

A young man with dark hair, wearing large black headphones, is sitting at a desk. He has his hands clasped under his chin and is looking intently at a laptop screen. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or office setting with other people and lights. The overall tone is serious and focused.

PATHS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

A College and Career Readiness Event

CCR Housekeeping Items

Participants video and microphone access has been disengaged during the webinar

Please use the CHAT or Q&A feature if you have a comment you would like to share

FYI – With chat, you can choose who sees your comments – select the host/panelists OR everyone

After the session ends, please complete the survey that will open in your browser

Thank you for joining us today and for your anticipated completion of the feedback survey

Staff Introductions

College and Career Readiness



Gretchen A. Taylor, MPA, ABD
Student Readiness Coordinator
Elgin Community College (ECC)



Lewis Rule, MPM, ABD
Assistant Dean of College Transitions
Elgin Community College (ECC)

Special Guest Presenter

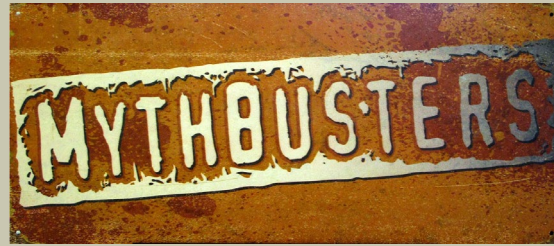


Ariana Benitez
Community Outreach Worker
Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)
Elgin Community College District

****Using the Chat Box****

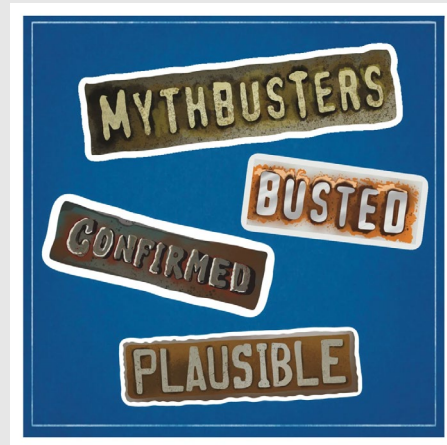
Please share your thoughts regarding various options or pathways that high school students can pursue after graduation?





Quiz

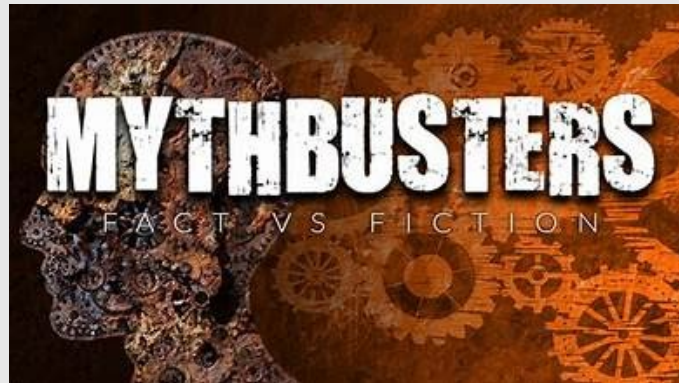
QUESTION: Is college the only or most lucrative route to success after graduating high school?



Give me a thumbs up in the chat if you agree 👍

Or a thumbs down if you don't agree 👎

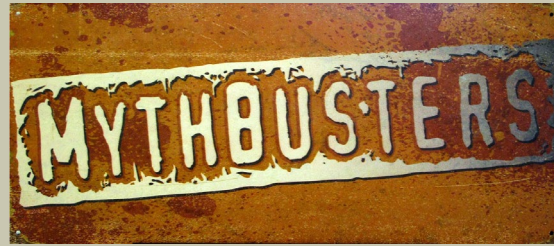
OR the Home Alone face if you're not sure... 🤪





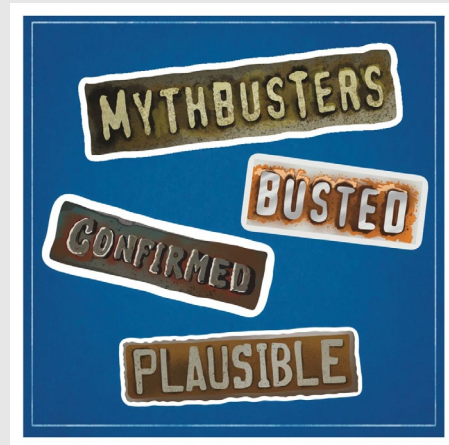
Agenda

- **Service and Gap Year**
- **Post-Secondary Education**
- **Military**
- **Entrepreneurship**
- **Resources**
- **Contact Information**



Quiz

QUESTION: Will taking a Gap Year hinder or delay your career progress?



