Lunchtime College Workshop for Juniors

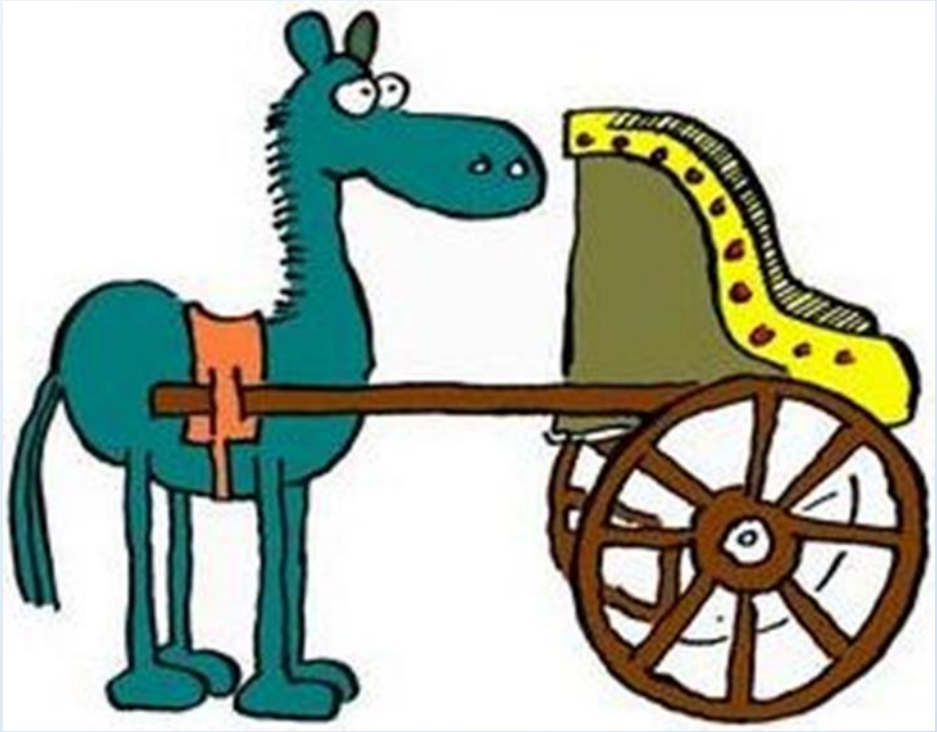
The College List, Demonstrated Interest and Application Info

Presented by Linda Dowley,
College Information Specialist, LJHS

Creating your college list – why is it so important?

- It is the starting point!
- You can have the best essay and highest GPA and sharpest application in the world, but if you have chosen to apply to schools which are not a good fit for you, you won't be happy!

How can you research schools if you don't know what you want from college?



What are my goals?

- Do you have a specific job/career goal?
- I've always wanted to be a doctor/lawyer/architect/fashion designer/civil engineer/graphic artist/hedge fund manager…
- How will college help me achieve my goals?
- Through course of study, internships, research opportunities
- Is graduate school part of your plan?
- Important to plan ahead for appropriate academic offerings, professor connections, finances (grad school is expensive, too).

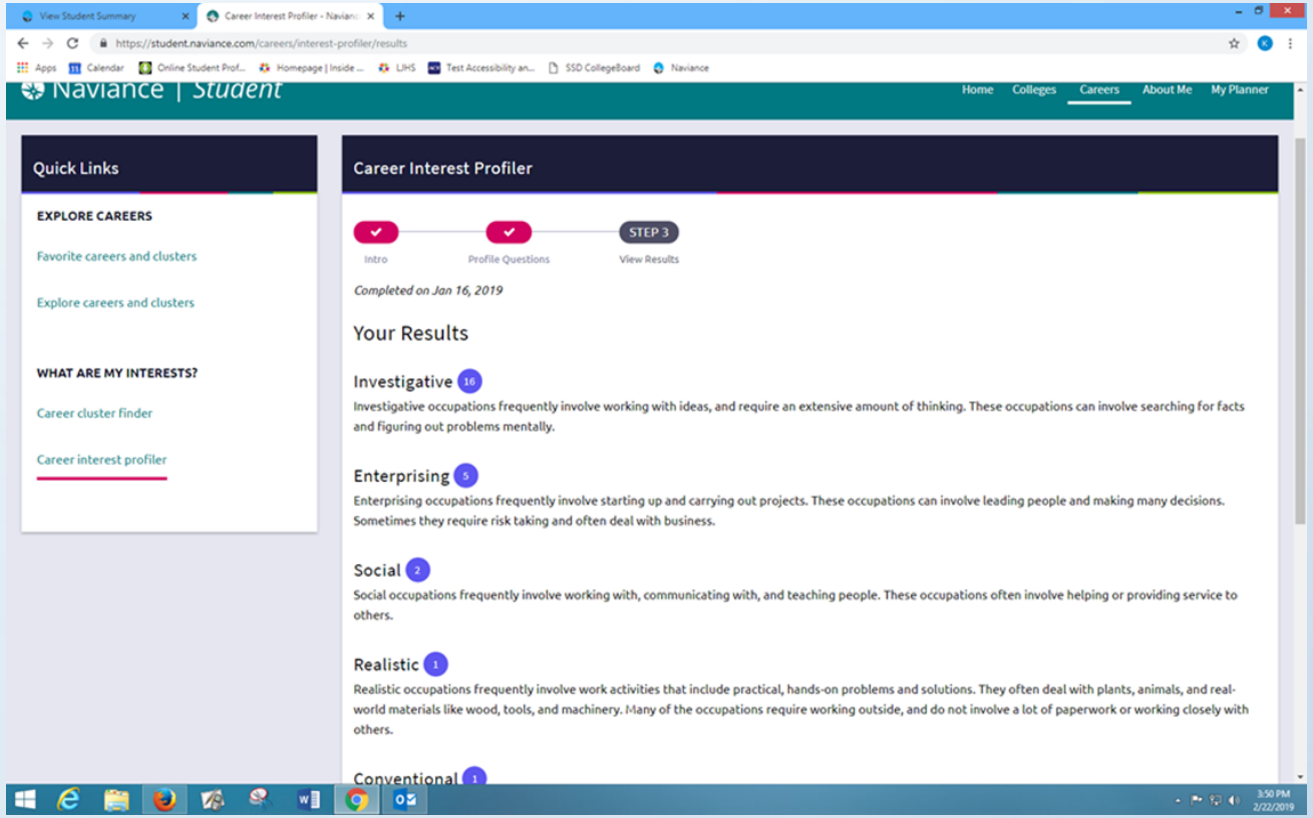
- Remember: college is not vocational school, but you do want to be employable (or be qualified for grad school) upon graduation…

What do you want to study?

