

# Exploring Options & Possibilities After High School

## EXPLORING POST SECONDARY OPTIONS

Up to this point, your educational path has been micro-managed by parents, teachers, and administrators. This is the point in your life where much of that changes. Ultimately, it is you who decides the future and the first step is to make a plan for after graduation. What is your plan? The opportunity for self-reflection is always available, and the value it serves should not be underestimated.

2 year college \_\_\_\_\_

4 year college \_\_\_\_\_

Trade/ Technical School \_\_\_\_\_

Employment \_\_\_\_\_

Military \_\_\_\_\_

Undecided \_\_\_\_\_

## VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

**Naviance** is a resource that all UHS students have access to and should be using as their own personal "Career and College Portfolio." Students are more successful identifying possible career interests and pathways when they consider personal strengths, values, and interests. Naviance has several career inventories and assessments that help students consider all of these factors. Before the end of 11th grade, students are encouraged to complete:

### Strengths Explorer

- Available to students starting in 10th grade and can only be completed one time.
- 78 short answer questions that assess 10 talent themes for individuals and identifies each student's three strongest emerging talents.
- Students will be provided with explanations of their top three themes and will learn how to capitalize on their success and discover what they need to do next to continue building on their strengths.

### Cluster Finder

- Questionnaire that helps students discover career clusters that are most interesting to them.
- Top matching career clusters are made available for review.
- Students can re-take the cluster finder at any time.

### Career Interest Profiler

- Career interest assessment for students based on Holland's interest codes and results will display their top Holland Code matches.
- There are 30 questions for each Holland code (Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional) for a total of 180 questions.
- The highest score possible in each area that you can receive is 30.
- The score received is based on the number of activities in each specific area that the student selected as an interest.

### Do What You Are

- Uses personality types to suggest careers and clusters that might be a good match for a student.
- Students can stop and save their progress.
- Results of the assessment provide students with a four-part personality type- each representing a personality trait that contributes to the student's overall personality type.
- Results page has detailed information about the student's personality type and potential careers and majors for the student to consider.

## Learning Styles Inventory

- Develops potential for academic success by helping students recognize their natural learning style, discover better learning strategies, and gain career development skills.
- The results of the assessment provide students with an analysis of their personal preferences in 16 different areas and can be used to increase understanding of the student's needs at school.
- Takes approximately 20 minute to complete, and students can stop and save their progress at any time.

## **Additional Online Career Based Resources**

- Jobs for the Future: Official Site- Creating Strategies for Educational and Economic Opportunity <http://www.jff.org/>
- Occupational Information Network <https://www.onetonline.org/>
- Pennsylvania Department of Education: [www.education.pa.gov/](http://www.education.pa.gov/)
- Education Planner: <http://educationplanner.com>
- PA Statewide High Priority Occupations [www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Products/HPOs/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Products/HPOs/Pages/default.aspx)
- PA CareerLink is a cooperative effort to provide non- stop delivery of career services to job seekers, employers and other interested individuals. <https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/>

## **MILITARY**

Several different opportunities exist for students interested in pursuing a military career or military service after graduation.

- Military academies offer a very selective and physically rigorous program for highly motivated students. Please refer to each individual Academy's website for the most accurate and up-to-date information.
  - United States Military Academy (West Point): <http://admissions.usma.edu>
  - United States Air Force Academy: <http://academyadmissions.com>
  - United States Naval Academy (Annapolis): <http://www.usna.edu>
  - United States Merchant Marine Academy: [www.usmma.edu](http://www.usmma.edu)
  - Coast Guard Academy: [www.cga.edu](http://www.cga.edu)
- Academy Application Timeline- students should refer to the Academy specific website for the most up to date information as changes in the process can occur.:
  - September/ October
    - Attend Academy Night
  - November
    - Continue to investigate military obligation and commitment
  - December/January/February
    - Application process begins for optional Summer Leadership Seminars at each Academy
  - March/April/May/June
    - Open your Academy file by completing a Preliminary Application online
    - Attend optional Summer Leadership Seminar
    - Write to your Congressman, Senators and the Vice President to receive a Nomination packet. (Nominations are only required for admittance to West Point, Annapolis, and the Air Force Academy.)
  - July/August/September/October (Senior year)
    - Complete Academy application online

- Complete and submit Nomination applications by indicated deadlines
    - Follow directions (received after application is processed) to schedule and complete your Candidate Fitness Assessment and DODMERB medical exam
  - o November/December (Senior year)
    - Interview with Congressman and Senators' staffs to compete for a Nomination
  - o December – May (Senior year)
    - Notification of Nomination
    - Notification of Offer of Appointment
    - If accepting appointment, begin process of obtaining background criminal checks to receive military clearance
  - o June (Senior year)
    - Immediately following graduation, report to Academy to begin summer training
- Non-Academy military options: Opportunities exist to obtain a civilian education with a military component.
    - o Schools like VMI, The Citadel, Texas A&M and Norwich University have an integrated Corps of Cadets program that provides students with a liberal arts education concomitant with military, physical and leadership training. Approximately 40% of the student body/Corps of Cadets choose to enter the military upon graduation. Traditional college application procedures and deadlines are followed.
    - o ROTC is a scholarship program providing tuition and fee assistance for students interested in committing to pursue a military career after college. ROTC scholarship applications must be completed in addition to college applications. Students designate ROTC campus selections, BUT receiving an ROTC scholarship does NOT guarantee acceptance to that college or university. Additional information can be found on each service's ROTC website.
  - Military enlistment
    - o Students can contact a military recruiter and enter either Active Duty or Reserve (National Guard) duty upon receipt of their high school diploma or GED.



## UNDECIDED?

High school students are not always clear about what their next step should be after graduation. Feelings of ambivalence and just a general sense of uncertainty about your future is natural. Exploring all of your options can be a great kickoff to making a well-thought out decision. Use this time to reflect on your interests, skills, values and future goals.

- Taking time off before college or work—the Gap Year experience. Below is a list of resources you can explore if you are considering taking a year off before college or work.
  - o City Year is one of over 1,000 local and national AmeriCorps programs across the country. City Year brings together young adults, ages 17 to 24, from diverse ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds for a demanding year of full-time community service, leadership development, and civic engagement to meet the nation's critical need in areas of education, public safety, the environment, and other human services in cities throughout the United States ([cityyear.org](http://cityyear.org)).

- o Youth for Understanding (YFU) is a non-profit educational organization which offers opportunities for young people around the world to spend a summer, semester or year with a host family in another culture ([www.yfu.org](http://www.yfu.org)).
- o Interested in giving some time in order to pay for education? AmeriCorps is for people at least 17 years of age who wish to learn new skills, acquire leadership, and gain a sense of satisfaction from taking on responsibilities that directly affect peoples' lives. Members receive a modest living allowance and health coverage while in the program. After a year of service, they may receive education awards of nearly \$5,000 to finance their education ([americorps.org](http://americorps.org)).
- o Taking Time Off, by Colin Hall and Ron Lieber
- o The UnCollege Alternative: Your Guide to Incredible Careers and Amazing Adventures Outside College, by Danielle Kwatinetz Wood
- o Taking a Gap Year, by Susan Griffith
- Using Your Job as a Career Exploration Tool
  - o Take some time to think about what kind of work you might like to do.
    - Find a summer job or part-time job during the school year
    - Ask questions of your manager
    - Do you see yourself there in 5 years? 10 years?
    - What kinds of opportunities for advancement are there?

Whatever your ultimate decision, spend your junior and senior years exploring all of your options and opportunities. Don't close any door.