Give me a thumbs up in the chat if you agree 👍

Or a thumbs down if you don't agree 👎

OR the Home Alone face if you're not sure... 🤪



Service and Gap Year



Year of Service/Volunteerism



Source: Service Year: A Better You. A Greater Us.

A service year offers the chance to develop real-world skills through hands-on experience.

- Public Allies
- City Year
- Service Year Exchange
- AmeriCorps (State & National)
- AmeriCorps Vista
- AmeriCorps NCCC
- FEMA Corps
- Youth Build

GAP YEAR

Semester or year between high school or prior to the start of your career/post-secondary studies when a student the opportunity to grow, explore, or earn money.





Perks of Service

- **Living Allowance (Varies)**
- **Child Care Assistance (If Eligible)**
- **Education Award Upon Successful Completion of**
- **Health Insurance Coverage**
- **Living Allowance**
- **Student Loan Forbearance (temporary pause on loan payments)**
- **Job Training**

Source: Service Year: A Better You. A Greater Us.



Internships

- An internship is typically a short-term work assignment provided by a company or organization, usually offered to students.
- Internships offer entry-level exposure to a specific industry or field, serving as both a learning experience and actual work.
- Internships may be tied to college credits and can be either paid or unpaid.
- Internships are a fantastic opportunity to network, demonstrate skills, and may potentially lead to a full-time job.

Ex. Food Industry, Healthcare, Media & Communications, Marketing, IT, and Human Resources

Salaried Employment and Possible Options

Option

**Explore Career
Interests**

Option

**Earn and Save
Money**

Option

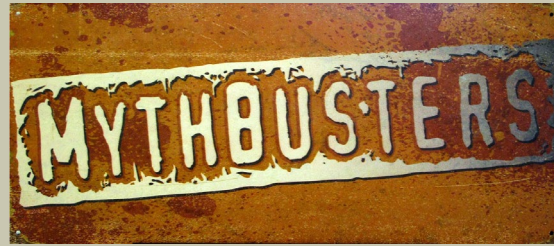
**Develop both
Technical and
Interpersonal Skills**



Gap Year Explorer

Gap Year Explorers, or someone with more of a free spirit may prefer not to overly structure their gap year, opting instead to travel (either independently or through a program), learn new hobbies, and network with professionals in their areas of interest.

[Source: What is a Gap Year? 3 Steps to Define "Gap Year" for Yourself - Pure Life Adventure](#)



Quiz

QUESTION: Does the term 'post-secondary education' exclusively refer to four-year colleges and universities?



Give me a thumbs up in the chat if you agree 👍

Or a thumbs down if you don't agree 👎

OR the Home Alone face if you're not sure... 🤪



A black and white photograph of a classroom or computer lab. In the foreground, a student is seen from the back, typing on a laptop. To the right, a student with glasses and large headphones is looking at a laptop screen. In the background, another student with glasses is visible. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor setting with windows in the background.

Post-Secondary Education

- Vocational and Technical Schools
- Apprenticeships
- Colleges and Universities
- Specialized Institutes
- Continuing Education
- Military Education

Vocational Programs

Vocational Programs

Vocational programs are educational courses and training that focus on the skills and knowledge required for specific trades or careers.

- Special Education Provider
- Data Scientist
- Electrician
- Carpenter
- Radiation Therapist



Technical Programs

Technical Programs

A technical school usually refers to an institution that offers associate's degrees and certain certifications that are necessary to enter technical job fields.

- Computer Programmer/Coder
- Statistician
- Server
- Garbage Collector
- Photographer



Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where employers can develop and prepare their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience, classroom instruction, mentorship, and a portable credential.

- Wedding Photographer
- Electrician
- Plumber
- Welder
- Construction Worker





Community Colleges

A community college, sometimes known as a junior college is a higher education institution that provides a two-year curriculum that can lead to an associate's degree.



[What is a Community College? \(communitycollegerreview.com\)](https://www.communitycollegerreview.com)

4-Year Colleges/Universities

- **Four-year institutions** often referred to as undergraduate colleges, include both universities and liberal arts colleges, specifically offering bachelor's degree programs.
- **Universities** are large institutions offering a wide range of academic majors and degree options, including bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. They typically contain smaller colleges, such as those focused on education, engineering, or health sciences, which prepare students for various careers or graduate study.