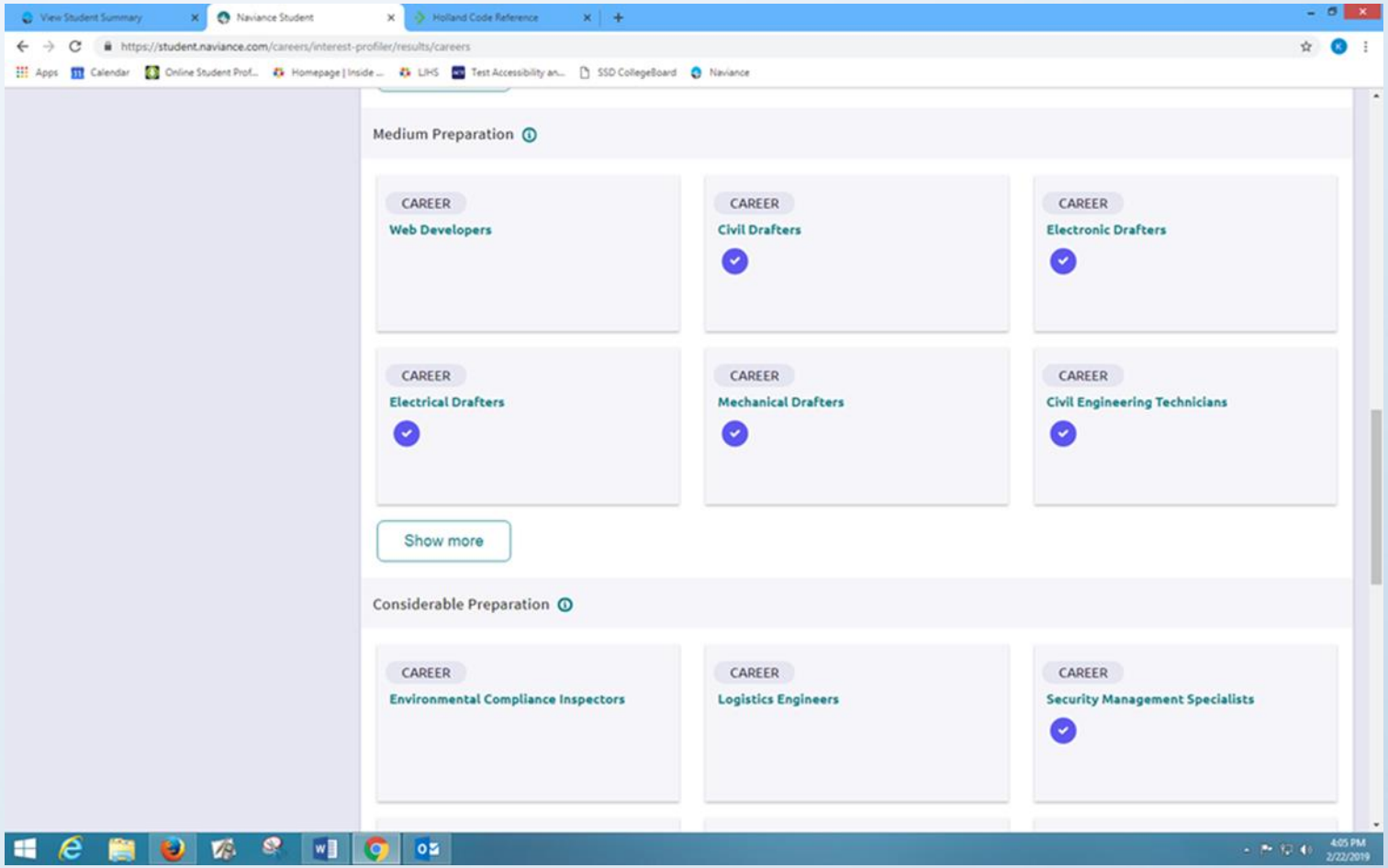
- Do you have an idea of your desired major or field of study?
- Do the schools on your list offer this as a major?
- The "liberal arts" include the sciences – although not always engineering.
- How difficult is it to change majors at your schools?
- It is okay to be undecided!

What do I want to do with my life??

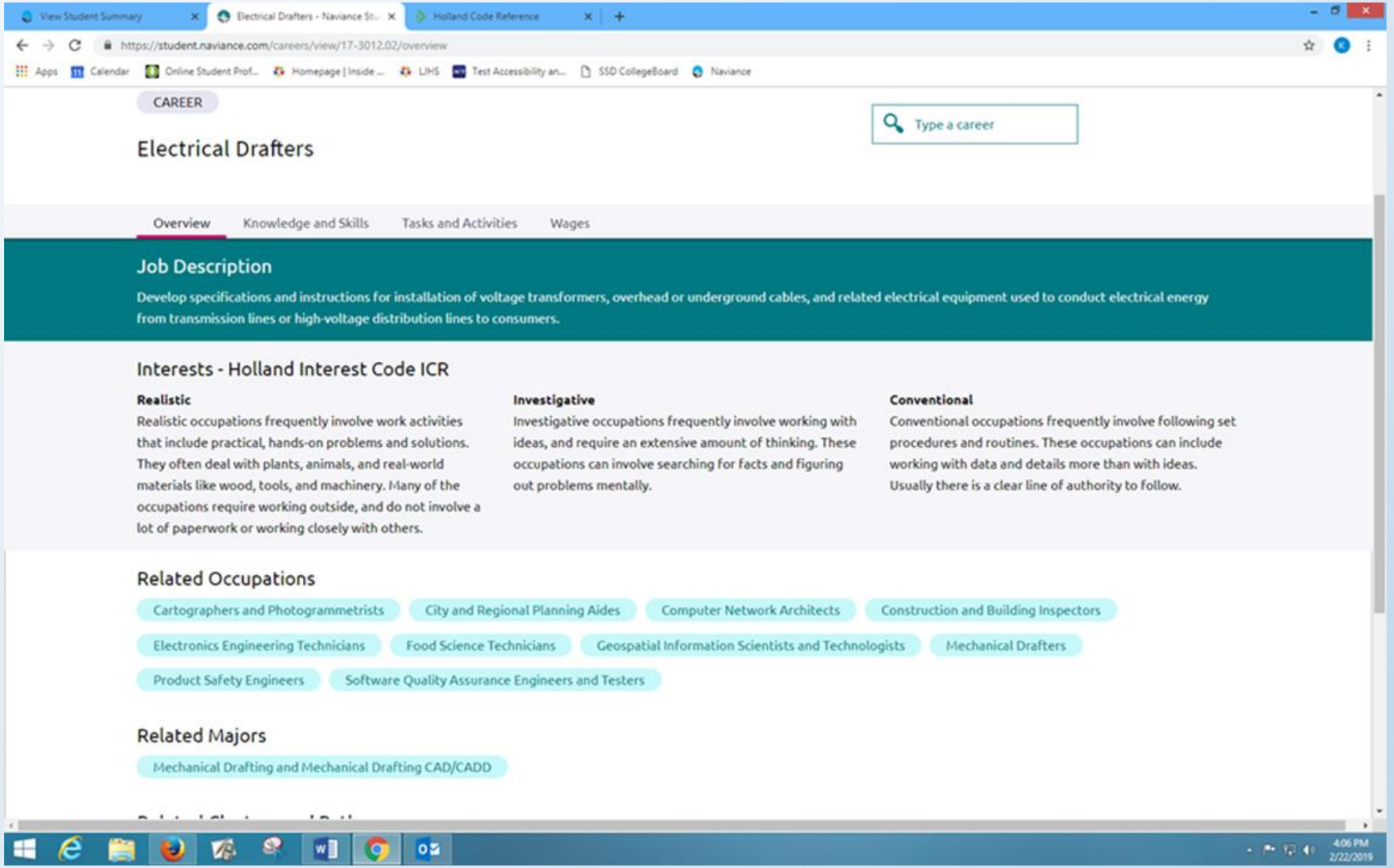
- Start with Naviance – look at the Careers tab and take interest surveys (you should have already done this):



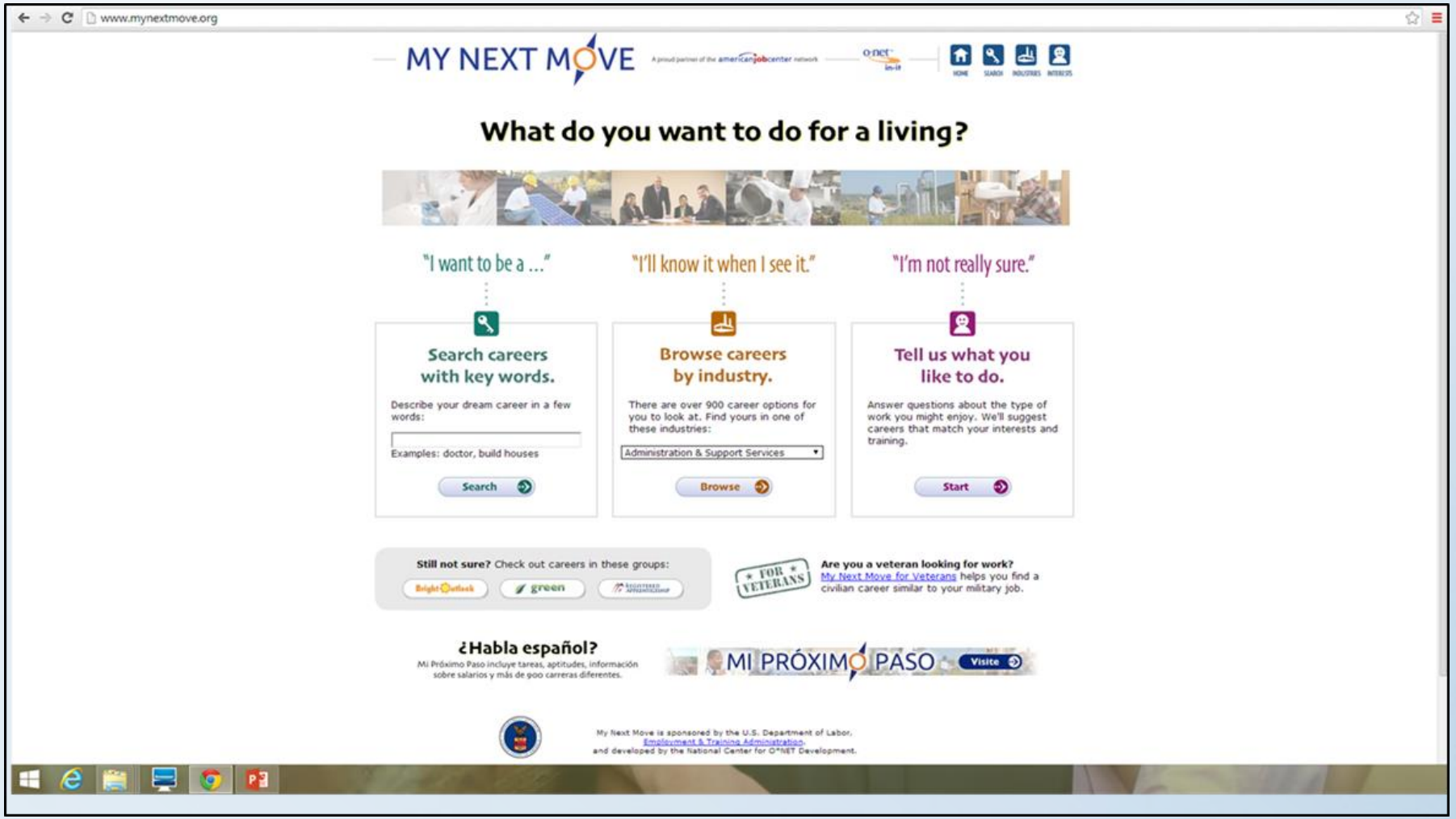
Careers that match your interests:



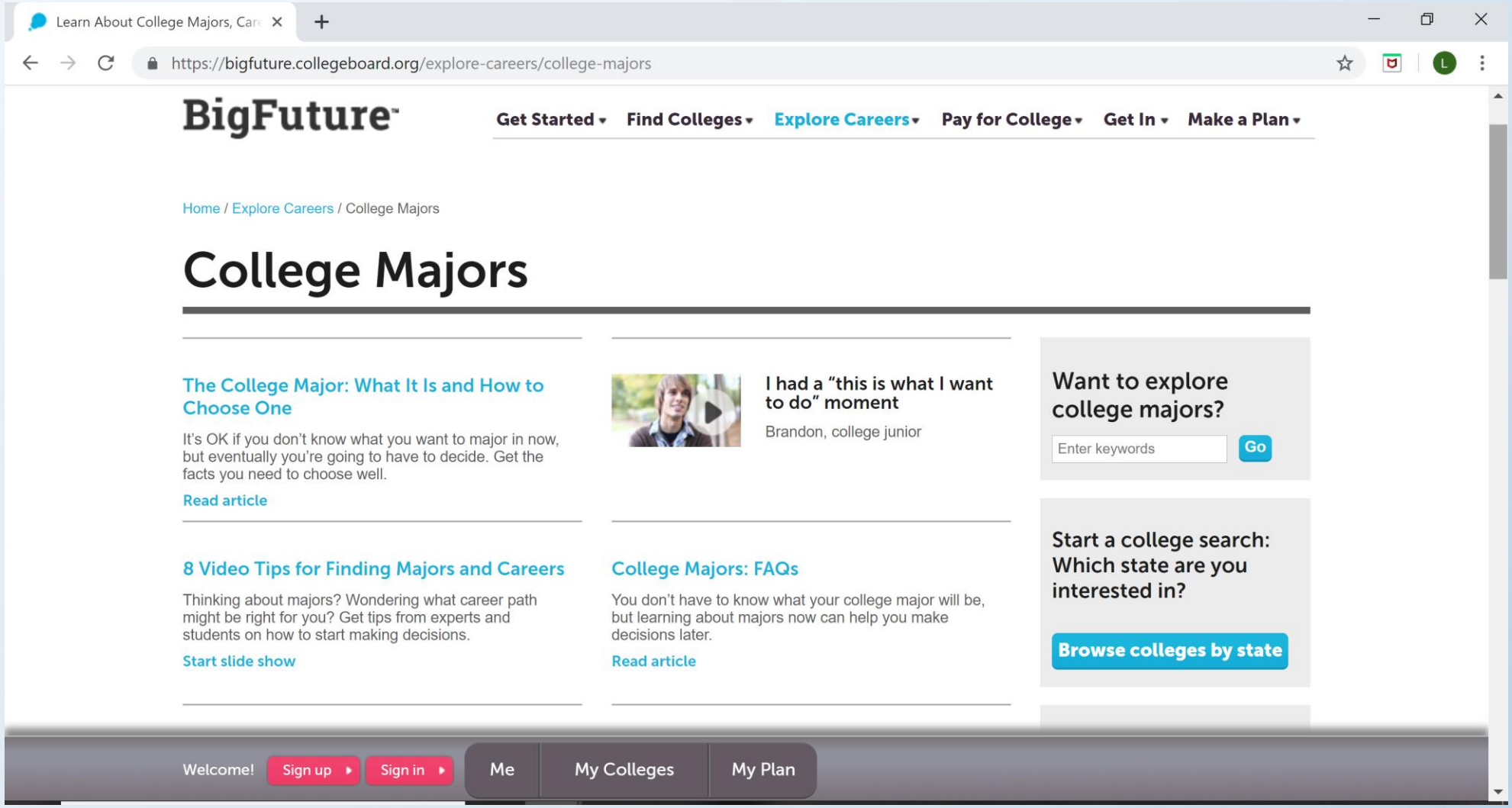
Get more information on any career that sounds interesting:



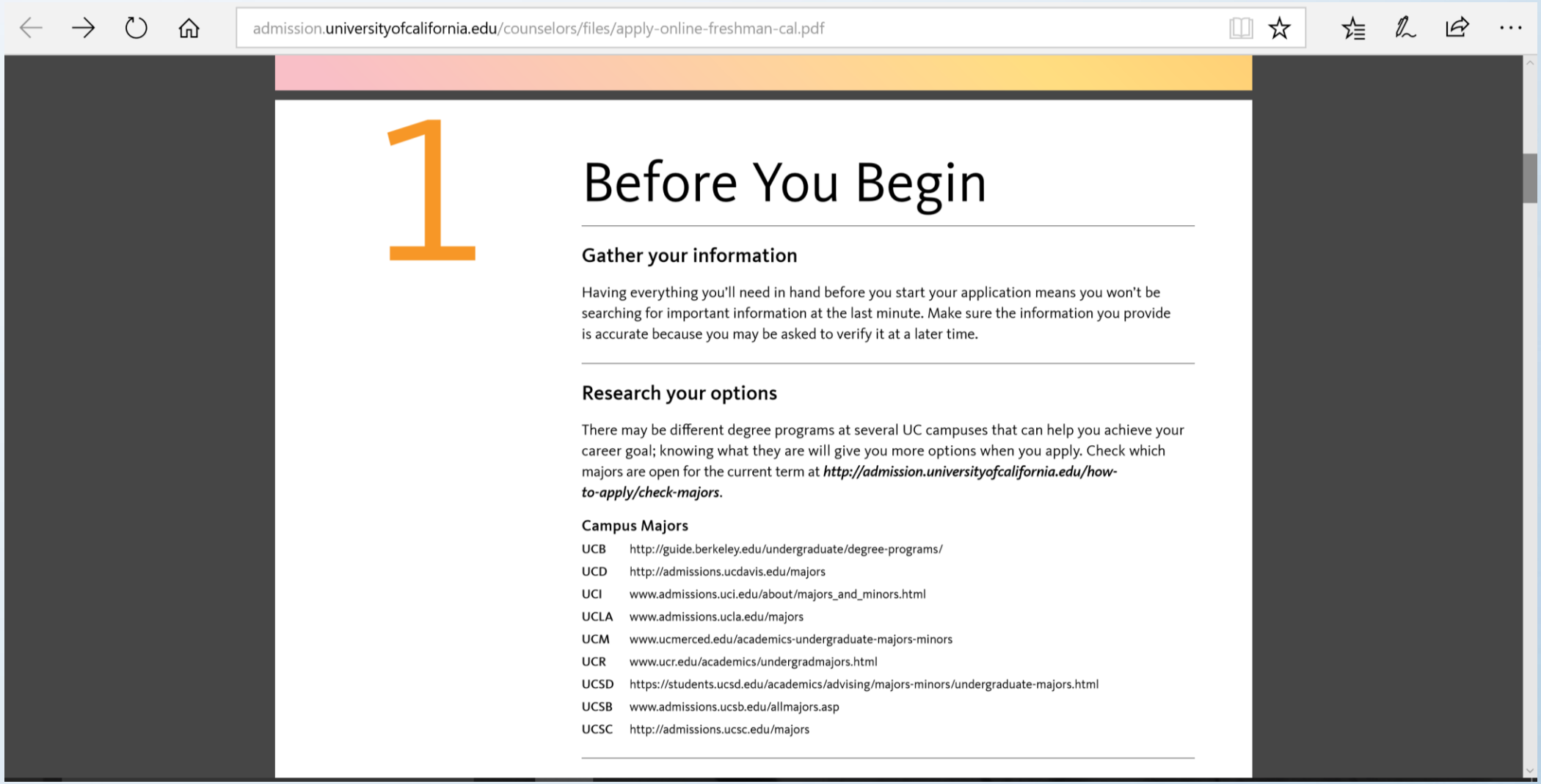
More career/interest information: www.onetonline.org – US Dept. of Labor



