



Discover

Start off by discovering what interests you.

- Take the **Interest Profiler** or use the **Career Search Tool** to discover careers.
- Explore careers that you are passionate about and connect with your knowledge and skills. For example, if you think you want to be a basketball player, try exploring related careers, such as sports management, sports medicine, coach, referee, or physical therapist. Consider what it is about basketball that you love. Some of these related careers might interest you.
- Find and favorite (♥) careers that match your interests to add them to your **Career List in My Plan**.
- Careers require you to develop a certain set of skills. When you go to college, you select a major to help you develop this set of skills. To find majors related to specific careers, use the **Career Search Tool**. To search for more majors by a field of study, such as agriculture, use the **Major Search Tool**.
- Discover how you can get money to pay for college. Use **My Financial Aid Plan** to explore grade-level-specific lessons that help you learn about, plan for, and apply for financial aid.
- As you find what you are interested in, you will come across tasks that need to be completed in order for you to make the next move. Add those tasks to **My Tasks**. An example of a task might be: "Talk with your family about your career interests."



Plan

Now that you have an idea of what you might like to do in the future, it is time to plan how you will reach your goal.

- Use the **College Search Tool** to find colleges you want to learn more about. You can research community colleges, which offer certificate programs and associate degrees, as well as four-year colleges, which offer bachelor's and postgraduate degrees. You can narrow your search by the size of colleges, by their environment, and by the majors they offer.
- Review information about each college that interests you and favorite (♥) colleges that you like to add them to your **College List in My Plan**. Keep an open mind when selecting colleges. Having a variety of options will be helpful as you narrow down your list.
- Participate in activities to help you learn about your strengths, what you like, and what you do not like. Add these activities to **My Experiences**.
- Use **My Goals** and **My Journal** to reflect on what you are learning and the steps you are taking to reach your goals.
- Do not forget to focus on doing well and enjoying your high school classes. Use the **Academic Planner in My Plan** to choose the right classes for you. Talk with your counselor to learn more.



Launch

The final step is to launch applications for college admissions and financial aid.

- When you are a senior in high school, launch key applications from your account, such as CCCApply, Cal State Apply, and the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application. Some information transfers from your account to these applications, which makes the process easier for you and helps you and your counselor track the status of your applications.
- Essays are often part of the application process. If you have to write essays, upload them to **My Documents**.
- As you apply to college, you can track your deadlines and submissions in **My College Plan**.