. After all, it's your college education and future, and it's an opportunity for you to grow and be independent. Granted, depending on your situation, you will probably need to discuss your college reasoning with your parents and hear their points of view. If they're paying for it, you all need to be on the same page (or at least a sim-

ilar page). But don't give up on a school you're interested in just because it's not your parents' first choice!

Trust yourself:

You might be drawn to some schools—schools that just feel right to you—and that is something to think about in your college search. Those schools will speak to you for a reason, so trust your gut and look into them further. Also trust your gut if you're really not into a college or university. There is nothing wrong with going directly into the military, workforce or learning a trade.

Make a list of what you're looking for in a college:

Think about what is really important to you. Sit down and make a list of things you want in a college (size, distance from home, athletics, and academics are all things that you should be considering) and use that list to narrow down your college options. Be honest with yourself, and keep your list handy whenever you're looking at a school to decide whether or not it is really for you!

Start applying for scholarships:

Most private scholarships don't require you to know exactly where you're going to college. Start searching for and applying for scholarships as early as you can, so you'll have a better chance of winning some money before it's time to go to college.

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Is College Not For You?

Sometimes a person's dreams cannot be realized with a college degree. For example, a person wants to pursue a career at a job he or she has been working for in hopes of an advancement opportunity.

Some high school students who took advantage of vocational training during high school are already qualified in their fields; therefore, they do not need a college degree. Whether it's landscaping, culinary arts, or some other field, vocational training often provides sufficient training.

There are people who focus their attention elsewhere and choose regular work to earn a living.

The Mold Isn't For Everyone

There are quite a few entrepreneurs and inventors who are doing something new that doesn't fit the common path. Both Bill Gates and Steve Jobs were college drop-outs.

In the end, it is a choice you as an individual must personally choose.

If the workforce is more meaningful to you and you choose to skip college:

- You will earn a living sooner
- You will get an earlier start in the job market
- You will be prepared for challenges of the real world faster
- You won't have to worry about paying off school loans
- You will learn critical skills while being



trained on the job

Both Worlds

It is a possibility to have both worlds with online courses. Online education allows more flexibility that allows you to earn a living while also pursuing a degree. You can work to make a living while studying at your own pace.

Distance learning is becoming greatly accepted and more widely available. It

can be difficult to choose the best school. You must look at the program offerings, such as the number of degrees and offered subjects, the cost of the programs, and the accreditation.

Accreditation must be considered and should be recognized by the United States Department of Higher Education and The Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

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Crush Your College Entrance Exam

While a student's long record of academic achievement is generally the most important measure that colleges take under consideration during the admissions process, getting as prepared for one's college entrance exams as possible is a great idea.

Here are a few things to know going into the process:

- Almost all four-year institutions of higher learning require that candidates submit either SAT or ACT scores with some requiring strictly one or the other. Certain selective schools also require SAT Subject Tests and AP Tests. Check which tests you'll need to take to apply to your schools of choice.

- Find out whether the schools to which you are applying look at the score of every test you take or only your top score. If they look at every score, you may want to avoid taking the test until you're feeling completely confident. If they look at only the top score, consider taking the test multiple times (if money and time allow) until you get the score with which you're satisfied.

- Each institution weighs scores a bit differently. Some colleges use

entrance exam scores in order to place incoming freshmen in classes.

- When it comes to the mathematics portion of the exam, it's important to know that graphing and scientific calculators are allowed. Calculators for College Boards available from Casio offer an affordable solution to aid in the preparation for college entrance exams. Whatever calculator students choose to use for their exams they should familiarize themselves with completely so that come exam day, they can easily manipulate its features and functions.

To that end, students should use the calculator when taking practice tests and consider using it in the classroom and when doing homework.

College entrance exam tips

- Testing rules and format have



evolved over time. Be sure any preparation materials you use are current so that they deliver accurate information about what to expect and reflect the kind of questions you'll actually face on test day.

- Your practice tests should resemble the real test day as much as possible, so have handy only tools which are allowed in the testing facility, putting away any other reference materials or distractions.

While the process of preparing for and taking college entrance exams can be nerve-wracking, sufficient preparation and the right tools can give you the confidence you need to be successful on test day.

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Accepted Student Visit Days

- **Feb. 24**
- **March 31**



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Choosing A College Major

Consider Your Future Goals

Start by deciding exactly what it is that you want to get out of your degree upon graduation.

