



Dear Family of STUDENT,

Thank you for choosing DC Public Schools (DCPS) for your child's educational journey. As you begin to prepare for what's next for STUDENT after they graduate DCPS, we are here to support and partner with you to ensure they are ready for the future.

I am excited to share the DCPS Guide to Graduation, Career, and College. This resource is designed to facilitate ongoing conversations among STUDENT, HIGH SCHOOL, and your family regarding life beyond our district. The guide includes specific information about your child's progress toward graduation, college, and career readiness.

What's Inside:

- **Transcript (Pages 2-3):** Outlines past course performance and academic record.
- **Graduation (Page 4):** Details progress towards high school graduation requirements.
- **College (Pages 5-6):** Explores what colleges seek in candidates and steps to prepare for higher education.
- **Career (Pages 7-9):** Provides information on career pathways aligned with STUDENT's interests.
- **Next Steps (Page 10):** Highlights additional actions STUDENT can take to reach their graduation, college, and career-related goals.

Next Steps:

- Review this resource with STUDENT and discuss their graduation progress along with career and college options.
- Visit the Parent and Student Portal to view STUDENT's most recent attendance, grades, and credits at www.bit.ly/ParentPortalDCPS.
- Connect with your school's counselor, whose name is at the top of this letter, for questions or additional information.
- Refer to and implement the recommended action plan on Page 10.

Please note that the guide reflects your student's academic progress as of February 2025. While some details may have changed, this information serves as a starting point for discussions at home and in school about academic goals and planning for the future.

We look forward to collaborating to ensure STUDENT's success in high school and beyond.

In partnership,
Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.
Chancellor, DC Public Schools

STUDENT

Grade 11 (Based on YOG in Aspen)

ID# 0000000

ISA

N/A

SAT

PSAT

730

Community Service Hours **0** Weighted GPA **3.15**

STUDENT'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PROGRESS

You are not currently on track in the following areas: community service. There are still opportunities to get fully on track to graduate. Your graduation progress data reflects what was current after Semester 1 of this year. Schedule time to meet with your counselor and bring this document with you to see what your progress looks like with your current course schedule. View page 10 for additional resources and recommended next steps.

One checkbox represents .5 credits for all subjects.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1 Year

2 Years

3 Years

4 Years

HERE'S WHAT IT MEANS



Community Service

You have yet to complete all the required community service hours to be eligible to graduate. Your individual community service requirement is listed on page 1 of your transcript. Please contact your school counselor to discuss community service opportunities.



Art



Well done! You have completed this requirement.



College Level/Career Prep



You are on track in College Level/Career Prep for high school graduation. Nice job! Pass your classes to remain on track.



Electives



You are on track in Electives for high school graduation. Nice job! Pass your classes to remain on track.



Foreign Languages



Well done! You have completed this requirement.



History



You are on track in History for high school graduation. Nice job! Pass your classes to remain on track.



Math



Well done! You have completed this requirement.



Music



You are on track in Music for high school graduation. Nice job! Pass your classes to remain on track.



Phys Ed/Health



You are on track in Phys Ed/Health for high school graduation. Nice job! Pass your classes to remain on track.



Science



You are on track in Science for high school graduation. Nice job! Pass your classes to remain on track.

LEGEND

Must Take



Enrolled



Course Passed



STUDENT's Roadmap for College Application Success

Preparing for college starts early! The steps you take now can make a big difference later. Use the roadmap below to stay on track and rely on your Counselor or College & Career Coordinator and your family for support through the process.

Experiences Outside of the Classroom

Extracurricular activities are important because they allow you to contribute to your community and discover interests outside of academics. How you spend your free time is just as important to colleges as your grades and test scores. Actively participating in a couple of activities that you enjoy is more important than being involved in many groups!

- Get involved in extracurricular activities, internships, jobs, and family responsibilities.
- Take on leadership roles in clubs, sports, or community organizations.
- Apply for summer enrichment programs.
- Keep track of your involvement by creating a resume. This will help you remember all of your accomplishments and will be useful when you apply to jobs and colleges.



