

Junior Family Night

2024-2025 Green Hill High School



The presentation will be posted on the counseling website under [Path to College Resources](#) later this week

Agenda

- Define terms in the college process
- Describe the common types of “college”
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- Describe the types of financial aid
- Review timelines and events to come

Terms To Know

- Post-Secondary – *anything after high school*
- Early Post-Secondary or EPSO– *coursework or training typically offered during post-secondary but earned during high school instead*

AP , DE, SDC, LDC

EPSO Week Presentation each year (Oct/Nov)

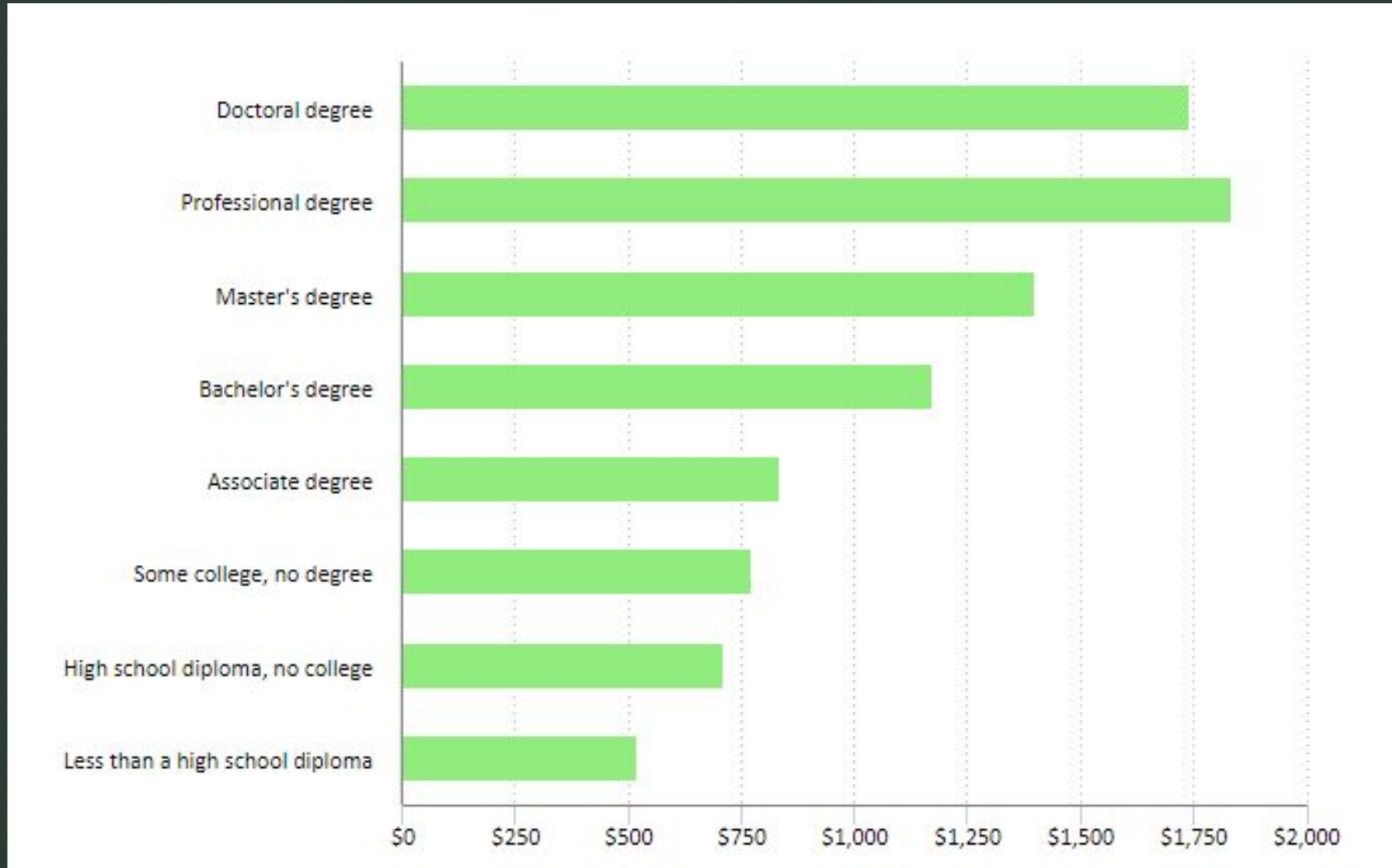
- Financial Aid – *any type of money given or received for the purpose of post-secondary training*
- College – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) defines “college” as anything after high school that requires some education or training

