UTAH COLLEGE GUIDE

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE
EARN COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL • TAKE THE RIGHT CLASSES • GRADE-BY-GRADE CHECKLISTS

PAYING FOR COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIP TIPS • SUBMITTING THE FAFSA • STUDENT LOANS—WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW • GRANTS & WORK-STUDY

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE
WHAT COLLEGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU? • UTAH COLLEGE INFORMATION

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DO HIGH SCHOOL RIGHT

Use high school to prepare for college

DID YOU KNOW?

Most colleges in Utah are open admission, meaning if you have a high school diploma or GED and submit an application, you'll be accepted. With open-admission colleges, you don't have to worry about getting in—but you should do all you can in high school to prepare academically for college. Taking the right classes in high school can help you save money on future tuition costs and may help you earn scholarships.

Admissions requirements: Some colleges have specific admissions requirements. They will ask you to take classes beyond what you need for high school graduation. You may even need a certain ACT/SAT score or GPA to be admitted. Some colleges are test optional.

For more information on Utah colleges see pg. 20.

What college is right for you?

DREAM

What is your dream job?

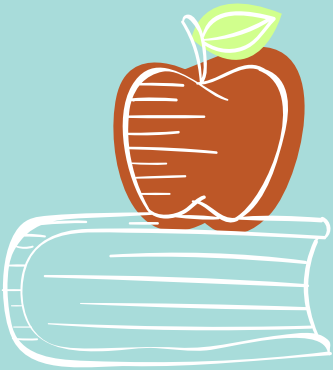
Discover what excites you most by checking out the Exploratory Tracks at **UtahMajors.org**

GRADUATE

What kind of certificate or degree will get you to your dream job?

Visit UtahMajors.org to figure out which colleges offer the program to get you where you want to go.





CAMPUS

What type of college campus is best for you?

- Close to home or far away
- Big city or small town
- Small college or large university
- Live in the dorms or off campus

The best way to know if a college is right for you is to explore the campus. Whether in person, through a virtual tour on the college's website.
Visit AdmitUtah.org to explore Utah's public college options, then visit college's websites to learn more about campuses and tour opportunities.

What advice do your family, friends, and community have for you about college?

ADVICE

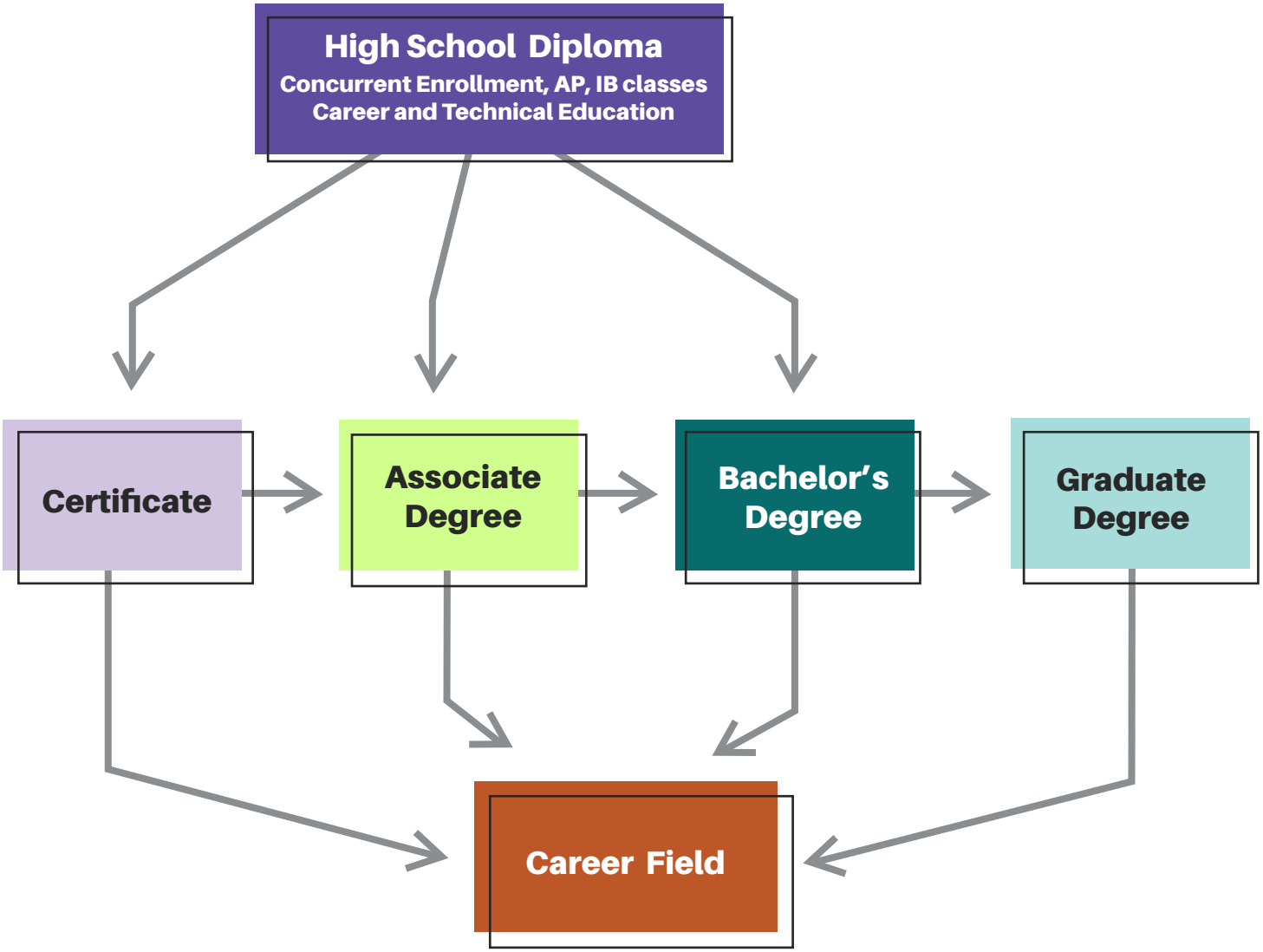


COLLEGE = OPPORTUNITY

WHAT IS COLLEGE?

Certificates and Degrees

Most jobs today require education beyond high school. Postsecondary education range from short-term certificates that can be completed in a few months to multi-year degree programs. These include technical certificates (less than a year to two years), associate degrees (two years), registered apprenticeships (two to four years), bachelor's degrees (four years), and graduate degrees (beyond four years). The chart below shows how these credentials can build on each other to support your career pathway.



High School Diploma

Provides foundational skills for success in life, college, and the workplace.

Examples:
- High school Career and Technical Education
- College-prep classes
- Work-based learning

1

Certificates and other Credentials

Up to 1 year or more
(depending on program)

Provides preparation for specific jobs and careers. Programs can typically be completed in a few weeks to a little over a year of full-time attendance. Many certificates build into and count toward associate degrees.