Once you have a clearer picture of where you want your degree to take you, start exploring majors and programs that align with those goals.

Research the career trajectory of the majors that interest you.

Answer these questions to yourself: What types of jobs do people hold upon graduation? What are the employment rates in the industry? Are there advanced educational opportunities available in the field? If so, are they required?

Align Your Values and Passions

What type of lifestyle do you value?

Different majors and industries yield different salaries and benefits. For some, a career that provides financial stability is important. For others, it's essential that they find a meaningful career that fulfills them on a personal level.

While you keep in mind your goals for the future, don't forget about your passions, either. Even if financial security is of utmost importance to you, consider what subjects interest you most.

If you're personally invested in what you're studying, you'll be more likely to engage with your coursework, class discussions, and college experience, which can mean better grades, networking opportunities, and, ultimately, career outcomes.

Understand What Is Required After Earning Your Degree

Research the steps required to get from graduation to your dream job, because earning a degree won't always be the final step in achieving your career goals.

Individuals who pursue certain majors, such as nursing, must obtain additional licensures in their state, or participate in continuing education credits every few years to keep their skills current and maintain their certifications.

Other fields may require advanced degrees in order to secure executive-level positions. While these requirements should not stop you from pursuing your

goals, it's important to factor these realities into your decision, as they will require future commitments of time and money.

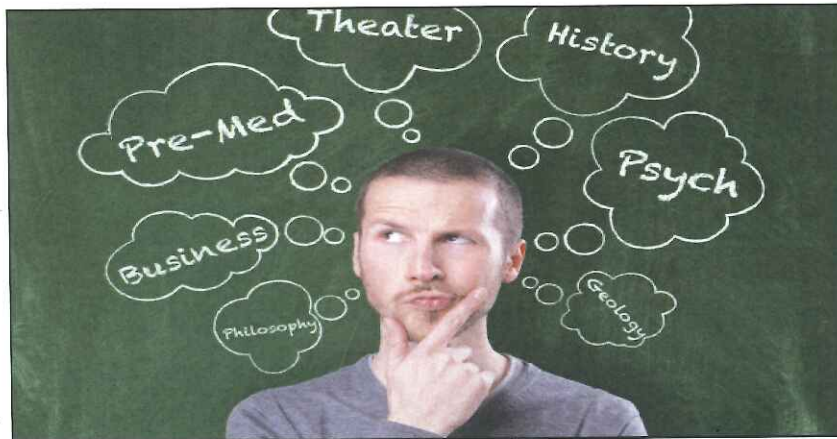
Explore Degree Programs for Your Major

With the help of your parents, teachers, and high school guidance counselors you should thoroughly research and explore your options on majors and colleges.

Explore the program options offered for your major at the universities that interest you.

Find a program that will help you achieve your goals in a format and on a timeline that works for you.

Talk to the Experts



After you've done the research, get an outside perspective by connecting with people that can advise you from firsthand experience—current students, professors, or even a local career center. Ask them questions and let them help you alleviate any concerns you may have.

Contact a college campus to speak with admissions experts, whose priority it is to help you succeed. They can give accounts of student outcomes by major that can be helpful in your decision making.

If you can, schedule a visit or attend an admissions event for adult learners at a campus near you that offers the major you're most interested in.

You'll also gain a sense of the faculty you'll be learning from, which is important, as they will be crucial to your success. The faculty in your major will serve as mentors and advisors, who can help you discover new interests, develop fresh skills, and make your next career move.

Remember to Trust Your Instincts

While it's important to weigh several factors before choosing a college major, ultimately, it's your decision. Trust your instincts to help guide you. It's important to remember that a degree is a stepping-stone toward your personal and professional goals—not the final destination. That said, the clearer you are on what you want to do following graduation, the easier it will be to find a program that aligns with your goals.

Start thinking about your options early, stay organized, and reach out to experts for support. In the end, only you can decide which degree program will work best for you. No matter what major you choose, with commitment, resilience, and hard work, you can find success.

ACT 1-2-3

Skip questions that stump you. Whether you're taking the SAT or ACT, if you stare at a problem for a full minute and you have absolutely no clue whatsoever, move on. You can go back later. Taking timed practice tests can help you get a sense of how much time you can devote to a question.

Eliminate answers you know are wrong. If you're struggling with a question, eliminate any answers you know are wrong to improve your chances of guessing

the right one.