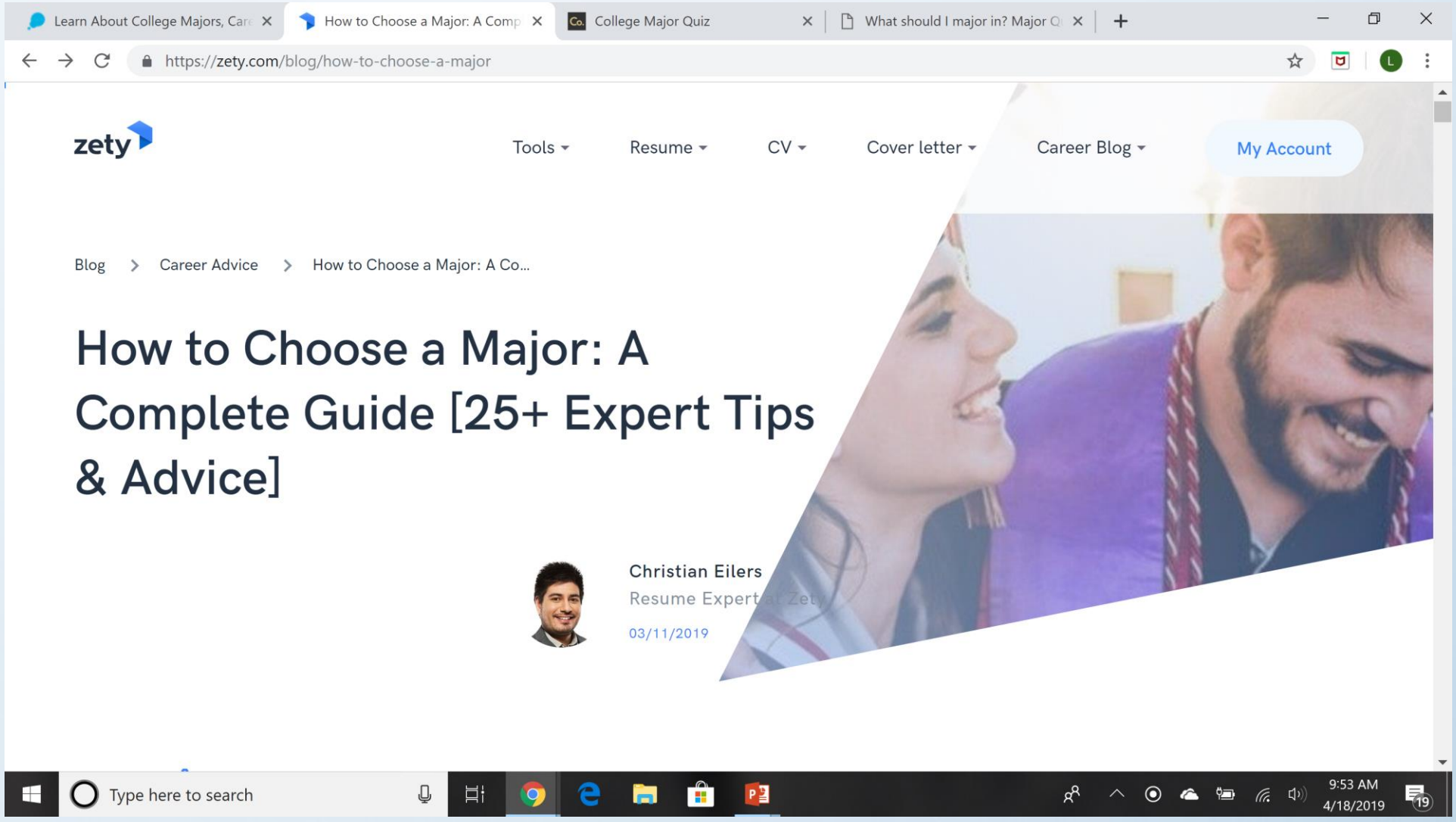
Think about what majors lead to which careers:



Research majors at various campuses:



Google things!



More research advice on majors:

- Research what majors are offered at specific colleges – often found under "Academics" or "Degrees Offered".
- Sometimes you need to indicate your major on your application. Research what that means for your school. Example: At Cal Poly SLO, you actually declare your major when you apply and it is difficult to change to a different major. At other schools, specific majors (or colleges, such as engineering) might require a supplemental application.
- See if a major is available to freshmen. Examples: At UC Berkeley, freshmen cannot apply directly into the Haas School of Business – select the College of Letters and Science with an undeclared or pre-business major (for either option your application will be reviewed in the same way); At UC Los Angeles, freshmen cannot apply directly to the Film/Television major--select the College of Letters and Science with an undeclared.
- If a campus is unable to offer you a place in your first-choice major, they may consider you for an alternate major—be sure the alternate major is in a subject area that you really want to study.

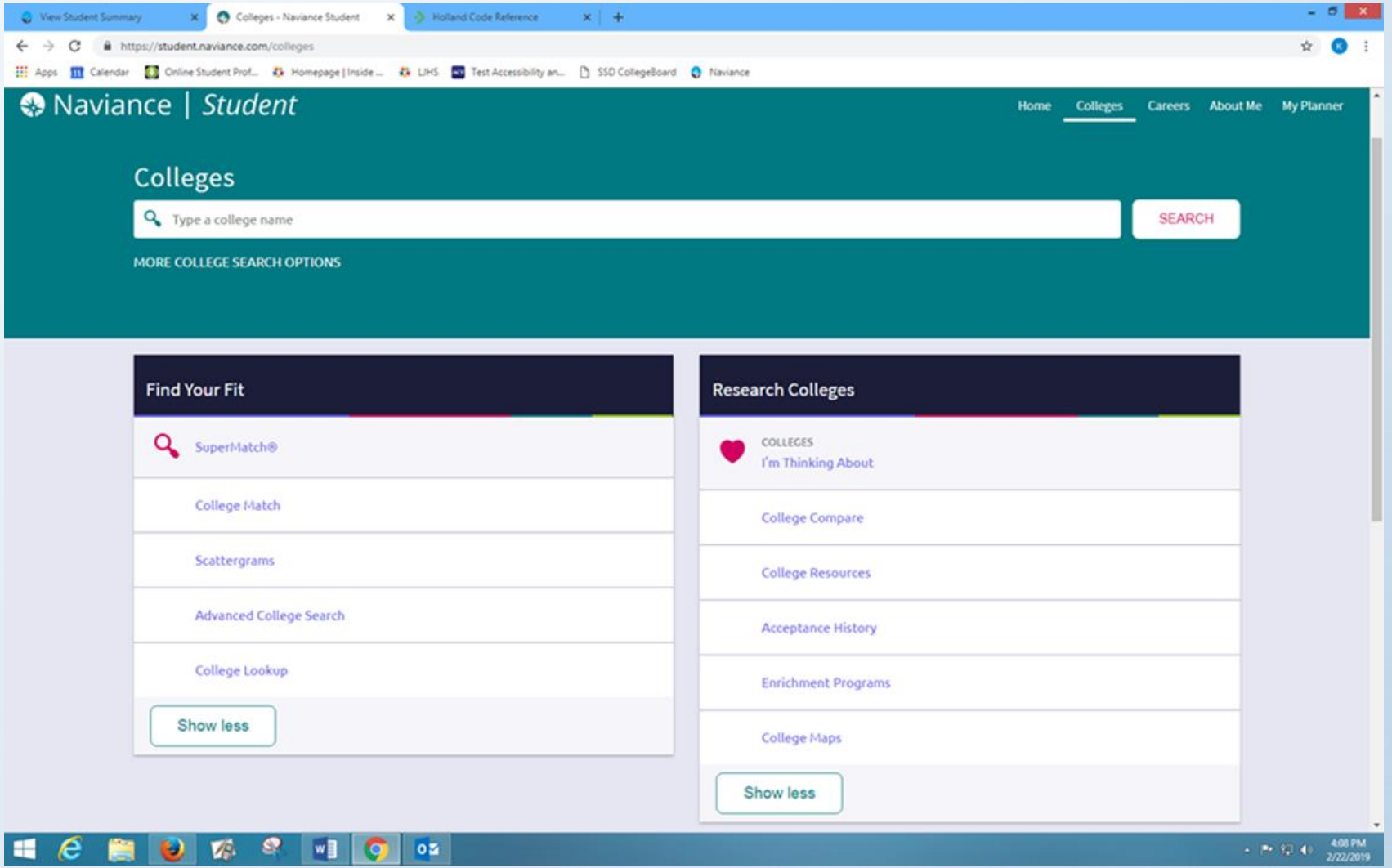
Learn your college priorities!