Examples:
- Technical Certificates
- Professional Certificates

2

Associate Degrees

2 years

Provides preparation for employment or a bachelor's degree. Programs can typically be completed in two years of full-time attendance.

Examples:*
- Associate of Applied Science
- Associate of Science
- Associate of Arts

4

Bachelor's Degrees, Apprenticeships, and Licenses

3–4 years
(depending on program)

Provides a well-rounded education for success in a career or for graduate study. Programs can typically be completed in four years of full-time attendance. Some bachelor's degree programs are accelerated and can be completed with fewer credits and in less time.

Examples:
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Applied Science
- Apprenticeships
- Licenses

+

Graduate Degrees and Credentials

Typically 1–6 years beyond a bachelor's degree

Provides advanced preparation in a variety of careers that require education beyond a bachelor's degree. Programs can typically be completed in one to six years of full-time attendance, depending on the field of study.

Examples:
- Master's degrees
- Doctoral degrees
- Graduate Certificates
- Professional Certificates

* There are two types of associate degrees:

Associate of Applied Science
This degree provides basic preparation and related instruction for career development and entry into the job market, and in some cases for bachelor's degrees.

Associate of Science and Associate of Arts
This degree typically takes two years to complete and can be transferred to bachelor's degree programs at other colleges.





TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Technical education programs are great ways to earn a college certificate and prepare for a specific career. Colleges offer certificate programs in all regions of the state, so you don't have to go far to earn a college credential.

Many certificates build into and count toward associate and bachelor's degree programs if you decide to go further in your education.

Technical education programs are typically more hands-on than other certificate or degree programs. This style of applied education will prepare you to quickly enter the workforce and put you on the fast-track to earn more money as you progress through college or your career.

There are certificates in business construction and drafting, energy services, health, manufacturing, public safety, service professions, technology, transportation and more.

Technical education courses and programs are offered at

- Bridgerland Technical College
- Davis Technical College
- Dixie Technical College
- Mountainland Technical College
- Ogden-Weber Technical College
- Salt Lake Technical College (SLCC)
- Snow College
- Southwest Technical College
- Tooele Technical College
- Uintah Basin Technical College
- Utah State University (Eastern, Blanding, and Moab campuses)

See the map on **pg. 24-25** for locations.

High school students can enroll in a technical college tuition-free while completing their high school graduation requirements. Contact the college's admissions office to learn more.





PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

Take the right classes.

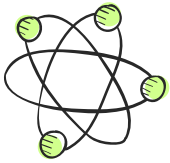
You can go to college regardless of the classes you take in high school. But, to maximize your college opportunities, consider taking the following classes in grades 9-12. They can help you gain skills and experience relevant to your interests, earn better grades in college, and can increase your score on the ACT (which helps with qualifying for scholarships). At some colleges, the ACT and other entrance exams are optional.

If you are interested in playing college sports, be sure to check out NCAA guidelines at ncaa.org. You will have to take specific classes in high school to be eligible.

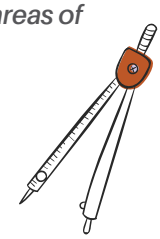


Complete three advanced courses

This means one Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Concurrent Enrollment (CE) course in each of the core areas of high school graduation:



- ★ **Math**
- ★ **Science**
- ★ **Language Arts**



Career and Technical Education Pathway Courses

Talk to your school counselor about how your high school CTE classes could apply to college-level technical education career pathways. For example, take classes at your local technical college that will build employable skills and count toward a certificate. Remember these programs are tuition free to high school students.

Take the right classes to double your odds of completing college, gain academic skills, and prepare for scholarships.

EARN COLLEGE CREDIT WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

There are four ways to earn college credit in high school. This is a great way to get a head start on your college education, plus it saves time and money. Talk with your counselor to see which classes your high school offers.

When earning college credit in high school, talk with your counselor to make sure you're earning credit that counts toward general education or your certificate or program at the college you plan to attend.

	What is it?	Where is it available?	College credit earned through:	Cost:* *based on costs for the 2024-25 school year; costs may vary by high school	What college credit will I earn?
TECHNICAL EDUCATION	Students enroll in a local tech college during high school or receive credit toward a certificate for courses completed in high school.	Available for most high schools, usually at local technical college.	Passing the class	Tuition free Course fees are applicable Possible book and material costs	Classes count toward the technical college certificate program. Some certificates transfer to other Utah colleges.
CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT (CE)	CE classes earn high school and college credit at the same time.	Available at most Utah high schools	Passing the class	$5 per credit Possible book costs	Many CE classes fulfill general education requirements. CE also offers intro classes in college-level career and technical education.
ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)	AP classes are writing- and research-intensive and emphasize study and test-taking skills.	Available at most Utah high schools	Exam score	$99 per exam Possible book costs	Check with your college's academic adviser.
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB)	IB classes are writing- and research-intensive. IB students also perform community service and write an extended essay.	Only offered at certain Utah high schools	Exam score	$123 per exam Possible book costs	Check with your college's academic adviser.



What is a major?

When you attend a college that offers degree programs, you will select a college major, which is the specific subject area that you specialize in. Typically, between one-third to one-half of your college classes will be in your major or related to it. Some careers require a particular major, while others just ask for a college degree (like an associate or a bachelor's), so you can choose a major that interests you the most.

Visit UtahMajors.org to identify possible majors.

What is general education?

If you're earning an associate or bachelor's degree, you will be required to take several general education courses. General education allows you to explore a variety of subjects while developing critical thinking, writing, and problem-solving skills. No matter what major you decide, you'll have to take one or two classes in each of the academic disciplines, like math, science, English, and history. General education credit requirements are the same at all Utah public colleges and credit earned for general education courses are fully transferable.

What is technical education?

When you enroll in a technical education program at your local technical college, you are earning a certificate. All course work relates directly to the knowledge and skills required to work in the industry.

Visit UtahMajors.org to identify possible technical certificates.



TAKE MATH YOUR SENIOR YEAR

If you decide not to take math as a senior, you may be behind once you enter college because all degree programs require at least one math course. The good news is you might be able to fulfill that math requirement while you are still in high school through AP, IB, or Concurrent Enrollment (CE) classes.

Depending on your major, a general education math class may be the last math class you need. By taking college-level math in high school, you can save on future tuition costs and benefit from having the concepts fresh in your mind. It is often easier to succeed in college math when the material is familiar.

Remember, CE courses can transfer across any public college in Utah that offers degrees, and AP or IB subject exam credits are recognized equally at every Utah college. Meet with your counselor to see which classes are available at your school and which options fit best with your future plans.

Which CE math class should I take?

Are you interested in ...



