Jr Jump Start



ARE YOU READY?

Learn about the steps you can take **NOW** to get a jump start on your future with higher education.

The Path to Paying for College





Your Presenter

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Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Mountour, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties.



About PHEAA

Your State agency that provides information on attending and funding higher education Established by the Pennsylvania state legislature in 1963, PHEAA is an independent state agency created by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Earnings from PA Forward and other lines of business supplement the PA State Grant Program PHEAA has provided more than \$1 billion in public service benefits over the past 10+ years.



Our Mission

To provide affordable access to higher education by:

- Contributing to the PA State Grant Program
- Assisting families with navigating the financial aid process
- Providing low-cost financial aid solutions
- Educating students on financial literacy

Our Vision

To be a respected leader in higher education technology and student aid, devoting our energy, resources, and imagination to helping current and future generations of students achieve their educational goals.

Agenda

1 Before Senior Year of HS

4 Making the affordable decision

2 Countdown to College

3 Sr Year of High School

Before Senior Year of High School

- Self-assessments (which careers fit your personality and your skills?)
- Job shadow, job shadow, job shadow
- MyNextMove.org career specifics
- Find your perfect career (or at least your perfect career category; e.g., engineering, medical, etc.)
- Find your perfect schools (<u>EducationPlanner.org</u>)
- Visit your perfect schools or do virtual tours
- Net Price Calculator find your perfect prices (<u>collegecost.ed.gov</u>)
- Apply for scholarships (this is your new hobby)

Before Senior Year of High School

- Learn about your perfect school's admission criteria
- Prepare for and take necessary tests
- Attend one of PHEAA's Financial Aid Night presentations
- Attend one of PHEAA's Junior Jump Start presentations
- Order and read PHEAA's "Beyond High School" booklet (PHEAA.org/orderonline)
- Order and read PHEAA's "Student Aid Guide"
- Order and read PHEAA's "Path to Paying For College" map
- Become familiar with <u>studentaid.gov</u> and <u>PHEAA.org</u>

Before Senior Year of High School

- Are you able to earn college credits while in high school?
- If so, make sure you know how the credits will transfer
- Stay in touch with your school counselor for info and advice
- PA529.com. It's never too late to start saving.
- Visit the financial aid office web pages of your perfect schools
- Ensure you know what type of education is needed for your career (<u>MyNextMove.org</u>)
- Not everyone needs a 4-year degree. Explore all options.

Necessary Things to Consider

Students - Return On Investment

Your Academic Major Choice, Academic Demands – Realistic? What is your Expected Salary?

Versus the Cost of Your Education Choice

What are the Employment Demands?

Now/Future?

Where are your best Employment

Options?

Big city? Rural location? What is the Cost of Living where you may work?



EducationPlanner.org

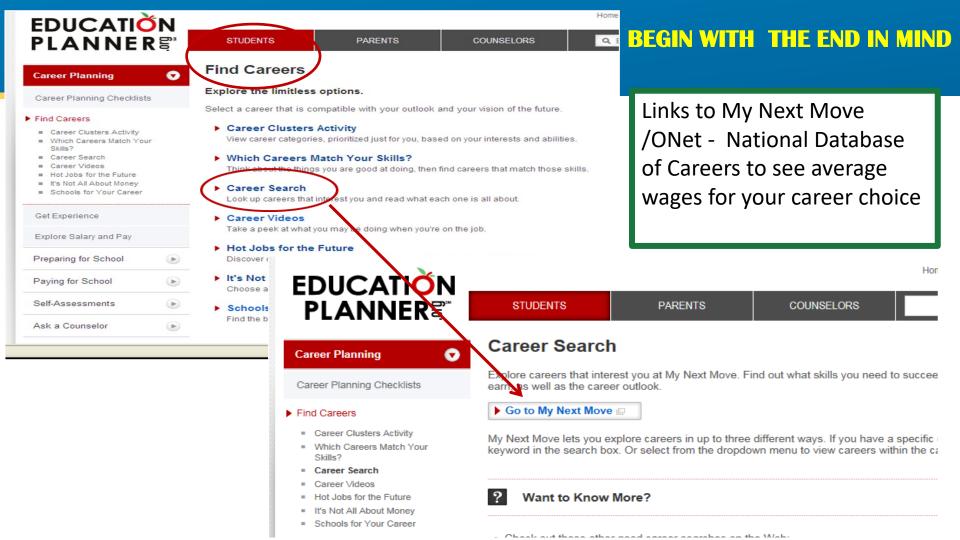


Parents

- Your child and money
- ACT/SAT scores
- Why save?
- The costs of college
- You and the FAFSA®
- Scholarship search
- Ask a counselor

