

WBHS CLASS OF 2023



SENIOR YEAR & LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

4-year College? 2-year College? Vocational School?
Apprenticeship? Training program? Military? Straight to work?

Everyone has options and we want to make sure you are prepared and have a plan!

SENIOR YEAR TO-DO LIST

- **Create your Parchment account.** This is how you can send your transcript to yourself or to anywhere in the world. When setting up your account, make sure to use an email address that you plan to keep forever- **NOT YOUR SCHOOL EMAIL**. Your school email will go away shortly after you graduate. Parchment is free until the August after you graduate. There is a link to Parchment on the WBHS website or you can visit www.Parchment.com Detailed instructions are in this packet.
- **Fill out a Student Self-Evaluation/ Activity Sheet** (located in the back of this packet) and give it to your counselor. This will be very useful when your counselor has to write an evaluation or letter of recommendation for you. Keep a copy for yourself to give to anyone else you plan to ask for a letter of recommendation as well.
- **Fill out the Scholarship & Awards Committee Sheet** (located in the back of this packet) and give it to your School Counselor. The scholarship committee will use this info when picking students to nominate for certain scholarships. Don't miss out!
- **Sign up for REMIND.** Seniors should text the following codes to 81010 to sign up:
 - Last names A-F: @wb23a-f
 - Last names G-L: @wb23g-l
 - Last names M-R: @wb23m-r
 - Last names S-Z: @wb23s-z
- **Get familiar with ScholarshipVUE.** Click the Scholarship icon (on the scrolling banner) on the WBHS website and login with your student ID. USE YOUR STUDENT ID AS YOUR USERNAME AND AS THE PASSWORD. ScholarshipVUE is updated throughout the school year and will show scholarships available to WBHS students. Make a habit of checking often because new scholarships are always being added.
- **Check the Senior Class Information page on the WBHS website** for up to date senior info: <https://cpschools.com/wbh/senior-class-information/> (This can be found by clicking on "Students" and then clicking "Senior Class Info")

THE COLLEGE ROUTE... IS IT FOR YOU?

Going to college can change your life

Be happy

People who attend college:

- Report they have more job satisfaction than those who did not attend.
- Typically live healthier lifestyles, and are more likely to have access to employer-provided benefits including: medical insurance, retirement plans and paid time off.
- Are more involved in their communities through higher levels of volunteering and voting.

Earn More

Going to college costs you money, but not going to college can cost you even more. According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, the median total earnings over an adult's working life are as follows:

- Less than high school = \$1.2 million
- High school diploma/GED = \$1.6 million
- Some college = \$1.9 million
- Associate degree = \$2.0 million
- Bachelor's degree = \$2.8 million
- Master's degree = \$3.2 million
- Doctoral degree = \$4.0 million
- Professional degree = \$4.7 million

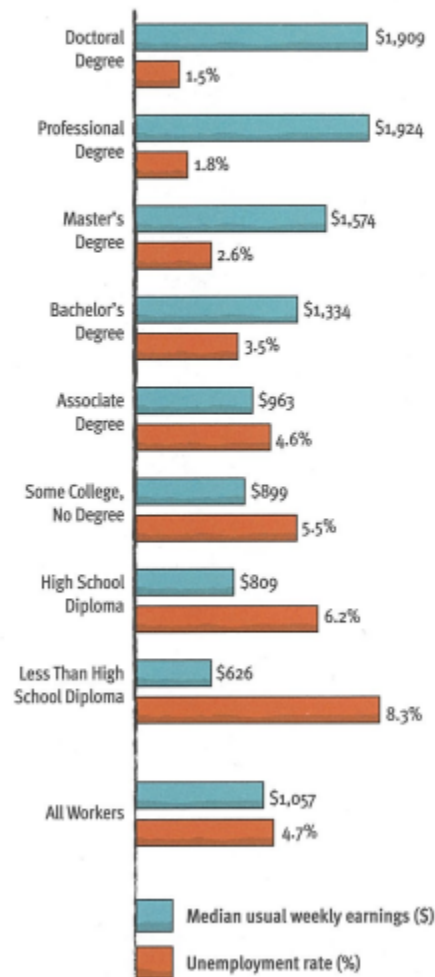
Source: <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/collegepayoff2021>

Paths to Higher Education

The term "higher education" refers to all educational opportunities available to you after high school. By knowing all available opportunities, you will have a better idea of what type of college may be a good match for you.

