

College and Career Resources for SHS Seniors

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Contacting the College and Career Center

If you need help finalizing your plan to enter college, the military, short- or long-term training, or the workforce, contact Ms. Schick or your assigned school counselor.

Request Assistance Directly

You can sign up for a meeting with Ms. Schick here:

https://calendly.com/katie_schick

Or send her an email at:

Katie_schick@solancosd.org

You can contact your assigned school counselor by email at:

Patricia_mctaggart@solancosd.org

Kelly_shumaker@solancosd.org

Lindsay_capoferri@solancosd.org

Resources for College Bound Students

Applying to College

If you haven't applied, there is still time. Most State schools are rolling admissions, which means they accept applications through late spring or until all spots are filled. The following are on the

[Common App](#) - just fill out one application and apply to all:

- Millersville
- Kutztown
- Shippensburg
- West Chester
- California University of PA
- Edinboro

If you're looking to save money or want to get an Associate's degree, a community college is a great option. They accept applications year-round!

- [HACC](#)
- [Northampton](#)
- [Cecil](#)

Paying for College

Federal and State Aid

If you haven't already, you *need* to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is the #1 way you can receive FREE money from the federal government to attend college or training programs. Why is completing the FAFSA so important?

- 85% of students get financial aid of some kind
- Every year, millions of dollars go unclaimed because students don't know they can apply
- It keeps your options open, even if you don't think you want to go to college at the moment
- It also covers some short-term training programs like barber school, welding, real estate, and more!

****Unfortunately, if you are undocumented & DACAmented, you aren't eligible for federal aid.**

- If you are undocumented, you won't be able to file a FAFSA. However, **you can apply and attend college.**
- If you have DACA, only complete the FAFSA if your school **requires it** to give you institutional aid. File a paper application if possible.
- If only your parents are undocumented, **you can** file a FAFSA, and **you are eligible** for aid. You will have to mail in a signature page.
- If any of these apply to you, please reach out to one of us directly for additional resources.

Solanco has borrowed a resource from our friends at McCaskey who created a helpful PDF document to walk you through completing the FAFSA. Use the "[Recipe for FAFSA](#)" for step-by-step instructions. This document explains how to file the FAFSA with a computer, but you can complete your FAFSA on your phone! **Download** the **myStudentAid** app, available for [iphone](#) and [android](#). You can create your account and file your FAFSA all in one place. Remember a parent will still have to create an account in order to sign your FAFSA.

fsaid.ed.gov - the site where you make and manage your FAFSA username and password (one of your parent/guardians will need to make one too). Make sure to write your username and passwords down! You will need these to login and sign your FAFSA every year you're in school.
studentaid.gov - the Federal Student Aid website where you can file your FAFSA

Here are some links to understand what financial aid is and how to interpret it:

- [Federal Student Aid at a Glance](#)
- [Financial Literacy Guide to paying for College](#)
- [Federal Student Loan Basics](#)
- [*Video* Tips for comparing Financial Aid Award Letters](#)

Here are some additional resources to help you file the FAFSA:

- [2020-21 FAFSA Worksheet](#) / [Spanish Version](#) (a paper version that you can fill out before doing the real thing online)

- [*Video* Line by line FAFSA completion tutorial](#)
- [11 Common FAFSA filing mistakes](#)
- [FAFSA guide for parents](#)
- [Am I dependent or independent?](#) / [Spanish Version](#)
- [Who are my parents when it comes to filing the FAFSA?](#) / [Spanish Version](#)

PHEAA State Grant Update

PHEAA will make an announcement on March 23rd about whether the May 1st deadline for non-community college students is extended. Visit <https://www.pheaa.org/> for the most up-to-date information.

Scholarships

All Solanco scholarships are listed on Schoology. These include local, statewide, and national scholarship opportunities. For local scholarships, all seniors have been added to the Schoology course. Also see “[SHOW ME THE MONEY](#)” on the Guidance webpage (solancoguidance.weebly.com) for national scholarships that we track.

Please note that the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial scholarship deadline is extended until April 18th. The application is available at www.mlkjrfund.org.

Pennsylvania Colleges with Altered Deposit Deadlines

The following colleges now have a deposit deadline (June 1st unless otherwise noted)

- Arcadia College
- Albright College
- Alvernia University
- Cabrini College
- Chestnut Hill College
- Clarion University of Pennsylvania
- Dickinson College (May 15)
- Holy Family University
- Juniata College
- King’s College
- Lebanon Valley College
- Lock Haven University (May 15)
- Lycoming College
- Moravian College
- Point Park University
- Ursinus College
- Widener University
- York College of Pennsylvania

If you are planning to attend a college or university outside of PA, you can use this tool offered by NACAC to [search for your college](#) and get information on changing admission/deposit deadlines.