- English/languages
- Fine arts
- Humanities
- Performing arts

Take CE Math 1030
Intro to Quantitative Reasoning



- History
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Social Sciences

Take CE Math 1040/STAT 1040
Intro to Statistics



- Business
- Biology & physical sciences
- Engineering
- Education

Take CE Math 1050
College Algebra



Interested in something else?

Talk with your counselor about the right CE math for you.

GRADE-BY-GRADE CHECKLISTS

Whether you're considering a certificate, an associate degree, a bachelor's degree, or a professional/graduate degree, these grade-by-grade checklists will help you prepare to be successful after high school graduation!





8TH GRADE

For more information, visit **AdmitUtah.org**

Start the conversation now.

- [ ] Talk to a parent or other adult about what you like to do, what you're good at, and what you want for your future.

Learn about yourself.

- [ ] Discover careers, explore interests, and identify your strengths by using tools like the O*Net Interest Profiler and the Exploratory Tracks on UtahMajors.org.
- [ ] Take the Reality Check at educationquest.org.

Make your high school plan.

- [ ] Meet with your school counselor to develop a four-year high school plan. Try to fit in the recommended classes on pg. 6.

Prepare for high school classes.

- [ ] Research the admissions requirements at some of the colleges you're considering, including GPA, whether taking the ACT/SAT is optional, and specific high school classes they may require.

Start saving for college.

- [ ] With the help of a parent or other adult, open a college savings account to save for your future. Consider a savings account through a bank, credit union, or a my529 account. Learn more at my529.org.

What are the grade-by-grade checklists?

grade-by-grade checklists are designed to help you prepare for college during grades 8–12.

We recommend spreading these tasks out over your junior high and high school years, but you can complete most of them at any time.



9TH GRADE

For more information, visit **AdmitUtah.org**

Do high school right.

- [ ] Meet with your school counselor and develop a four-year high school plan.

Explore college options.

- [ ] Use the College Guide to research colleges in Utah and discover which colleges may be right for you.
- [ ] Talk with your parents, friends, and community members about their college experience, and start thinking about what you want out of yours.
- [ ] Take campus tours at two-year, four-year, and technical colleges.

Get involved in your school and community.

Volunteer experience and after-school activities boost your resume and may help you qualify for scholarships.

- [ ] Volunteer in your community. Find volunteer opportunities with U Serve Utah at userve.utah.gov and United Way 2-1-1 at uw.org/211/volunteer.
- [ ] Sign up for at least one school club or after school program. Ask your counselor about Career and Technical Education (CTE), Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Concurrent Enrollment (CE), and technical education courses available at your high school.

Learn about the different ways to pay for college.

- [ ] Read about the various ways to pay for college, including scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans. Get started here: studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types.
- [ ] Make a plan to pay for college with your parents. For example, part-time work in high school and college can help you pay for college costs and start building your resume.
- [ ] Begin building a scholarship and college admissions resume to track your achievements. Use the Paying for College Toolkit to get started.
- [ ] With the help of an adult, research college savings accounts. Learn more at my529.org. If you already have a savings account, contribute what you can to it.



10TH GRADE

For more information, visit **AdmitUtah.org**

Stay involved and continue to explore your interests.

Volunteer experience and after-school activities boost your resume and may help you qualify for scholarships.

- [ ] Continue to be involved in school clubs, after school programs, and volunteering. Track your volunteer hours using a spreadsheet.
- [ ] Take campus tours at two-year, four-year, and technical colleges.

Look into support and mentoring programs.

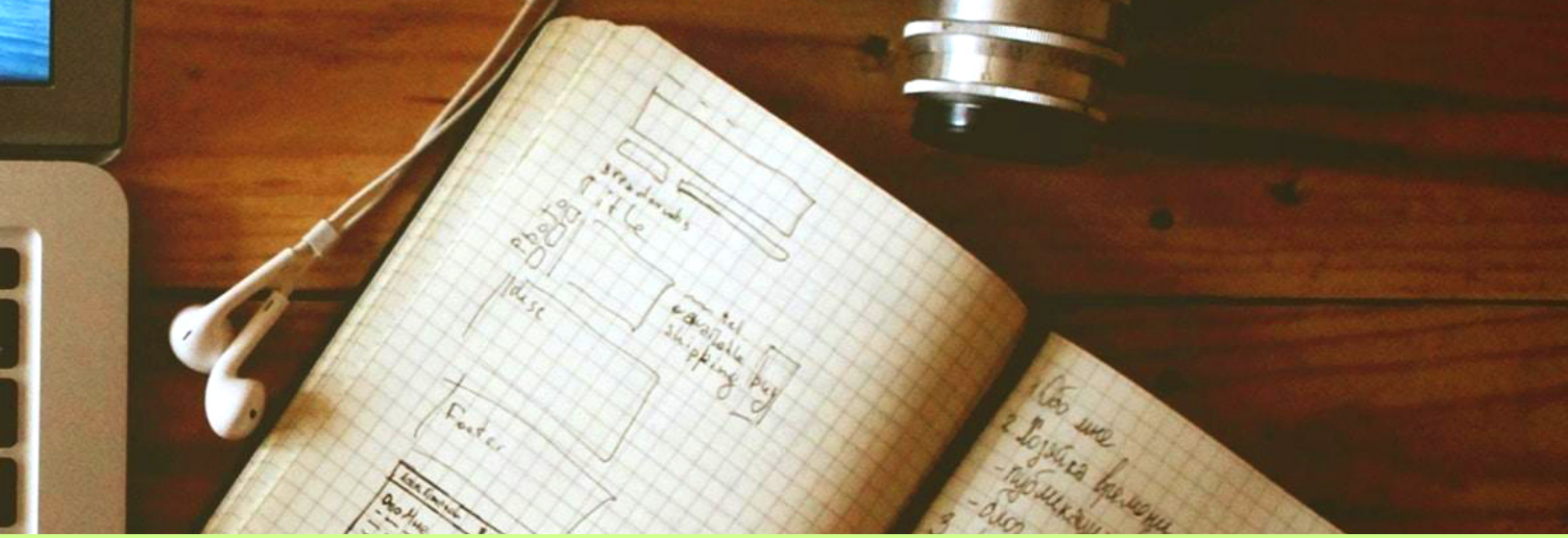
- [ ] Check with your counselor or college advisor to see what college prep support you might be eligible for in your area, like AVID, TRIO, or GEAR UP programs.

Think about what certificate or degree you will need for your future career.

- [ ] Read about the differences between a certificate, associate, bachelor's, and other advanced degrees on pg. 4.
- [ ] Use your results from the O*Net Interest Profiler and check out the Exploratory Tracks on UtahMajors.org to see what college majors and programs interest you.
- [ ] Explore certificates and degrees offered at Utah colleges on the Utah Programs and Majors guide on UtahMajors.org.

