

# **The Road to College**

## **1. Assume you are going to college.**

Don't worry about where, when or how. Work hard and do all the things you can to prepare yourself for college. The details and logistics can be worked out later.

Make a college pledge. Create and share a pledge that says you're going to college. Tell people why you're going and ask for advice on getting there.

## **2. Talk to people about college.**

Tell your school counselors and teachers that you want to go to college and ask for advice on how to find colleges that are right for you.

Talk to a college student. Find out what college is like. If you don't know any college students, ask a counselor or teacher to put you in touch with one.

Talk to your mentor. He or she was once in your shoes.

## **3. Explore fields of study.**

What interests you? What is your passion? Is there a career path calling to you?

Maybe you have no idea what you want to do – great! That just means there are more options available to you. Ask people you know what they do. Ask if they enjoy it. Find out what they would do if they could go back and do it all over again. Be open and look into the things that interest you.

Find out which careers are on the rise. If you're excited about pursuing a career, research growing careers. Inquire about job-shadowing opportunities. Explore career assessment tools like those found here: [http://www.quintcareers.com/career\\_assessment.html](http://www.quintcareers.com/career_assessment.html)

## **4. Look up 3 careers that interest you.**

Some careers require an associate degree, which you can earn at two-year colleges; but others require degrees that you can complete only at four-year colleges. Read about careers that interest you and find out how much college education you'll need.

## **5. Search for colleges by major.**

One way to begin choosing colleges to apply to is to think about what you'd like to study and then search for colleges that offer related majors.

## **6. Get the facts about paying for college.**

Learn the basics about financial aid so you and your family can get the most money for college.

Learn why most students pay less than full price. With financial aid packages, most students pay less than the price listed on a college's website.

## **7. Make High School count.**

Learn which high school courses will prepare you for college. Learn what your high school schedule could be like and find out which courses colleges expect students to take in high school.

## **8. Visit a nearby college.**

Get a feel for campus life. Many on-campus events, such as concerts and exhibits, are open to the public. Visit the college's website and online newspaper to find some.