



What's Next?

What's Next?

COMMUNITY COLLEGE





What's Next?

TRADES / APPRENTICESHIP





What's Next?

MILITARY





What's Next?

4-YEAR COLLEGE



What's Next?

GAP YEAR



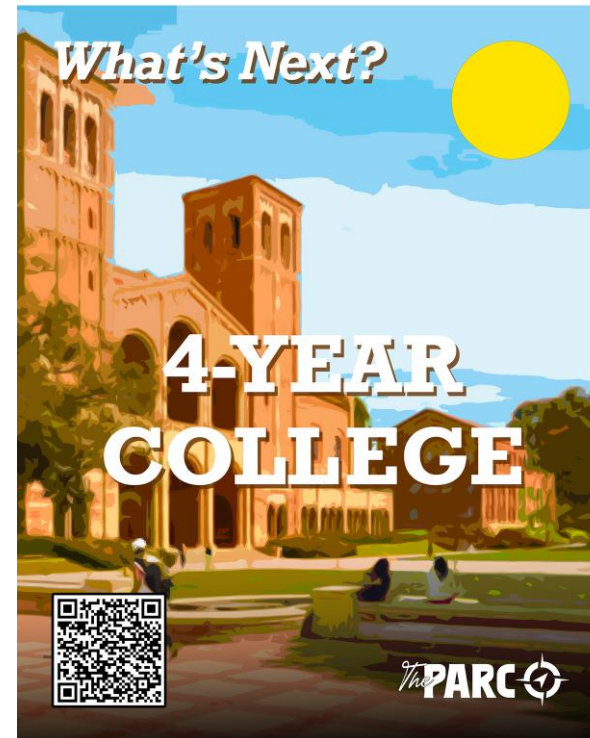


Important Factors to Consider

➤ Environment

➤ Major

➤ Fit





Environment

- Location/Size
- Type of School
- Rigor/Stress of Academics
- Sports/Activities



Major

- Options if changing of major, and does it put me behind?
- Area of Specialty
- Undecided Students?



Fit

- Rankings and reputation
- What does a "good college" mean?
- Comparison to others



College Search

➤ Reach / Target / Safety Schools

So...how many should I apply to?

- Varies by student!
- Average 5-8 applications (app fee + test scores)
- Far Reach & Dream Schools?
 - Have back-up Plans B, C, and D





Generate a Plan

- Explore Colleges & Develop Your List
 - Use [SchoolLinks](#)
 - Keep Lines of Communication Open
- Know How You Compare
 - Use [Scattergrams](#) in SchoolLinks
 - Be realistic (Reach / Target / Safety)
 - Affordability/cost





Visiting Colleges

- There is no substitute for seeing a college yourself!
- Check out our [On-Campus College Visit Tips!](#)
- Also check out [local College Fairs](#) to meet with a number of reps from various institutions.





College of DuPage

- 2 year Associate's Degrees
- Vocational Certifications
- Project Hire-Ed Apprenticeship Program
- 3+1 Bachelor's Degree Programs
- Engineering Pathways





Apprenticeships/Trades

- On the job training, lasts from 1-6 years depending on the trade
- No debt from college and can work your way up in a company or start your own
- Project Hire-Ed
- Technology Center of DuPage

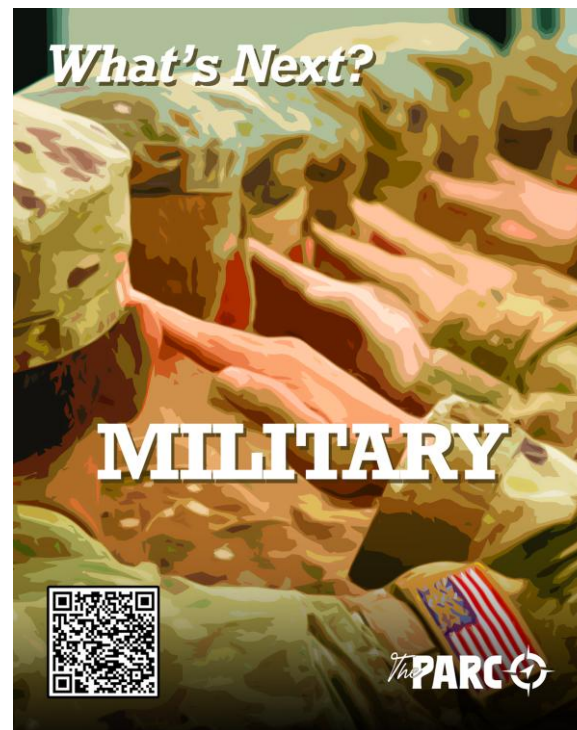




Military

- Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (A.S.V.A.B.)
 - Career Exploration Program includes multiple aptitude tests and interest inventories
 - [Tests administered in October/November](#)