Take the right classes.

- [ ] Meet with your school counselor to make sure you're on track to complete Math III no later than the end of 11th grade.
- [ ] Ask your counselor about Career and Technical Education (CTE), Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Concurrent Enrollment (CE), and technical college classes available at your high school.
- [ ] Create a list of opportunities you can participate in, like internships and applied learning opportunities, close to where you live.



Start preparing for the ACT.

- [ ] Study! Your ACT score will help determine your eligibility for some scholarships and acceptance into some colleges. Get free ACT test prep materials at ACT.org or Shmoop.com.
- [ ] Download the free ACT app to get daily ACT test prep questions.
- [ ] Research the college(s) you're interested in to check if they require the ACT. Some colleges may not require it.

Research and apply for scholarships—yes, even before senior year!

- [ ] Make a goal to apply to at least one scholarship this year. The Paying for College: Apply for Scholarships handout is a good place to start. You can also use Keys to Success to find scholarships.

Learn how much college costs.

- [ ] Estimate college costs by looking up the net price calculator at your top college choices.
- [ ] Learn more about in-state versus out-of-state tuition on pg. 36. Ask your high school or college counselor about how you may qualify for in-state tuition and/or for a tuition waiver.

Keep saving for college.

- [ ] Add funds to your credit union, bank, or my529 savings account. Learn more at my529.org*.

Align your CTE pathway with your college plans.

- [ ] Talk to your counselor about how your high school CTE classes could apply to college-level CTE career pathways.

***Important Legal Notice:** Investing is an important decision. The investments in your account may vary with market conditions and could lose value. Carefully read the Program Description in its entirety for more information and consider all investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. For a copy of the Program Description, call 800.418.2551 or visit my529.org.



11TH GRADE

For more information, visit **AdmitUtah.org**

Focus on your classes.

- [ ] Sign up for classes that challenge you, like honors classes or those that earn college credit, such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Concurrent Enrollment (CE), or technical education courses. Talk to your school counselor for more information.
- [ ] Verify with your counselor that you are taking classes that will help you succeed in college.

Align your CTE pathway with your college plans.

- [ ] Learn how your high school career and technical education (CTE) classes apply to college-level CTE career pathways. Visit with a technical college adviser to enroll in a certificate program and track your progress toward graduating with a certificate while in high school.
- [ ] Take classes at your local technical college that will build employable skills and count toward a certificate. *Remember these programs are tuition free for high school students.*

Think about what math class you'll take your senior year.

- [ ] Meet with your counselor to make sure you pick the right math class for your future. It's best to complete your college math requirements through CE while still in high school.
- [ ] See pg. 9 to learn which CE math class best fits your future plans.

Take the ACT.

- [ ] Plan to take the ACT in the spring. Get free ACT test prep materials at ACT.org or Shmoop.com, or use the free ACT app for daily prep questions. A good ACT score can help earn scholarship money and play a key role in your acceptance to certain colleges.
- [ ] Research your colleges of interest to check its ACT requirements. Some colleges may be test optional.

Learn about the many ways to pay for college.

- [ ] Forecast how much federal financial aid you could qualify for by using the Federal Student Aid Estimator at studentaid.gov/aid-estimator.



Consider your college options.

- [ ] Make a list of your top college choices. If you're thinking about going to college in Utah, check the information on Utah colleges on pg. 20 to learn more.
- [ ] Visit AdmitUtah.org to explore your two-year, four-year, and technical college options.

Get organized for your final year.

- [ ] Some colleges and scholarships require one or more letters of recommendation. Decide which teachers you'd want to write letters of recommendation next year and ask them in advance.
- [ ] Get a summer job to save money and build your resume. Consider contributing a portion of your earnings to a my529 or another savings account to help fund your future education.

Research possible careers.

- [ ] Review your career interest profiles or take the O*Net Interest Profiler again and pair it with the Exploratory Tracks on UtahMajors.org to discover new career interests.
- [ ] Shadow at a business or organization that interests you and ask about internship opportunities.
- [ ] Talk to professionals currently working in your area of interest. Ask your school counselor or parents/guardians to help you find them.

Keep applying for scholarships.

- [ ] Learn about scholarships offered by the state of Utah at ushe.edu/state-scholarships-aid.
- [ ] Apply for as many scholarships as you can. Make an appointment with a scholarship coordinator or other specialist at your high school. They can help you find scholarships that fit your qualifications. Explore the Paying for College: Apply for Scholarships handout to help guide you.



12TH GRADE

For more information, visit **AdmitUtah.org**

Stay focused.

- ☐ Check in with your counselor and/or college access adviser about your plan for college and career readiness.
- ☐ Ask for letters of recommendation. Some colleges and scholarships require one or more letters of recommendation. Connect with teachers and counselors early in the fall of your senior year.
- ☐ Stay on track to complete a certificate program at your local technical college before high school graduation or during the summer after. Remember, these programs are tuition-free to high school students.

Apply to college in the fall.

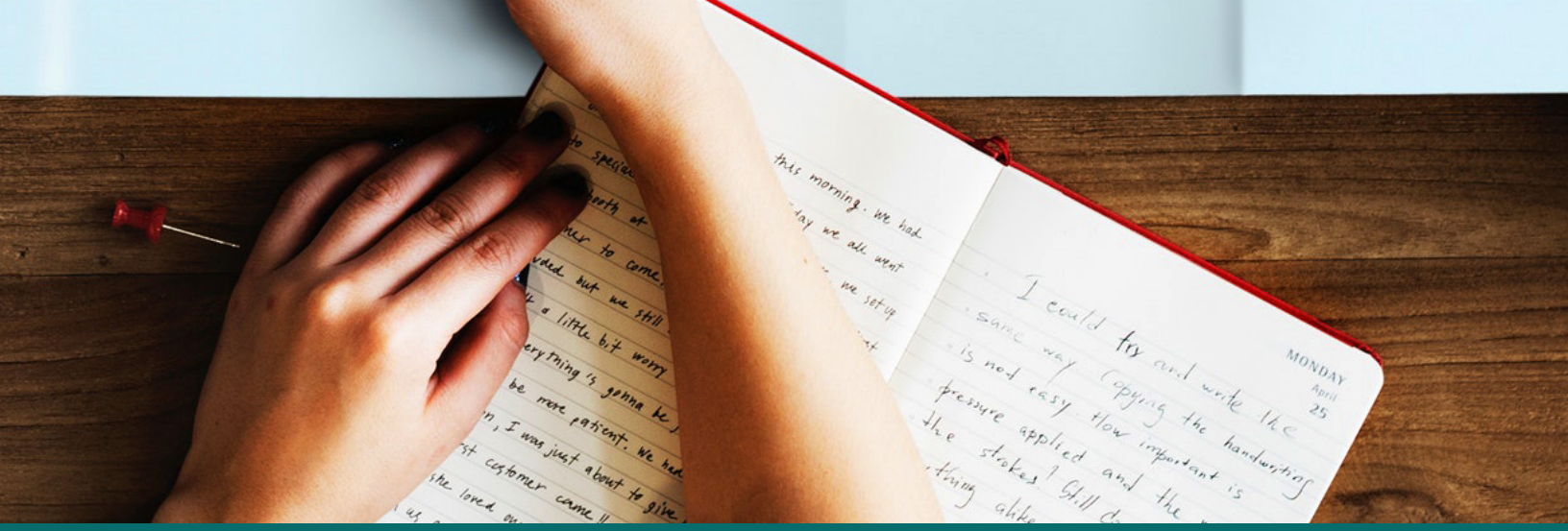
- ☐ Apply to colleges during the fall of your senior year. Start by visiting AdmitUtah.org to easily apply and be instantly accepted to most of Utah's public colleges and universities. Participate in Utah College Application Week at your school. Ask your counselor for more information.
- ☐ Apply to more than one college so you can compare the colleges' financial aid offers and their class sizes, locations, programs, and more. For help comparing colleges, see the Facts at a Glance or visit AdmitUtah.org.
- ☐ Research the ACT score requirements for the colleges you're applying to. Some colleges make tests optional, but still consider your score for scholarships. If you want to improve your score, study thoroughly and retake the ACT in the fall of your senior year. Check college admissions deadlines to ensure your new ACT scores will be ready in time.

