

## THE PATH TO COLLEGE

1. The Goal: To find a college or trade school that you can afford, that is right for you, where you will be happy and successful and find the skills to get meaningful work.
2. Step 1: Finding a School – visit campuses; search internet
3. Step 2: Research – colleges and trade programs – online, call for a brochure, visit; [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) has a great search engine for college selection; personality test: [www.humanmetrics.org](http://www.humanmetrics.org)
4. Step 3: Money – if you are accepted, you may be surprised by what the college offers you, esp. private schools
5. Step 4: Tests – SAT I, SAT II – [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), ACT – [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
6. Step 5: The Essay – tell a story that is meaningful to you; show passion for a subject/activity
7. Step 6: Communicate with parents, counselors, college admissions offices and financial aid offices; ask for help
8. Step 7: Financial Aid – [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov) -- get PINs for you and parent/guardian; fill FAFSA out as close to January 1 (senior year) as possible; estimate if you must; [www.FinAid.org](http://www.FinAid.org) 1-800-4-FED-AID
9. Step 8: Scholarships – [www.FastWeb.com](http://www.FastWeb.com);
10. Step 9: Ways to Save – Community College transfer programs
11. Step 10: Resources – [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

## TO DO

ALL STUDENTS: Do well in school, learn how to learn and study, talk to teachers and counselors, spend time figuring out who you are, what you like, what careers you might be interested in learning more about, ask for help, visit campuses, research schools, join/lead extracurricular activities – if your school doesn't have it, start it! – work, save money, get organized.

11<sup>TH</sup> – SAT in the spring, write essays over the summer, visit schools, research, do well in school

12<sup>TH</sup> – Ask for recommendations, make a spreadsheet of deadlines and requirements, apply to schools, take the SAT at least once in the fall, fill out FAFSA in January/February, apply for scholarships, stay on top of classes.

## OPTIONS/RESOURCES

LORD FAIRFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE 540-868-7000; [www.lfcc.edu](http://www.lfcc.edu)

Dual Enrollment, Transfer Associates degrees; Associates in Applied Sciences: Dental Hygiene, Police Science, Nursing, Veterinary Technology; Certificates; Bachelors and Masters Degrees through ODU/Teletechnet.

BLUE RIDGE COMM. COLLEGE 888-750-2722; [www.br.cc.va.us](http://www.br.cc.va.us) (Harrisonburg) + Aviation, Culinary, Driving

THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL 757-380-3809; [www.apprenticeschool.com](http://www.apprenticeschool.com) (Newport News)  
Shipbuilding; football/wrestling, 4-year, tuition-free paid apprenticeships in 18 skilled trades

VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF MASSAGE [www.vasom.com](http://www.vasom.com) (Charlottesville) 434-293-4031

THE ELECTRICAL APPRENTICESHIP 703-393-0097; [www.washjatc.org](http://www.washjatc.org) (Manassas)  
Paid 40 hours/week plus benefits, college credit; Grads make \$45,000-\$80,000/year.

### 4-YEAR COLLEGES

Books: [The Best 371 Colleges](#); [Colleges That Change Lives](#); [The Insider's Guide to the Colleges 2010](#), [The Official SAT Study Guide](#); [Kaplan SAT](#)

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia: [www.schev.edu](http://www.schev.edu)

CollegeBoard: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for an extensive college search engine, SAT sign-up, personal organizer, and more