Updates on SAT, AP, IB, ACT Testing

SAT Testing

The May SAT is now cancelled and being replaced with a June SAT. All information is updated here: <https://pages.collegeboard.org/collegeboard-covid-19-updates>.

AP Exams

While no formal announcements have been made, College Board is planning for the possibilities of tests being completed at home or a non-school site. An announcement is forthcoming. All information is updated here: <https://pages.collegeboard.org/collegeboard-covid-19-updates>.

IB Exams

IB has made no formal announcement but expects to inform all students, teachers, and schools by March 27th of any IB alterations. Information is updated here: <https://www.ibo.org/news/news-about-the-ib/covid-19-coronavirus-updates/>.

ACT Exams

The April 4th ACT exam is rescheduled for June 13th. All information is updated here: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid-19.html>.

Resources for Workforce-Bound Students

Introduction

First off, you should be sure to reach out to the College and Career Center staff directly. Our team is regularly connecting with employers, short-term training programs, and workforce agencies. The rapid spread of COVID-19 is impacting the economy with a significant rise in unemployment. An economy that just weeks ago was thriving and in need of workers is now quickly closing businesses, especially restaurants and hospitality companies. Still other areas are demonstrating a new need, especially companies like Amazon that offer remote delivery. This makes for an interesting economic landscape to enter, and should factor into your career decisions. Reach out to the College and Career Center for additional advising and support by using the form here: [Request here](#).

Job Search Resources

[Resume Writing Guide](#) - created by the US Department of Labor, this page will take you step by step through crafting a resume with professional and relevant formatting and content

[PA Careerlink's Job Search Tool](#) - the best place to search for local jobs

[PA Careerlink - Let's Get to Work](#) - create an account, build a resume, explore careers, and apply for jobs and local training programs, all in one spot

[Jobs 4 Lancaster](#) - Specific supports offered by Careerlink right here in Lancaster

[Indeed](#): Find jobs in the local community

Resources for Short or Long Term Training Program Bound Students

Information on Short Term-Training Programs

Short term training programs range from a couple of weeks to months. Completing a short-term training will ensure that you enter the workforce with a better paying job... no minimum wage paying jobs for you!

Below are links to some of the popular programs here in Lancaster. If you are interested in any of these programs, please explore the programs website and reach out to someone from the College & Career Center directly for more information.

ABC Keystone is a local construction membership organization that offers registered apprenticeships in a variety of different building trades like plumbing, HVAC, and electrical. Through ABC Keystone, you earn while you learn, and your pay increases as you spend more time in the classroom and the field. Additional information is available at the ABC Keystone website here: <https://abckeystone.org/>. Ready to apply? You can find the application process details [by clicking here](#).

TEC Centro collaborates with area community colleges and training programs to provide the skill training that will lead to careers in high demand areas, including:

- CNA
- Dental Assistant
- Physician Office Assistant
- Culinary Arts
- Facilities and Maintenance
- ForkLift Certification
- Welding and Metal Casting

This link leads you to a list of their programs and allows you to sign up for their waitlists: <http://teccentro.sacapa.org/programs/>. There is a \$50 registration fee, but this is all you pay for the entire program!

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology is a premier residential, two-year, accredited technical college that educates Pennsylvania's students for skilled employment in a diverse, ever-changing workforce and for full effective participation as citizens. Aside from two-year programs, Stevens offers shorter training programs through their Skill-Up Fast program: <https://stevenscollege.edu/skillupfast/>

- Production Welding - 6 weeks
- Metal Casting - 3 weeks
- Facilities and Maintenance Technician - 24 weeks

Funding for these programs may be available through PA CareerLink. In order to be eligible, students should contact the Youth Program and ask for Charity Wenger or Devin Farley. Call (717) 509-5613 or visit www.jobs4lanaster.com.

Paying for Short or Long-Term Training Programs

If you plan to complete training of more than 15 weeks, you may be eligible for federal funding for these programs. This requires the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It's a vital step that gives you access to money to pay for your training.