Fill out your FAFSA.

- ☐ Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as October at StudentAid.gov.

  *** Even if you don't think you will qualify for federal grants, you should still consider filling out the FAFSA. The state of Utah and many colleges require it for scholarships and other aid. ***

- ☐ Get help completing your FAFSA by visiting ushe.edu/fafsa, or by attending a FAFSA completion event during the school year. Check with your counselor to find an event at your school or nearby.
- ☐ Explore scholarship opportunities and review the qualifications for in-state tuition on pg. 36.



Continue applying for scholarships.

- [ ] Research scholarships offered by the colleges you've applied to and check deadlines.
- [ ] Learn about scholarships offered by the state of Utah on the Utah System of Higher Education website.
- [ ] Apply for as many scholarships as you can during your senior year. Use resources from the Paying for College Toolkit: Apply for Scholarships handout to find scholarships.

Check on campus resources and services.

- [ ] If you have an IEP/504 or a disability that requires accommodation, start making arrangements now by contacting college disability resource centers.
- [ ] Visit with college student success centers to learn about scholarships, tutoring, events, and more.

Narrow it down.

- [ ] Visit the websites of the colleges that accepted you, or call their offices, to ask about their first-year experience programs and summer bridge programs.
- [ ] Send your final high school transcripts to your college once you graduate.
- [ ] Be sure to accept the financial aid awarded to you. Connect with your college financial aid office to confirm everything is in order before the semester begins.
- [ ] If you plan to defer your education, notify your college and scholarship providers in advance. They may have specific requirements or procedures you need to complete before your leave is approved.

Take math during your senior year.

- [ ] Be sure to take the right math for your future career. Talk to your counselor and use the guide on pg. 9 to help you figure out which math class is right for you.

Be proud. Celebrate!

- [ ] Participate in your school's College Decision Day activities to celebrate your accomplishments. Ask your counselor for more information.



It is FREE to APPLY to ALL Utah public colleges and universities!

Visit AdmitUtah.org to apply today!

- **SEARCH:** Some Utah colleges offer open houses in the fall where you can visit and explore campus. Find open houses for the colleges you are interested in and mark these events on your calendar. Check to see if your high school hosts one.
- **PARTICIPATE:** Each fall, high schools across the state take part in Utah College Application Week (UCAW). During UCAW, you'll have the opportunity to learn more about college and apply!

UTAH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES







From technical and community colleges to research universities, there's a college in Utah that's right for you. Think about what you want out of your college experience, and find out which college offers the programs you're interested in.

Bridgerland Technical College
Logan/Brigham City

btech.edu
435-753-6780

Utah Tech University
St. George

utahtech.edu
435-652-7500

Brigham Young University
Provo

byu.edu
801-422-4636

Dixie Technical College
St. George

dixietech.edu
435-674-8400

Davis Technical College
Kaysville

davistech.edu
801-593-2500

Ensign College
Salt Lake City

ensign.edu
801-524-8100

Mountainland Technical College
Lehi/Orem/Spanish Fork

mtec.edu
801-753-6282

Uintah Basin Technical College
Roosevelt/Vernal

ubtech.edu
435-722-6900

Ogden-Weber Technical College
Ogden/Weber

otech.edu
801-627-8300

Utah State University
Logan

usu.edu
435-797-1000

Salt Lake Community College
Salt Lake City

slcc.edu
801-957-7522

University of Utah
Salt Lake City

utah.edu
801-581-7200

Snow College
Ephraim

snow.edu
435-283-7000

Utah Valley University
Orem

uvu.edu
801-863-8888

Southwest Technical College
Cedar City/Kanab

stech.edu
435-586-2899

Weber State University
Ogden

weber.edu
801-626-6000

Southern Utah University
Cedar City

suu.edu
435-586-7700

Westminster University
Salt Lake City

westminsteru.edu
801-484-7651

Tooele Technical College
Tooele

tooeletech.edu
435-248-1800

TYPES OF COLLEGES

In Utah, different colleges serve different purposes. Depending on your future career plans, some colleges may be a better fit than others for you.

Technical colleges

Technical colleges offer shorter certificate programs designed to qualify students to work in a variety of occupational fields. If you're looking to quickly start a job in a competitive and in-demand industry or skilled trade, a technical college may be the right fit for you. A technical college may be a separate institution or may be part of a larger community college or university. In addition, many programs offered at technical colleges transfer into associate degrees, saving you time and money.

Community colleges

Community colleges offer certificates and associate degrees at a lower cost than universities, often with smaller class sizes. They also offer job training programs that can quickly get you into the workforce, as well as general education and major courses that you can transferr to a university for a bachelor's degree.

Regional universities

Regional universities offer associate, bachelor's, and some master's degrees.

Research universities

Research universities may offer the same bachelor's degree programs as other institutions, but they also provide a wide range of graduate degrees, such as master's and doctoral programs. In addition, faculty and students at these universities often engage in specialized research across various fields.

* Public versus private colleges

Public colleges and universities are owned and supported by the State of Utah. Private, not-for-profit colleges and universities are not owned by the state. For-profit schools may charge more in tuition, may offer fewer degree programs, and are sometimes unaccredited, meaning a national or regional accrediting association does not approve them. Making sure a school is accredited and that credits can be transferred to other institutions is another way students can make sure they are getting a valuable education and a credential that will appeal to potential employers.