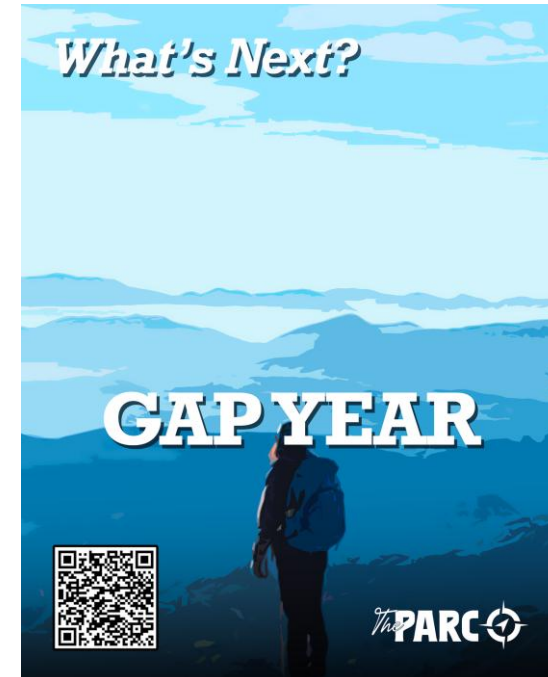
- [AirForce](#)
- [Army](#)
- [Army National Guard](#)
- [Coast Guard](#)
- [Marines](#)
- [Navy](#)





Gap Year Programs

- Students can take time off between high school and college to gain real-life experiences through travel, language immersion, internships, and more.
- [Gap Year Program Information](#)





Postsecondary Planning Guide

<https://www.naperville203.org/NCompass>

Information covered includes:

- Grade-level Timelines
- College Application Process
- Financial Aid Information & Terms
- Unique College Considerations
- And more!

NCompass



Takeaways

- Treat the post secondary search like a part-time job
 - RESEARCH your schools & have an open mind
 - EXPLORE and don't be afraid - you'll have more than one fit!
 - Keep PERSPECTIVE
 - Plan and VISIT

- Maintain core academic rigor throughout high school
 - You want your grades to be competitive
 - Senior year classes & grades DO count!



Additional Resources

NCcompass

- [**NCompass**](#)
Dist. 203 Postsecondary Planning Guide
- [**In-School College Visits**](#)
Instructions on how students can attend in-school college visits
(Returning to NNHS in Fall 2025)
- [**On-Campus College Visit Tips**](#)
Tips for students planning to visit college campuses
- [**Postsecondary Planning Night Presentations**](#)
Slides & handouts from tonight's presentations will be available tomorrow
(Feb. 27) at <https://www.naperville203.org/PSPNight>



Upcoming Opportunities

- **March 12:** [Illinois Regional College Fair @ North Central College](#)
A local college fair, featuring more than 200 colleges & universities from across the country.
- **April 21:** [Service Academy Day \(Peoria, IL\)](#)
Learn more about the process for applying to the US Service Academies.
- **April 5:** [Illinois National College Fair @ Moraine Valley Community College](#)
Another college fair opportunity, bringing in additional colleges & universities from across the country.



Next Sessions

	Session 1 (6:00pm - 6:35pm)	Session 2 (6:40pm - 7:15pm)	Session 3 (7:20pm - 7:55pm)
Room			
Large Cafe	Junior Timeline	Sophomore Timeline	College-Bound Student Athletes & Eligibility
Small Cafe	Postsecondary Resources		Postsecondary Resources
Learning Commons		What's Next?	What's Next?
Rm. 170		Soph./Junior Overview in Español	