Never leave a question blank. You don't lose any points for guessing a wrong answer on either the SAT or ACT. So if you have any time left at the end of the test, mark down something—literally anything—on all of your unanswered questions.

If you're retaking the test, be realistic. Lots of students retake the ACT and SAT to boost their scores, but it's important to be realistic about how much you expect your score to improve

from an old PSAT, SAT, or ACT score. Even a few points worth of improvement is movement forward.

Essays are scored that the final score is based on an overall impression. To make that overall impression a good one, be sure to organize your ideas into a standard essay format: four to five paragraphs, including an introduction, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion. Aim to have at least two body paragraphs to develop and support your ideas.



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Budgeting For College?

Ways Your Bank Can Help You Navigate Your Finances

Millions of college students are making a budget for school for the new year and taking charge of their finances for the first time. Managing money and homework can be stressful, especially with trying to make your money go further with recent inflation causing price hikes that may hit cash-strapped college students especially hard.

One of the best ways to get the most for your money is to make a plan from the very start. Here are some ways to make sure to stay on track financially this year:

Choose the best way to pay for things

When spending money, most people tend to think about how best to maximize their rewards. Rewards and cashback are great, but how you pay for things influences how much money you spend. That is especially true for college students who often manage their finances for the first time. Students can benefit from using a cash or debit card to get comfortable with spending, including keeping a budget and tracking expenditures, before moving on to a credit card.

This doesn't mean giving up on earning rewards - many banks offer cashback for spending at certain retailers or offer rewards for using their products consistently. It's critical to look at what each bank or debit card offers, as well as what types of fees they charge.

Make a budget & identify savings goals

Many people automatically assume budgeting means you cannot have any fun or enjoy things, but having a budget can give you the freedom to enjoy things that matter as long as you keep the other things in check. One of the essential parts of an effective budget is figuring out what expenses to plan around. For college students, the most common expenses include:

- Apartment or dorm rent
- Utilities (such as phone, electricity, water and internet bills)
- Books
- Food/bars
- Gas
- Car maintenance
- Clothes
- Greek life or other social organization dues
- Season athletic tickets

Every budget is unique to an individual, and so each person should make

sure they are setting aside what they need for essentials but then prioritizing what is most important to them.

Outside of a core budget, the other essential to consider is savings goals. Having an emergency fund is vital for everyone, but in college, students need to plan for things like Spring Break or significant Greek life events or outings. Most people only have two buckets of money, their spending in their checking account and all the money set aside for various goals in their savings.

But most need more than that to help save money for multiple purposes.

For instance, SoFi Checking & Savings¹ offers Vaults, allowing students to set cash into specific goal-related funds within their savings account so they can easily monitor their savings toward each particular goal.



How To Start Out In The Medical Field

Whether you want to help save lives, enjoy being around people or are wanting a career with multiple options for a variety of skill sets, getting into the medical field will take what it takes to get into any field: hard work, dedication and a plan.

To help you make that plan, consider these steps:

1) Take stock of your skill set and decide what aspect of the medical field you'd like to pursue. If you don't like the sight of blood, then being an ER doctor or EMT may not be for you. However there are many other skill sets needed in the medical field: if you are well organized and good at math, there are careers in billing. Love exercising or enjoy working with athletes? Physical therapy, sports training and wide array of associated fields can be viable options for careers.

Ask your guidance counselor for help assessing your skills and looking for the right job in the medical field that will put those skills to the best use.

2) Volunteer or work at a medical facility. From being a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), to helping with activities at a nursing home, there is a wide swath of opportunities so see if the medical field is something you are passionate about and willing to explore.

3) Find a field/aspect you are wanting to pursue, find a local professional in that field and interview them. Ask as many questions about the ups and downs of the profession, as you can and check with the facility or practice on doing a job shadow.

4) Research all school programs related to the field you want to pursue and make sure your high school classes reflect this future endeavor. Again, contact your guidance counselor for help in choosing the right classes now for a bright future.

5) Examine your financial situation and what schools are the best in your particular field, also while being affordable.



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*Become a CNA, and you can work as a CNA as you pursue your LPN or RN degree. Once you are an LPN or RN, you can work as you earn your RN or BSN degree.



*Many hospitals employ phlebotomists (who need minimal training to draw blood samples.) While working as a phlebotomist, you can see many health care careers first hand - and continue your education in any health care field.