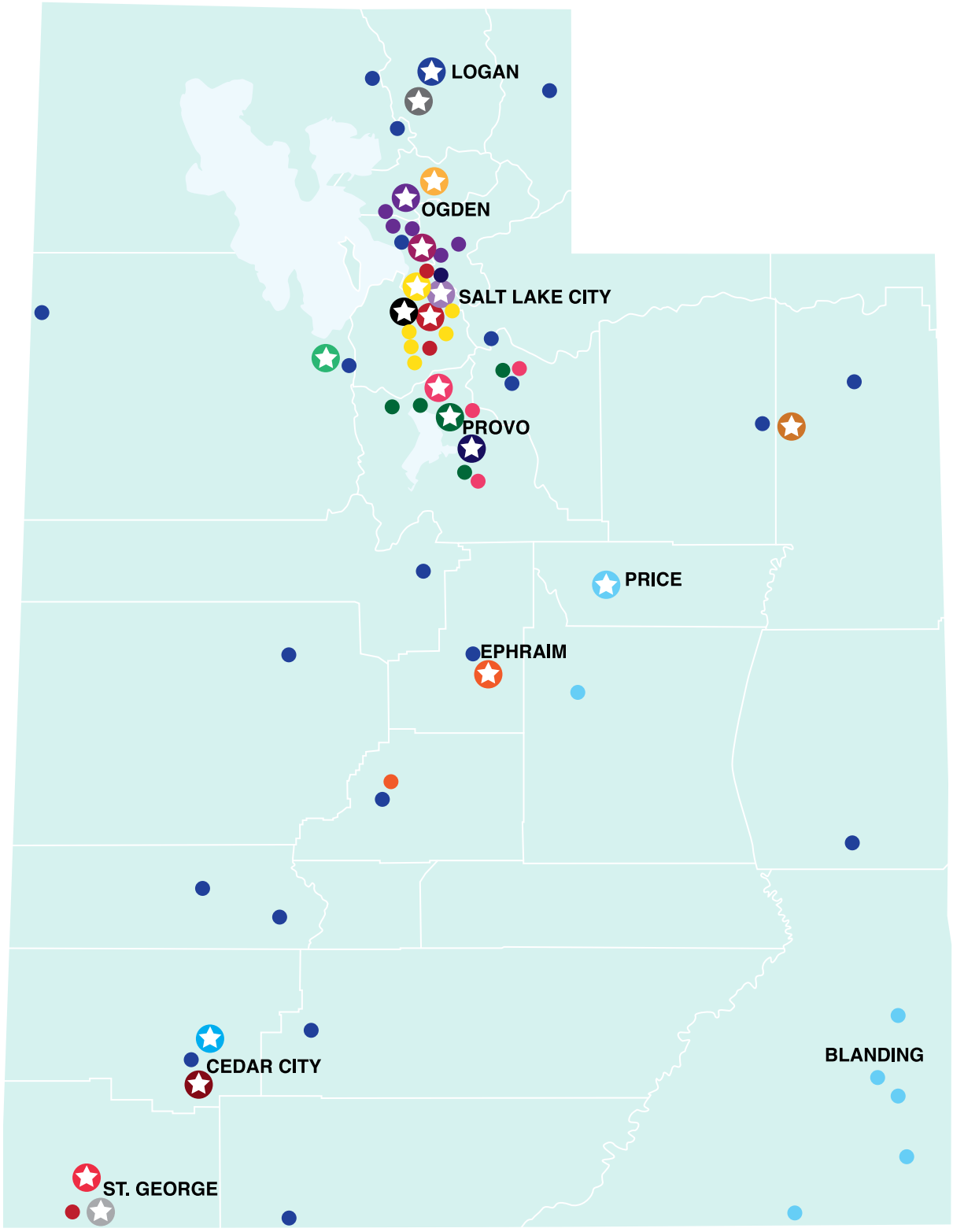
Quick tip: all of the colleges and universities included by name in this guide are accredited and not-for-profit.

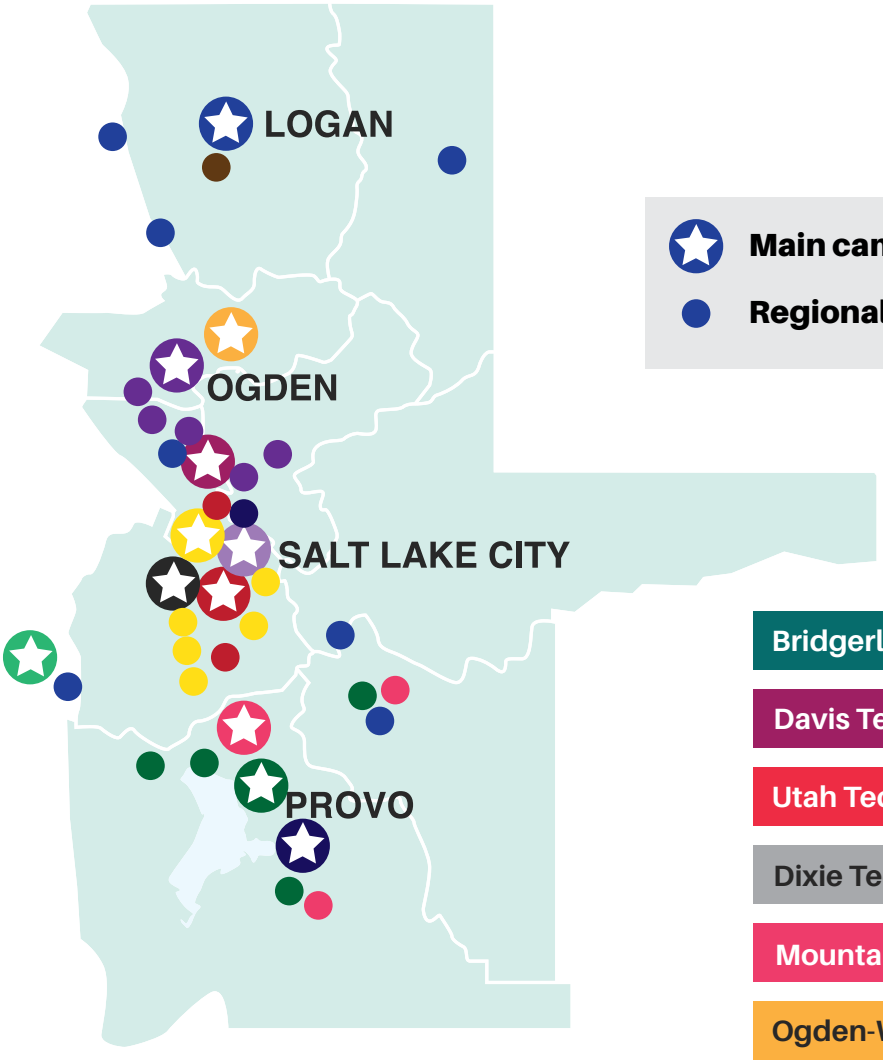
COLLEGE NAME	TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES	ASSOCIATE DEGREES	BACHELOR'S DEGREES	GRADUATE DEGREES
Bridgerland Technical College	X	-	-	-
Brigham Young University*	-	-	X	X
Davis Technical College	X	-	-	-
Utah Tech University	-	X	X	X
Dixie Technical College	X	-	-	-
Ensign College*	X	X	-	-
Mountainland Technical College	X	-	-	-
Ogden Technical College	X	-	-	-
Salt Lake Community College	X	X	-	-
Snow College	X	X	X	-
Southern Utah University	-	X	X	X
Southwest Technical College	X	-	-	-
Tooele Technical College	X	-	-	-
Uintah Basin Technical College	X	-	-	-
University of Utah	-	X	X	X
Utah State University	X	X	X	X
Utah Valley University	-	X	X	X
Weber State University	-	X	X	X
Westminster University*	-	-	X	X