EMPLOYMENT RATES & EARNINGS

BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2021



MOST COMMON COLLEGE TYPES

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DEGREES OFFERED	ADMISSIONS
Career & Technical (CTE) Institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on a highly specialized curriculum • Geared for students who want to learn specific skills and find employment within two years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificates of Completion • Associate's Degrees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for Admission • High School Transcript
Community (2-year) College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTE programs (designed for students who want to find employment within 2 years) • Academic programs (designed for students who wish to transfer to a 4-year college) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificates of Completion • Associate's Degrees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for Admission • High School Transcript • College placement testing may be required (depending on the school)
4-year College or University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers traditional academic programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's Degrees • Master's Degrees • Doctoral Degrees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for Admission • High School Transcript • SAT or ACT may be required • Supplemental documents may include essay, personal statement, and/ or academic resume, letter(s) of recommendation.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

- The Internet is a great place to start a college search. Some helpful sites are:
 - www.vawizard.org (take Interest Inventories, Search Careers, Colleges, Majors, etc.)
 - www.collegeboard.org (Search Colleges, Majors, and Careers)
 - www.bls.gov/ooh (Occupational Outlook Handbook with descriptions and pay scale)
 - www.khanacademy.org/college-careers-more/career-content (helpful videos and articles)
- Narrow your selection of colleges to about 5-7 to which you wish to apply. Some ways to narrow your search include:
 - Consider the following factors: School size, distance from home, net price, financial aid options, housing options, setting: rural vs. urban, extracurricular activities, etc.
 - Majors Offered: Identify careers that interest you and determine which majors will best prepare you for that career. The best way to identify a career field or major you might be interested in is to look at the academic subjects you already enjoy.

Be realistic. It is **your** responsibility to know what is required for admission to the colleges in which you are interested. Remember that all colleges charge an application fee which is not refundable.
- Watch for announcements regarding college visits. You will be able to sign up for these visits in the guidance office with Ms. Ransom.
- If you and/or your parents wish to visit a specific college campus, this can be arranged by visiting that college's web site. It's always a good idea to visit the campus in person.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTING

1. Plan to take the college entrance exams, which are the SAT and/or ACT. You may register for each of these and take practice tests online. For the SAT, visit www.sat.collegeboard.org and for the ACT visit www.actstudent.org. Most colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT. To see which test you feel most comfortable with, go online and take some practice tests. You can also take both the SAT and ACT and see which you do better with. While some colleges are currently “test optional” they may still require that you submit scores to be eligible for scholarships.
2. The TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is available and is used to determine the proficiency of people whose native language is not English. Visit www.toeflgoanywhere.org for more information. If you have questions, see your counselor.
5. It is the responsibility of each student to register before the deadline. Your counselor may assist you, but the overall responsibility is yours. **Be sure you include the correct CEEB code number for Western Branch High School (470479) and the colleges of your choice so that your scores will be sent to the proper institutions. Also, if you are an athlete, you must send a copy of your test scores to the NCAA.**

SAT

2022-2023 SAT Test Dates	Regular Registration Deadline	Last Registration Deadline (late fee)
October 1, 2022	September 2, 2022	September 20, 2022
November 5, 2022	October 7, 2022	October 25, 2022
December 3, 2022	November 3, 2022	November 22, 2022
March 11, 2023	February 10, 2023	February 28, 2023
May 6, 2023	April 7, 2023	April 25, 2023
June 3, 2023	May 4, 2023	May 23, 2023

ACT

2022-2023 ACT Test Dates	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (late fee)
September 10, 2022	August 5, 2022	August 19, 2022
October 22, 2022	September 16, 2022	September 30, 2022
December 10, 2022	November 4, 2022	November 11, 2022
February 11, 2023	January 6, 2023	January 20, 2023
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023	March 24, 2023
June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 19, 2023
July 15, 2023	June 16, 2023	June 23, 2023

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

Check on the admissions procedures for the colleges you are interested in. Every college has a different application process with different directions to follow. Below are some terms to be familiar with:

- a. "Early Decision/ Early Action" Some schools offer this option. Pay attention to whether this is "binding" meaning you would only apply to your top choice school.
- b. "Fixed Admissions" means that applications are accepted until a specific date, and all notifications go out at approximately the same time.
- c. "Rolling Admissions" means that applications are accepted until as late as September and are decided upon and notified as received. The best policy, however, is to apply early because a full enrollment could occur before the deadline for admissions.