School District of Lancaster has created a resource to walk you through completing the FAFSA. Use the "[Recipe for FAFSA](#)" for step-by-step instructions. This document explains how to file the FAFSA with a computer, but you can complete your FAFSA on your phone! **Download** the **myStudentAid** app, available for [iphone](#) and [android](#). You can create your account and file your FAFSA all in one place. Remember a parent will still have to create an account in order to sign your FAFSA.

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Resources for Military Bound Students

Exploring Your Military Options

Talk with a Recruiter

You will want to meet with local recruiters to determine what branch of military is the best fit for you. Recruiters should still be available during the COVID-19 shutdown.

The Army is the main ground force and largest branch of the military. The Army's job is to control and fight on land using land troops, tanks, and artillery.

- **Army Recruiter:** Sgt. Ayala osvaldo.ayala2.mil@mail.mil
- **Army National Guard Recruiter:** Sgt. Miller jason.r.miller9.mil@mail.mil

The Air Force is the part of the military that fights using aircraft including fighter planes and bombers. It's also responsible for military satellites in space.

- **Air Force Recruiter:** TSgt. Burns kevin.burns.6@us.af.mil

The Navy fights in the oceans and the seas throughout the world.

- **Navy Recruiter:** The local Navy recruitment office is located at: 896C PLAZA BLVD, LANCASTER, PA 17601. You can contact the office by calling (717) 299-5600.

The Marines are the main landing force for the military. The Marines work closely with the Navy in attacking and establishing "beachheads" during war. The Marines are often some of the first soldiers to enter combat.

- **USMC Recruiter:** Staff Sgt. Kenneth Wallace kenneth.wallace@marines.usmc.mil

The Coast Guard is separate from the other branches as it is part of the Department of Homeland Security. The Coast Guard is the smallest of the military branches. It monitors the U.S. Coastline and enforces border laws as well as helps with ocean rescues. The Coast Guard can become part of the Navy during times of war.

- **Coast Guard Recruiter:** The closest recruiting center is in Philadelphia. You can contact that office by emailing HQS-SMB-CGRC-ROPHILADELPHIA@uscg.mil.

Contract Types

There are a few different types of military service with varying levels of time commitment:

- **Active:** Active military report directly to the federal government and work full time. Service members are on 2-6 year contracts, depending on the service unit. Active military members live on a military base.
- **Reserve:** Reserve military members report directly to the federal government and work part time. This service is typically one weekend a month and 2 weeks a year. Service members are on 2-6 year contracts, depending on the service unit. Reserve members have other full time jobs in addition to reserve service.

- **National Guard:** National Guard members report to the state government and work part time. This service is typically one weekend a month and 2 weeks a year. Service members are on 2-6 year contracts, depending on the service unit. National Guard members have other full time jobs in addition to reserve service.

Educational Benefits

The GI BILL provides educational assistance to service members, veterans, and dependents. <https://www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool> Use this tool to learn about the different educational programs you could be eligible for once you are enlisted and compare benefits by school or training program.

Army National Guard & Air Force National Guard

Education Assistance Program (EAP) through PHEAA

Covers tuition & technology fee to approved schools in PA

Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in college

Can receive scholarships that cover tuition & some room & board

Graduate as a military officer

8 year service commitment after graduating as an officer

3-4 years active & 4-5 years inactive ready reserve

Army Simultaneous Membership Program:

Those already serving in Army Reserves or National Guard can join an Army ROTC program & earn both pay & benefits in addition to the ROTC allowance

Community College of the Air Force

All Air Force members are automatically enrolled and begin earning credits towards an associate degree in the following five career areas:

Aircraft and Missile Maintenance

Electronics and Telecommunications

Allied Health

Logistics and Resources

Public and Support Service

ASVAB Testing

Completing the ASVAB is an important step to qualifying for military enlistment. The ASVAB is a standardized test that measures your academic ability and interests. Your score determines what jobs are available to you within the military. You must score at least a 31 to enlist, the minimum scores by branch are listed below. You will need to work with your local recruiter to schedule an ASVAB test.

MILITARY BRANCH	MIN. SCORE
Air Force	36
Army	31
Coast Guard	40
Marine Corps	32
Navy	35

Finalizing Enlistment

Once you've spoken to recruiters and learned about all your different options, benefits, and responsibilities you will finish the enlistment process at the **Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS)**.

- You will take the ASVAB here if you haven't already
- You will have to pass a physical examination
- You will meet with a career counselor to determine your job placement. This will depend on a variety of things: your score on the ASVAB, job availability, physical requirements, and needs of the branch.
- Once your career is chosen, you'll take the Oath of Enlistment
- You'll get your shipping date for Basic Training