College Entrance Exams

Test scores from the SAT or ACT are used by some colleges to assess your academic preparedness for college. Even at test-optional colleges, scores may be used for scholarship and merit aid consideration. Do your research! Some colleges will accept your super score, the combination of your highest scores from each test section. Testing multiple times allows you to achieve a higher super score.

- Prepare for the PSAT/SAT by using Khan Academy, taking practice tests, and participating in SAT test preparation at your school.
- Take the PSAT in the Fall of 9-11th grade to build testing skills and qualify for scholarships.
- Participate in the free [DCPS SAT School Day](#) during the Spring of 11th grade and Fall of 12th grade.
- If you choose, take an SAT or ACT weekend exam. Ask your counselor about an SAT weekend fee waiver.

You can do it!

Applying Successfully

Colleges have early application deadlines in the fall of your 12th grade year, and meeting these deadlines can boost your chances of admission and securing scholarships.

- Apply to at least 2 Smart Colleges.
- Complete application via the [Common App](#), [Common Black Application](#), [Coalition for College](#), or direct to the college.
- Request transcripts and recommendation letters through Naviance.
- Finalize college essay by having it edited by a trusted adult.
- Check email often for missing application materials.
- Write an activities list that showcases your accomplishments and leadership.

Academic Preparation for College

The most important admissions factor colleges consider is your academic profile, which includes your GPA and the challenging courses you are taking throughout high school.

- GPA stands for Grade Point Average and is a numerical representation of a student's average performance across all their courses. At DCPS, your unweighted GPA may be 0-4.0; a weighted GPA includes more credit for advanced classes.
- Check your GPA on your transcript or calculate it [here](#). Strive for strong grades in all your classes.
- Challenge yourself by taking AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, or Career Academy classes. These classes demonstrate your academic drive and interests to colleges.
- Seek support from your teachers or counselors if you are struggling in a class.



Exploring Colleges

Smart Colleges are institutions from which you have a higher likelihood of graduating based on your academic profile. You will be recommended to consider certain colleges based on your GPA and test scores. The stronger your GPA and test score, the more selective universities you should be applying to.

- Meet with your counselor and/or college and career coordinator to identify your Smart College target.
- Use [Naviance](#) and [BigFuture](#) to research colleges.
- Visit colleges by going to campus tours, fly-ins, and open houses.
- Attend college events offered by DCPS, such as college & career fairs at your school and DCPS Goes to College Month in May.
- By early 12th grade, finalize your college list. It should include a mix of likely, match, and reach colleges & universities.

Paying for College

Each student's cost of attendance will differ; you will not know your cost of attendance until you submit your financial aid applications. As a family, discuss whether and how much your family can contribute toward the cost of college. Complete financial aid applications early senior year to maximize your financial aid for college.

- Explore [colleges that meet 100% financial need](#).
- Use [Net Price Calculators](#) to estimate what your family may be expected to pay toward tuition.
- Apply for scholarships as early as 9th grade! Sign up for the [DCPS Dollars4College Scholarship and Financial Aid Newsletter](#).
- Prepare to submit the [FAFSA](#) and the [CSS Profile](#). Families planning to complete the FAFSA should file taxes if eligible.
- Check your eligibility for DC grants and scholarships like [DCTAG](#) and [Mayor's Scholars](#).



