



Mapping Your Future Financial Aid & College To-Do's

- FAFSA Webinar for Students and Parents
- August Tasks for High School Students
- Topics of Concern – Paying for College During a Pandemic
- ACT Testing
- Four Methods of Student Success During a Crisis
- CareerShip

Have questions about applying for Federal Student Aid?

Students considering attending college in the fall of 2021 need to complete the 2021-22 FAFSA to apply for federal financial aid, as well as some state and institutional aid. In this webinar, students and parents will receive an introduction to the FAFSA and have their FAFSA questions answered. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, October 6 at:

7 p.m. Eastern
6 p.m. Central
5 p.m. Mountain
4 p.m. Pacific

Register at register.gotowebinar.com/register/3409025215216091151. Click on "Show in My Time Zone" at the top of the registration page. We will use GoToWebinar for this training which can be accessed from any computer, so students and parents can view the webinar from the convenience of their home.

For questions or more information, contact the Mapping Your Future staff at feedback@mappingyourfuture.org or (800) 374-4072.



2021-22 FAFSA Training for Professionals

Financial aid professionals, counselors, and others who are helping those students complete the FAFSA or are managing student verification, can get the latest instructions by attending training offered by Mapping Your Future.

Jennifer Martin, Director of Financial Aid Compliance at Johns Hopkins University, will be presenting. She will guide the attendees through the FAFSA, providing special emphasis on the changes from prior years.

This webinar will be offered on two dates. Click the appropriate link below to register:

[Tuesday, September 22](#) at 11 a.m. Eastern

[Wednesday, September 30](#) at 2 p.m. Eastern

We will use GoToWebinar for this training, which can be accessed from any computer. Please check with your technical staff if you are unsure if your network will allow you to access GoToWebinar.

A separate [FAFSA training for students and parents](#) is scheduled for October 6 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern.

If you have questions or need more information, contact the Mapping Your Future staff at feedback@mappingyourfuture.org or (800) 374-4072



Student & Parent Topics of Concern - Paying for College During a Pandemic -

The economic impact is just one of the ripple effects that has left students and their parents wondering about higher education and future career plans. These are very real concerns. However, it is important that students don't allow the pandemic to force them into decisions that could impact the rest of their lives.

➔ **Job Loss** - Students facing unemployment or parental unemployment may be worried about their ability to pay for an education. Students in this situation can contact the financial aid office to conduct a [financial aid appeal](#), which will determine if the student is eligible for additional aid.

➔ **College Costs** - If additional financial aid may not be available, students and parents can cut college costs in other ways. One option is commuting to school, rather than living in a dorm. Students may also prefer lower-cost colleges in their community, then transfer after the pandemic.

➔ **Campus Jobs** - Work study is a viable option for many students. The [federal work-study](#) program provides employment for students demonstrating financial need. In addition to work-study, other employment on campus business may be hiring.

➔ **Loans** - Loans should always be considered a last resort to help pay for education after the student exhausts all free sources of funding. As a result of the pandemic, interest on student loans has been temporarily placed at 0 percent, set to expire on September 30th, 2020.

Student & Parent Topics of Concern

- Paying for College -

continued

- Scholarship Opportunities – Scholarship competition may increase during the pandemic, and guidelines for programs may change. Students should be aware of changing guidelines and complete all requirements and procedures.
- Emergency Funds – Depending on the student's situation, they may be eligible for emergency funds if the school offers it. Some emergency fund programs were created when Congress provided funds to higher education institutions. Students should contact the school financial aid office for information and assistance.
- Withdrawals – Students considering withdrawing from school due to cost must carefully consider this option. This option could derails their education and impact their tuition and financial aid. If they received financial aid, it may need to be returned, and any loans borrowed may need to be repaid after the grace period.
- Gap year – Students considering taking a gap year in between high school and college should have a [gap year plan](#). This plan should address how they will use the gap year including establishing goals for money saving, researching education and career options, a start and a start-date. Students without a plan may focus on a job, and give up the pursuit of higher education.

Student Success During a Crisis – Four Methods!

Pursue a New Opportunity

Students should use free time to look for new opportunities allowing them to explore interests not previously known.

Begin Something New

Many students have an entrepreneurial spirit. Create your own opportunity by developing something new that serves a need, aligns with your interests, and demonstrates your ability to succeed in times of crisis.

Volunteer for a Nonprofit

During the pandemic, many nonprofits are finding resources stretched thin as more people need assistance. The pandemic has provided many volunteer opportunities for those wishing to assist.

**CHANGE
AHEAD**

Engage in Virtual Opportunities

Students should work to be as engaged in virtual jobs and activities as they are in in-person opportunities. It isn't easy, but it demonstrates professionalism and ability to manage change successfully.

High school students have faced unique challenges during the pandemic. In the future, when we look back on 2020, there will always be an asterisk to this year – noting that everything this year occurred amid a crisis. All students are facing the same issues, but students who can manage despite the crisis will stand out.

August is Here!

- Tasks for High School Students -



- Review your career plans and decide which type of postsecondary school is best for you.
- Save money from your summer job for college.
- List your top college choices.
- Request admissions information and school catalogs.
- Go on college visits, possibly virtually.
- Collect letters of recommendation from your teachers to include with your college applications.
- Start brainstorming about ideas for your college essays.
- Continue to take challenging courses during your senior year.
- Stay focused on maintaining or increasing your GPA.
- Obtain registration materials and test dates for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and/or ACT assessment.
- Compare costs of each school that interests you by contacting the colleges by phone, mail, or via their websites.
- Visit Going2College for information about career, college, and financial aid resources in your state.
- Visit the complete Senior year college planning calendar.



ACT Testing

- ❖ Students who missed out on taking the ACT test due to interruptions caused by the pandemic may have some new opportunities to take the exam this fall.
- ❖ MyACT opened on August 3 for ACT test registration.
- ❖ ACT sent all students who were unable to test in April, June, or July because of COVID-19 cancellations an email with more information and options. ACT has posted information on its website about [ACT test registration, MyACT and testing amid COVID-19](#).
- ❖ In addition, ACT began posting scores from the July 18 national test date on Wednesday, August 5 and will continue posting through August 31. According to ACT, most scores posted on August 5 & 6.
- ❖ ACT said it continues to work to add test centers and to expand capacity for fall testing. ACT has posted an extended calendar of [national test dates](#).

CareerShip - Updates on Career Paths

CareerShip helps students and adults explore hundreds of careers, utilizing the O*Net database.

Mapping Your Future's CareerShip, which has been used for a number of years as an easy-to-use online tool for career exploration, now has a new look.

The ability to research careers when selecting a career path has never been more important. Students, parents, and counselors who want to make sure that a career and education plans align with future trends and provide a valuable return on investment can use the tool to identify the best possible career choices. In addition, counselors can implement CareerShip into online learning or career planning workshops.

While the functionality remains the same, the new CareerShip design improves the usability and appearance of the online career exploration tool. CareerShip helps students and adults explore hundreds of careers, utilizing the O*Net database.

Contact the Mapping Your Future staff with any questions about CareerShip at feedback@mappingyourfuture.org or (800) 374-4072.