

Exploring Post High School Options

Exploring Your Interests, Abilities, & Values

In order to make decisions about what you want to do after high school, you must first take time to reflect on **who you are** in terms of your interests, abilities, values, goals, etc. Here are some questions that might help you focus on your unique identity.

Interests

What classes do you enjoy most? In which subjects are you most successful? Which subjects do you like least?

What are your interests and hobbies outside of school? What talents or skills do they use?

What activities do you find fun? If you had unlimited funds and time, what would you do?

Do you enjoy working with machines or tools? Do you like to repair things or take things apart and see how they work?

Do you like experimenting with ideas or projects?

Do you enjoy leading others, making decisions, or getting things started? Or do you prefer to follow the lead of others?

Abilities and Talents

What are your academic strengths and weaknesses? It is important to *honestly* evaluate your grades and test results in relation to your effort in school.

Do you work well with people and enjoy being around others when you work or do you prefer working more on your own?

Are you persuasive? Do you enjoy talking with people and influencing them to do or buy something?

Do people find you to be a good listener and/or a good teacher?

Are you imaginative, inventive or creative?

Job Values

Creativity - Do you desire a job where you can use your imagination and be inventive?

Time - Do you want a job that allows you flexibility and/or time to pursue other interests?

Environment - Is it important for you to work inside or outside? In physical or non-physical jobs?

Variety - Do you want to be able to do many different and interesting things?

Prestige - Do you want a job that provides respect, is highly visible, and helps you feel important?

High achievement - Is it important that you are able to succeed at a job that is difficult?

Salary - How much do you need to earn for the lifestyle you desire?

Independence - Would you like to do work that allows you to be your own boss?

Work with your hands - Do you want to use your hands, machines, or tools to make or repair things?

Life Values

Do you hope to have a family someday? What are your values relating to family time, money, parenting, childcare, etc.?

What motivates you?

How do you plan to make a contribution to your community and to the needs of others?

Do you have plans for healthy recreation and exercise?

What legacy would you like to leave behind?

Choosing Careers



After exploring your interests, abilities, talents, and values, you are ready to consider potential careers. Identifying possible careers helps high school students select courses, activities and part-time jobs where they may be successful and happy. It also helps students consider how much and what type training or formal education will be required after high school. Choosing a career should not be viewed as a “permanent commitment” but rather a process. As students attend an elective class, job or field trip, they may change their career plans. Ruling out careers that you do not like is just as valuable to discovering what you do like. We begin this career exploration process in classroom counseling sessions during sophomore year. Listed below are a number of resources available at John Hersey High School to further assist your career search process.

Career Exploration

Listed below are some of the career resources available for JHHS students. Students should also listen to morning announcements and visit the College and Career Center for more information.

Career Nights	District 214 hosts several Career Nights each fall so students can meet with representatives from different occupations.
Career Trek	A Career Trek is a career-focused field trip to explore occupations of interest. Touring the worksite, talking with professionals and participating in hands-on activities helps enrich students’ understanding of career fields.
Internship	Individual internship experiences can be arranged for a full semester, over summer break, or for a short period of time. These internships allow a student to volunteer within an organization, observing typical daily duties.
Independent Opportunities	Career related opportunities within various companies, such as workshops, conferences, events and summer opportunities. For more information visit http://www.necsspartnership.com/
Dual Credit Courses	Harper College offers vocational courses to local high school students. Most of these courses allow students the option to earn both high school and college credit. Contact your counselor for more information on currently available programs.
College and Career Center	Many print and online publications and resources are available to assist students in their career exploration.

Computerized Career Searches

Naviance

Naviance is a web-based college and career research and planning tool available to JHHS students with numerous career exploration features. The *Do What You Are* online questionnaire allows students to determine their personality type and discover potential careers and college majors that would be personally rewarding. The *Career Interest Profiler* helps students match their interests to potential careers. The *Cluster Finder* allows students to find careers that match their interests, abilities and personal qualities.

Naviance website: <http://connection.naviance.com/jhhs>

Students login with their GAPPs username and six-digit student ID number as a password. Parents log in with a self-defined email and password.

College Board Big Future

The College Board provides a free web resource which allows students to explore their interests, careers and potential majors. In addition to career searches, Big Future provides videos and articles on a variety of career topics and links students to potential majors and colleges.

Big Future Website: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers>

If students have taken an AP or PSAT online, they can use their College Board login. If not, they can create an account.

Illinois Career Information System

The Illinois Department of Employment Services has created a career website with a number of innovative features including features to compare two occupations, search for “green” occupations and the Reality Check which shows the impact student loans could have on future lifestyle.

Illinois CIS: <https://ilcis.intocareers.org/materials/portal>

Students can create an account for free.

A VERY IMPORTANT POINT TO REMEMBER!