College Options

- Military Enlistment
- Technical or Trade School
- Two-Year Community College
- Four-Year College/University

College Can Be For Everyone

- Data shows that additional training or education after high school increases average median earnings



Graph and data from US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Source:

<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2018/data-on-display/education-pays.htm>

Military Enlistment Steps



- Talk with recruiters. Most visit GHHS several times a year. Subscribe to Parent Square for updates and alerts to these visits
- Pass a physical examination
- Meet with a service enlistment counselor to help find the right job specialty. Varies on current needs of branch, job availability, ASVAB score, physical requirements, and personal preference.
- Take Oath of Enlistment

Technical or Trade School

- In Tennessee, students can use TN Promise at TCAT



- Be sure to ask about job placement ratings
- Be sure to compare for-profit schools against TCAT to ensure you are getting the most skills for your tuition money. Different TCATs have different programs (including welding, nursing, cosmetology, and more)

Two Year Community College

- Annual median salary difference between someone with a high school diploma and an associate degree is an extra \$5,000-\$9,000
- Students can attend to solely earn an associate degree (AA Degree) OR use it as a starting point for further degrees and transfer to a four year college
- Best place to look at Tennessee transfer options is: [Transfer Pathway](#)



Four Year College/University

- Call or email admission representatives with questions
- Explore the college's websites: Know the **required/recommended GPA, test scores**, available majors, location, cost, and (if necessary) policies on housing, personal vehicles, and meal plans
- It is best to visit schools when they are in session to get the best feel for campus life
- Student can have up to **3 days absent** for college or vocational visits during the eleventh and twelve grades. Parents have to receive **prior approval** from the school principal and signed and dated documentation from the institution for which they visited must be turned in (additional travel time is not excused unless using additional parents notes).
 - Submit all documentation to the Attendance Secretary for prior approval and upon return within three days: ghhattendance@wcschools.com

“Categories” of Colleges/Universities

- A “safety” school or plan is one that the student knows they will be accepted to and, if needed, can afford. It’s a safety net in case something falls through on the target school/plan.
- A “target” school or plan is one that the student is likely to be accepted to and, if needed, can afford *or* can afford with little difficulty.
- A “reach” or “dream” school or plan is one that the student may not be accepted to (either due to being short on requirements OR competitiveness on acceptance) or may have difficulties affording due to cost. However, a student never knows if this dream is possible without trying!

Broad View of Financial Aid



- **Grants**: Typically from the **federal government** that typically does not have to be repaid; based on financial need (example: Pell Grant) or type of career (example: Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grants)
- **Scholarships**: Money from the post-secondary institution or a public or private institution that does not need repaid based typically on merit, talent, or a particular area of interest
- **Loans**: Borrowing money (can be from the federal government or another institution) to attend school; must be repaid in addition to interest; may be deferred until degree is earned

Things To Know About Financial Aid

- All grants and most scholarships from either the government or post-secondary institution will require the student and family (if not an independent student) to complete the FAFSA

FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You should NEVER have to pay to complete the FAFSA.

GHHS will host (FAFSA Frenzy) an event to assist seniors and families in completing the FAFSA.



▸ Things To Know About Financial Aid

- The bulk of scholarship dollars will come from post-secondary institutions, which is why researching scholarships/financial aid on college websites is so important.
- Quite a few colleges have moved to “**admission-based**” scholarships rather than application-based scholarships, requiring you to have certain criteria met AND apply by a certain deadline.

Scholarships

- Some require you apply Early Action and Early Decision deadlines. Those are *very* early (October and November) and may have stiff penalties if you are accepted and change your mind. Be confident in your decisions for these types of applications and scholarships.
- Most post-secondary institution scholarship deadlines are typically between November and December.

UT Promise December 15th (Income Based)

- Most local scholarships are one-time scholarships, and these are often due in the spring. Keep an eye on Parent Square for alerts, reminders, and updates
- Private institution scholarships can have rolling deadlines.
- GHHS lists many of these types of scholarships and college search websites in our Scholarship Database online, which can be found on the counseling page website.

