

Student Newsletter

Fall 2019

Talent Search and Upward Bound—Summer 2019



Alternative Paths to Four-Year Degrees


One of TRIO's main objectives is to assist in identifying and selecting postsecondary schools. Our goal is to help you find the right fit and bring attention to available opportunities and pathways to success. Currently, the US is facing a shortage of trained technical and trade workers. Fortunately, three of Forbes Top 20 Two-Year Trades Schools are in the Pittsburgh area, including #1 Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, #11 Rosedale Technical College, and #20 Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. Other PA top schools are #5 Lancaster County Career and Technology Center, #9 Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, and #10 Johnson College.



These schools are preparing individuals for high demand, high paying positions that industries are desperate to fill. As baby boomers age and retire, there is predicted to be a serious skills shortage. Not

enough people have the qualifications to fill the voids. Emerging technology is creating even more learning and employment opportunities. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) forecasts a 13% increase in the construction industry and a shortfall of a half-million skilled workers. Manufactures are crying for workers to fill two million predicted openings.

Postsecondary education remains necessary to improve employment opportunities. However, the path may be very different from the traditionally recognized college experience. The cost of tuition and student debt are making a case for technical and career training. Career training at community colleges, technical or vocational schools, and apprenticeships can get you into the workforce quicker for less financial investment. Trade schools tend to have smaller classes, hands-on experiences, and specialized training without general coursework outside your career field. Many employers pay for employees to earn more advanced degrees (i.e. Pratt & Whitney paid for one of their Aviation Maintenance Technicians to earn an engineering degree from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.) Here is more information on our top performing regional schools.

 **Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics (PIA)** is located at the Allegheny County Airport just south of Pittsburgh. PIA offers associate degrees in Specialized Technology (AST) in Aviation

Maintenance Technology and Aviation Electronics Technology and a diploma program in Aviation Maintenance Technology. PIA expanded its training with the addition of Commercial Drivers License Training, Heavy Equipment Operator, and Rotorcraft Systems & Maintenance. The Institute is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCT).



Rosedale Technical College is located near Pittsburgh. Rosedale prepares students for high demand fields with work and hands-on training. An associate degree in specialized technology can be earned in sixteen months. Rosedale features programs in Automotive, Collision Repair, Diesel, Electrical, HVAC, Industrial Technician, Truck Driving, and Welding.



PITTSBURGH INSTITUTE
OF MORTUARY SCIENCE

Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Sciences is a funeral service program based in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The training includes theoretical and personalized practical instruction by licensed funeral directors and embalmers. The Institute strives to adapt the curriculum to reflect the current and future trends of funeral professionals. Business management and accounting, psychology and counseling, marketing and public relations are areas of focus to help its graduates provide valuable contributions to their community.

For more information, contact your academic counselor or outreach coordinator with TS and UB.

Seniors:

Don't forget, you can file your FAFSA as early as October 1!

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Tips for Successful Navigation of Online Courses (Part II)

Part I (Spring 2019) reminded us that online education is growing and here to stay. Here are additional factors to be aware of as you undertake online coursework.



Technology Familiarity: In terms of differences in academic approach, the impact of technology on how students participate in learning is a key difference. Online learners rely heavily on technology for academic success. A degree of mastery of web navigation, as well as various software applications is essential. Familiarity with available databases, online forums, and specific websites is beneficial to become an effective online learner.

Organization: A consistent aspect of student success is functional organizational practices. This skill's

importance is addressed by Karen Stevens, Chief Undergraduate Adviser at the University Of Massachusetts. "Students really, really need to be organized from the beginning to be successful in an online course." Having a consistent undisturbed workspace is an important consideration, as well as maintaining a well-organized course material system. The ability to utilize these tools goes a long way in course competence.

Procrastination, Hard Deadlines: Procrastination has serious ramifications, and it has a dangerous impact for the online learner. Without the luxury of face-to-face interactions to judge the students' commitment and subject mastery, the online professor is limited to online interactions, deadlines and coursework quality to gauge proficiency. The importance of timely assignment completion is essential. Procrastinating has a negative impact on material retention, proficiency and work quality. Hard deadlines are more vital to the structure of the online educational process for several reasons, not least of which is that they keep the course on pace. Failure to meet deadlines in any course is a serious issue and in an online course, the value of making deadlines is a heavy measure of course competence.

Effective Communication and Proofreading: Unlike a standard college course, most communication in an online course is digital/written. Therefore, punctuation and grammar take on additional weight. It is critical that all submissions be proofread and corrected prior to submission. The process of communication via email or electronic chat rooms is vastly different than face-to-face conversation. The successful online learner quickly discovers strategies to make certain there is little room for message misinterpretation. Message clarity and communication frequency are both essential elements of developing and maintaining effective lines of communication with your professors and classmates. In terms of communication frequency, it is very important the learner responds in a timely manner.

Cheating: Online schools are constantly attempting to upgrade the measures they are using to verify student performance. The online structure may seem to lend itself to a higher degree of cheating, but research suggests it is consistent across venues. Test proctoring and plagiarism detection software works in conjunction with other technological advancements such as keystroke recognition devices to limit unethical practices.

Getting into a weekly/daily routine in regard to your coursework is vital. Know yourself, your abilities and your expectations as you dive into online coursework and training.

Play It Safe: The Effects of Social Media on the College Admission

Whether or not you are snapping, tweeting, or posting, your actions could possibly affect your future and your acceptance into postsecondary education, recruitment to collegiate sports, or even a scholarship offer. It is important to realize the possible repercussions of inappropriate social media posts even years after they are posted.