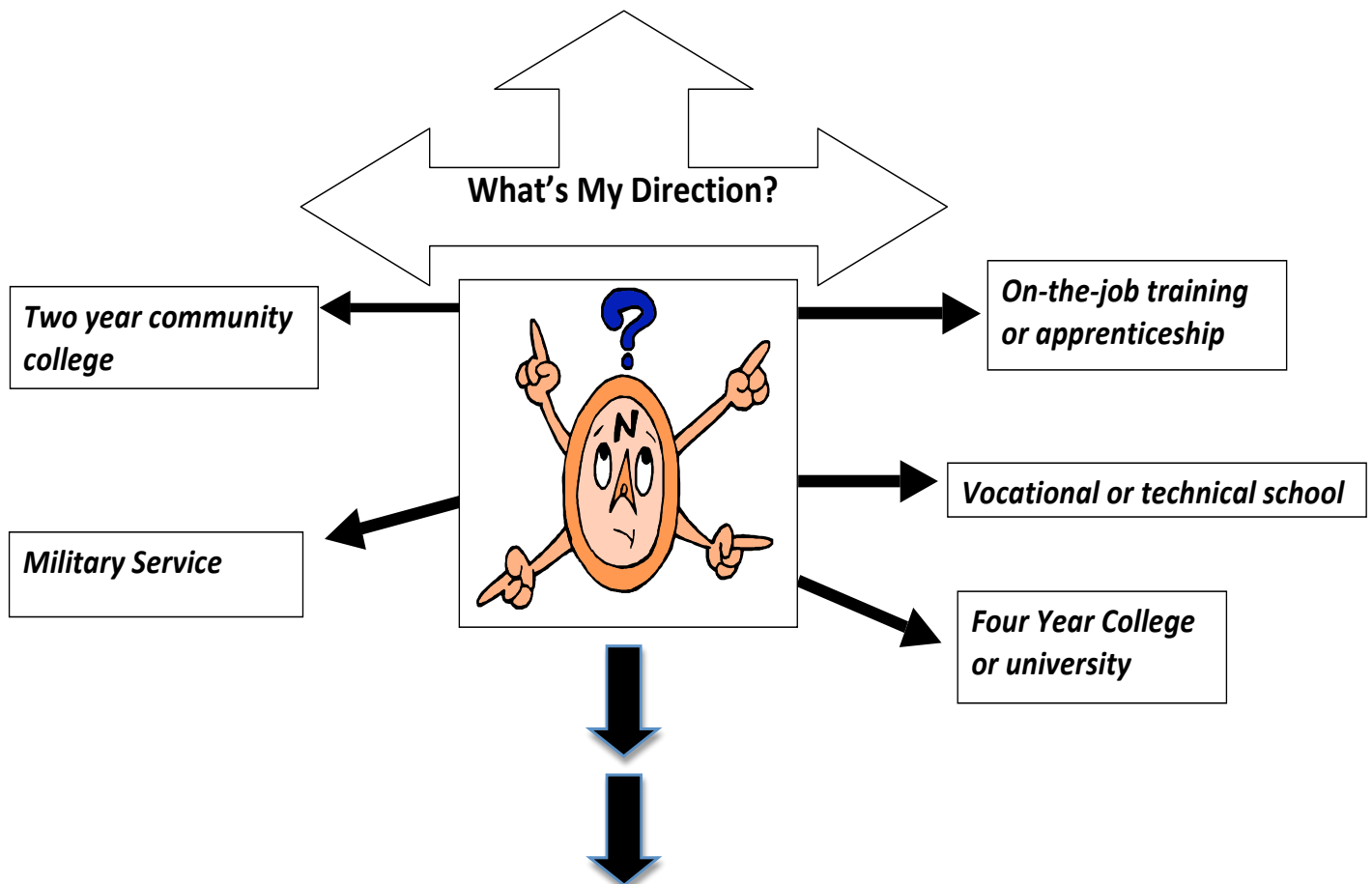
The choice of a career is YOURS!! It is not the choice of your parents, friends, teachers, or any other advisors. Only you can decide what is the best fit for you.

It is important to discuss your choice with the significant people in your life to gain the benefit of their insight and experience, but the ultimate choice is yours!

Your career should be fun and rewarding. Spend some time and energy exploring your options now to make a good choice.

Future Plans

Which path after high school will best help you meet your needs and reach your goals? How much formal education and/or training will you need?



And remember that there are different pathways you can take to reach the same career or educational goal. For example, you can start at a two-year college and transfer to a four-year college or start in the military and then go to a two or four year college.

Post-High School Options

College or University

Colleges and universities offer four-year bachelor's degrees in most art and science fields (B.A. and B.S. degrees), as well as pre-professional programs and other specializations. Many also offer graduate and professional degrees.

Community College

Community colleges offer different types of programs:

- **Certificate Program:** a 1-2 year career program designed to prepare the student for immediate entry into a specific career. Examples include Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning, culinary arts or Interior Design.
- **Associate of Applied Science:** a degree awarded upon completion of a two-year career program and designed to prepare the student for immediate entry into a specific career field. Many of these programs have internships, which help students get on-the-job training.
- **Associate of Arts and Associate in Science:** two-year degrees designed for students who will transfer to a four-year college or university to complete a four-year bachelor's degree.

Harper College in Palatine is the local community college serving most Hersey students.

Vocational/Technical

Vocational/Technical schools offer short-term training for specific jobs, such as beauty, tourism, or auto repair. Certificates for some

programs take only a few weeks while others may take up to two years to complete. Students and parents should investigate and visit any vocational schools being considered. Ask about accreditation, licensing, facilities, cost, stability & financial aid. You may find some of these same programs are offered at community college for a lower cost.

On-the-job Training or Apprenticeship

For some careers, such as masons, electricians, or home health aides, the best preparation is to work under highly skilled workers. These apprenticeships allow you to gain experience in the field, determine if you have an interest in the career, while earning a salary. The Career Advisor has resources to help you locate employers, and prepare for apprenticeship applications.

Military

The military may be a good option for those wishing to obtain specialized training and/or college financial assistance. Each branch of the military visits Hersey twice per year. Check morning announcements for dates and times.

Air Force	www.airforce.com
Army	www.goarmy.com
Coast Guard	www.uscg.mil
National Guard	www.nationalguard.com
Marines	www.marines.com
Navy	www.navy.mil