College Exploration STUDENT

Grade 11 (Based on YOG in Aspen)
ID# 0000000

ISA
N/A

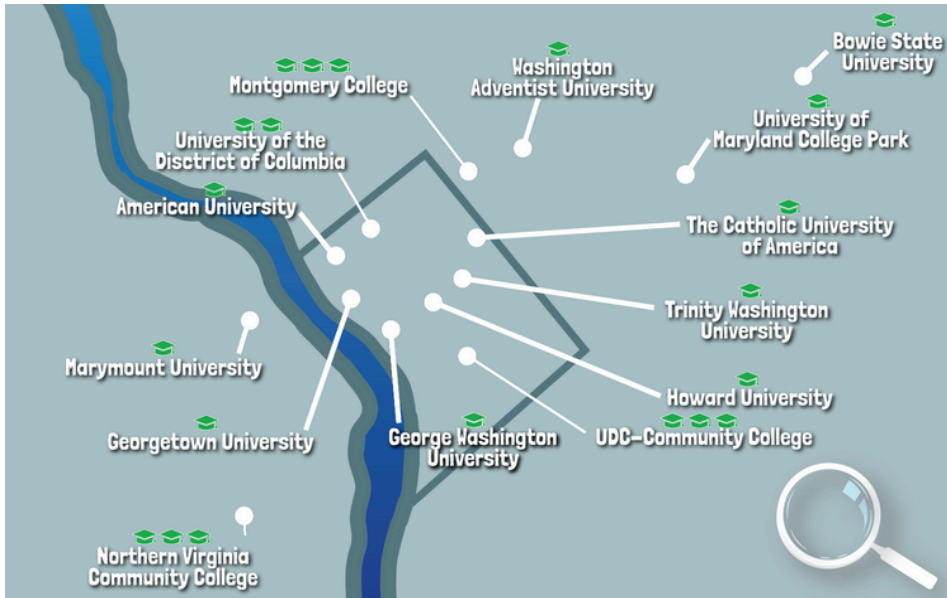
SAT

PSAT
730

Community Service Hours 0
Weighted GPA 3.15

This map shows colleges in the region that could be a good fit. Depending on your GPA and standardized test scores, colleges may be reach, match or likely options for you. A good match for you may not be a good match for your friend. Connect with your counselor and/or college and career coordinator to explore more Smart Colleges!

DC Area Colleges



Explore Options for College



What determines whether a school is a likely, match, or reach? It is largely determined by your GPA. Based on your academic profile a school may be considered in one of the three categories:

Likely: Colleges that you are very likely to be accepted to based on your academic profile and/or the acceptance rate of the college. Students should always have a few of these schools on their college list. Students should apply to likely colleges that they would attend if accepted, meaning they should still consider cost, location, and fit.

Match: Colleges that you are likely to get into based on your academic profile. A college is considered a match if your GPA and/or test scores fall between the 25th-75th percentile of students enrolled at the college. This means that you fall into the middle of students who are accepted into that specific college and/or university.

Reach: Colleges that are highly selective, or that you are less likely to get accepted to based on your academic profile and/or the acceptance rate of the college. Generally, a college is considered a reach if your GPA and/or test score fall below the 25th percentile of students enrolled at the college.