Students

- Career planning
- Preparing for school
- Paying for school
- Self-assessments
- Ask a counselor
- MySmartBorrowing.org



ites Tools Help



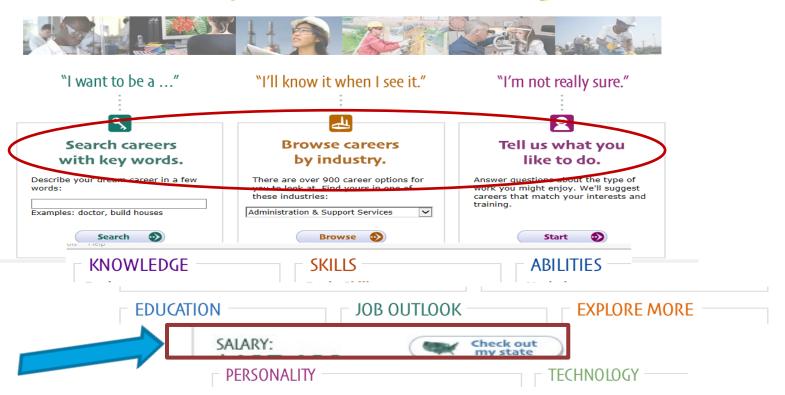


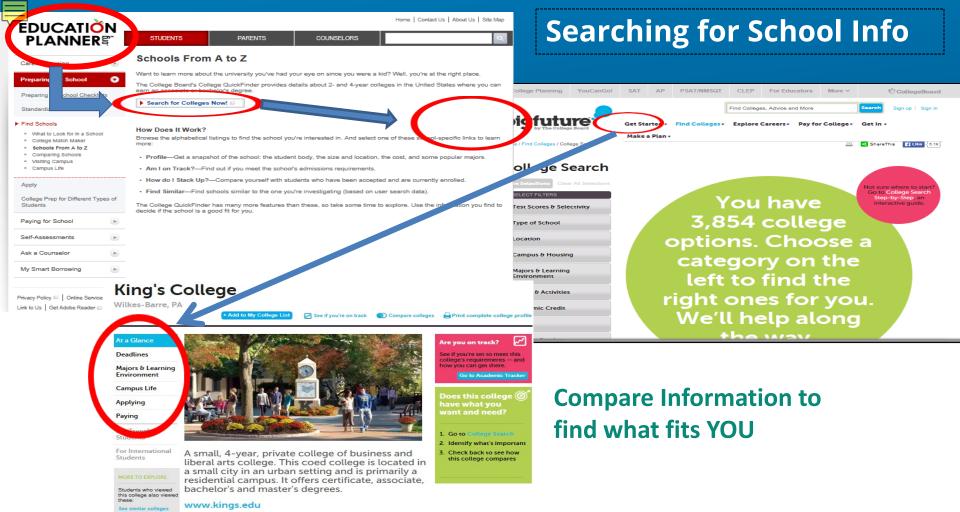






What do you want to do for a living?





Quick Facts

Necessary Things to Consider

Parents - Affordability

College Costs – Tuition, Housing, Food, Books, Fees

Out of pocket costs beyond just the first year

Cost of Transportation – Logistics between semesters, breaks

Are you willing to commit to loans for your student's education?

Do you know your best parent loan options? Federal Parent (PLUS) Loans, Private Loans



MySmartBorrowing.org

MySmartBorrowing.org is an interactive online tool to assist students with making informed choices about postsecondary



MySmartBorrowing.org

An interactive, online tool created by PHEAA that helps students and families:

Estimate career salaries & college tuition

View the impact of savings on overall cost

Calculate loan repayment Avoid over borrowing

MySmartBorrowing.org



View the Results

Once you input your selections, you can:

View your potential salary in your new career Add & compare up to four colleges See if you're borrowing too much



The Rule



Don't borrow more to get your education than you can reasonably expect to make during your very first year in the workforce.