- Where do I want to study – what part of the country?
- What size school – big? Small?
- In a city or in a small town/suburb or somewhere rural?
- Campus appeal?
- How do I learn best? Is it important to be in a small classroom?
- Is it important to be taught by a professor?
- Cost of attending – including financial aid (use calculator tools).

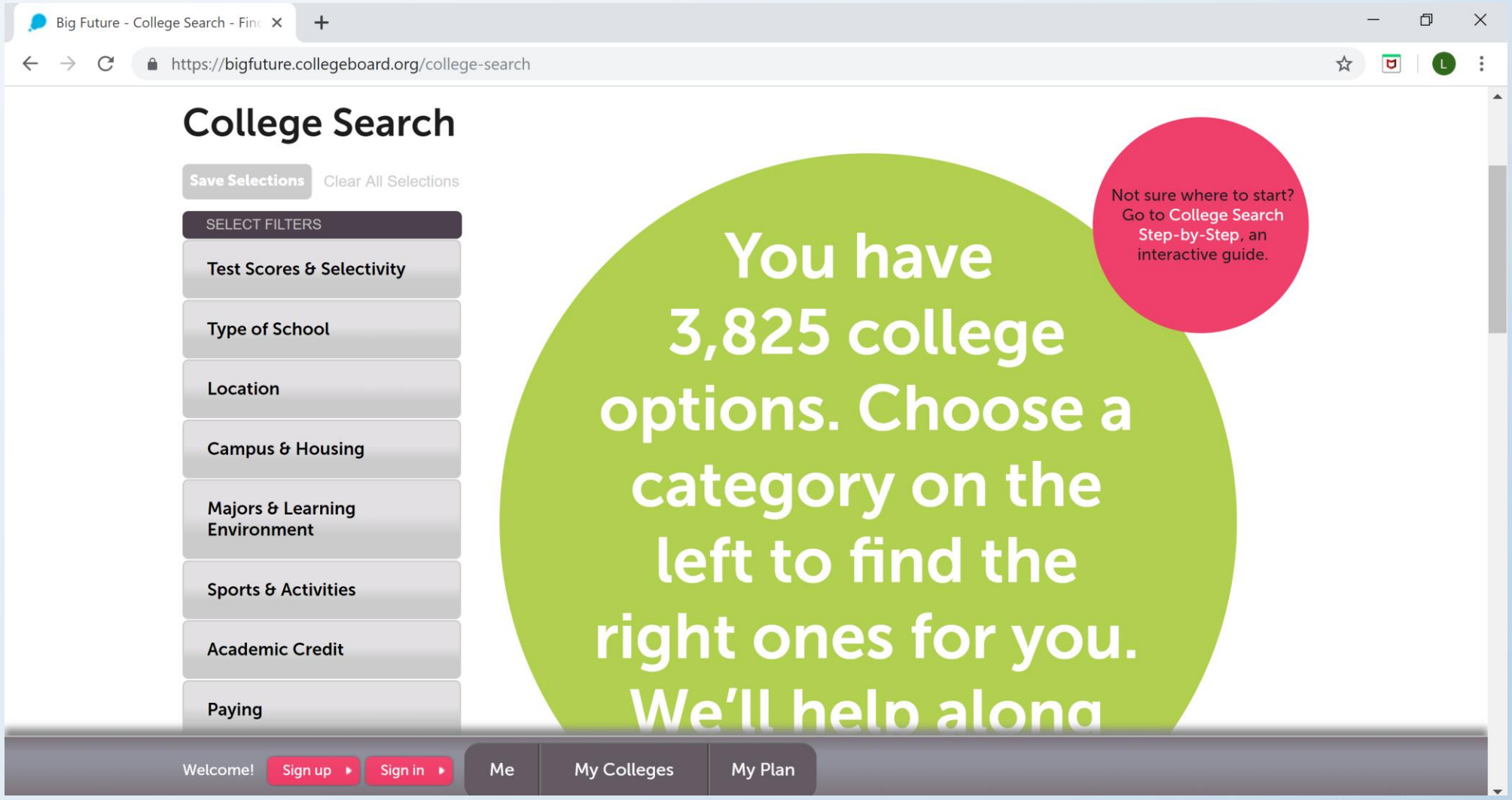
Some great search sites!

- **College Board** www.collegeboard.org
- **College Data** www.collegedata.com
- **College Navigator** www.collegenavigator.gov
- **Cappex** www.cappex.com
- **FinAid** www.finaid.org
- **Common Data Set** www.commondataset.org
- **The College Solution** www.thecollegesolution.com
- **Do It Yourself College Rankings** diycollegerankings.com

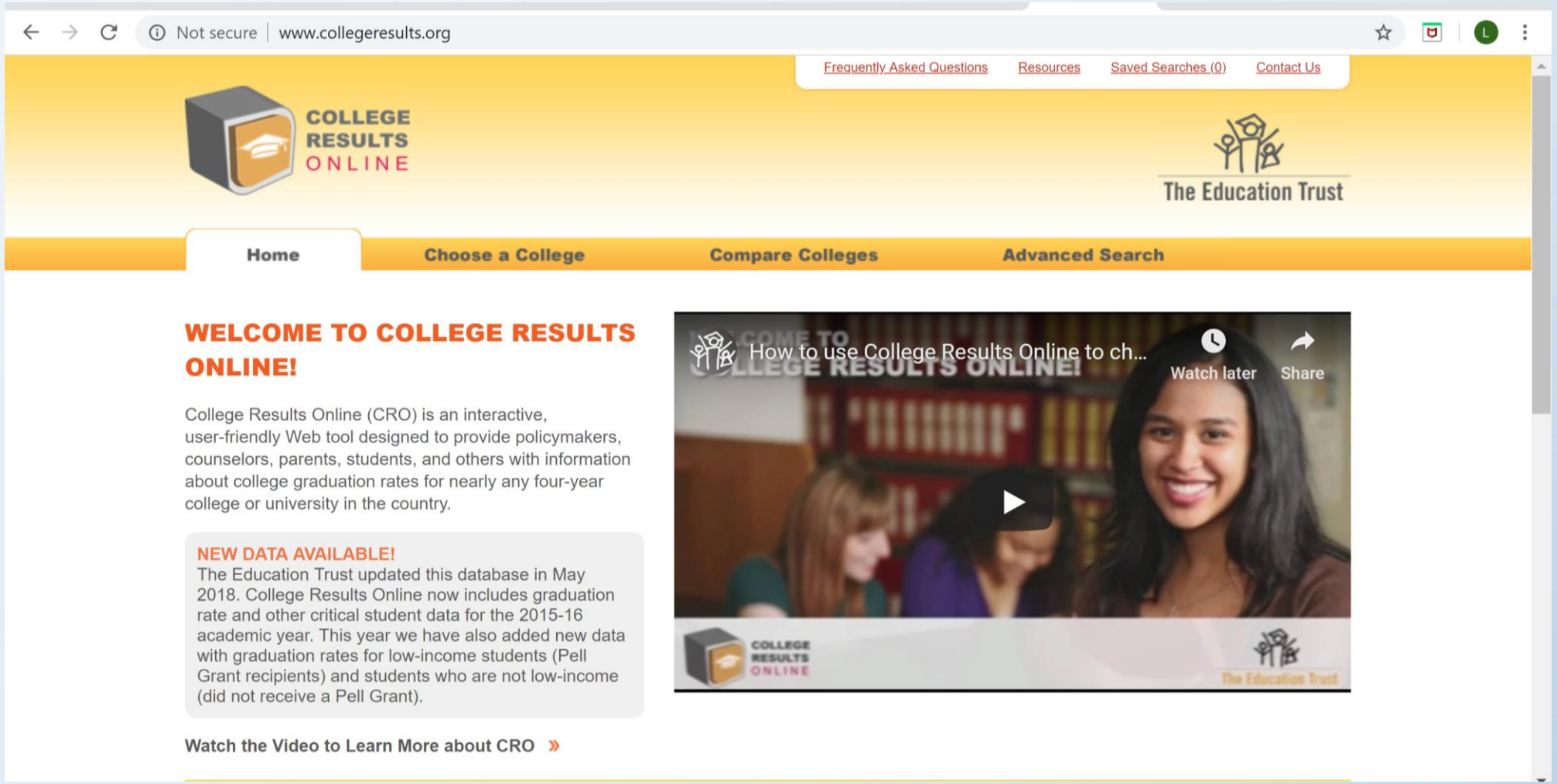
Use Naviance to search for colleges!



