

College and Career Guidance Newsletter

for Families

from SLHS



April

FOR FAMILIES OF 12th GRADE

Making a Decision

May 1st is the deadline for students across the nation to send in their commitment to the college or university that they will attend the following academic year. If your child received acceptance offers from a college, university, or training program, congratulations! Now is the time that your child will decide which school is the best fit. If your child is unsure of which school to select, encourage him or her to:

- Get more information.
- Ask questions.
- Visit – or revisit the campuses.
- Talk to current students at the college.
- Think things over.
- Compare the colleges.
- Compare financial aid awards.

Encourage your teen to use BigFuture's [Compare Your Aid Awards tool](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator). You can find it at: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator>. It lets you compare up to four financial aid offers side by side. Talk about which colleges work best financially. Is the school that offers the most financial aid the best match for finances overall? Which financial aid package is most workable for your family? Which financial aid package best matches your child's long-term goals?

Once your teen has decided which college he or she wants to attend, have your child inform all the colleges that accepted him or her about the decision. Your child must accept an offer of admission and submit a deposit to secure a spot at that institution. If the deposit is a hardship and you can't afford it, call the financial aid office for help. Additionally, make sure to send in any items that the school has requested.

Students, who are waitlisted or did not get in, should see the guidance counselor for information on next steps.

Sources: [Career Guidance WA](#), [BigFuture](#) & [WhiteHouse.gov](#)



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Did You Know?

For students who are not interested in attending college, but are still interested in a career versus a minimum wage job, check out the City of Seattle Construction Apprenticeship Guidebook at

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WAOSPI/2018/03/30/file_attachments/982440/ApprenticeshipGuidebook.pdf.

Myth Buster

MYTH: College professors don't ever get to know their students personally.

REALITY: Students develop relationships in the same way they did with their teachers in high school. For example, by talking to them before, after or during class, college students will have the opportunity to develop relationships with their professors as well. While instructors are also very busy individuals, they are there to help students learn.

Depending on the size of a college class, students may have more or less access to their professor in class. However, each professor will also have office hours during which students can visit him or her.

Relationships with professors are also important when students need to request letters of recommendation for scholarships, internships, graduate school, or other activities.

Source: [UW Dream Project](#)

Upcoming Events & Announcements:

We are remote learning

for the remainder

of the school year.

We will notify you when new events are scheduled.

We miss you!

Student Checklist

- Compare financial aid awards from colleges and decide which school to attend.** Be realistic - have you calculated all your college costs and did you receive enough financial aid to cover them? Notify all colleges of your decision by May 1.
- When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit.** Many schools require this notification and deposit by May 1. If the deposit is a problem, call the financial aid office for help. Additionally, make sure to send in any items that the school has requested.
- Keep your grades up!** Don't let homework and assignments slip.

Family Checklist

- Help your child process college responses.** Once your child starts hearing back from colleges about admission and financial aid, he or she will need your support to decide what to do.
- Review financial aid offers together.** Your 12th grader will need your help to read through financial aid award letters and figure out which package works best. Be sure your child pays attention to and meets any deadlines for acceptance.
- Help your child complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance.** Once your child has decided which college to attend, he or she will need to accept a college's offer, mail a tuition deposit and submit other required paperwork. If the deposit is a problem, call the financial aid office for help.



Visit readyssetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.