



Sophomore Year Timeline

Fall:

- Stay on track with your classes and grades.** Meet with your School Counselor if you think you might need credit recovery.
- Begin learning about the college admissions process.** If there is a college you are interested in, visit the college admission office website to gather information on how to apply.
- Start exploring college majors.**
- Continue exploring potential careers.** Spend some time thinking about what you would like to do after high school. The ONET (www.onetonline.org) is a great website to use for researching different careers.
- 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.
- Get involved at school.** Join a club, organization, or sports team.

Winter:

- Update your Educational Development Plan (EDP).** Be sure to make any changes to your EDP to reflect your future goals as well as course planning for next year.
- Complete the course sign up process for Junior year.**

Spring:

- Attend college fairs.** To get more information about schools you are interested in attending take advantage of college fairs and college rep visits.
- Take the PSAT 10 given in April at school.**
- Keep your grades up!**
- Continue to explore interests and careers that you think you might like.**
- Explore options for part-time work or volunteering over the summer.**

Summer:

- Visit college campuses.**
- Make a list of reasons why you like different colleges and universities - programs, location, cost, etc.**
- Start thinking about what factors are important to you in choosing a college.**
- Talk with your family about creating a college budget.**

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.