



FAMILY ROAD MAP

TO COLLEGE & CAREER



uplifteducation
Road To College & Career

GET READY FOR THE JOURNEY!

WHY UPLIFT?

Uplift Families,

We're so excited to share Uplift's Family Road Map with you. The college and career journey is filled with unlimited possibilities and life changing rewards. At Uplift, our goal is to empower each scholar to reach their highest potential in college and beyond that inspires life-long learning, achievement, and service to positively change their world.

As rewarding the college & career journey is, it can also be a complex and confusing process, which is why we have a dedicated team at each Uplift high school to support every family in this decision making process. That team is Road to College and Career (RTCC).

Our hope is that this Family Road Map will help guide you as your family begins thinking about and preparing for the college and career journey. We also hope this guide will spark interest, excitement and aspirations for the road ahead, along with encouraging you to connect with Uplift staff with questions and curiosity you might have.

Shine Through,

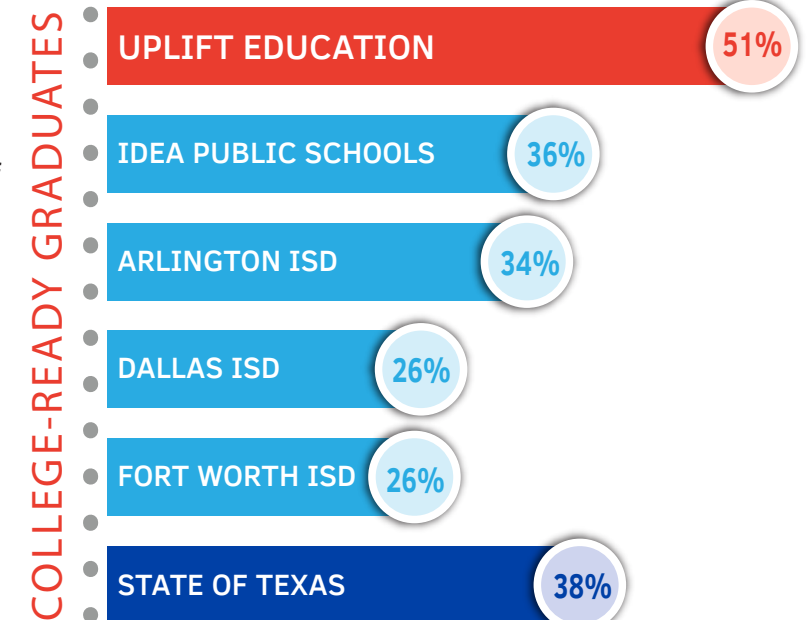
Daniel Gray
Managing Director for College and Career



The journey of earning a college education is more than just getting a degree and hoping for the best. At Uplift Education, we support families with understanding how a college degree connects to a thriving career, where scholars are better positioned to experience an increase of career options and mobility. With a college education, scholars will have increased opportunities to earn a viable income than that of someone who does not.

Due to the services we provide through the Road to College and Career program at Uplift Education, we are proud to be the leading public school system in the state of Texas for having the #1 college readiness scores, beating out the state average and area school districts.

We want our graduates to enjoy fulfillment that comes from a career, not just a job. We know that careers can lead our graduates to lives that have a positive impact on themselves, their families, and their communities.



Uplift graduates have a proven track record of success.