Quiz

QUESTION: If you could become an apprentice, would you be interested in pursuing this pathway? If so, what profession would you be interested in exploring?



Give me a thumbs up in the chat if you agree 👍

Or a thumbs down if you don't agree 👎

OR the Home Alone face if you're not sure... 🤪



Specialized Institutions and Continuing Education Programs

Some colleges cater to specific interests or student populations:

- Arts colleges
- Single-sex colleges
- Religiously affiliated colleges
- Specialized mission colleges
 - **The College of Saint Mary** is a private Catholic women's university in Omaha, Nebraska.



- **Continuing Education** could be a working professional enrolling in evening classes at a local community college to earn a certification in project management.
- This type of program allows individuals to enhance their skills, stay updated with industry trends, and improve their career prospects without leaving their current job.
 - Cooking
 - Fitness
 - Health & Wellness
 - Language



Military Education & Training

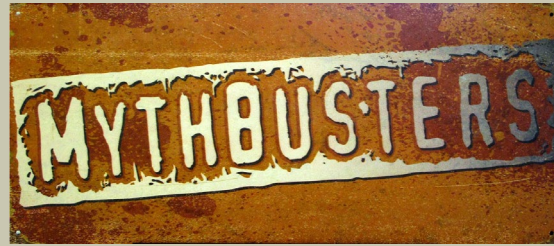
A Military Academy is unique as it offers both a 4-year education and military training. Popular degrees available include Healthcare, Political Science, and Systems Engineering.

- some of the most competitive admissions
- require various years of service commitments
- have physical requirements
- may require recommendation/endorsement from government representative
- not all academies offer the same benefits for their students (including tuition and pay)



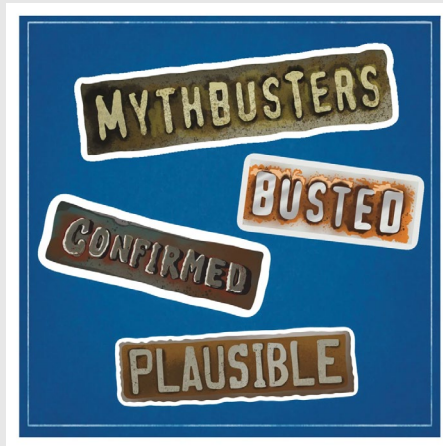
Questions / Comments?





Quiz

QUESTION: True or False... The U.S. Military is the Largest provider of vocational and technical training in the United States?



Give me a thumbs up in the chat if you agree 👍

Or a thumbs down if you don't agree 👎

OR the Home Alone face if you're not sure... 🤪





MILITARY SERVICE

Six Branches of the Military



Military Service Options

Types of Military Service

The U.S. Military consists of six active-duty Service branches and their respective Guard and Reserve components. Together, they offer a broad variety of ways to serve.



U.S. ARMY

ARMY

ARMY RESERVE

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS RESERVE



NAVY

NAVY RESERVE



U.S. AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE RESERVE

AIR NATIONAL GUARD



**UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE**

SPACE FORCE



**UNITED STATES
COAST
GUARD**

COAST GUARD RESERVE



Enlistment Criteria

- Must be between 18-34 years old (17 with parental consent)
- U.S. citizen or resident alien
- High school diploma is preferred; high school equivalent (ex: GED) may be accepted
- Take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test and a physical fitness exam
- Some jobs may have additional requirements

Military Service: Full and Part-Time Options

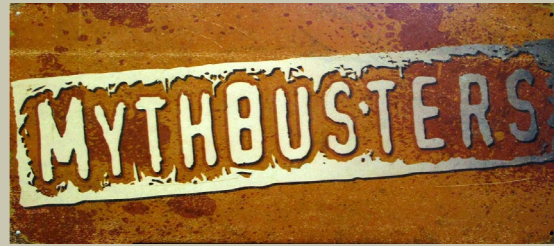
Active Duty (Full-Time)

- Live on base or in military housing
- Immersed in Military Culture
- Can be stationed domestically or overseas for terms that typically last 2-6 years
- May explore advanced training opportunities to further build hands-on and technical skills.
- If service members are deployed, the length of time away varies depending on a unit's specific mission.