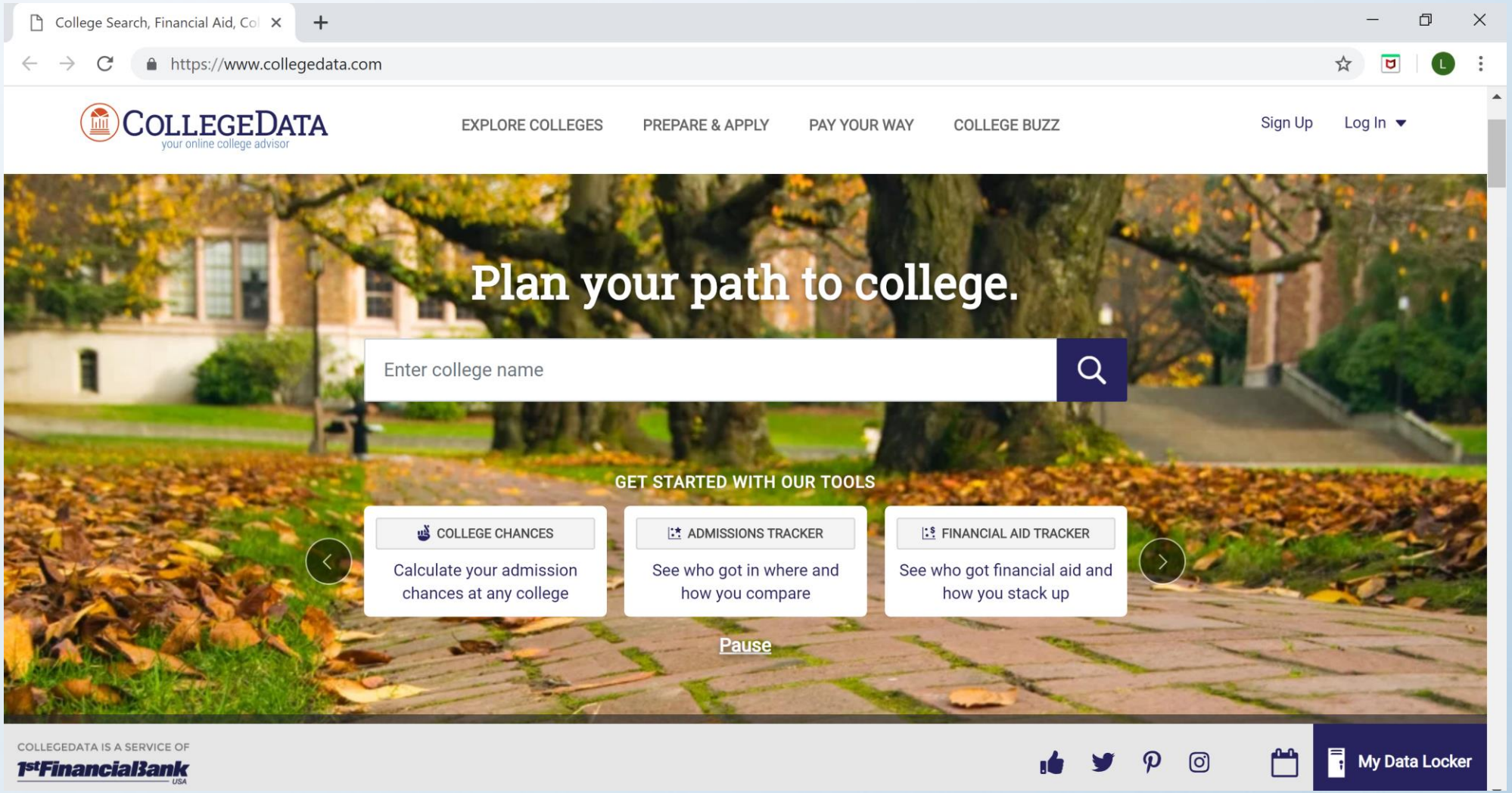
College Board (Big Future) – College Search Tool



So many helpful websites! College Results – www.collegeresults.org



Another great resource: College Data - www.collegedata.com

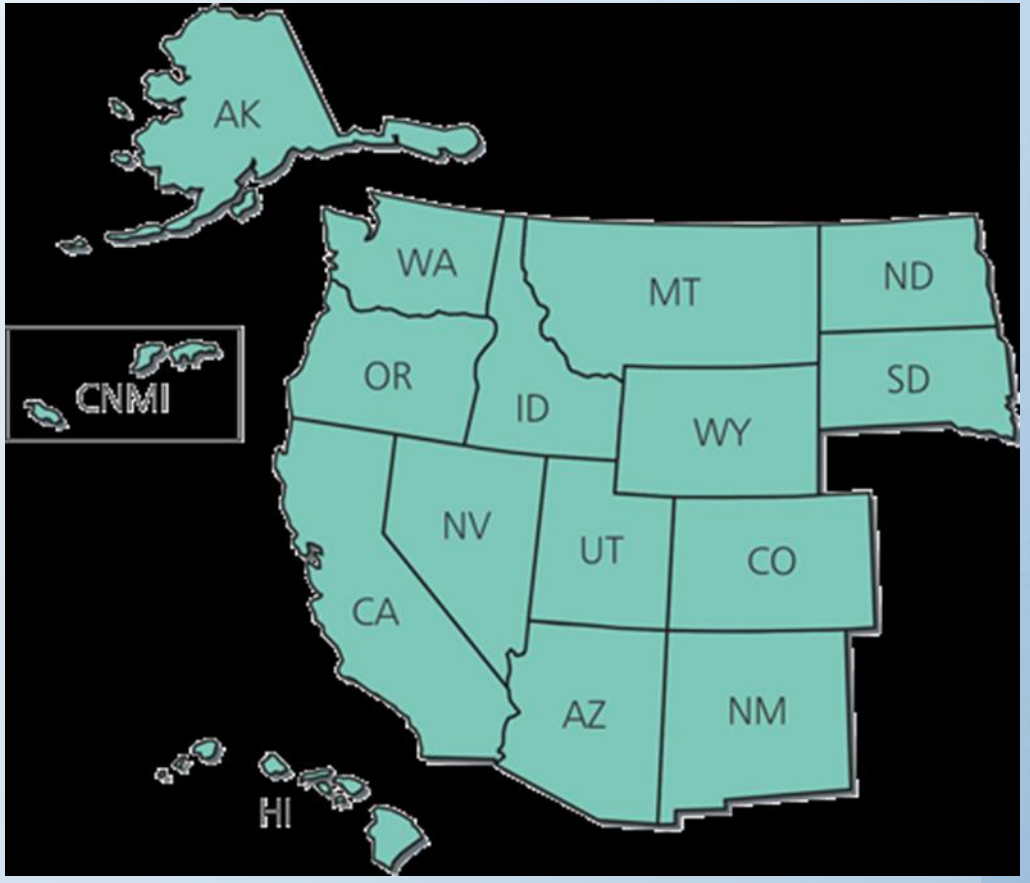


Pay attention to these during your search:

- Cost of attendance and the amount of aid offered
- Four-year/six-year graduation rates
- Freshman Retention rate
- Increases in tuition (look at last few years)
- Admissions timelines offered (EA, ED, Rolling)

Public & Out of State – Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

- It is a scholarship program at many public schools in the western United States – not all schools and not all majors are eligible.
- Allows for reduced tuition
- Can be a great deal, so research
- www.wiche.edu/wue



Demonstrate your interest!
Don't be a stealth or ghost applicant!

- Demonstrate your interest to schools!
- Visit the campus (sign up for a tour and info session)
- Follow your schools of interest on social media
- Sign up on the schools' websites to receive information
- Attend LJHS college visits (up to 5) – introduce yourself and come prepared with good questions
- Reach out to the area/regional representative with questions, request an interview or to just introduce yourself!

Most Important Take-aways:

- Don't fall in love with just one school!
- You should be excited to attend any of the schools on your list.
- Apply to at least one of your "safety" schools early – via rolling admission or EA (you'll have one "yes!" in your pocket early)!
- The UC admission are brutal – no matter how strong a student you are, it can be a roll of the dice!
- Ucs are never "safety schools" – unless you'd like to attend UC Merced (and there's nothing wrong with Merced)!
- There are always affordable options. You do not need to spend a ton of $$ to attain an undergraduate degree! You SHOULD not if grad school is part of the plan!