This keeps your loan payment <12% of your gross earnings

(Recommendation from the National Endowment for Financial Education – **NEFE.org**)

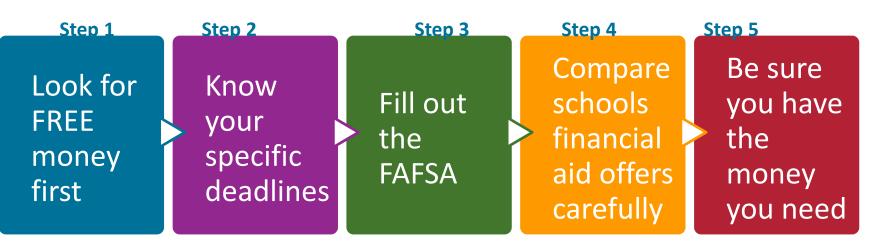
Ways to Save

Graduate on time Community college ROTC and other clubs and organizations on campus Residence assistant PA529 Commute Cheaper meal plan Utilize student discounts Consider used or digital books (Search online)



Financial Aid Made Simple

5 Steps to Financial Aid



Types of Financial Aid

Grants



Free money based on need and merit.

Scholarship



Free money based on matching the criteria or being qualified.

Work-Study



Earned money during the school term.

Loans



Borrowed money for qualified students.

Reality Check

There's no guarantee you will receive or qualify for free money to pay for higher education. However, nothing ventured is nothing gained.

Everyone should search, attempt, and apply for grants and scholarships!

Annual grant and scholarship estimated amounts from The National Center for Education Statistics:

\$46 billion from the Dept of Ed and the nation's colleges and universities \$3.3 billion from private sources



Scholarship Are NOT Just

Scholarships come in all shapes and sizes and can be based on:

- Merit
- Athletics
- Products
- Characteristics
- Talents
- Clubs
- Field of Study

- Hobbies
- Activities
- Music
- Religion
- Community Service
- Interests
- Creativity

- Civic Organizations
- First in family
- Military
- Memberships
- Employment
- Legacies
- Descendants

Just about anything — keep searching!

Look For Free Money First

Scholarships are obtainable – Effort pays off!

Available beyond the first year

Wide **variety** of criteria –

Community Service, Unique Achievements, Grades, Sports, Ethnicity, Religion, Heritage, Parent Occupations, High School Location, Students Major Selection

Will reduce your debt and need to borrow with loans

Search for Scholarships

- Start early and keep looking
- Google your interests
- Don't pay for information (scam)
- Criteria varies by school and organization
- Follow directions and provide what is asked
- Don't fear essays
- Don't disqualify yourself until you are disqualified
- Small amounts add up
- Activities, athletics, family, hobbies, attributes, participation, etc. (Do your research)
- Create a profile or resume (Everything about you)



Fastweb.com

The largest most accurate and frequently updated scholarship database

Matches scholarships to specific student criteria

Sends email message when students qualify for a scholarship



Scholarship Search Don't miss out on FREE money

- Start early and KEEP LOOKING
- Don't forget to continue studies!
- GOOGLE your interests
- Don't PAY for information
- Criteria varies by school
 - » If you're asked to pay, it's not free money (SCAM)
- Don't disqualify yourself until IT disqualifies YOU
- Don't fear ESSAYS
- Provide what is asked
- Small scholarships ADD UP
- Activities, Athletics, Family, Hobbies, Participation, Attributes DO YOUR RESEARCH
- Don't miss DEADLINES
- Write it down!



- ✓ FastWeb.com
- ✓ EducationPlanner.org
- ✓ Chegg.com
- √ FinAid.org
- ✓ ScholarshipExperts.com
- ✓ Scholarships.com
- ✓ Scholarship-Page.com
- ✓ DoSomething.org/Scholarshi ps
- ✓ Colleges.Niche.com
- ✓ StudentScholarships.org
- ✓ BigFuture.Collegeboard.org
- ✓ CollegeAnswer.com
- ✓ CollegeNet.com
- ✓ MeritAid.com
- ✓ MORE....

Your Scholarship Resume

Activities and Hobbies
Write down the dates you participated in various activities.



Community Service Keep track of the hours spent in community service, working and doing special projects.

