



# Supporting Post-Secondary Education

Content excerpts from San Francisco CASA, [www.sfcasa.org](http://www.sfcasa.org)

Supporting your youth throughout their education increases their likelihood of graduating high school and finding open higher education options presented to them. You'll help them prepare and find the resources they need for pursuing post-secondary educational options and vocational opportunities while in foster care or still under the court jurisdiction.

## **Post-Secondary Options:**

Here are some Post-Secondary options to consider when discussing Post-Secondary education and beyond.

### **COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Community colleges will accept any student with a high school diploma or equivalent. At a community college, a student can receive an Associate's Degree, complete credits to transfer to a 4-year university, or earn certificates for careers. Visit California Community Colleges for community college options and application instructions.

### **4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES**

Students are required to apply for admission to 4-year universities/colleges and can do so as a high school senior or transfer from a community college. At a college or university, students can earn a Bachelor's Degree and most offer graduate degree programs as well. 4-year universities can either be public, such as a UC or CSU, or can be a private school. While these schools are commonly referred to as "4-year" schools, it is important to know that many students take longer than 4 years to complete their Bachelor's Degree.

### **VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Some students may prefer to go straight into the workforce after high school. There are a number of industries with entry-level positions that require specific skills, rather than degrees. Before offering guidance, find out what your teen is interested in, check out some of the programs do some research on your own.

## **Discussing Post-Secondary Education:**

Here are several age-appropriate ways to begin talking about and considering post-secondary education options.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Take your student on a college tour. If you ask, many professors will let you sit in on part of a class. Eat in a dining hall, walk through a residence hall, or ask a student what they're working on.

When your student expresses interest about a particular career, research and map out what it takes to achieve it (e.g. if they want to be a veterinarian, look at pre-vet and vet program requirements and admission standards).

Check out college preparatory options through the school and in your area. Programs are often available both during the year and over the summer.

### **HIGH SCHOOL UPPERCLASSMEN**

Consider the full range of possibilities. Encourage your student to set up an appointment with a college or career counselor to get an overview of many of the available options and steps to apply to various Post-secondary programs.



## College Prep Options:

California College Pathways, [www.cacollegepathways.org](http://www.cacollegepathways.org). Resources and support for CA foster youth attending or planning to attend college, including a youth-friendly version of the website and the following helpful resource guide, [Foster Youth Educational Planning](#)

Other helpful websites:

[CA Community College Foster Youth Resource Guide + Enrollment Checklist](#)

[CSU Foster Youth Resource Guide + Enrollment Checklist](#)

[UC Foster Youth Resource Guide + Enrollment Checklist](#)

Please consult with your Advocate Supervisor about local college prep programs that could fit your youth's unique goals and academic history.

## College Students Support Programs:

### *Foster Youth Support Programs*

Many colleges have programs to specifically support current and former foster youth on their campus.

Please visit [California College Pathways](#) resource to identify support programs.

John Burton Foundation “Foster Youth & Financial Aid”

#### Part 1

- Slides: <http://www.jbaforyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/10-13-16-Financial-Aid-Foster-Youth-Part-1.pdf>
- Presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4-7nfw3nVQ&feature=youtu.be>



## Part 2

- Slides <http://www.jbaforyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/4-13-17-Financial-Aid-Foster-Youth-Part-2-1.pdf>
- Presentation <http://www.jbaforyouth.org/trainings-2/>

### ***Other On-Campus Support Programs***

**EOP:** The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) provides assistance through mentorship, academic programs, financial assistance, counseling/advising, and other campus support services to those who are first-generation college students, and/or from low-income and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. The application process and resources vary by school.

- [Cal State University EOP](#)
- [University of California EOP](#)

**Disabled Students Programs:** Programs on college campuses designed to support youth with disabilities. If the youth had an IEP or 504 Plan in secondary school or feels they need to be assessed for a disability that affects learning, they should connect with this program to receive supports and accommodations.

- [Cal State University Services for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [University of California Services for Students with Disabilities](#)

### ***Financial Aid***

See the Financial Aid section of the [Higher Education Passport](#) for more information on these opportunities