*PRIVATE COLLEGES

COLLEGES IN UTAH

No matter where you are in Utah, there's a college nearby.





Main campus

Regional campuses and sites

PUBLIC COLLEGES

- Bridgerland Tech College · Logan
- Davis Tech College · Kaysville
- Utah Tech University · St. George
- Dixie Tech College · St. George
- Mountainland Tech College · Lehi
- Ogden-Weber Tech College · Ogden
- Salt Lake Community College · Salt Lake City
- Snow College · Ephraim
- Southern Utah University · Cedar City
- Southwest Tech College · Cedar City
- Tooele Tech College · Tooele
- Uintah Basin Tech College · Roosevelt & Vernal
- University of Utah · Salt Lake City
- USU Eastern · Price & Blanding
- Utah State University · Logan
- Utah Valley University · Orem
- Weber State University · Ogden

PRIVATE COLLEGES

- Ensign College · Salt Lake City
- Westminster College · Salt Lake City
- Brigham Young University · Provo

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

College can be expensive and figuring out how you're going to pay for it can seem like an overwhelming task. Luckily, there are resources to help you prepare and many different ways to get the money you need.

With many funding options available—from scholarships and grants to work-study and student loans—you can pay for college.

No matter what grade you're in, there are things you can do right now to get started.



College comparison worksheet

Use this worksheet to compare colleges you're interested in. Search online, get a Facts at a Glance handout from your counselor or visit AdmitUtah.org, or use the Utah colleges information starting on pg. 20 in this guide to help you.

College							
Majors offered by the college that I am interested in							
Specific programs offered by the college that I am interested in							
Tuition							
Fees							
Housing or commuting costs							
Total costs per year (tuition, fees, housing, commuting, and books)							
Special admissions							
GPA and ACT							
Application fee							
Application deadline							
Notes							



SAVING FOR COLLEGE

Start saving as much as you can, as early as you can.

Saving money is an important part of college affordability. Start saving as much as you can, as early as you can. Here are a few tips to help you get started.

Bank/credit union savings and cash deposit (CD) accounts

Research terms and conditions for a savings account that meets your needs. Find more information at your bank/credit union and on websites such as **americasaves.org** to compare options before making your decision.

my529

my529, Utah's official 529 educational savings plan, is a tax-advantaged 529 plan designed to encourage investing for future qualified education expenses.

Family and friends can even contribute money to your account for special occasions like birthdays and holidays. Learn more at **my529.org**.

Part-time work

Part-time work in high school and college can help you build your resume and pay for college costs.

Save as much as you can in your college savings account.

Scholarships

Scholarships are not just for students with good grades or an impressive list of accomplishments. You can get scholarships for volunteer service, leadership, talent, financial need, and more.

TIPS FOR FINDING SCHOLARSHIPS

Beware of scholarship scams!
You should never pay money to apply for a scholarship.

1. **Explore options at your school.** Check in with your school's counseling office or career center. Talk with your counselor, college and career adviser, scholarship coordinator, or athletics coach. Ask about scholarships offered by your employer, your parent's employer, or any clubs or organizations you belong to.

Explore the Paying for College: Apply for Scholarships handout to get started.

2. **Create profiles on trustworthy national scholarship search websites** such as:
   - USHE.edu/state-scholarships-aid
   - ktsutah.org
   - myscholly.com
   - bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
   - unigo.com
   - goingmerry.com
   - fastweb.com

3. **Publicly funded and private scholarships are available to students**. Students who may not qualify for publicly funded scholarships should still explore private scholarships.

4. **Check with the financial aid offices at the colleges you plan to attend**. Many colleges have scholarships posted on their financial aid and department websites. If you know what you want to study, check for scholarships through your major or

5. **Senior year, submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** at StudentAid.gov—sometimes scholarships require this as part of their application process.

6. **Apply. Apply. Apply**. Don't count on only one scholarship to fund your education.

7. **Apply for scholarships even if you don't plan to go to college right away**—like if you plan to serve a religious mission or join the military. See **pg. 35** for more info.

8

STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The state of Utah offers several scholarships. Included in this guide are two achievement-based scholarships and one need-based scholarship. The Opportunity, Technical Education and Promise Scholarships provide options for all students to receive financial support to attend any Utah public college or university. Talk to your college financial aid office to learn more about these and other state aid programs.

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The Opportunity Scholarship is for students who complete advanced courses in core subject areas during high school to help them be ready for college.

Scholarship Facts:

1. The Opportunity Scholarship is an achievement-based scholarship that you can earn by taking advanced (AP/IB/CE) courses in high school to prepare for college.
2. The Opportunity Scholarship can be used at Utah public colleges that offer degrees and at these private institutions: Brigham Young University, Ensign College, Westminster University, and Western Governors University. Students should contact their institution's financial aid office for a deferment for humanitarian/religious/military service, or for a medical reason.
3. You must apply for the Opportunity Scholarship during your senior year, but you should start planning to complete the required courses in grades 9-12 and maintain the required GPA. To learn about the scholarship requirements, visit OpportunityScholarship.org.
4. To apply, you will be required to submit a completed FAFSA application, but you are NOT required to qualify for federal grants or loans.
5. The Opportunity Scholarship can be used to help cover the cost of tuition and fees for a total of four semesters, subject to meeting renewal requirements. Each student's award amount will vary based on individual circumstances and available funding. Visit OpportunityScholarship.org for more information.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Technical Education Scholarship is for students who enroll in eligible technical education programs in Utah that lead to high-demand, high-wage occupations.

The Technical Education Scholarship can be used at any public technical college in Utah or qualifying technical programs at SLCC, USU-Eastern, USU-Blanding, USU-Moab, or Snow College.