Go online to fill out your part of the college application and submit it along with your application fee before the deadline. **PAY ATTENTION TO APPLICATION DEADLINES! Colleges may have earlier "Priority Deadlines" for scholarships or financial aid.**

2. SENDING YOUR TRANSCRIPT

Set up your Parchment account. After you have submitted an application to the college, go on Parchment and request that your official transcript be sent to the colleges you applied to. (Parchment instructions are included towards the back of this packet)

If you are using the Common Application (which allows you to apply to multiple schools at one time) you would send your official transcript from Parchment directly to the Common App and the Common App will forward your transcript to the colleges that you are applying for through the Common Application.

3. ASKING FOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

If your colleges require recommendations, you will need to ask your School Counselor, teacher, and/ or another adult to be references. Give your references plenty of time and make sure they are aware of the recommendation deadlines. Fill out the Student Activity/ Student Self Evaluation sheet at the back of this packet and give a copy to the people you request to write you a letter of recommendation. This way they can include all of that information in your letter. On the Common Application, you will be providing the email address of your recommender and Common App will email them directly.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Register with the ACCESS advisor, Mr. Joshua Mann - jmann@accesscollege.org, to determine the services for which you may qualify.
2. Fill out the FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid which will be available beginning on October 1st, to apply for federal student financial aid. This application is available online at: <https://studentaid.gov/> You can also schedule an appointment with Mr. Mann to fill this out.
3. Fill out a Scholarship Information sheet (located in the back of this packet) in order to be considered for awards and scholarships by the school's Scholarship Committee. Return this form to your guidance counselor ASAP.
4. **Get in the habit of checking ScholarshipVue. The link is on the scroll bar on the WBHS website. You will find scholarships that only Chesapeake Public School students or only WBHS students can apply for. New scholarships are added throughout the year, so check it often.**
5. Look for scholarship information on the websites of the colleges you are applying to. Pay close attention to any special scholarship/financial aid deadlines that the colleges may have.
6. GOOGLE scholarships. You will find a multitude of sites offering potential scholarships.

Some helpful websites are:

www.fastweb.com

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

www.goldendoorscholars.org

2-YEAR/ COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Community Colleges offer students the opportunity to earn a Certificate or an Associate's Degree. Virginia has 23 community colleges on 40 campuses. Students can pursue Occupational programs to prepare for the workforce as well as Academic programs to prepare to transfer to a 4-year college or University.

Virginia's two-year colleges have transfer agreements in place with many of Virginia's public and private 4-year colleges including Guaranteed Admissions programs. To find out more about these programs visit www.vawizard.org.

*****You can also visit with our TCC representative, Ms. Moore. *****

She is at WBHS all day every other Friday. Students can come by Guidance anytime to sign up to see Ms. Moore and she will call them down when she is here.

Reasons to attend a 2-Year/ Community College

- **Cost:** Community College is significantly cheaper than a 4-year college and you can live at home.
- **Grades:** If your grades in High School are not sufficient to get into a 4-year College, starting at a Community College gives you a completely fresh start. You can transfer from a 2-year to 4-year school and use your college GPA to be admitted.
- Looking for a faster route to get into the workforce. Community Colleges offer 1 and 2 year programs.

ARMED FORCES/ MILITARY

Students interested in meeting with a recruiter can stop by guidance to see Ms. Lee.

What is the ASVAB?

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (**ASVAB**) is a multiple-choice test, administered by the United States Military Entrance Processing Command, used to determine qualification for enlistment in the United States Armed Forces.

Seniors have the opportunity to take the ASVAB for free at WBHS. The ASVAB is offered twice a year- **Nov. 15th and Apr. 5th**. Seniors can sign up in Guidance.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Registered Apprenticeships connect job seekers looking to learn new skills with employers looking for qualified workers, resulting in a workforce with industry-driven training and employers with a competitive edge. They provide on-the-job training and instruction in traditional industries such as construction and manufacturing, as well as in new emerging industries such as health care, information technology, energy, telecommunications and more.