Reserves/National Guard (Part-Time)

- The Reserves
 - Members of the Reserve attend boot camp and are required to participate in training drills one weekend a month as well as a two-week program each year.
- National Guard
 - Army National Guard
 - Air National Guard
 - During times of conflict, the president can federalize the National Guard, and its service members can be deployed overseas.
- Split Training
 - The Army, Army National Guard and Coast Guard offer a split training option.





Quiz

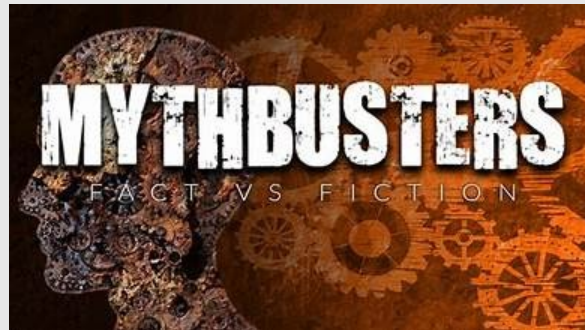
QUESTION: How many of you have ever dreamed of starting your own business?



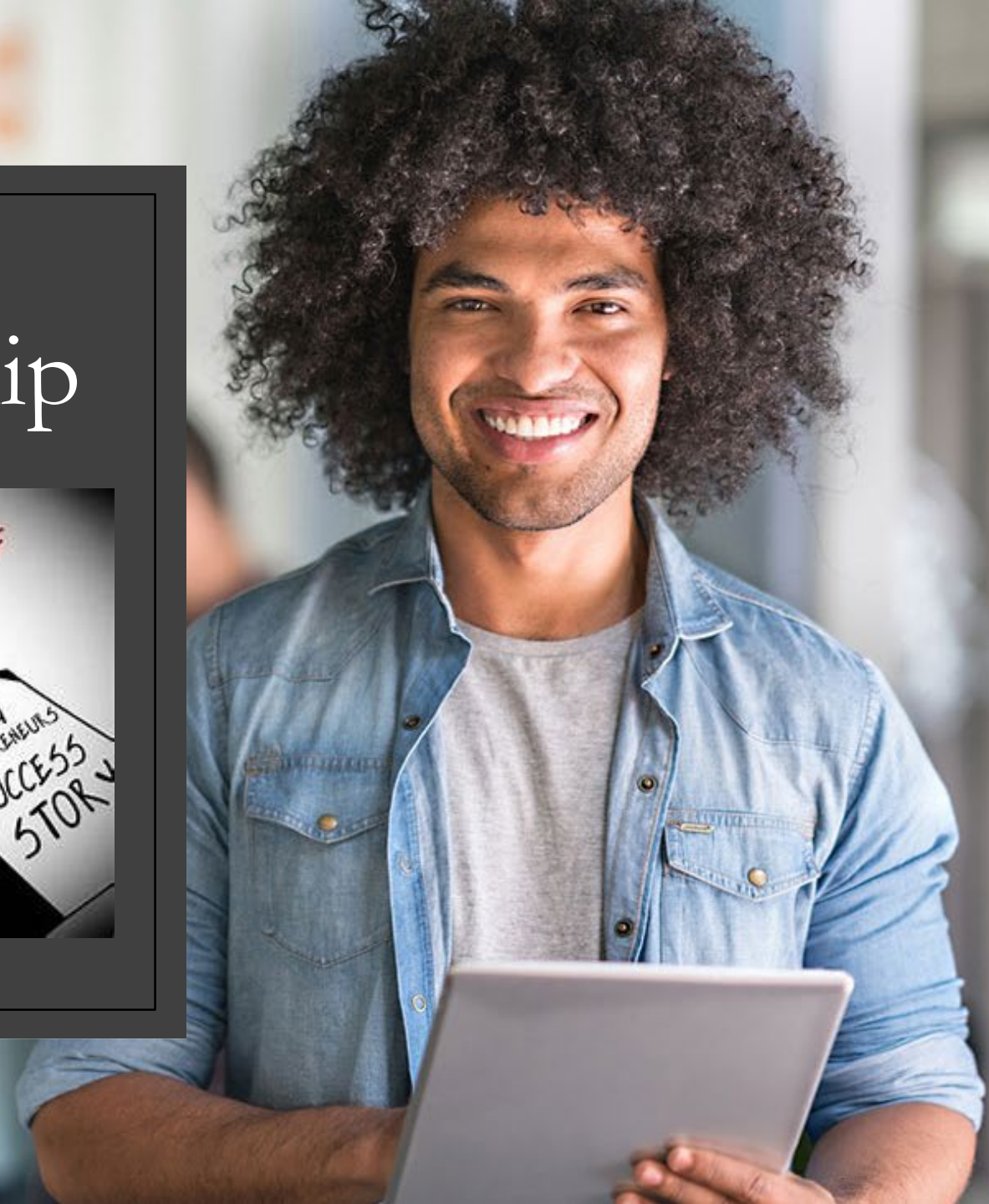
Give me a thumbs up in the chat if you agree 👍