100%
college acceptance

\$100 million+
dollars in scholarships

Uplift grads earn a college degree
4x
the national average

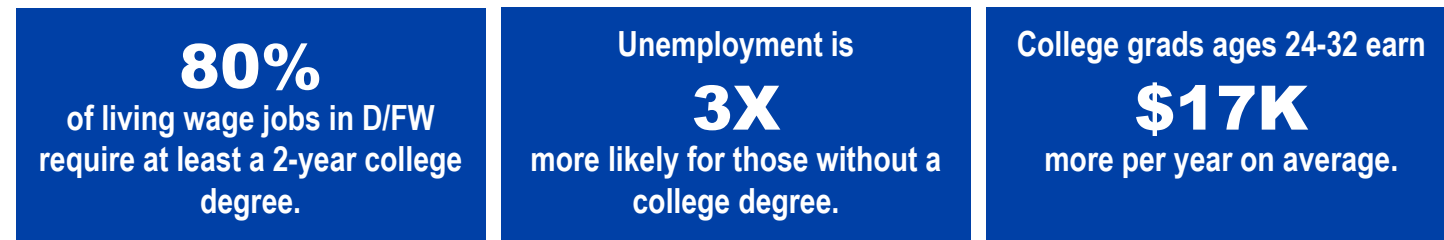
“I've been an uplift parent for over 10 years and I feel blessed to be part of the Uplift community. The uplift team are just amazing and always willing to support me and my scholars with their education and post secondary decisions.”
-Charlene Payne, Uplift Parent

WHY COLLEGE?

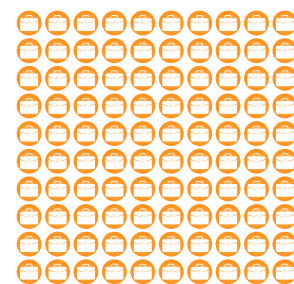
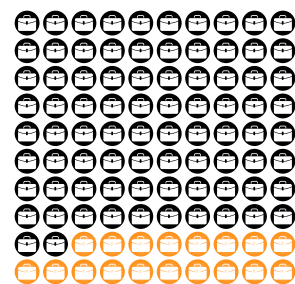
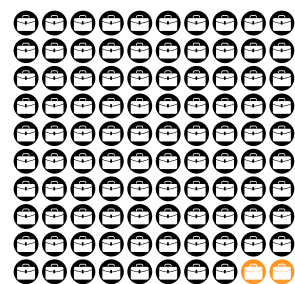
In today's society, a college degree is becoming almost a necessity in order to earn a living wage. Not only do college degree holders earn more money early in their careers, but college graduates earn over \$1 million more over their lifetime than those with just a high school diploma.

Workforce experts say that by the year 2030, 65 percent of Texans will need some form of college education (certificate or degree) to stay competitive in the job market.

Did You Know?



Number of jobs GAINED during the financial recovery of 2010-2016



Our Future Workforce

Our future workforce will **demand even more** postsecondary trained and educated workers.