Sample Smart College List

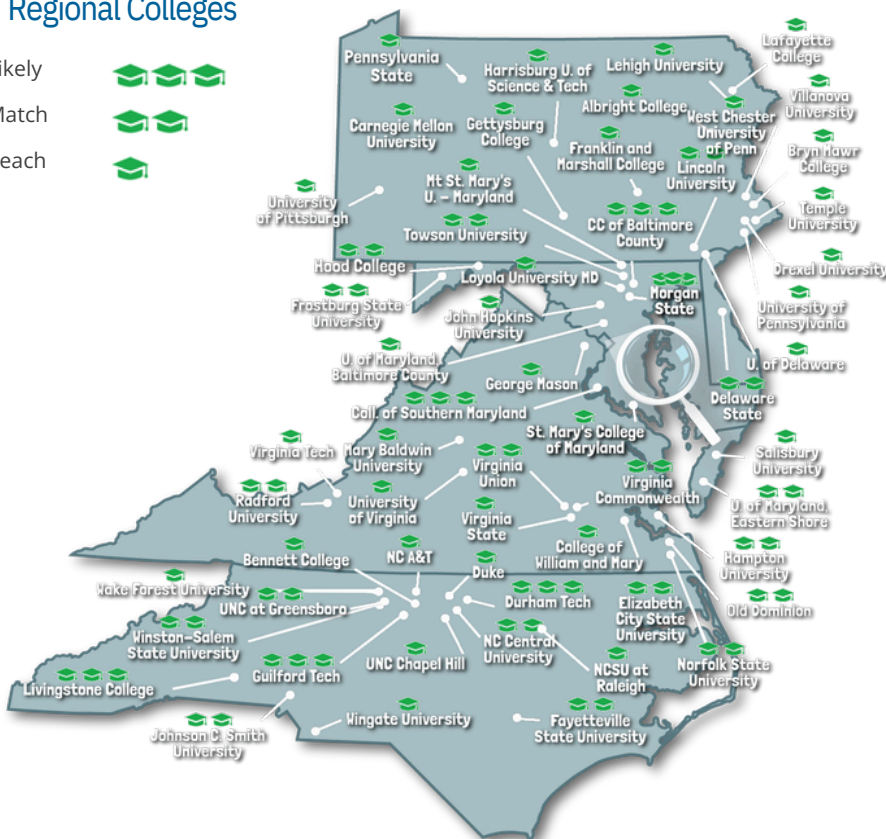


The colleges listed below are both popular among students from your high school and have a strong track record of student success.



Regional Colleges

- Likely
- Match
- Reach



- University of the District of Columbia
- Marymount University
- George Mason University
- The Catholic University of America
- Trinity Washington University
- Montgomery College
- Towson University
- Temple University
- American University
- Morgan State University

COMMUNITY COLLEGES give you an opportunity to build up your college transcript and transfer to a 4-year university when you are ready. There are various community colleges in the DC area with strong transfer programs such as Northern Virginia Community Colleges in VA, and Montgomery College in MD.



Career & Technical Education

CTE Courses

