

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 PSAT
- Create college list and visit schedule
- Visit colleges
- Ask for teacher recommendations
- Preview Common Application (opens August 1)
- Schedule SAT/ACT
- If you turn 18, contact the VA at least 3 months prior to your birthday
- Reach out to Tragedy Assistance Program (TAPS), specially their education department
- Ensure you have a letter from the VA stating that 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 (October)
- 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)
- Contact the VA 3 months prior to your 18th birthday
- Enjoy this final year of school, have fun!

Summer After Senior Year

- Certificate of eligibility (COE) will arrive in 4-8 weeks from time of application
- Bring certificate to school certifying official
- A school certifying official can certify the student as soon as he or she is enrolled and if they have a 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 died in the War Against Terrorism. We are proud to report that we are accomplishing our founding objective thanks to the support of individuals and organizations throughout the United States.

The MSLF has raised over \$4.5 million and will continue to enhance the educational pursuits of its 52 families and 86 children. If an individual is a child of a Servicemember, whose service is credited to Massachusetts and who gave their life in support to the Global War on Terror, he/she qualifies.

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