IN 1973
ONLY **28%**
OF ALL U.S. JOBS REQUIRED
POST SECONDARY
EDUCATION/SKILLS



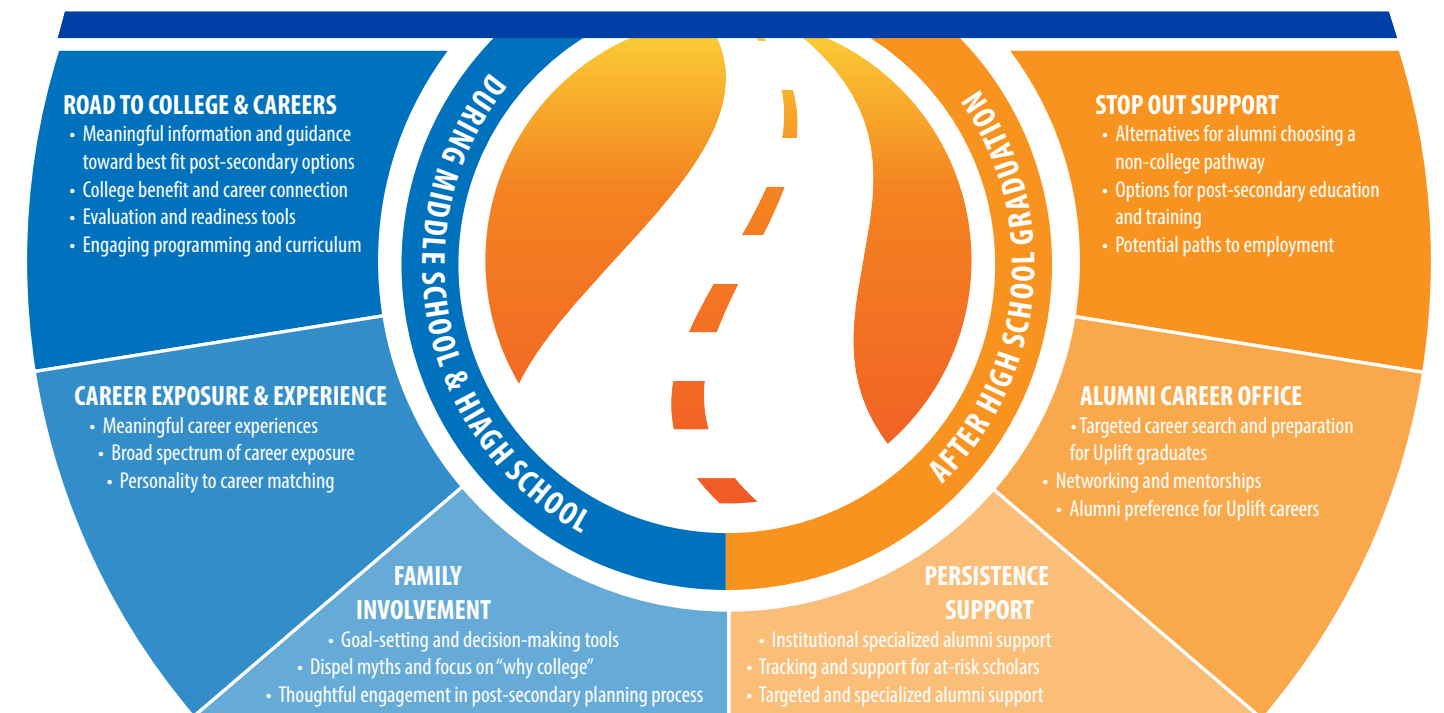
TODAY
MORE THAN **65%**
OF ALL U.S. JOBS REQUIRE
POST SECONDARY
EDUCATION/SKILLS

RTCC AT YOUR SIDE

Uplift's unique Road To College & Career program is UNPARALLELED in how we prepare our scholars for life after high school and support them through college and into a career.

Here is an overview of services Uplift is providing scholars and alumni. Not only does RTCC support scholars when they're with us, we have a team dedicated to ensure they're success after they graduate from Uplift schools.

Uplift Road To College & Career



“Before coming to Uplift, I never took college seriously because I didn't think it was an option. My teachers at Uplift and my Road to College and Career counselors helped change that. Uplift made me excited about learning and I felt more prepared across the board when I started college.”

—Cecilia Martinez, Class of 2018 and attends the University of Texas at Austin

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Talking about money is awkward and difficult to do, especially with loved ones. Money is a common stressor for a lot of people so to think about the need to pay for college can feel daunting for everyone involved. Although it may feel awkward, it's important to begin talking about the realities of paying for college.

Uplift works tirelessly with scholars to ensure they receive the best financial aid package where they are not paying for college or at least are left with paying little. For the class of 2020, Uplift scholars were awarded over \$115 million dollars in grants and scholarships. However, that may not be the case for everyone.

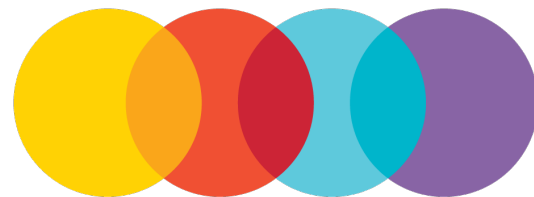
Keep in mind when thinking about paying for college:

Average total cost of a tuition for a Bachelor's degree ranges between \$40-\$45k (Texas public universities)

An ACT score of 23+ may award scholarships between \$1,000-\$15,000, depending on the college or university

Pell Grant recipients may be awarded up to a total of \$25,380 (4 years of college)

Earning an IB Diploma at Uplift Education could save scholars \$12,000-\$50,000 worth of tuition expenses, depending on the college or university they attend.



