

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

Freshman/Sophomore Year

- ☐ Select courses with guidance counselors
- ☐ Focus on extracurricular activities
- ☐ Track volunteer hours
- ☐ Research PSAT options
- ☐ Research summer activities and enrichment

Junior Year

- ☐ Select courses carefully with guidance counselors.
Be sure to share your gold star status with your high school.
- ☐ Continue extracurricular activities
- ☐ Track volunteer hours
- ☐ Attend college fairs
- ☐ Take PSATs
- ☐ Create college list and visit schedule
- ☐ Visit colleges
- ☐ Research scholarships, grants especially those specific to gold star students
- ☐ Ask for teacher recommendations
- ☐ Preview Common Application (opens August 1)
- ☐ Schedule SATs/ACTs
- ☐ If you turn 18, contact the VA at least 3 months prior to birthday
- ☐ Reach out to Tragedy Assistance Program (TAPS), specifically their education department
- ☐ Ensure you have letter from the VA stating you are eligible for VA benefits

Senior Year

- ☐ Continue extracurricular activities
- ☐ Track volunteer hours
- ☐ Attend college fairs
- ☐ Connect with TAPS
- ☐ Apply to colleges (August-December)
- ☐ Fill out FAFSA form (as of 2024-2025 opens December)
- ☐ Take final standardization tests
- ☐ Make final decision and notify school
- ☐ Apply for VA Education Benefits (May)
- ☐ Connect with the school VA office, school certifying official (May)

Summer After Senior Year

- ☐ Certificate of eligibility (COE) will arrive in 4-8 weeks from time of application
- ☐ Bring certificate to school certifying official
- ☐ School certifying official can certify student as soon as the student is enrolled if they have COE

HONOR THE SACRIFICE
OF MASSACHUSETTS
FALLEN HEROES

MSLF MISSION

The Massachusetts Soldiers Legacy Fund (MSLF) was founded in 2004 with a simple goal: to provide educational assistance grants to the children of Massachusetts Servicemembers who were killed while deployed on Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

The MSLF has raised over \$4.5 Million and will continue to enhance the educational pursuits of its 54 families and 89 children. If an individual is a child of a Servicemember, whose service is credited to Massachusetts and gave their life in the Global Support of Terror, he/she qualifies.

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