Religious Affiliation

Academic Interests & Achievement



Unique Scholarships

Jif Most Creative Sandwich Contest

Jif Peanut Butter holds the Jif Most Creative Sandwich Contest as a fun way to award students preparing to attend college. The award includes a scholarship worth \$25,000, as well as a Jif Peanut Butter Basket worth \$50.



The Wear Duck Tape to Prom Scholarship

Duck Brand products holds an annual contest to see who can make the best prom outfit from Duck® Tape. The winners receive a \$5,000 scholarship.

American Fire Sprinkler Association Scholarship Program

The American Fire Sprinkler Association has scholarships totaling \$20,000 that are awarded to students who submit the required documents, including an essay on automatic fire sprinklers.

Displacement vs. Stacking

Ask your college representatives:

"If I receive an outside scholarship, will you reduce the scholarship money you gave me by that amount or will you stack my new scholarship on top of what you gave me?" "How will an outside scholarship affect my financial aid award?"



Types of Education:

Your career choice determines the type of education required

Length of Programs

Certificate Months to 2 years

Apprenticeship 2 to 3 years

Associates Degree 2 years

Bachelors Degree 4 years

Masters Degree 6 years

Professional Degree 7 to 9 years

Doctoral Degree 8 to 10 years +

Degree programs are divided into undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels



Research Acceptance Policies

Wish List school – highly competitive

- Typically small selective colleges with specific evaluations
- Grades, tests, activities, personal statements, experiences
- Interviews and individual talents
- Deadlines for applications and timed responses

Reality School – good possibility / competitive

- Typically large, public state university systems
- Holistic evaluation: Considers everything about the student as a whole and uses a calculated process
- May have deadlines and timed responses

Safety Net School – likely and probable acceptance

- Community College, Proprietary Schools
- Open Access Evaluation / Rolling Admission
- Straight forward, basic requirements
- Broader deadlines, evaluate as apps are received





What's required?

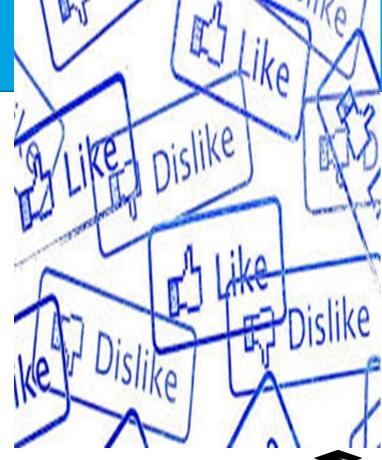
- Minimum Grade Point Averages (GPA)
- Pre-requisite HS courses for your major
- SAT, ACT Test scores optional or required
- Placement Exams
- Length of programs and course structure: Several months to several years
 - Course descriptions, requirements check degree structure
 - Identify strong and weak areas, know before choosing
- Transfer options to continue education
- Application extras minimal or additional requirements
 - Essays question or personal statement; Interview or no requirements
 - Transcripts and/or mid year grades
 - Recommendations
 - Job Shadowing test it





Personal differences matter! Match your success style

- Location VISIT
- City, Urban, Rural
- Class size small to large
- Faculty to Student ratio
- Services
 - Counseling, Tutoring
 - Study Groups
 - Career Services
- Campus Activities
- Clubs, Student Center, Recreation
- Food
- Living options
 - Dorm, Commute, Cars





Federal Aid and Grant Programs Grants are not repaid Enrolled at least half time and meeting satisfactory academic process

Federal Pell Grant

Eligibility is based on EFC / FAFSA Awarded to students with high financial need Maximum amount is \$6,495 for AY 2021–22 Maximum EFC 5847

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

Need based and priority given to students receiving a Pell Grant and the school's criteria

Maximum amount - \$4,000 for AY 2021-22

PA State Grant

Eligibility is based on EFC and State Grant Form Need and School Cost considered **Maximum amount - \$5,000 for AY 2021-22** Out-of-state - Up to \$600 in DC, DE, MA, OH, VT, WV. \$800 for veterans.

Amount determined in part by the cost of the school.