Or a thumbs down if you don't agree 👎

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Entrepreneurship





Starting a Business

Think of your product or service:

- Lawncare Provider
- Create and Sell Jewelry
- Lemonade Stand
- Fresh Vegetables/Fruit Vendor
- Barber/Beautician
- Make-up Artist

Starting a New Business

Business Name and Brand

- Name should be creative and reflect you and your product/services
- Make sure someone else isn't already using the name
 - **Useful Resource: The Thomas Registrar, a free website for finding unregistered trademarks)**
- Find a reliable mentor, friend, and/or family member to share ideas with. Also, make sure this person provides actionable feedback and has your best interests at heart.



Market Research

Research your Market

- Is there a demand/need for what you are offering?
- Who are my competitors?
- What services are my competitors not offering that my business could potentially capitalize on?
- How can I make my services better?

Determine my Target Audience:

- What is my customer's age, what are they willing/able to spend?
- If providing a service, consider if my target audience work long hours, own homes, have small children, or own pets?
- Do most of my target audience already have a service provider?
- What do they (target audience) like/dislike about my competition?

Business Finance



How will I finance new venture?

- Will I use my personal savings?
- Will I seek out investors? If so, I will need to:
 - Outline funding needed to start venture, document how it will be spent and what my plan is for paying back any borrowed funding.
 - Create a simple but detailed budget.
 - Determine my budget parameters and any additional financial need.
 - Describe how any profits will be utilized, and how investments will be repaid to lenders/investors.



Source: How to Start a Business As a Teenager: 12 Steps

Business Plan Implementation

- Acquire necessary tools (equipment, staff, etc.) Remember, stick to a budget!

Marketing

- Create a website and decide which social media platforms to use
- Create business cards and flyers
- Connect with other businesses
- Join networking organizations



Business Tips



- If opening a physical location, throw a launch party, publicize in local newspapers, Facebook community sites, etc.,)
- As your business continues to grow and becomes more than just a hobby, you may be required to register it.
- There are certain federal and state licenses and permits you may need to obtain.
- Before registering your business with state agencies, you will also need to determine if you fit into one of the following categories:
 - A corporation
 - A nonprofit organization
 - A limited-liability company or partnership
- Make your business as professional and formal as possible (try using a design package on the web; this will make your customers and your competition take you more seriously).
- Don't be afraid to tell people about your business. This will help when you are trying to get recognized by your peers as an independent business owner.

Questions?



Resources



Upcoming Webinars

College and Career Readiness Events

2024-2025



FALL EVENTS

Paths After High School

September 17, 2024, from 6 to 7 pm

Exploring Careers

October 1, 2024, from 6 to 7 pm

College Night

October 8, 2024, from 6 to 8 pm

elgin.edu/collegenight

Scholarships

October 15, 2024, from 6 to 7 pm

SAT Prep and Resources

November 5, 2024, from 6 to 7 pm

Transitioning to College

December 3, 2024, from 6 to 7 pm

Upcoming Webinars

College and Career Readiness Events

2024-2025



SPRING EVENTS

Introduction to Financial Aid

January 21, 2025, from 6 to 7 pm

Financial Literacy 101

February 4, 2025, from 6 to 7 pm

Understanding Financial Aid Awards

March 4, 2025, from 6 to 7 pm

Claim Your Future

April 8, 2025, from 6 to 7 pm

Experience ECC

April 16, 2025

elgin.edu/experienceECC

How to Write a Resume

April 22, 2025, from 6 to 7 pm

Winning an Interview


May 6, 2025, from 6 to 7 pm

Contact Information



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Community Outreach Worker

 **847-738-8968**

 **Ariana.Benitez@illinois.gov**


 **www.isac.org**


To book an appointment with me, please
click the QR code above

If you would like to chat...



Gretchen A. Taylor
Student Readiness Coordinator

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 224-833-8837

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Please Complete our CCR Survey

2024-25 College and Career (CCR)
Workshop Feedback Survey

Workshop Survey





THANK YOU
FOR
ATTENDING