Social media is beneficial, if you use it to promote yourself as you would in a resume. It is important to understand that anything you post can be recorded in a screenshot and come back later to haunt you. You want your social media accounts to reflect a positive image. College admissions representatives, coaches, employers and others can and will view anything that is out there and that can be retrieved through any search engine. Social media content can have a significant impact on your future.

In one instance, a parent was searching social media to find information on a student that was to room with their child in college. The search produced findings of explicit drug use and discriminatory posts. The parent contacted the university and demanded that their child not room with the student. After further investigation, the roommate's admission was revoked and their opportunity to attend the college and play a collegiate sport was terminated. College admissions representatives and coaches are using social media as a screening tool that leads to their final decisions.

Coaches have reported that other players on the team have researched new recruits and revealed their findings. Even something that you post when you are 14 can impact you later in life. It is important to be pro-active and to think twice before you put anything on social media. If you make a mistake and post something that might be considered as inappropriate, fix it IMMEDIATELY! Admit it; learn from it; and do not let it happen again. Apologize for what was inappropriate.

So how then can you help prevent these social media mishaps?

- Be aware of what apps are being used
- Analyze whether anyone would find the comment, photo, or post inappropriate or find the content illegal
- Refrain from use of profanity
- Educate yourself as much as possible on social media sites.

There is an application called "Bark" that uses algorithm's to track certain language, pictures, etc. in a post. Parents or others can pay an annual or monthly fee for

this app. If you post a word, phrase or picture that raises a flag, the app will automatically notify the registered person. Bark is currently the only app that covers all social media platforms.

It is always best to "play it safe." Think twice before you post anything and do not post anything that is illegal (drugs, alcohol, bragging about stealing or driving too fast, and bullying or harassing.) Even if your posts don't reflect illegal behavior, they can still produce harsh consequences as the content reflects your character. Your social media personality is your resume to the world. Use it to promote your achievements and good qualities, demonstrate achievement and to build a positive character and profile of you!

FuturePrime

Attention seniors! There is a new tool designed to help you decide on a college by comparing cost and rank. FuturePrime is a part of the 501(c)3 Sixup Foundation, created by Heath Alexander.

As a former Upward Bound participant and counselor, who came from a low-income, first generation background, Mr. Alexander understands the challenges of finding a college that is both affordable and high quality. "Students from low-income, first generation families often make less optimum decisions – 'undermatching' school and career choice." Mr. Alexander also pointed out that students underestimate the cost of postsecondary education, either being unable to finish because they cannot afford it, or graduating with exorbitant debt.

This is where FuturePrime comes in. Students can:

- See critical information for each college
- Create a visual analysis of colleges' outcomes versus their financial aid
- Take 600+ virtual college tours
- Electronically connect with a counselor to make the best college choice

While this tool offers an outcomes perspective on school selection, it is not intended to make choices. It does allow students to see their colleges comparatively on one screen. For more information, check out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWCw2TXdnVM>

References: <https://futureprime.com>, "Learn how to use new FuturePrime features," webinar, February 7, 2019.

Ted Talks: What Are They?

Prior to the birth of the Internet (circa 1989), TED conferences were held in Monterey, California as a way for individuals to share ideas, science, and innovative breakthroughs. TED conferences encouraged speakers to remove “boring” powerpoints from their presentations, freeing individuals up to create a discussion atmosphere with their audience. Held annually across the world, TED Talks have engaged audiences on a wide range of topics and are broadcasted through TED’s YouTube channel and other social media outlets, www.ted.com. A majority of TED Talks occur in 10 minutes or less, the shortened format holds the attention of the viewer while affording the presenter enough time to get their ideas across. TED’s slogan “Ideas Worth Spreading,” encompasses the goal to spread ideas in short powerful talks.



TED talks to consider as you tackle the academic year:

To access: enter the name of the speaker and title of presentation in the search bar at www.ted.com.

Adora Svitak: What Adults Can Learn from Kids

Childish thinking is worthy of real attention, says 12-year-old short story scribe and blogger Adora Svitak at TED2010. Instead of looking just to teach kids, Svitak urges grown-ups to try to learn from them too.

Danielle Feinberg: The Magic Ingredient that Brings Pixar Movies to Life

Pixar's Director of Photography creates stories with soul and wonder using math, science and code. Go behind the scenes of *Finding Nemo*, *Toy Story*, *Brave*, *WALL-E* and more, and discover how Pixar interweaves art and science to create fantastic worlds where the things you imagine can become real.

Tim Urban: Inside the Mind of a Master Procrastinator

Tim Urban knows that procrastination does not make sense, but he has never been able to shake his habit of waiting until the last minute to get things done. In this hilarious and insightful talk, Urban takes us on a journey through YouTube binges, Wikipedia rabbit holes and bouts of staring out the window -- and encourages us to think harder about what we're really procrastinating on, before we run out of time.

Susan Cain: The Power of Introverts

In a culture where being social and outgoing are prized above all else, it can be difficult, even shameful, to be an introvert. As Susan Cain argues in this passionate talk, introverts bring extraordinary talents and abilities to the world, and should be encouraged and celebrated.

Guillaume Nery: The Exhilarating Peace of Freediving

In this breathtaking talk, world champion freediver Guillaume Néry takes us with him into the ocean's depths. Meter by meter, he explains the physical and emotional impact of water pressure, silence and holding your breath. His eloquent description of the underwater experience reveals the hidden poetry of freediving.

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Career Exploration



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