* Must be at least half-time to be eligible



Other Federal & State GRANTS

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Federal (ref: StudentAid.gov)

Teach Grant Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant Dependents Education Assistance (DEA) Grant - Veteran Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation Program (students with disabilities) Americorps - www.americorps.gov

State (ref: PHEAA.org) Administered

Post Secondary Education Gratuity Program (PEGP)
Partnerships for Access to Higher Education Program (PATH)
Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant (Foster students)

Fostering Independence Tuition Education Waiver Blind or Deaf Beneficiary Grant Program Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program (PA-TIP) Pennsylvania State Work Study Program (SWSP) PA National Guard Education Assistance Program (EAP)



Net Price Calculator

Every institution, by law, must provide families with a net price calculator on their website to estimate net costs.

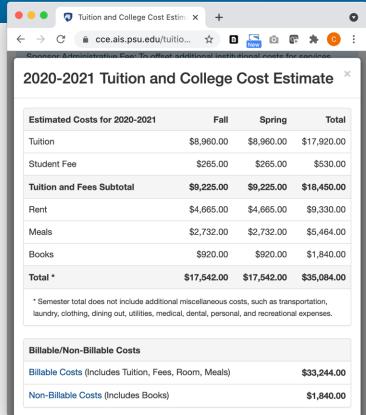
Estimated data provided by each institution:

Total price of attendance

Tuition, fees, and room and board Expenses (i.e., personal, transportation, etc.)

Estimated merit and need based grant aid Estimated net price (attendance minus grant aid)

Calculators don't always include institutional scholarships.





Cost of Attendance

The school formulates a standard academic year (AY) cost of attendance (COA) for each student population at the school, based on historical averages, surveys, and other factors.

Direct Costs

These will show up on the bill you receive from the school.

Indirect Costs

These do not show up on the bill you receive from the school, but you'll need to plan for them.

On-Campus

Direct:

- Tuition
- Required Fees
- Room
- Meals
- Books
- Transportation
- Supplies

Indirect:

- Dorm furnishings
- Clothing/laundry
- Personal care/hygiene
- Insurances
- Vehicle/commuting
- Parking
- Miscellaneous

Smart Borrowing - Begin With the End

Research the expected salary in your future career, find an affordable school, and borrow realistically There are many paths to the same degree Research every option, including community colleges and commuting Only attend a school you can reasonably afford Only borrow what you absolutely need to attend Buy an education, not a school There's an option for everyone

Your financial future depends on your choices MySmartBorrowing.org and MyNextMove.org

Senior Year of High School

- Order and read PHEAA's "Student Aid Guide" booklet (PHEAA.org/orderonline)
- Order and read PHEAA's "Path to Paying For College" map
- For college fairs, order and use PHEAA's "Navigating A College Fair" brochure
- Become MORE familiar with <u>studentaid.gov</u> and <u>PHEAA.org</u>
- Identify which aid sources are free and which must be earned or repaid
- PA529.com. It's never too late to start saving!

Senior Year of High School

- Make sure you found your perfect school (<u>EducationPlanner.org</u>)
- Visit your perfect schools or do virtual tours
- Net Price Calculator find your perfect prices (<u>collegecost.ed.gov</u>)
- Apply for admission to your perfect schools
- Attend one of PHEAA's Financial Aid Night presentations
- Attend one of PHEAA's FAFSA Help Workshops
- Remember scholarship hunting is your hobby
- Know you cost (Mysmartborrowing.org)

Senior Year of High School

- File your FAFSA® (list up to 10 schools)
- File your PA State Grant Form hyperlink at end of FAFSA®
- Receive offer letters and compare them
- Make decision (you're buying an education, not a school)
- Follow the rule for borrowing. Calculate total projected indebtedness.
- Pay deposits

Financial Aid starts with the FORMS

KNOW WHAT FORMS EACH SCHOOL REQUIRES

FAFSA -Free Application for Federal Student Aid

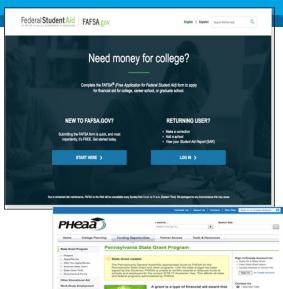
- Required every year attending **Studentaid.gov**
- Completed any time after Oct 1 prior to the year attending

STATE GRANT FORM through PHEAA

Required first year after FAFSA is completed

Some schools require additional forms:

- CSS Profile through the College Board; additional fees
- Institutional Financial Aid Forms through a specific school