Things to do now:

- **Have candid conversations with your parents about expectations and finances.**
- **If you know you will be applying to private schools, ask teachers (2) for letters of recommendation before the end of the school year.**
- **As you research colleges, demonstrate interest by signing up on a college's email list and visiting if possible – don't be a stealth applicant!**
- **Create an appropriate email to use just for college communication – check it daily.**
- **Take challenging classes and work hard – being a good student is your strongest asset. This includes senior year.**
- **Stay organized (file folders, bulletin boards, spreadsheet, dedicated work space).**
- **Work on time management skills.**

A word about applications:

- CSU applications (look beyond Cal Poly – check out CSU Channel Islands) – straightforward application. Open Oct. 1 – Nov. 30
- UC applications – a little more complex – have a writing component. Can start your application 8/1. Submit by November 30.
- Common Application – over 800 schools; main essay plus supplements; mostly private schools with some out-of-state publics. You can start now.
- Coalition Application – a bit less intuitive…still a work in progress. If you have the choice, use the Common App.
- School specific applications – University of Arizona, University of Texas, Georgetown, etc. Research which application your schools use.

How many schools should be on your list??

- Make sure you have a range, and that you are in the top 25% for at least a few (best way to receive merit aid).
- 8-12 schools is a reasonable number.
- That can be slightly more if several are UC or CSU schools, but more than 12 total is difficult to complete essays.
- Realize that there is a component of randomness to the process. You will hear of highly qualified students not admitted to selective schools.
- Pew Research of 1,634 colleges in US - Number of colleges which admits fewer than 30% of applicants is 6.3%. The majority of colleges admit the majority of applicants!

Requirement Grid: great info! On the LJHS Counseling webpage

THE COMMON APPLICATION

2015-16 College Deadlines, Fees and Requirements

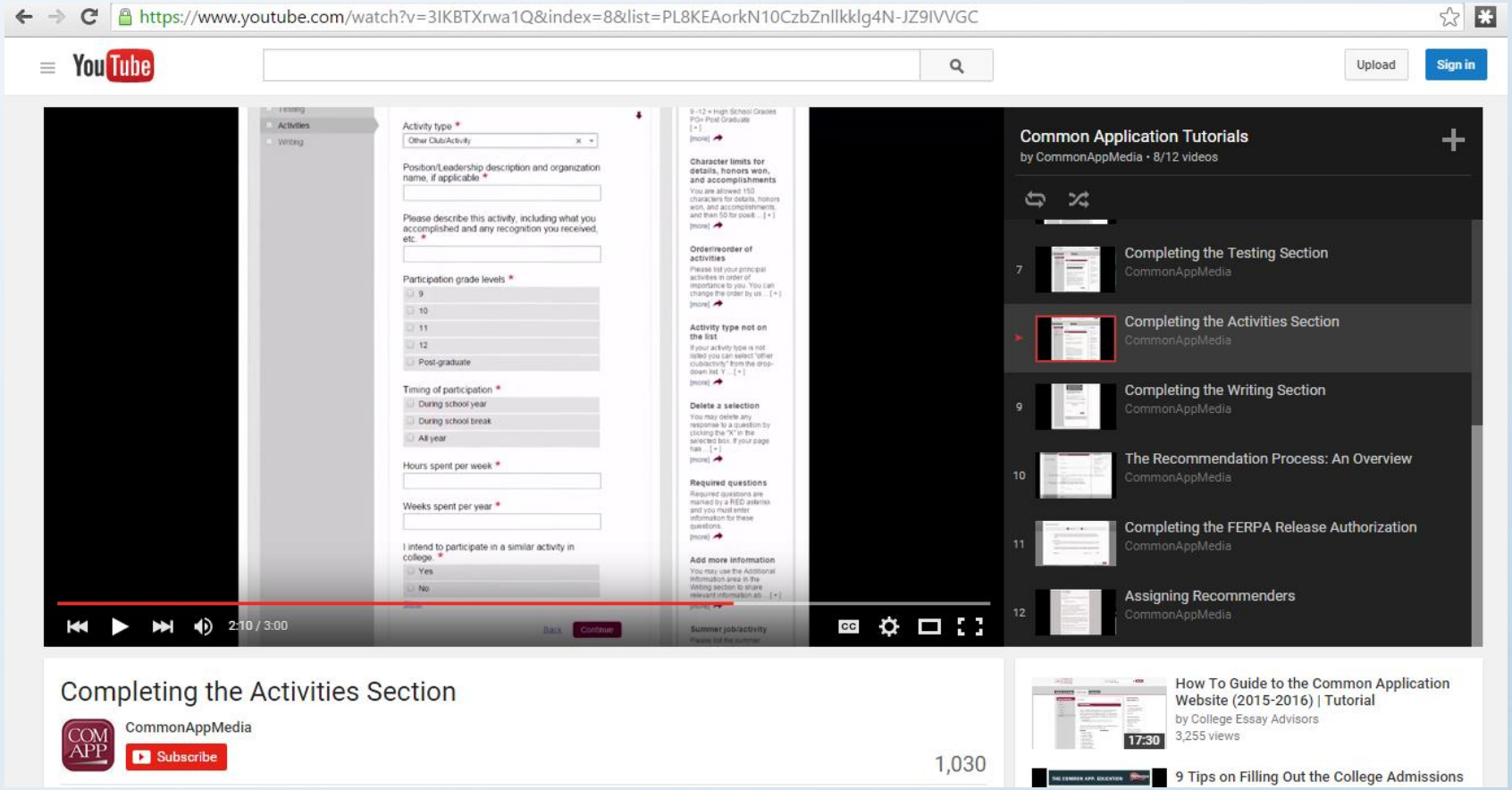
Updated 9/28/2015
*See bottom of document for notes

During August and September 2015 we will update this document every Friday

		Deadlines						App Fees[2]		Common App	Supplements		Minimum Standard Test Policy[4]			Recommendations[5]				
Common App Member	Type[1]	ED	EDII	EA	EAII	REA	RD/Rolling	US	INTL	Personal Essay Req'd[3]	Portfolio[4]	Writing	SAT/ACT Tests Used	Test Policy	INTL	TE	OE	MR	CR	Saves Forms
Adelphi University	Coed			12/1/2015			Rolling	40	50	Yes	COL	Yes	SAT w/Writing or ACT w/Writing	A	I or T	0			Y	Y
Agnes Scott College	Women	11/1/2015		11/15/2015	1/15/2016		3/15/2016	0	0	Yes			SAT w/Writing or ACT w/Writing	F	I or T	1			Y	Y
Alaska Pacific University	Coed						Rolling	50	50	Yes			SAT w/Writing or ACT w/Writing	A	T	0		Y		Y
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Coed	11/1/2015	12/1/2015				2/1/2016	75	75	Yes			SAT w/Writing or ACT w/Writing	A	I or T	1			Y	Y
Albion College	Coed	12/1/2015					Rolling	0	0	Yes			See Website	A	I or T	0			Y	
Albright College	Coed						Rolling	0	0				SAT w/o Writing or ACT w/o Writing	S	I or T	0				Y
Alfred University	Coed	12/1/2015					7/31/2016	50	50	Yes	SR		SAT w/o Writing or ACT w/o Writing	A	I or T	0		Y	Y	Y
Allegheny College	Coed	11/15/2015	1/15/2016				2/15/2016	0	0	Yes			See Website	S	I or T	1			Y	Y
Alma College	Coed						Rolling	0	0	Yes			SAT w/o Writing or ACT w/o Writing	A	I or T	0				Y
American Jewish University	Coed			11/15/2015			Rolling	35	35	Yes			SAT w/o Writing or ACT w/o Writing	F	I or T	1				Y
American University	Coed	11/15/2015	1/15/2016				1/15/2016	70	70	Yes		Yes	SAT w/o Writing or ACT w/o Writing	N	I or T or P	1		Y	Y	Y
American University in Bulgaria	Coed	3/1/2016					Rolling	0	0	Yes			See Website	S	I or T or P	2		Y		Y
Amherst College	Coed	11/15/2015					1/1/2016	60	60	Yes	SR	Yes	SAT w/o Writing and 2 SAT Subject Tests or ACT w/o Writing	A	I or T	2		Y	Y	Y
Anna Maria College	Coed						Rolling	25	25	Yes			SAT w/Writing or ACT w/Writing		I or T	1		Y	Y	Y
Arcadia University	Coed						Rolling	0	0	Yes	COL		SAT w/Writing or ACT w/Writing	A	I or T or P	1		Y	Y	Y
Assumption College	Coed			11/1/2015	12/15/2015		2/15/2016	50	50	Yes			SAT w/Writing or ACT w/Writing	N	I or P	1		Y	Y	Y
Augsburg College	Coed			12/1/2015			Rolling	0	0				SAT w/Writing or ACT w/Writing	A	I or T	1		Y		Y
Augustana College (Illinois)	Coed	11/1/2015		11/1/2015			4/1/2016	0	0	Yes			SAT w/o Writing or ACT w/o Writing	F	I or T or P	0			Y	Y
Augustana University (South Dakota)	Coed						Rolling	0	0			Yes	SAT w/o Writing or ACT w/o Writing	A	I or T	1				Y
Austin College	Coed	11/1/2015		12/1/2015	1/15/2016		3/1/2016	0	0	Yes			SAT w/Writing or ACT w/Writing	A	I or T	1		Y	Y	
Ave Maria University	Coed						Rolling	0	0				SAT w/Writing or ACT w/Writing	A	T	1		Y		Y
Babson College	Coed	11/1/2015		11/1/2015			1/4/2016	75	75	Yes		Yes	SAT w/Writing or ACT w/Writing	A	I or T	1		Y	Y	Y
Baldwin Wallace University	Coed						Rolling	0	0	Yes		Yes	SAT w/o Writing or ACT w/o Writing	S	I or T	1			Y	Y
Bard College	Coed	11/1/2015		11/1/2015	11/1/2015		1/1/2016	50	50	Yes			See Website	N	I or T	2		Y	Y	Y
Bard College Berlin	Coed			11/1/2015			1/1/2016	0	0	Yes			See Website	N	I or T	2		Y		Y
Barnard College	Women	11/1/2015					1/1/2016	65	65	Yes	SR	Yes	SAT w/Writing and 2 SAT Subject Tests or ACT w/Writing	A	I or T	2		Y	Y	Y
Bates College	Coed	11/15/2015	1/1/2016				1/1/2016	60	0	Yes	SR	Yes	See Website	N	I or T	2		Y	Y	Y
Bath Spa University	Coed						Rolling	0	0	Yes			See Website	S	I	1		Y		Y