*Working as an aide in nutrition services gives you a front row view of all types of health care nutritional needs. It's a great background and college job if you are interested in becoming a food service professional or nutritionist.

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If you are looking for a career opportunity - right out of high school or at any level - consider Jefferson Community Health & Life. Check out our job opportunities and apply on line at: JHealthandLife.org/careers

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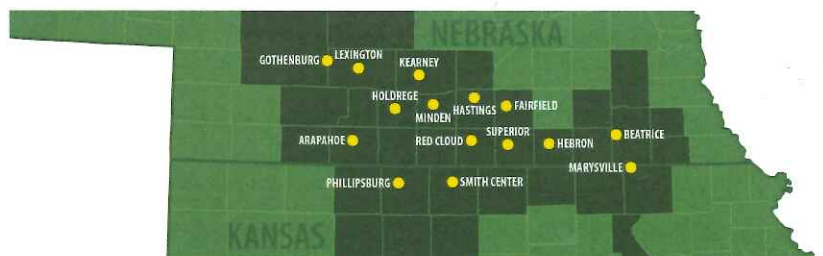


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Maximize Your FAFSA Eligibility, Apply Now

'Tis the season when families across the country start discussing how they plan to finance their children's college education for the next academic school year.

For parents and college and graduate students (both prospective and current), the idea of completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) might seem daunting. But don't fret: filling out the application - which is paramount if you want to qualify for any kind of financial aid - is easier and faster than ever. Plus, the sooner you have this taken care of, the better suited you'll be if you decide that you need to supplement your federal assistance with a private loan.

Let's start with the basics - the FAFSA application must be submitted every year a student hopes to receive any form of financial aid, including federal student loans, grants and Work-Study jobs. Many states, schools and scholarship programs also require FAFSA information for their award decisions. One of the common misconceptions out there is, "I don't qualify because my family earns too much." Don't let this deter you from considering your financing options - apply regardless of how much your family earns, as there is no income cut-off for federal student aid.

The online application is available on the Office of Federal Student Aid's (FSA) website. In the past couple years, the FAFSA has changed to accept the prior-prior year's taxes, so no need to wait until your 2022 taxes are complete; you can use your 2021 taxes to complete the FAFSA for the 2023-2024 school year.

Filling out the FAFSA form doesn't take long, typically less than an hour, and you're able to use an IRS data tool that allows you to prefill much of your information. The application asks questions about the income and finances of the student (and spouse if married) and the student's parents, plus questions about the student's education plans.

For the upcoming academic year, you can submit the form now. Generally, the federal deadline is June 30 for the current application cycle. However, states and schools may have earlier deadlines for awarding state-specific grants. To find out the deadline for your state, check the official FAFSA website and reach out to your financial aid office for school-specific deadlines.

Also, you should keep in mind that funding is limited and is often first come, first served. So be sure to submit your application as soon as possible.

And if you're curious about how FAFSA applications are doing in your state, be sure to check out this #FormYourFuture

FAFSA Tracker, an interactive dashboard that tracks and ranks states' progress toward 100% of their high school seniors completing the FAFSA application.

Now, you may be asking yourself, "Is this year's application any easier or faster?" Good question. The simple answer is yes: there is no glitchy app to download or deal with!

This fall, the Department of Education retired the myStudent Aid app. Instead, all you have to do is go to the Federal Student Aid site - and the smart technology helps you skip the questions that don't apply to you.

Additionally, the 2023-24 form does not ask about Selective Service registration status or drug convictions.

Come next year, when you receive your financial aid letters, you may be looking for an additional source of funding, aka private student loans. These loans, typically from banks, credit unions and online lenders, do not require a FAFSA application and are often used as a sup-

plement to federal aid.

SoFi's private student loans are available for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as parents. In just a few minutes, you can apply online for student loans and be well on your way to financing your education.

It's important to note that private student loans don't offer the same protections as federal student loans, like income-driven repayment plans or deferment options. For this reason, private student loans are generally considered only after other sources of funding, typically from the government, have been considered.



Ways To Prioritize Your Family's Plan To Pay For College

When it comes to financial goals, a new survey suggests that creating a plan to pay for college should be at the top of the minds for more families.

Only 54 percent of parents are comfortable with their plan to pay for their child's college education, according to a College Ave Students Loan survey conducted by Barnes & Noble College Insights.