Smart Borrowing - Begin With the End in Mind

- Research the expected salary in your future career, find an affordable school, and borrow realistically
- There are many paths to the same degree
- Research every option, including community colleges and commuting
- Only attend a school you can reasonably afford
- Only borrow what you absolutely need to attend
- Buy an education, not a school
- There's an option for everyone

Your financial future depends on your choices MySmartBorrowing.org and MyNextMove.org

The FAFSA

(Your Connection to Funding)

The FAFSA is a federal form used to determine student eligibility for the following:

Federal programs- Pell Grants, work-study, and

student loans

State programs - PA State

Grant, and other special

programs

School programs - need-

based grants and

scholarships



StudentAid.gov

Federal Student Aid UNDERSTAND AID V COMPLETE AID PROCESS V MANAGE LOANS V APPLY FOR AID ~ Log In | Create Account You Are America's **Smartest Investment** Log In The U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) provides more than \$120 billion in financial aid to create an account" help pay for college or career school each year. Considering School In School **Parent** In Repayment I'm thinking about going to I'm in the process of earning a I want to help my child pay for I have loans I need to repay. college or a career school. degree or certificate. college.

A look ahead...

Prior to senior year	Look for colleges and use the net price calculators
Begin in August of senior year	Apply for admission
Begin in October of senior year	Apply for financial aid
Throughout senior year	Compare financial aid offers and notifications
May – June of senior year	Select a school

Sample Questions to Ask When Visiting Schools

- 1. What majors do you offer? Which have the best job placement rates?
- 2. What do you look for in a student at your school (grades, test scores, activities)?
- 3. What is the total cost of your school; including tuition, room/board and fees?
- 4. What type of housing is available? Is it guaranteed?
- 5. How do I schedule a campus visit?
- 6. What are the deadlines for applying for admittance and financial aid?
- 7. How much does your average graduate borrow?
- 8. Do you offer merit-based aid? Do you offer scholarships?
- 9. How does your school count outside scholarships? Will your school grants/scholarships be

reduced?

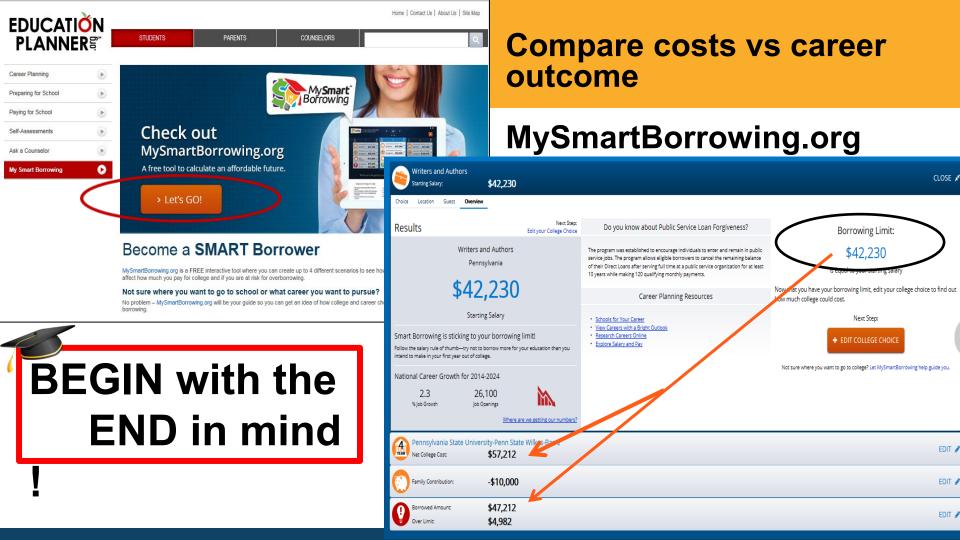
- 10. What percentage of your students graduate on time?
- 11. What companies recruit your graduates?
- 12. What programs or offices help with job placement at your school?

Review and consider all of your options Sometimes the best fit is not your first choice



Buy an education, Not a school

Pick a school that is affordable and meets your needs



PHEAA Online Resources

- PHEAA.org
- EducationPlanner.org
 - Career planning
- MyNextMove.org
 - Research Careers
 - MySmartBorrowing.org
 - Borrow smart
 - YouCanDealWithIt.com
 - Facebook.com/pheaa.aid
 - MyFedLoan.org















Thank You and Best Wishes!

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