Awards can be used to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and books. Talk to the financial aid office at your college to see if you qualify for the Technical Education Scholarship.

UTAH PROMISE GRANT

The Utah Promise Grant helps students with financial need pay for college and is available at all public colleges and universities in Utah, including technical colleges and accredited private non-profit institutions.

Students are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for this grant.

Talk to the financial aid office at your college or university to see if you qualify for the Utah Promise Grant.

OTHER STATE AID PROGRAMS

There are other state aid programs available to students. Visit ushe.edu/state-scholarships-aid or contact the financial aid office at your college for information about other programs to see if you qualify.

APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

Submitting your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa is the only way to receive federal financial aid for college.

Who should submit the FAFSA?

Everyone should submit, even if you think you make too much money to qualify for financial aid. You never know what you'll be awarded unless you apply.

What does the FAFSA do?

The FAFSA determines your eligibility for federal financial aid—grants, work-study, and student loans—as well as aid from the State of Utah (like the Promise Grant) and your college.

When should I submit my FAFSA?

It's best to submit the FAFSA the same time you apply to college in the fall of your senior year. The FAFSA application opens October 1 of your 12th grade year. You can complete the application at any point in your senior year, but you should apply as soon as you can. However, you can still submit your FAFSA later than that if needed. Check the priority deadline at the colleges you're applying to so you know when you should complete the FAFSA. Remember: You need to resubmit the FAFSA every year you're in college.

Where do I go to submit the FAFSA?

Submit the FAFSA at studentaid.gov. Never use any other website to file the FAFSA. If you need help submitting your FAFSA, visit ushe.edu/fafsa, talk to your counselor, or to a financial aid advisor at a college or university you're interested in attending.



Even if you don't think you'll qualify for financial aid, it's worth taking a few minutes to submit the FAFSA. You may be surprised!

KINDS OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

	What is it?	What do I need to know?
GRANTS	A grant is money for college that you generally don't have to pay back, as long as you maintain satisfactory academic progress. A grant is usually provided by the state or federal government.	Grants generally do not have to be repaid. They're often based on financial need determined by the FAFSA. One of the most common grants is the Federal Pell Grant. The maximum award is more than $6,000 per year. Ask the financial aid office at your college for more information about available grants.
WORK-STUDY	Work-study is a part-time job for students,usually on campus and has flexible hours that work around your class schedule.	Work-study jobs are usually on campus and offer flexible hours. Work-study jobs come with financial aid benefits. They're based on financial need determined by the FAFSA. They can give you work experience related to your college major (such as working in a chemistry lab, tutoring center, or campus business office).
STUDENT LOANS	Student loans are money you borrow for college that you have to pay back—even if you don't graduate.	If you're eligible to receive grants or take part in the work-study program, it is beneficial to use those funds first. Apply for as many scholarships as possible and use college savings before deciding to borrow student loans. Talk to a collegefinancial aid counselor for more advice Explore federal student loans first, through the FAFSA, as they may have lower interest rates and more flexible repayment options compared to private loans.

★ **Tip: Use the Federal Student Aid Estimator at studentaid.gov to estimate how much you might be eligible to receive in grants, work-study, and federal student loans.**



Should I take out a student loan?

When you file the FAFSA and send it to your college, the financial aid office will send you a financial aid offer letter that includes the cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and board, etc.) and what scholarships, grants, loans, or work-study you are eligible for. Students can accept or decline all aid offered, which is especially important when considering student loans.

Sometimes the cost of attendance will be more than your college savings, scholarships, grants, or work-study funds. If you've filed the FAFSA, you are eligible for federal student loans, which may be a good option to cover those. additional remaining college costs.

What to consider before taking out a student loan:

1. Create a budget with help from your college's financial wellness center. Many colleges have a financial wellness center that will answer your questions about budgeting, loans, and ways to pay for college.
2. Explore ways to save, such as using student discounts or renting textbooks.
3. Borrow only what you need and understand the loan.
   Remember, you are not required to borrow the maximum amount you've been offered. Any money that you borrow must be repaid with interest, so only borrow what you need! Read the terms and conditions of the federal student loan carefully when you accept your loan.
4. Borrow federal before private.
   Federal student loans may have advantages that private loans don't, such as fixed interest rates and flexible repayment options. Explore more benefits of federal student loans at StudentAid.gov.

What if I'm not going to college right after high school?

Planning to join the military, Peace Corps, take a gap year, or serve a religious mission?

It is still important to apply for college and financial aid as a high school senior to secure your admissions and scholarships. Many scholarships are only open to graduating seniors. Be sure to discuss the deferral process with your college so you don't lose your admission or scholarship funding.

Utah public colleges and universities do not charge application fees, applying is free! For institutions that do have fees, there are programs available to help cover those costs while you're still in high school, but these opportunities often disappear after graduation. Apply now to explore your options.

Once you've been accepted, discuss deferring enrollment and scholarships or taking a leave of absence with your college. Failing to defer may result in losing your acceptance and scholarship funding. If you're leaving the country or will not have access to email, complete a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) form. This form allows colleges to release your information to parents or guardians after you turn 18. Contact your college admissions office for details on the necessary paperwork.

COLLEGE IS READY WHEN YOU ARE!

College is for everyone!

Five things students need to know



1 **All students are encouraged to apply** for admission into any of the accredited colleges and universities (public and private) in Utah.

2 **Earn college credits in high school:** Students can pay resident tuition at technical colleges and participate in Concurrent Enrollment (CE), Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes while in high school, saving time and money once you get to college.

3 **Scholarships:** To find scholarships available to students in Utah, talk to your high school counselor or scholarships specialist. You can also contact your college's scholarship or financial aid office. For a list of scholarships available to all students, visit the resources below.

4 **In-State Tuition:** For more information about in-state tuition visit Utah Board of Higher Education Policy R512, ***Resident Student Status***. For information about tuition waivers visit Board Policy R513, ***Tuition Waivers and Reductions***. To learn more about eligibility, talk to your high school counselor, college residency office, or check your college website. You may want to specifically ask how you can qualify for in-state tuition and/or tuition waivers

5 **For additional support and information, explore these resources:**

- The Utah College Directory, contact institutions directly: ushe.edu/k-12-outreach/college-directory
- Utah Scholarships and State AId Programs: ushe.edu/state-scholarships-aid

Check your college website or contact the scholarship and financial aid offices. You can also reach out to your school councelor for guidance on resources and financial aid.



PARENTS:

College is for you, too!

If you are thinking about college for yourself, call a college admissions office to see what they offer. Financial aid is available to adults too! Start by completing your own FAFSA and contact the financial aid office to learn about the scholarships they offer.

Colleges have many resources like tutoring, child-care assistance, online options, and even classes where you only meet once per week that can help you balance family, work, and school.

Start or finish your college education now!

UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION