



EMPOWERING EDUCATION



Use our helpful step-by-step roadmap and checklist to make sure you're taking all the steps you need to succeed. As you complete items, check them off your list!

CHOOSE A SCHOOL

DO YOUR RESEARCH BEFORE CHOOSING A SCHOOL:

- Visit the websites of your chosen schools.
- Take a virtual tour of schools when available on their website.
- Make sure your school is accredited. What does that mean and why?
 - It's important to go to an accredited school so that you can receive financial aid, transfer credits if you need to, and obtain a good job.
 - Search for accredited schools here: www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/Zkc
- Schedule a campus visit.
 - Call the admissions office for each school and make an appointment with an admissions counselor. Tell them about your situation and desired career path.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO MAKE SMART DECISIONS

How to work and go to school at the same time:
www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/ZkG

How to find a community college near you and what programs it offers:
www.communitycollegefinder.cmtempoweringeducation.com

Many schools offer online courses in addition to courses on campus. Ask the schools you are considering if they offer them. You can also use this directory to see schools that offer online courses:
www.onlineschoolsdirectory.cmtempoweringeducation.com

TAKE THE TESTS

DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS HAVE DIFFERENT REQUIREMENTS:

- If you **do not** have a high school degree, you will need to take one of the three high school equivalency tests: the GED, the HiSET or the TASC. Find out which test is offered in your state. →
- If you **do** have a high school degree or have taken a high school equivalency test, you need to call the admissions offices of the schools you are applying to and find out answers to the following questions:
 - Find more information on the SAT here:
www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/ZkN
 - Find more information on the ACT here:
www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/Zkx
- If you have prior college credits, find out if you can transfer them and how to do it.
- Find out if you can earn credit for prior professional experience, on the job training, or prior course work.
www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/ZkM
- If you have served in the military, find out if your service will could count towards college credit.



CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES TO HELP YOU EARN CREDIT FOR YOUR MILITARY EXPERIENCE:

ACE Military Program:

www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/ZkQ

CLEP for Military:

www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/ZkA

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES REGARDING REQUIRED TESTS

ABOUT THE GED

Where the GED is offered:

www.ged.cmtempoweringeducation.com

Basic Overview:

www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/gedabout

Take a practice GED test for free here:

www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/ZkY

Once you're ready, you will need to take the test in person at an approved testing center. Find the nearest GED testing center here:

www.ged.cmtempoweringeducation.com

ABOUT THE HiSET

Where the HiSET is offered:

www.hisetrequirements.cmtempoweringeducation.com

Basic Overview:

www.hisetoverview.cmtempoweringeducation.com

Take a practice HiSet test for free here:

www.hisetpreparation.cmtempoweringeducation.com

Once you're ready, you will need to take the test in person at an approved testing center. Find the nearest HiSET testing center here:

www.hisettestlocations.cmtempoweringeducation.com

ABOUT THE TASC

Where the TASC is offered:

www.tascstateapproval.cmtempoweringeducation.com

Basic Overview:

www.tascoverview.cmtempoweringeducation.com

Take a practice TASC test for free here:

www.tascprep.cmtempoweringeducation.com

Once you're ready, you will need to take the test in person at an approved testing center. Find the nearest TASC testing center here:

www.tascstestlocations.cmtempoweringeducation.com

ENROLL IN SCHOOL

BE THOUGHTFUL AND THOROUGH WHEN APPLYING:

- Find out required information and documents you will need on school websites or from an admissions counselor.
- If you have a high school degree, call your high school's counselor and ask them to send a copy of your transcript to the schools where you want to apply.
- If you have passed a high school equivalency test, such as the GED, HiSET or the TASC request a copy of your transcript. →
- Request an application from each school you are applying to. Don't let any fees stand in your way. Find out how to apply for waivers. →
- Find the application deadlines and stick to them!
- Fill out the applications completely.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it! Talk with a friend, family member or counselor.
- Make copies of your application and all other documents for your records.
- Submit your completed application and application fee prior to deadline.
- Set a reminder to call the school's admissions office one week after you send your application in to confirm that they received it.

HELPFUL APPLICATION LINKS

Request a copy of your GED transcript:
www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/Zkg

Request a copy of your HiSET transcript:
www.hisettranscriptrequest.cmtempoweringeducation.com

Request a copy of your TASC transcript by calling your testing location:
www.tasctestlocations.cmtempoweringeducation.com

APPLY FOR WAIVERS TO COVER THE FOLLOWING FEES:

College Application Fee Waivers:
www.applicationfeeswaived.cmtempoweringeducation.com

College Application Fee Waiver (for students currently in high school):
www.applicationfeewaiverforstudents.cmtempoweringeducation.com

Transfer Application Fee Waiver (for students currently in college wanting to transfer to another school):
www.transferapplicationfeewaiver.cmtempoweringeducation.com

SAT Fee Waiver:
www.satfeewaivers.cmtempoweringeducation.com

ACT Fee Waiver:
www.actfeewaivers.cmtempoweringeducation.com

PAY FOR SCHOOL

School is more within reach than you might think. 79% of all college students in 2014 received some form of financial aid. For full time students, this was closer to 86%*. Follow the steps in your plan to make sure you get the aid that you are eligible for and tap all of the resources available to you.

- Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/Zks
- Learn about the different types of aid.
www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/Zkm
- Go to the school's website or call the financial aid office to help you determine how much your school is going to cost and for recommendations on grants and scholarships.
- Don't forget to consider costs for books & fees in addition to your normal living expenses.
- Create a budget to see how much you will need to cover school and life expenses.
www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/Zk8
- Beware of scams and NEVER pay for scholarship information.
- Do research and be careful about private student loans.
www.studentloanfaq.cmtempoweringeducation.com
- Meet the deadline to accept your admission and send your deposit.

*According to the National Center for Education Statistics

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BALANCE YOUR LIFE

JUGGLING LIFE AND SCHOOL IS A DELICATE BALANCE. DON'T FORGET:

- Your journey is just beginning. If you get frustrated or feel overwhelmed don't quit! Lean on your support system, use your career counselors and tutors, and keep faith that you can reach your goal.
- Find as many people as you can to be your support system and ask them to be there when you need help. Their support can take many forms, from giving encouragement when you are frustrated to helping you study.
- Connect with others who are pursuing their education and support each other.
- Plan out your weekly schedule and stick to it. Make sure to carve out time for classes and homework.
- Cheer each other on, and share stories and advice on www.facebook.com/CMTEmpoweringEducation



YOU CAN FIND AFFORDABLE CARETAKERS FOR YOUR CHILDREN OR ADULTS IN YOUR CARE. HERE'S WHERE TO START:

Find out if your school provides childcare.

Find out if area churches or community centers provide childcare.

Find a local YMCA for affordable childcare:

www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/Zk7

Find a local Boys & Girls Club for affordable childcare:

www.bgcachildcare.cmtempoweringeducation.com

If you are a caretaker for aging adults or family members with disabilities, contact your local Office of Aging and Disability to connect you to resources in your area:

www.cmtempoweringeducation.com/Zkh

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