To pay for college, consider the following financial strategies:

- Apply for reputable scholarships and grants early and often. One easy one to apply for is the College Ave Student Loans \$1,000 Monthly Scholarship Sweepstakes.

- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), even if your family has a high income. Doing so is the only way to access the big pool of financial aid available from the U.S. Department of Education, which

awards over \$120 billion annually in the form of scholarships, grants, work-study programs and loans. What's more, states and some individual schools use it to determine aid packages as well.

- Ask family members to gift or contribute toward the cost of education.
- Fine-tune the college application process to save money. For example, zero in on state schools for in-state tuition, or schools where your child's grades and

SAT scores are above average to boost the likelihood of receiving merit aid.

- Ninety-one percent of parents currently help or plan to help their child pay for college and 75 percent of parents expect their child to help pay, which means that for

most families, a candid discussion about what you can afford and how much you expect him or her to contribute is essential.



How To Build Credit Now For The Future

CreditCards.com asked several financial experts to explain how students can effectively build good credit.

Here's what they recommend:

1. Become an authorized user on your parents' account.

"I always advise parents when the student is going off to college, unless you're 100 percent sure they're responsible, the first credit card that student should have is yours," says Mike Sullivan, former director of education for Take Charge America, a Phoenix-based nonprofit financial education and consumer debt service organization.

The teen should be an authorized user on the parent's account so the adult can monitor the child's spending.

Additionally, this can help the student build good credit via "piggybacking," a practice that FICO -- creator of the widely used credit score that bears its name -- continues to permit among family members.

In piggybacking, a parent makes a child an authorized user. If the parent has good credit, the child's credit gets a boost.

While becoming an authorized user has long been a popular choice for students aiming to build good credit, for some it may now be the only choice. In the wake of the Credit CARD Act, people under the age of 21 now must have a co-signer or show proof of independent income if they want to get approved for a card in their own name.

In short, that means that if you can't prove to the issuer that you have the means to pay your balances, you probably won't get a card.

2. Open up your own credit card.

If you can provide proof of income, it may be time to apply for a card in your name. But know that things have changed from the days when every college freshman's dorm mailbox overflowed with credit card offers and card issuers rained free pizza and T-shirts on students who applied.

In this post-Credit CARD Act era, most issuers are no longer clamoring to put a credit card in the hands of every college student. Some no longer offer student cards; others switched to pushing debit cards on campus.

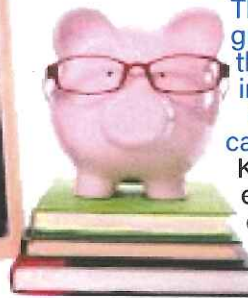
Also know that when you receive a credit card that's all yours -- one with no co-signers -- the responsibility for handling the card wisely and repaying your debts falls squarely on your shoulders.

3. Get the right credit card for you.

Once a student is able to qualify for a regular card on his or her own, it's important to remember that not all credit

cards are the same, says Clarky Davis, former spokeswoman for CareOne Credit Counseling, a debt relief service provider based in Columbia, Md. and formally known as the "Debt Diva." Before a student applies for a credit card, "He or she must do some research to find a card with the most

benefits -- a lower interest rate, no annual



fees, reasonable credit limits and clear billing policies."

If you think you might carry a balance, go with a no-frills, low interest credit card. A reward credit card may sound cooler, but the higher annual percentage rate (APR) and possible annual fee won't be worth it.

Sullivan says some students should consider starting out with a retail card.

Retail cards come with fewer benefits and lower spending limits, Davis says, but using this card and paying the bill regularly will build good credit.

Davis says those who can't qualify for a retail card will need a secured credit card, which is attached to a savings account. However, if the student pays the bill responsibly and on time, he or she will eventually qualify for a regular credit card. That includes student credit cards, products that are directly aimed at consumers who may lack significant borrowing history.

A credit card is a valuable financial tool, however, students MUST be able to manager

their credit card responsibility to benefit longterm.

4. Use the credit card for occasional, small purchases.

Since responsible card use and on-time repayments will help you build a good credit history, while also discouraging the bank from closing your account due to inactivity, don't just leave that plastic sitting in your wallet.

5. Avoid big-ticket buys, except in case of emergency.

Think of regular expenses, such as groceries or website subscriptions that you won't have trouble repaying at the end of the month.