CTE courses are designed to "prepare students for what's next" by equipping them with academic, technical, and employability skills for success in any postsecondary pathway, whether that is college, or career. DCPS offers 28 CTE programs of study across middle and high schools. For more information, please visit [https:// www.dcpscte.org/](https://www.dcpscte.org/)

Work-Based Learning

Work-based learning equips students with essential skills beyond academics. Through activities like guest speakers, industry tours, and internships, students explore postsecondary pathways, develop professional skills, and gain practical experience.

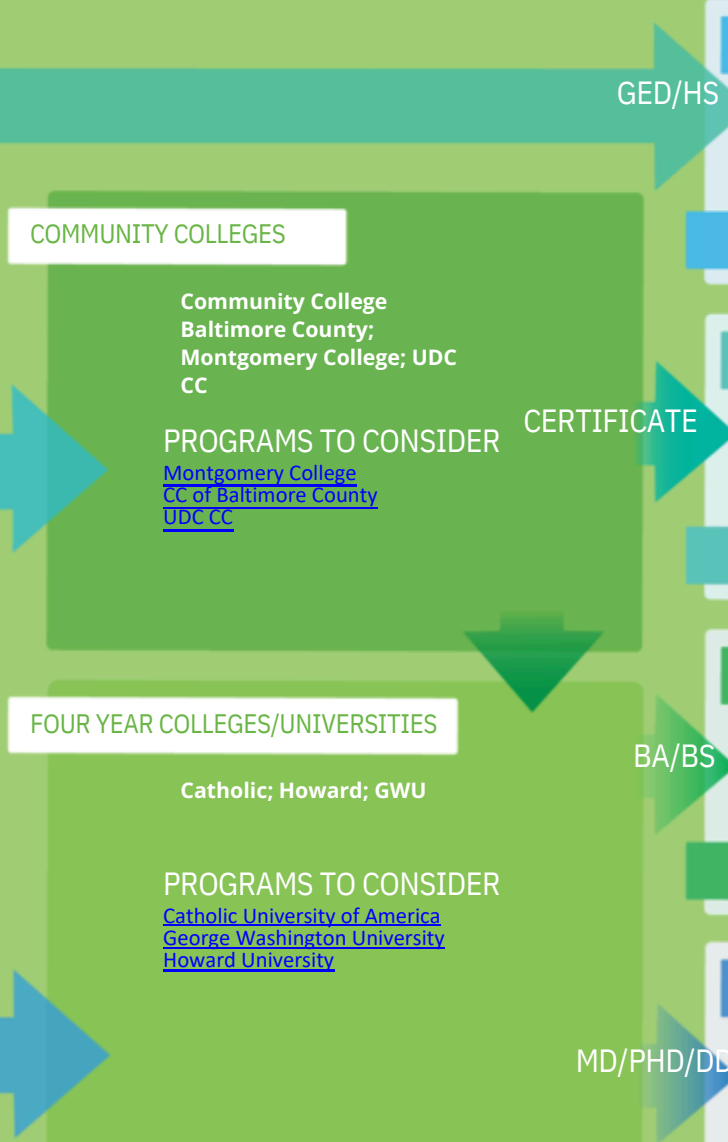
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Concentrator (earned 3+ CTE credits)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Completer (earned 4+ CTE credits)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Potential Certifications