With Registered Apprenticeship you receive:

- **A paycheck:** From day one, you will earn a paycheck guaranteed to increase over time as you learn new skills.
- **Hands-on career training:** As an apprentice, you will receive practical on-the-job training in a wide selection of programs, such as health care, construction, information technology and geospatial careers.
- **An education:** You'll receive hands-on training and have the potential to earn college credit, even an associate or bachelor's degree, in many cases paid for by your employer.
- **A career:** Once you complete your apprenticeship, you will be on your way to a successful long-term career with a competitive salary, and little or no educational debt.
- **Nationally recognized state certification as a journey person:** When you graduate from an apprenticeship, you'll be certified and can take your certification anywhere in the U.S.

In Virginia the Registered Apprenticeship program offers access to 250 career areas, including the following top high pay high skilled occupations:

- AIRPLANE
- ELECTRICIAN
- DENTAL-
- LABORATORY TECH
- GRAPHIC DESIGNER
- INSTRUMENT
- MECHANIC
- LAND SURVEYOR
- STATIONARY
- ENGINEER
- PARALEGAL
- PIPE FITTER SHIP
- MECHANICAL-
- ENGINEER TECH

How long are Apprenticeship programs? The length of an apprenticeship program depends on the complexity of the occupation. Apprenticeship programs range from 1 year to 6 years. During the program, the apprentice receives both structured, on-the-job training and related classroom instruction. For each year of the apprenticeship, the apprentice will normally receive 2,000 hours of on-the-job training and a recommended minimum of 144 hours of related classroom instruction.

Who do I contact? All apprentices are registered through a Department of Labor & Industry apprenticeship representative. If you are interested in an apprenticeship program, visit:

<https://www.dohli.virginia.gov/apprenticeship> or Virginia's Community Colleges or the Company Directly

HOW TO CREATE A PARCHMENT ACCOUNT

1. Go to the WBHS website and click on the scroll bar until you see the “Parchment/ Order My Transcript” icon. Click the icon to open Parchment.
 2. Click “New Learner Account”
 3. Scroll down and enter your FULL LEGAL NAME, birthday, Student ID number, etc. Make sure to enter your information accurately so it will match what is in our system.
 4. “Last Year Attended” should be the year you will graduate. If you are a Senior, your highest level of education would be 11th grade.
 5. Enter an email address. DO NOT USE YOUR SCHOOL EMAIL. Your school email address will go away shortly after you graduate. If you do not have another personal email, take a couple minutes and create a G-Mail account.
 6. Enter a password you will remember
 7. When asked if you want to register for college and scholarship information, you can click “No” and complete this later if you like.
 8. When asked if you want to “waive your rights” to see the info the high school sends, we recommend that you click on “Waive your Rights”.
 9. Check your personal email for the Verification email from Parchment. Click the Green Box to verify your email.
 10. You can now order a transcript to be emailed to yourself, another individual, directly to colleges, the Common Application, the NCAA, etc.
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- ❖ You should only request a transcript to be sent to a college AFTER you have submitted the college application online.
- ❖ If you are using the Common Application, start your Common Application before requesting your transcript and get your Common App ID (CAID). When requesting your transcript, type “Common Application” in the search bar and select the option for “First Year Applicants”. Parchment will then ask you for your Common App ID (CAID).
- ❖ There is no charge for electronic transcripts while you are in High School. Beginning the August after you graduate, Parchment charges a \$3.50 fee.
- ❖ If you need a paper copy of an Official Transcript, the cost is \$5.00. See your counselor if you need to request a paper copy.

WBHS Guidance Department

Student Self-Evaluation

Student Full Name: _____

In order for your counselor to write an accurate and insightful letter of recommendation, please answer the following question and turn this form in to your counselor when completed.

This form is two sided so ensure to complete both sides.

1. **What three (3) adjectives best describe you? (Give at least one example for each adjective)**
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
2. **Are there any circumstances that may have interfered with your academic performance that you would like to share with colleges?**
3. **What activities or qualities make you stand out from your peers?**
4. **Who or what experiences have had the greatest impact on your life?**
5. **What major do you anticipate choosing?**
6. **What field are you most interested in pursuing as a possible career? Is there any special reason why you have chosen this career?**
7. **Explain an opportunity that you had to act as a leader. What did you learn from the experience?**
8. **Have you had any travel experiences that have impacted your life significantly?**
9. **What Kind of non-academic activities are most important to you and why?**
10. **What contribution can you make to a college or employer?**

WBHS Guidance Department Student Activities

Please complete both sides of this form and return to your School Counselor

	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
School Extra-curricular Activities including Offices held and Honors				
Community/ Church Activities and Honors				
Work Experiences, Type, Employer, and Dates				