6. Pay off your balance each month.

Keeping your debt levels low will ensure that if there is an emergency expense, you'll still have plenty of your credit line accessible. That way, if your tire blows out or your cell phone falls in the toilet, you can purchase a replacement without exceeding your credit limit.

7. Pay off your balance each month.

When you are first building good credit, do your best not to carry a balance on the card. Use the card only for purchases you can afford, and pay off the balance at the end of each month.

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Reasons Why Skills-Based Education Aids In Career Success

The pandemic catalyzed a new way of learning and an increased need for upskilled employees across a number of industries emerged.

As a result, many high school graduates are pursuing nontraditional education pathways with 73 percent of high schoolers believing a direct path to a career is critical in considering postsecondary education.

As students balance career opportunities and the demands of everyday life with learning, they need flexible programming that will give them skills relevant to their current or desired careers.

To succeed in today's economy, learners need to absorb future-ready and technical skills through continued education, which may not include a traditional four-year degree. Skills-based learning provides students with the opportunity to develop a strong academic foundation while providing real-world on-the-job experience.

Here are reasons why acquired-skill learning is an important driver for career development and helps move the economy forward:

- Higher education institutions should provide more flexibility for traditional and non-traditional learners to pursue a desired career path. In a time when skill is being given the same credence as education in hiring practices, non-traditional learners have an opportunity to advance in their careers due to accessibility, where upward mobility may not have previously existed. Higher education institutions should work to support non-traditional learners by incorporating skills-based learning models that are adaptable based on industry and employer needs. Acquired-skill learning pathways empower students to refine and commoditize their skillset in parallel.

Apprenticeships represent one form of skills-based learning that encourages students to further their education without having to pursue a four-year degree. With National Apprenticeship Week celebrated this year from Nov. 14 to Nov. 20, these programs provide hands-on learning experience that education institutions can integrate into their academic framework to satisfy a student's desire to learn while becoming proficient at a specific trade or skill in tandem. An example of this in real time is

- Skills-based learning increases employer and employee confidence in industries of high importance. Acquired-skill learning opportunities are being offered across a variety of industries to satisfy a need to fulfill critical job roles in an increasingly technology-forward society. Industries such as engineering, cybersecurity and

tech require employee skills to be as up-to-date as possible. Hands-on learning models provide learners with the training and abilities they need to be proficient in their respective industries.

"It's paramount for higher education institutions to continue creating shorter, agile forms of education, and work closely with partners such as CompTIA, to provide hands-on learning experience while preparing learners to thrive in careers shaped by continuous technological change," said Elise Awwad, DeVry University's chief operating officer.

As job demand in industries of high importance persists, employers are



sourcing employees with varying educational backgrounds to help fill open roles in their companies, according to a study from Harvard Business Review.

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Simple Prom Tips

• Do not try anything out of the ordinary. Don't wear makeup that you have never tried before on your prom night. For the ladies who have a sensitive skin, trying new makeup products is not a genius idea. The idea is to look amazing and comfortable. Trust the makeup that you have been using. I'm sure you will good in the camera.

• Have a prom pictures backup plan. This is necessary because the weather may certainly decide to spoil the party in the middle of the event. Make sure you have a Plan B to protect your hair so you won't look a mess on your prom pictures.

Acquire waterproof makeup. It's probably going to be windy. This might make your eyes water and in turn, destroy your prom makeup. Bear in mind that you are going to dance also. It really gets hot on the dance floor. You are definitely going to sweat. Your prom photos will not look so hot with your destroyed makeup. Get a waterproof liquid liner, and make sure your foundation is waterproof too.

• Go matte with your lipstick. You want your prom makeup to stand out, but not take away from your classy look. The shimmer of a matte lip gloss will reflect perfectly off the flash of the photographer's camera. Matte lipsticks are also more long-wearing than the regular ones.

• Do your eye shadow before doing your foundation. Doing your eye shadow first will give you more freedom for mistakes,

especially if you are using many dark colors or glitters. If you do your foundation before doing your eye shadow, put an extra loose translucent powder under the eyes and make it noticeable. Once you finish adding your eye shadow, use a fluffy brush to swipe away all the extra powder.

• Practice makes perfect. Do you intend to do your hair and makeup yourself? Then do trial runs for hair and makeup. It's best to try them out first before prom night. If you have little or no knowledge at all about makeup and hair, this is mandatory. Also, if you are planning to do false eyelashes, make sure you get lots of practice. Your trial runs will help you decide on the best look for your prom ahead of time.

• Carry along a clutch to the prom. Don't worry about having to carry the clutch around all night long. It will pretty much sit on your table throughout the night. Your prom clutch can carry lipstick, keys, money, double-sided tape, baby powder, and any other personal effects.

• Carry with you a pair of slip-on flats or flip flops with you. You may have to take them off at some point. And that's when your flats will come in handy.

• Eat something and drink lots of water before going out for prom. I'm saying this because prom food is not always



the best. Sometimes it may get terrible and it could be messy. Also, water is crucial to avoid dehydration. You will sweat a lot doing all that dancing and you can get dehydrated if you don't drink lots of water to stay hydrated.

Don't shy away or be afraid to eat in front of your date. If you're hungry on prom night, eat until you're full. Ask for that extra plate if you need to. And enjoy that mouth-watering dessert to the fullest.

Take as many prom pictures as possible. Before and during prom, take every kind of photo you can, including prom selfies. Make sure that all your friends are featured in your album of prom photos. These photos will always remind you of the special time you spent with your friends on prom night.

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Campus Essentials For College-Bound Students

College bound this fall? Let this round-up be your guide for a smooth start to the fall semester:

1. Easy reading. Eliminate the need for lugging heavy textbooks between the dorm, the classroom and the library by opting for an eReader. Look for a model offering a large display, tons of storage and a long battery life. Prefer to get studying done on the quad? Be sure to prioritize a glare-free screen.

2. Synced schedules. The right time-piece will help keep scholars on top of classes, club meetings and other appointments. An Edifice Watch from Casio that uses Bluetooth to link to a smartphone, offers minute-by-minute coordination of daily schedules. Its Auto Time Zone feature updates automatically, ensuring time-keeping is accurate, whether students are studying on campus or studying abroad. Also, a featured Schedule Timer links with a smartphone's calendar and shows appointment start times and end times on the watch display. Wearers can even configure settings to have an alarm sound to alert them of these important remind-

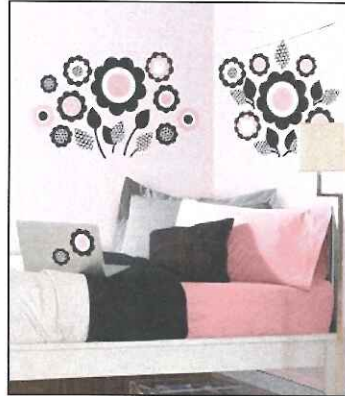


ers.

3. Dorm design. Peel-and-stick wall decals can instantaneously turn a humdrum dorm room into a place that feels like home. From floral and tropical patterns to inspirational messages, they're easy to apply at the start of the year and easy to remove when it's over.

4. Crunching numbers. Both those majoring in STEM

fields as well as liberal arts students fulfilling key credits need an advanced graphing calculator. Get equipped with one designed for education, like the FX-CG500Prizm. Jam-packed with features, including three-dimensional graphing, programming and a computer algebra system, this non-traditional graphing calculator has a double sized screen for easier number-crunching and concept visualization. USB connectivity offers students



the option of dropping their results directly into classwork.

5. Making music. Musicians of all levels need equipment and instruments that are right for campus living. Enter the Casio CDP-S150, a lesson-ready compact digital piano delivering an authentic piano sound and playing feel in a sleek chassis that's not much bigger than the keys themselves, making it the perfect fit for any dorm room or off-campus apartment. Packed with 10 great sounds and educational features, the CDP-S150 brings music to life. And because it's equipped with a newly-designed scaled and weighted hammer-action keyboard and has the response of an acoustic grand piano, it's a solid choice for students who need to rehearse when the piano practice lab is closed.

As you do your back-to-campus shopping, consider tools and products that can help a student begin the fall term with academic confidence and personal style.

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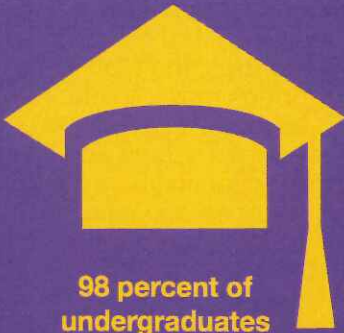
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