



Minuteman Guidance Department

Junior Bulletin

Junior year is a critical time for planning what you will do when you graduate. A big decision awaits you. What you do will have a major effect on your future. Your guidance counselors urge you to take the time to make the right choice. Remember the key to good decision-making is good information. We invite you to let us help you with this most important task.

We strongly recommend that you use your junior year to investigate occupational and/or college information. Senior year should be reserved for final, well-researched decisions, as well as the application process. This guide is designed to assist you by providing some tips on decision-making and vital information we think you need to know.

1. The key to decision-making is **KNOWLEDGE**.
 - a. Know yourself – your values, interests, strengths, etc.
 - b. Know your choices – colleges, majors, employment, military, etc.
2. Facts to consider when thinking about your career choices:
 - a. You will work approximately 40 years. Where you work and what you do and whom you work with will make up a big part of your life.
 - b. Everybody works to make money. However, work also meets important social and psychological needs.
3. When getting to know yourself remember, every person is a unique individual.
 - a. Make a list of things you do well. Then relate that list to your knowledge of jobs.
 - b. **Chances are what you like best is what you do best.** Think of sports, school courses, hobbies and other things that you do well.
4. How to get assistance:
 - a. Talk it over with friends, family, teachers and counselors.
 - b. Use the reference books in the guidance office and websites listed on the guidance page.
 - c. Observe and talk with people working in your field of interest. Do not overlook the importance of a part-time job or even a volunteer job in the area of your choice (i.e. internships, apprenticeships).
5. In summary, three things to know:
 - a. **Know yourself.** Find out what makes you happy and why.
 - b. Be aware of different occupations – learn as much about them as you can.
 - c. Make sure to take advantage of all the opportunities your high school has to offer – courses, sports, and activities.



Creating your college list

One of the questions asked most frequently is, “how many schools should I apply to?” When creating your list of possible colleges think about the range of schools you should include and the level of competitiveness among candidates. It is also important to consider if these schools offer the programs you wish to pursue. The facilities, the environment and the campus life are also important considerations. We discourage students, regardless of academic ability, from “putting all their eggs in one basket” by applying to only one institution or one level of college. Generally, we recommend that a student’s final list include schools from each of the following categories:

Category I: Highly competitive schools, which may include a couple of “long shots.”

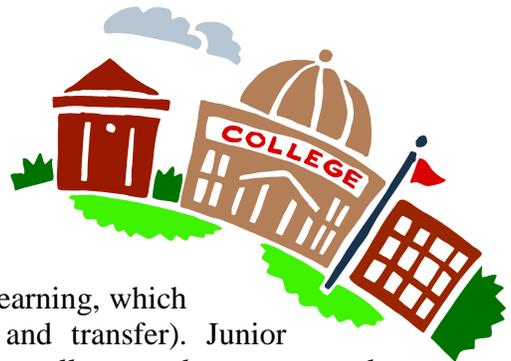
Category II: These are categorized as “realistic” schools. They have everything you want in a college and you have a good chance of being accepted.

Category III: We refer to schools in this category as “likely schools.” This is a school that you can rely on being accepted to. It is important to have a “back-up plan” since the college selection process can be based on location and finances.

Types of Schools

Colleges and Universities: Institutions that offer educational instructions beyond the high school level in a four-year program.

Community College: A two-year institution of higher learning, which provides career and vocational training (certificate and transfer). Junior colleges are also two-year colleges. At a community college students can work towards a certificate program, attain their associate’s degree or start a community college with the intent to transfer to a four-year college or university.



- a. **Certificate Program** – An academic program that is designed to be completed within two years. Most of these students will take their educational training and go right into the world of work.
- b. **Transfer Program** – An academic program that is designed to lead into a four-year program at another college or university; the two-year graduate

transfers as a junior to the four-year institution. Joint admissions is a program offered at many community colleges whereas if a student maintains a 2.5 GPA while earning an associates degree they are automatically accepted into any state college or university.

Technical School: A two-year institution, which offers occupational programs intended to prepare students for immediate employment in a field related to engineering and the physical sciences. These schools may also offer one-year certificate programs in certain crafts and clerical skills.

Trade School: Trade schools offer specialized training in specific work fields such as cosmetology, computer technology, medical or dental technology, culinary arts, or drafting.

Military School: Federal military academies prepare officers for the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Merchant Marines. These institutions (West Point, Annapolis, The Air Force Academy, and Kings Point) require recommendations and nominations by U.S. Senators or U.S. Representatives. Private and state-supported military institutions, however, operate on a college application basis, as does the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. They all offer degree programs in engineering and technology with concentration in various aspects of military science. If you are pursuing the military you should take the ASVAB exam.

Before considering signing any contract for military service, discuss the terms of the contract with you parent or guardian.

Summer Between Junior and Senior Years

- Practice writing online applications, filling out rough drafts of each application, without submitting them. Focus on the essay portions of these applications, deciding how you would like to present yourself.
- Review your applications, especially the essays. Ask family, friends, and teachers to review your essays for grammar, punctuation, readability, and content.
- Decide if you are going to apply under a particular college's early decision or early action program. This requires you to submit your applications early, typically between October and December of your senior year, but offers the benefit of receiving the college's decision about your admission early, usually before January 1. If you choose to apply early, you should do so for your first-choice college or university. Many early decision programs are ***legally binding*** — if they accept you, then you are required to attend the college you are applying to.

◆ *Junior year is the perfect time to begin preparing for college. Whether you're headed for a community college or state school or you have dreams of Harvard, a clear strategy will guide you toward your destination.*