

HIGH SCHOOL POSTSECONDARY PLANNING ROADMAP

Grade 12: Decide & Launch

Finalize your plan and prepare for your next steps.

Academics

- Complete graduation requirements
- Maintain good grades and attendance

College Admissions Tasks

- Finalize your college list (include reach, match, and likely schools)
- Request transcripts
- Ensure you have all necessary letters of recommendation
- Write and revise your college essay(s), if required
- Submit SAT/ACT scores
- Complete college interviews, if required
- Submit college applications by each deadline
- Review acceptance letters
- Attend college admitted student events
- Accept your selected offer of admission and submit your enrollment deposit
- Register for orientation, housing, placement testing, and courses
- Thinking of attending a two-year college? Watch MEFA's webinar, [Applying to 2-Year Colleges in Massachusetts](#)

College Financial Planning

- Complete the [FAFSA](#) and other required financial aid applications, such as the [CSS Profile](#)
- Apply for [private scholarships](#), both locally and nationally
- Compare costs and financial aid offers using MEFA's [College Cost Calculator](#)

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Trade or Apprenticeship Tasks

- Research apprenticeship or training opportunities
- Complete applications, required interviews, and/or aptitude tests
- Learn about certifications, licensing, and union requirements
- Connect with employers or apprenticeship coordinators
- Read MEFA's article, [Scholarships for Students Attending Trade School](#)

Military Tasks

- Meet with a recruiter to explore your options
- Learn about career pathways, benefits, and service commitments
- Complete required testing (ASVAB) and enlistment requirements

Workforce Tasks

- Create a professional resume
- Practice interviewing skills
- Apply for jobs related to your interests and career goals
- Learn about employee benefits, budgeting, and workplace expectations

Reflection/ Journal Questions

- What am I most excited about as I begin the next chapter?
- How have I evolved since 9th grade?
- What skills have I gained?
- What challenges have I overcome?
- What is my final post-high school plan?

MEFA Resources

- Visit MEFA's [Applying to College](#) and [Financial Aid & Scholarships](#) pages for guidance on college planning
- Learn about the Commonwealth's higher education resources in MEFA's article, [Paying for College in Massachusetts](#)
- Use [MEFA's SAI Calculator](#) to get an estimate of your Student Aid Index
- Use [MEFA Pathway](#) to add a journal entry that answers the reflection questions above