Career Industry	Opportunity
Business, Management and Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Profit Management Certificate Entrepreneurship and Small Business Certification Yale University Certification Course on Financial Markets

Potential Internships

Career Industry	Opportunity
Business, Management and Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hacking Entrepreneurship Social-Impact Companies/NGOs Virtual Internship Business & Finance Virtual Internship



Careers	Wages
Executive Secretaries & Executive Administrative	\$33.59
Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	\$30.98
Annual Income	\$42,160

Careers	Wages
Transport., Storage, & Distribution Managers	\$55.63
Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, & Repairers	\$35.50
Annual Income	\$73,830

Careers	Wages
Public Relations & Fundraising Managers	\$72.74
Financial Managers	\$70.69
Annual Income	\$97,950

Careers	Wages
Computer & Information Systems Managers	\$77.83
Sales Managers	\$74.87
Annual Income	\$118,160



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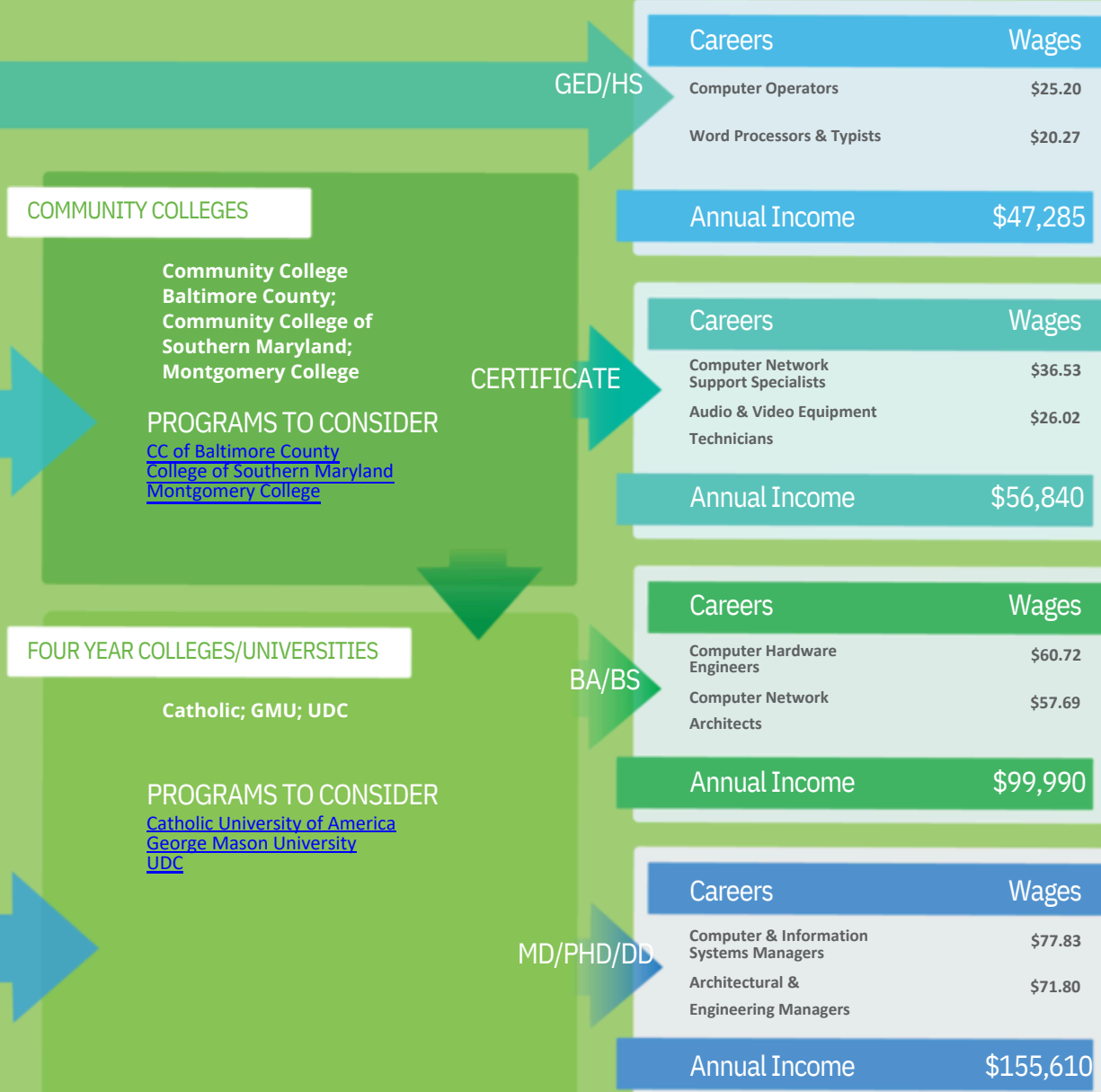
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Completer (earned 4+ CTE credits)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Potential Certifications

