



# Senior Year Timeline - College Alternatives

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## **Don't want to attend a four-year university, but still want to go to college?**

### **Attend a community college**

- The programs offered are often a direct response to the needs of the current job market.
- In just two years, students can earn an associate degree or a certification as a veterinary technician, a dental hygienist, web designer, etc.
- Option of transferring to a four-year college after receiving your associate degree.
- Community Colleges in the U.P.:
  - Bay College: <https://www.baycollege.edu/>
  - Gogebic Community College: <https://www.gogebic.edu/>

### **Enroll in technical college**

- Technical colleges specialize in career-driven courses that teach skills that apply to specific careers, such as carpentry or electrical work.
- Unlike a four-year college, you aren't required to take classes that aren't related to your career focus.
- Skilled trade workers are a disproportionately older population. As they begin to retire, there will be a large number of jobs to fill. Technical college will prepare you to take on those roles.

## **College Alternatives**

### **Try an apprenticeship or fellowship**

- Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to learn a trade in an in-demand field while getting paid.
- Programs offer on-the-job training from experienced professionals. The construction industry currently makes up two-thirds of apprenticeship programs in the U.S.
- If you have a great idea but don't want to wait four years to execute it, consider applying for a fellowship. Examples: Thiel Fellowship, Echoing Green, Enstitute, and UnCollege Gap Year.

### **Start a business**

- There are 27.9 million small business owners in the U.S.
- Resource: <https://northerninitiatives.org/>

### **Join the military**

- There are many practical benefits to joining a branch of the military. In addition to a competitive salary, free health care and little-to-no living costs, the military will pay your tuition while in service.
- Soldiers have access to a variety of online learning options and there are satellite classrooms on many bases. Once your service is complete, you can also use the GI Bill to pay for part of your tuition. The military also offers retirement with benefits after 20 years of service.
- ASVAB: If you would like to take the ASVAB in December please sign up in the Guidance Office upon hearing the announcement.
- Branches to consider: US Air Force, US Army, US Navy, Marines, US Coast Guard, US National Guard

### **Volunteer**

- Volunteering isn't just a way to give back. It builds character and gives you access to experiences outside of a formal educational setting that will be useful when you enter the workforce.

### **Consider a gap year**

- You don't have to make a decision about your future right away. Consider traveling and dedicating yourself to finding your passion. Making a career choice is a big decision. It doesn't have to be rushed.

**Work permit:** Don't forget to pick up a work permit if you get a job. Work permits can be picked up in the High School Office or the Guidance Office.

### **Things to Remember**

- Are you on track to graduate from MSHS?
  - Have you failed one of your required classes?
  - Did you end your Junior year with less than 18.5 credits?
  - Do you need to do credit recovery?

*If you are answering YES to any of these, make an appointment with your School Counselor in the Guidance Office!*

- If you are thinking of attending a Community College or Tech Program above, you will need to complete the FAFSA and sign up for a Parchment account. See your School Counselor for information and use the College Timeline for help.
- Credit Recovery/Good Standing: All credit recovery courses must be completed and passed by **May 1<sup>st</sup>** AND you must be in good standing in your current courses in order to be eligible to walk in the graduation ceremony.
- Student Accounts (Mapsnet & Google): After graduation, student accounts will be deleted. Seniors should save anything they will need to another location.
- Senior Textbook and Chromebook Return: Textbooks and chromebooks will be returned at the end of May.
- Graduation Practice: June - date and time TBD. Caps and gowns must be worn. Practice session will last about two hours.
- Graduation Ceremony: June 2023