

YOUR ***Life After Littleton***

It's Time ...

to Start Thinking About Your Options

You have many options for your future!





Graduation is coming fast...

Things to consider:

- Important decisions can be emotionally charged...
- What are YOUR goals at this moment in your life?
- What are your parents hopes?
- What are the financial realities for your family?
- Are you willing to take out loans, work and save money toward your goals?

Things ARE Going to Change...

and that's not a bad thing!

- Whether or not you're leaving home after graduation, moving into a new life is a challenging and exciting time for both you and your parents.
- Going to college – or getting other training or experience – will be one of your first independent events in your transition to adulthood.
- As you think about what your options are, and decide what fits you best, remember that the decisions here really rest on YOU.

Not sure what to do after high school?

There are plenty of options...

- Career College: Trade/Tech School,
- Community/Junior College
- Four-Year College
- Enter the Work Force
- The Military

Let's talk about the benefits of each...



What will increase your earning power?

- Everyone wants to pursue their dream and passions, but decisions are often dictated by financial realities
- Studies have consistently shown that the more education/training you have, the more money you are likely to earn
- But remember...money isn't everything:
 - it's "necessary but not sufficient"

The Power to Earn!

<u>Highest Education Level</u>	<u>2015 Median Income</u>
Less Than High School	\$24,650
H.S. Diploma	\$33,900
Apprenticeship/Skilled Trade	\$37,750
Associate of Arts Degree	\$39,900
Bachelor's Degree	\$56,850
Master's Degree	\$67,050
Doctorate Degree	\$81,150
Professional Degree	\$86,500

BEST OPTION FOR THE WALLET...CONTINUE LEARNING!

Other benefits to keep on learning after high school

- Higher quality of life...!
- Work that interests you...better job satisfaction
- More control over life circumstances
- Longer life span
- Better access to health care
- Better dietary and health practices

So, IF you decide to go to college...

There are lots of different kinds and different categories of colleges

- 2-year, 4-year, career college
- Specialized areas of study vs. broad education
- Academic programs:
 - Your area(s) of interest
 - Online learning?
 - ESL programs
 - Honor programs?
 - Student designed majors
 - Study abroad?
- Co-ed? All male? All female
- Private vs public?
- In Denver? In Colorado? In the U.S.?
- Number of students, for example:
 - Fort Lewis College: 3,800 undergrad students
 - University of Denver: 5,500 undergrad students
 - Metro State University: 21,000 undergrad students
 - CU – Boulder: 26,000 undergrad students



So, IF you decide to go to college...

- Cost: for MOST families, this is the biggest factor
- Setting: large city, small town, rural area
- Location/geography: Colorado, the Northwest, West Coast, the East, the South, a foreign country

WARNING:

Getting accepted at selective colleges is very difficult!
Your grades and test scores matter.

Career Colleges

Trade & Technical Schools = Vocational Schools = Certificate Programs

- Welding
 - Cosmetology
 - Medical imaging
 - Electronics assembly
 - Plumbing
 - Electrician
 - Mason
 - Automotive
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- Typically last 2 years or less
 - Very hands-on training
 - Few General Education courses
 - Primary focus is on career related courses



More about Career Colleges

- Flexible class schedules: days, nights , weekends
- Many courses available online
- Prepare students to enter work force directly in a particular field
 - Auto Tech - Pastry Chef - Computer Tech - HVAC Tech
 - Certified Nursing Assistant - Court Reporting – Fitness Training
 - Bookkeeping – Auto CAD Drafting - Administrative Assisting
- Many programs offer state recognized “certification” in a particular field

WARNING!

- Many are “for profit” businesses, they’re in it to make money
- Many have very low graduation rates
- Many are expensive
- Check that the school is “accredited”

Community/Junior Colleges

- 2 year public institutions: ACC, CCD
 - Can earn certificates, diplomas or Associates Degrees



You might consider Community College/Junior College if:

- You don't feel comfortable committing to a 4-year education program right now
- You need to find the most affordable college path available
 - A full year of tuition & fees at ACC = \$5,000 (vs CU = \$13,500)
 - You can live at home and save \$10,000-\$12,000 per year
 - Most credits will transfer easily to in-state public colleges or universities
 - Very common to attend part-time, and work also
- You are unsure of what exactly you want to study

Top 5 Community College Programs:

1. Registered Nursing
2. Law Enforcement
3. Licensed Practical Nursing
4. Radiology Technology
5. Computer Technology

DID YOU KNOW?

- Close to 80% of firefighters, law enforcement officers and EMTs are credentialed at community colleges
- Many students who graduate from community colleges perform better academically at four-year colleges than those who went straight from high school to a four-year program

Colleges and Universities

You might consider four-year college if:

- You're excited for a rigorous academic experience
- You want to be part of a campus experience
- You're ready to be self-sufficient, or at least move in that direction
- You want to pursue a career path that requires a four-year degree



WARNING!

- There will be a lot of distractions at most four-year colleges, especially if you're living on-campus

Things can change...!

- Take the time to make a good choice
- Remember that you can always try a different path if your first choice isn't the fit you want
- You aren't failing if you change your course direction. This is real life...YOUR real life and you need to make decisions that make YOU comfortable
- On average, students change majors THREE TIMES before settling on their concentration. Don't be afraid to change course.

WARNING:

It can take longer to graduate, and cost more if you change too late or too often.

If not college or other education/training...

- Consider a military career
 - Serve your country
 - Gain education and training at no financial cost
 - Travel
 - Learn a sense of discipline
 - **Military Workshop at LHS on October 5th**
- Learn a skilled trade via apprenticeship programs
 - ✓ Many offer a combination of coursework and paid work
 - Electrician
 - Solar Photovoltaic Installer
 - Carpenter
 - Structural Iron & Steel Worker
 - Plumbers, pipefitters
 - Aircraft Mechanic
 - Automotive (Body, Glass, Mechanic)





Do yourself some favors!

- Strive to do well in school...keeps your options wide open
- Research different career ideas:
 - Internet - job fairs - informational interviews - job shadowing
- Talk to people!
 - parents - teachers - professionals in different careers - counselors – graduates
- Tour a variety of schools:
 - ACC - Emily Griffith - Univ of Colorado - Wyo Tech - Metro