[GHHS LIST of scholarships](#)

➤ Scholarship Search Resources

[College for TN](#)

[Fast Web](#)

[UNIGO](#)

[College Board](#)

CHECK WITH PARENTS' EMPLOYERS, STUDENT EMPLOYER,
BANK(S), CHURCHES, ETC. FOR ANY SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TN Lottery Scholarships

- TN Promise
 - Last dollar scholarship (up to \$4000 annually) to be used at a TCAT, any TN Board of Regents community college, and participating public or private institutions that offer associate degree programs
 - **No GPA requirement**, but has timeline-specific requirements for applying, completing the FAFSA, attending mandatory meetings, and **8 hours** of community service
 - [Volunteer Network](#)
 - All students will apply in 12th grade



TN Lottery Scholarships

- TN HOPE

- **Application done through the FASFA** (Opens in December and due in March of 12th grade)
- Up to \$1600 per semester at two-year institutions
- Up to \$2250 per semester for freshmen/sophomores at four-year institutions (or two-year institutions with on-campus housing), increasing up to \$2850 per semester for juniors/seniors
- Requires a minimum unweighted **3.0 GPA or a 21 on ACT/1060 on SAT**
- Must maintain 2.75 GPA through 24 and 48 credit hours then 3.0 GPA after 72 credit hours

Timeline of Events Junior Year

- Begin developing college list, including safety, target, and reach schools

[Major Clarity Search](#) in class link (Select Login with google) Complete by the end of October

[College for TN Search](#)

[Big Future College Board Search](#)

- All Juniors will take the ASVAB in October
- Registration for senior year classes will be in December (consider DE, AP, & Honors options in advance)
- Consider applying for summer programs (such as Governor's School- apply Dec/Jan) [Governor's School Information](#)
- Continue to complete and track volunteer/community service hours
 - Local Volunteer Opportunities [Volunteer Network](#)
- Take the ACT (free in March for all juniors) [ACT Information](#) Consider SAT [SAT Information](#)
- College for TN [Junior Year Next Steps Guide](#)

[Junior Year Checklist](#)

Timeline of Events Senior Year

- Senior year timeline on the counseling website
- Know all college application deadlines and required documents with applications
(September 30 colleges have free applications)
Apply for colleges prior to October 31 (because it's scary after Halloween) of Senior year
- Transcripts can be requested on counselling page link and sent electronically [Transcript request link](#)
- Start compiling letters of recommendation (ask for these a minimum of two weeks in advance, turn in a [Resume/Brag sheet](#))
- FAFSA opens in December of Senior year
- TN Promise application due by November 1 of Senior year
- Keep an eye on early action/early decision scholarship deadlines (If using Common Application must select deadline correctly)
- College for TN [Senior Year Next Steps Guide](#)
[Senior Year Checklist](#)

▶ Tips For Students/Families

Students:

- **DO** take charge of this process because it's YOUR future
- **DO** have a back-up plan
- **DON'T** have your parent/guardian make appointments or complete applications for you
- **DON'T** wait to start research until your senior year
- Don't use school email for applications

Parents/Guardians:

- **DO** support and encourage your child through this process and to self-advocate
- **DO** prepare your child for the possibility of disappointment
- **DO** give realistic expectations of your part in paying for college
- **DON'T** complete applications, make appointments and/or calls to colleges, or write essays for your child

You don't have to have the entire process mapped out now – just the next few steps!

By the start of senior year, students should...

- Have an idea of which post-secondary options they are interested in pursuing
- Know which requirements they need to meet for that option
- Have taken the ACT at least one time
- Have a list of 6-10 prospective schools (at least one in each category of safety, target, and reach)
- Begin writing or revise resume/[brag sheet](#) (located in the counseling office and under Path to College Resources on counseling page)

Where To Find Information?

- **Social Media** accounts
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Greenhillhighschool>
 - Twitter: @GreenHillHigh
 - Instagram: @GreenHillHighSchool
- **Parent Square**
 - Link has been emailed to all parents <https://www.parentsquare.com/signin>
 - Wilson County Website [Parent & Student Square](#) resources
 - [Parent Square](#) & [Student Square](#) Directions
- GHHS Counseling Website <https://ghhs.wcschools.com/counseling>
[Path to College Success](#) tab on the counseling website

Have Questions?

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