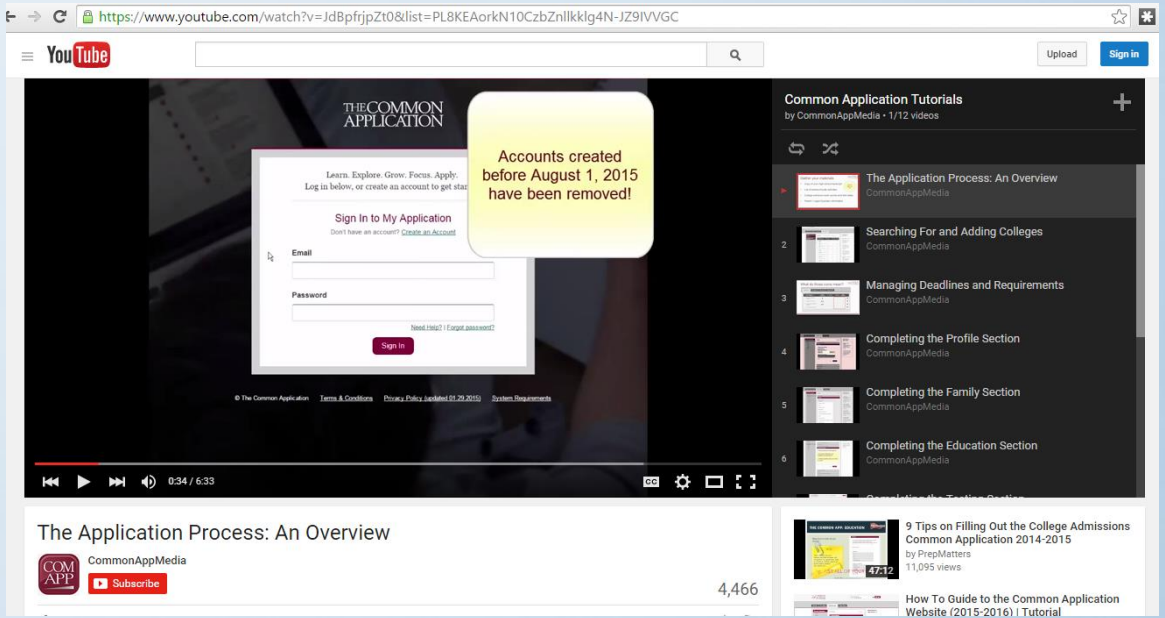
Common App YouTube tutorials:

- Quickly progress to more complex parts of the application – you can choose which tutorials to watch:

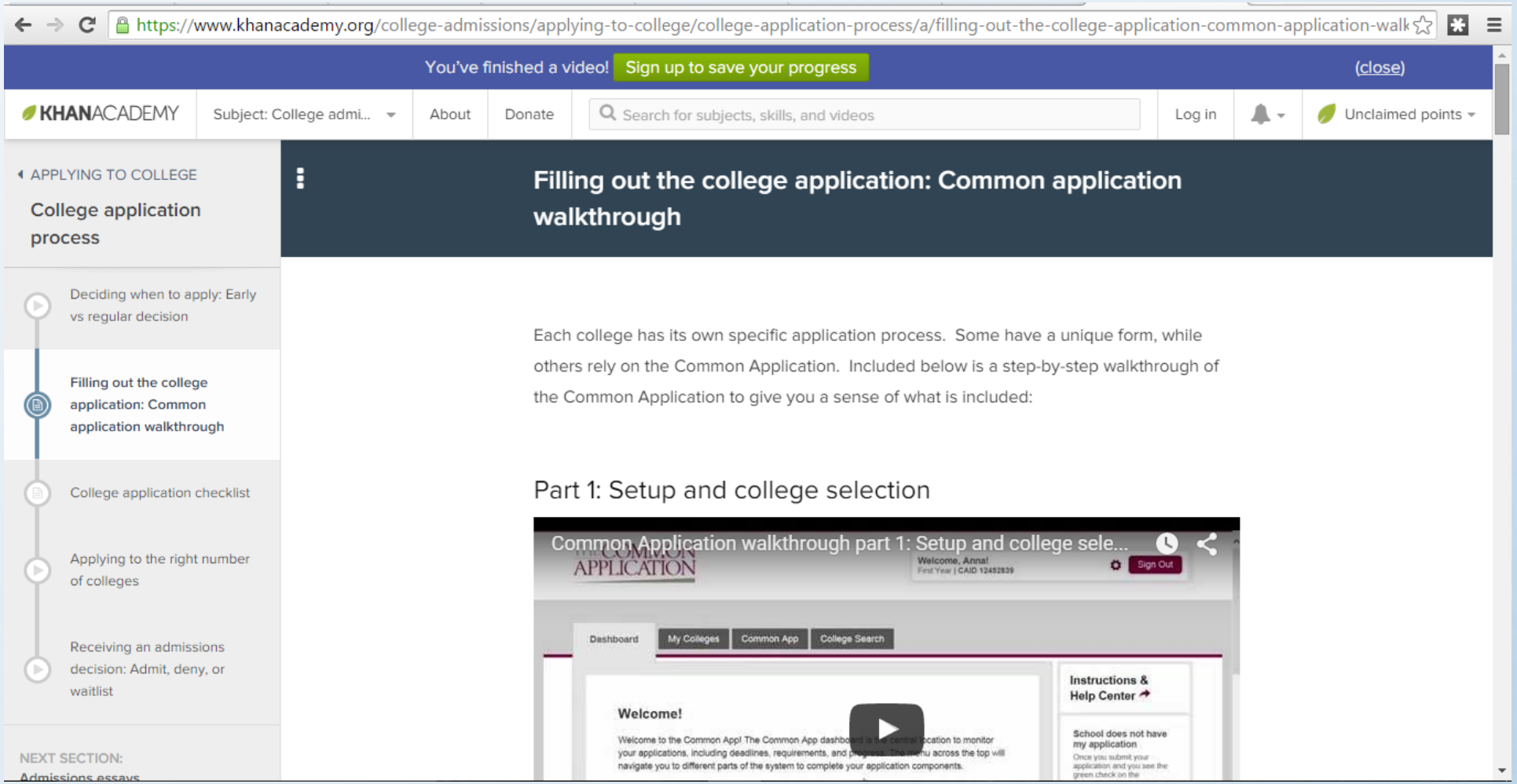


Common Application YouTube Tutorials – all 12 of them!

- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8KEAorkN10CzbZnllkklg4N-JZ9IVVGC
- They start with basics such as creating your account and progress through each part of the application



Khan Academy also provides Common App Tutorials:



Sign up now to see your counselors and talk about your college interests!

- A-E: Ms. Tate
- F-L: Ms. Rains
- M-Se: Ms.Holly
- Sh-Z: Ms. Salehi

And best of luck to the class of 2020!

Thank you for attending!

Any questions?