It's never too early to start planning for your future. The earlier you start thinking about college and career possibilities, the better prepared you will be for success. The four key steps are to: 1) let everyone know you're thinking about college and would like their help, 2) work hard and don't stop pushing yourself, 3) find out which kind of school best fits you and your career goals, and 4) learn about financial aid – there's lots out there. Follow these steps and you'll find yourself well on your way to a great future.

Use your computer as your tool for discovery. Unsure of your future direction? One or more of the websites listed below may offer just the spark to explore a college or career you hadn't considered before. You'll be surprised by how easy, informative and fun navigating these resources can be.

Planning for College

Tips for Applying & Preparing for College
ACT®: College Planning – www.actstudent.org/college/index.html
College Board – www.collegeboard.org
Federal Student Aid – http://studentaid.ed.gov/home
ED.gov: Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education –
  https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html
First Steps Toward College – www.studentaid.ed.gov/prepare-for-college/checklists/middle-school

Learn about College Entrance Exams
ACT® – www.act.org
CollegeBoard – www.collegeboard.org

College Entrance Exam Preparation
ACT® – www.actstudent.org/testprep
CollegeBoard: SAT – www.khanacademy.org/sat
ETS – www.ets.org
NUMBER2.com – www.number2.com
Vocabulary University® – www.vocabulary.com

Glossary of College Terms
Funding Your Education, The Guide to Federal Student Aid –

College Fairs
CollegeBoard: Find a College –
  https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/college-fair-checklist
NACAC: National College Fairs – www.nacacnet.org
NEACAC: College Fairs – www.neacac.org

Explore & Apply to Colleges Online
CollegeBoard – https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/how-to-finalize-your-college-list-admissions-college-application
College Reality Check – www.collegerealitycheck.com
Common Application – www.commonapp.org
New England Board of Higher Education – www.nebhe.org
Peterson’s – www.petersons.com
Possibility U – www.possibilityu.com

Student-Athletes
NAIA – www.naia.org
NCAA – www.ncaa.org
NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER – www.eligibilitycenter.org

College Financial Aid Resources
College Goal Sunday Connecticut – www.collegegoalsundayct.org
FastWeb – www.fastweb.com
Federal Student Aid – www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov
Federal Student Aid Loan Counseling Tool – https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action
FinAid – www.finaid.org

Planning Your Career

Find a Career that Matches Your Interests & Skills
College & Career Quest Exercise – www.njска.org/col/colquest.htm
The Career Interests Game – http://career.missouri.edu/career-interest-game
Connecticut Department of Labor: Pathways to the World of Work for Young Adults – Self-Assessment – www.ctdol.state.ct.us/youth/assessment.htm
Mapping Your Future – http://mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer

Career Exploration Resources for Middle School Students
Engineer Girl! – www.engineergirl.org
Kids.gov – https://kids.usa.gov/teens/jobs/index.shtml (Links to a variety of career information sites)
NASA – www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents (Information on space-related subjects and careers)
Sci4KIDS – www.ars.usda.gov/oce/kids/index/

Career Exploration Resources for High School Students
Connecticut Early Childhood Education Interactive Career Map – http://ctearlychildhoodcareerdev.info
www.ctleaguefornursing.org/nursing-guide
(How to become a Connecticut teacher)
H.O.T. Health Occupations and Technology Careers in Connecticut – www.healthcareersinct.com
Institute of Sustainable Energy: Green Jobs in Connecticut – www1.easternct.edu/sustainenergy/
Connecticut Department of Labor Job & Career ConneCTion – www.ctjobandcareer.org (A comprehensive site providing links to self-assessment tools, occupational information, educational resources and job search services)
Mapping Your FutureTM – http://mappingyourfuture.org (Outlines steps that students need to take in each grade for future success)
The National Association of Music Education – www.nafme.org/music-college-and-career-resources/
Ocean Careers.com – www.oceancareers.com/2.0/index.php
The Riley Guide – www.rileyguide.com (A comprehensive career planning resource)

Choosing a Major
Major Resource Kits – www.udel.edu/CSC/mrk.html
What Can I Do With a Major In... – http://uncw.edu/career/WhatCanIDoWithaMajorIn.html

Career Descriptions & Requirements
CareerOneStop – www.careeronestop.org
Occupational Outlook Quarterly – www.bls.gov/opub/ooq
O*NET OnLine – www.onetonline.org

Labor Market Information
Careeronestop: America’s Career Infonet –
Connecticut Department of Labor: Labor Market Information for Students – www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/students.htm

Occupational Licensure
Careeronestop: Explore Careers – www.careerinfonet.org (Click on “Certification Finder” and “Licensed Occupations”)
Connecticut Licensing Info Center – https://www.cerc.com/licenses/

Volunteerism
AmeriCorps – www.americorps.gov
Citizen Corps – www.citizencorps.gov
Corporation for National and Community Service – www.nationalservice.gov
Peace Corps – www.peacecorps.gov
SERVE.GOV – www.serve.gov
USA Jobs – www.usajobs.gov (Click on “Students and Recent Graduates”)

Internships
Students.gov – https://www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads
Understanding the World of Work
Connecticut Department of Labor: Pathways to the World of Work for Young Adults –
www.ctdol.state.ct.us/youth/main.htm
JAN - Job Accommodation Network – http://askjan.org
U.S. Department of Labor: Occupational Safety & Health Administration – Young Workers –
www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers
U.S. Department of Labor: Resources for Young Workers – www.dol.gov/dol/topic/youthlabor/StudentWorkers.htm

Other Sites of Interest

Study Skills
www.dus.psu.edu/academicsuccess/studyskills.html
www.shsu.edu/~tst_www/tips