Career Industry	Opportunity
Information Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Technology Certification Introductory Certification in Coding CompTIA

Potential Internships

Career Industry	Opportunity
Information Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coding for Social Good Computer Science Summer Institute (CSSI) at Google Microsoft High School Internship





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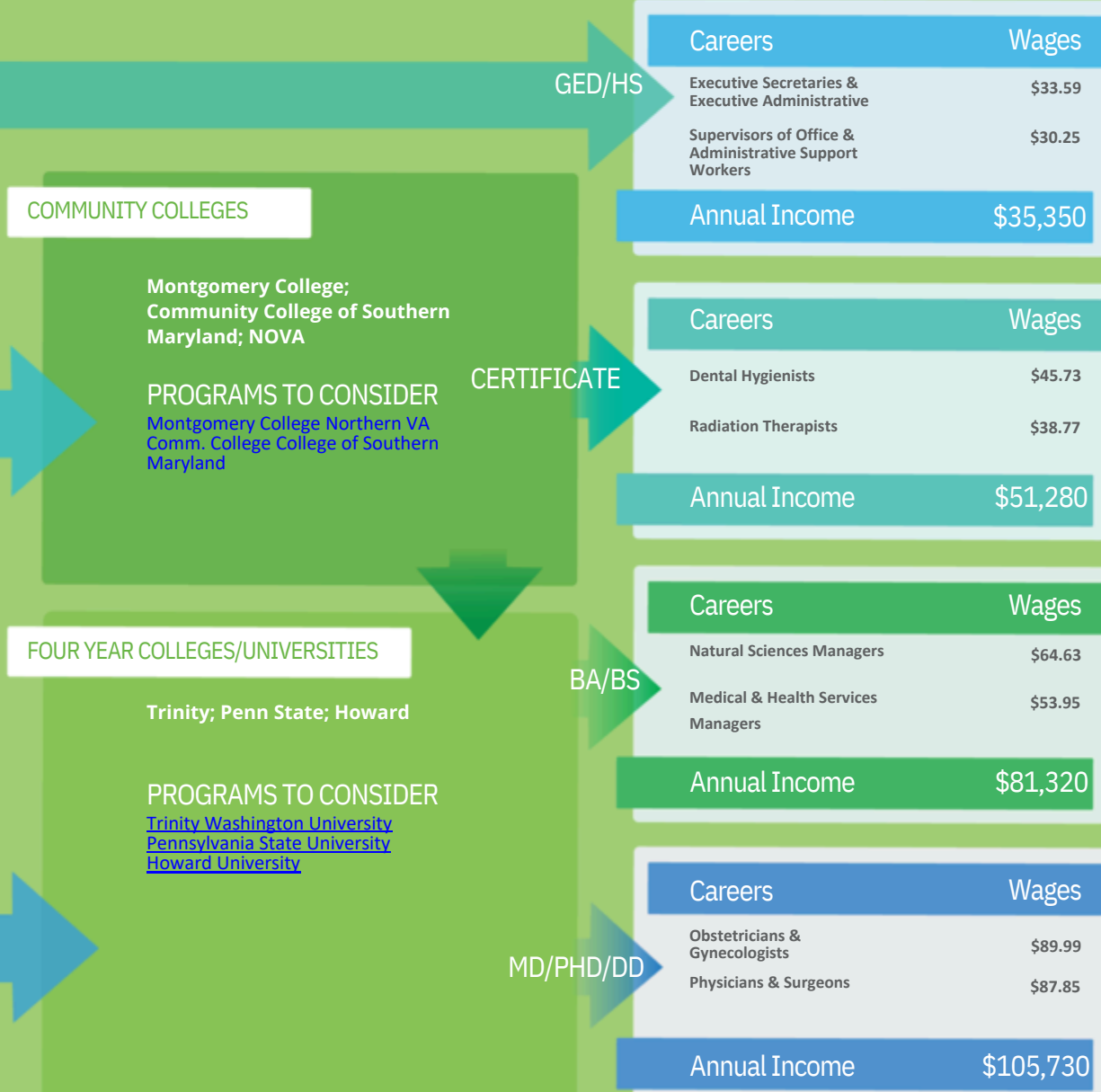
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Concentrator (earned 3+ CTE credits)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Completer (earned 4+ CTE credits)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Potential Certifications

Career Industry	Opportunity
Health Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Health Science Certificate Phlebotomy Technician Certification STNA Certification

Potential Internships

Career Industry	Opportunity
Health Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Institute of Health Kaiser Permanente LAUNCH Program Johns Hopkins CARES Summer Program



STUDENT'S ACTION STEPS

You are not on track yet in the following areas: community service. Please meet with your school counselor to discuss recovery options.

You did not select any pathways in your Naviance postsecondary survey. Below you'll find action steps on graduation and postsecondary pathways to ensure success in high school and beyond.



Graduation Action Steps

Schedule a Transcript Review Conversation (TRC) with your counselor to discuss your graduation progress and areas of need.

Participate in academic support/ tutoring sessions (before school, during lunch time, and/or after-school) with teachers in subject areas in which you are demonstrating academic challenges.

If you are behind on credits for your year in school, reach out to your counselor about seeking enrollment in a credit recovery program or Twilight program, and/or participate in Summer School.



College Action Steps

Enroll in the Testing College Success DCPS course if your school offers it. If not, use Khan Academy test prep to prepare for the fall PSAT or SAT school test day. 20 hours of studying at Khan Academy is associated with a 115-point increase on average.

Using Clever, log onto Naviance and explore college options through SuperMatch and Scattergrams, and add at least 5 colleges to your "Colleges I'm Thinking About" list.

Begin brainstorming topics for your college essay and write a draft over the summer. In the fall, work with your English teacher to make sure it is ready to go for scholarships and college applications.



Career Action Steps

Use www.naviance.com or [Career Coach DC](#) to build a resume.

Explore career opportunities through <https://VirtualJobShadow.com> or <https://www.Naviance.com>.

Explore the Tenacity Professional Character Skills curriculum to prepare for upcoming interviews: <https://dcpscarrerready.org/tenacity/>

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