IB CONTINUUM
CONTINUUM DE L'IB
CONTINUO DEL IB

THE JOURNEY STEP BY STEP

The move from high school to college can be one of the most challenging and life-changing decisions of a teen's journey. This decision not only has the potential of changing the course of a scholar's life, it can potentially change the trajectory of family generations to come. This is why it's important for scholars and their parents/guardians to have conversations throughout the entire process. The more families are involved with the college and career decision making process, the easier the transition will be and the more supported the scholar will feel.

Use the timelines on the following pages as a roadmap to your college and career journey.



SCHOLARS

Look for this symbol to determine the actions you should take throughout the school year.

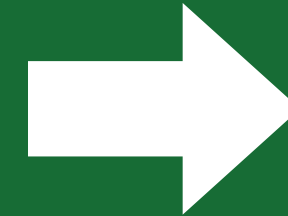


FAMILIES AND GUARDIANS

Look for this symbol to determine the actions you should take to help support your scholar on the road to college and career.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS

It's Not Too Early!



7th grade

The Time is Now: Lay Your Foundation

- **Explore Your Interests** - Which school activities do you enjoy the most?
- **Get to Know Your Teachers** - How can they help and support you?
- **Make a Studying Plan** - Schedule a nightly routine for you to complete your homework and read lesson materials.

8th grade

Ready for High School

- **Challenge Yourself** - Do you have the opportunity to take a Pre-AP course and Algebra I?
- **Commit to earning As and Bs in all Your classes**
- **Learn What You Need** - Speak with your teachers and counselors about what classes are right for you in high school. Ask them how you can get ahead in your college and career preparation.

Start the Conversation

It may feel awkward to start the conversation but it really starts with understanding what the scholar's interests and personal ambitions are. "What do you enjoy about school?" or "what class or school activity do you enjoy the most?" These are great questions to begin understanding what your scholar's interests are.

Family Values

Discuss with your scholar what a college education means to you and the family. What opportunities did you have or wished you did? How do you plan to support your scholar's college and career goals? It's important for your teen to hear and understand what a college education means for the family and more importantly, that they feel supported in their decision. Remember--the college and career journey looks different for each person.

Explore

It's hard to know what you don't know. In most instances, an opportunity for a scholar to visit a college or university, or speak with a career professional can ignite the spark for a certain college and career pathway. Discuss opportunities with your scholar to explore these opportunities at Uplift and determine if there is time for the family to visit local colleges and universities during the evenings and/or weekends.



9th Grade & 10th Grade

Create Your Roadmap!



9th grade

Identify Goals and Create Your Road map

- **Build Your GPA** - Your GPA (grade point average) is determined by your semester grades, which continues to build throughout high school. Build a strong GPA...you'll thank yourself later.
- **Challenge Yourself** - Do you have opportunities to take advanced classes like AP?
- **Change is Good** - Seek opportunities to further explore your academic and career interests. It's okay if they change or evolve. Take note of them and share updates with your teachers, family members and counselors.

10th grade

Remain Curious, Committed and Motivated

- **Exam Ready** - Connect with your school teachers and counselors on how to prepare for the upcoming PSAT. This experience will help you get a feel for how college entrance exams are, which will be needed for most universities. Don't sweat, you got this!
- **Don't Give Up** - Keep your head up and continue to strive to perform well in all of your classes. Ask for help when you need it.



Revisit the Conversation

Revisit your interests and see what has faded away or grown stronger.

Have a candid conversation about the cost of college and what paying for college might look like and how together the family can save for college.

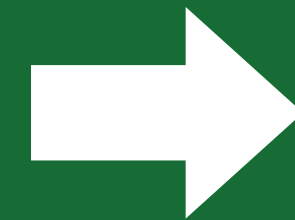
Discuss what is important for a college experience - distance from home, college size, majors, etc.



- **Give Back and Serve** - Colleges and universities like to know what your interests are outside of school. So much of the college experience is participating in clubs and organizations. Take a Saturday a month and volunteer your time serving the community to help build your leadership skills and civic engagement.

11th Grade

Kick It In Gear!



11th grade

Understand Your College & Career Pathway

- **Meet your Road to College and Career Team!** - There is a team of dedicated staff and counselors to assist you on your college & career journey. They are the in-house experts so be sure to connect with them sooner than later.
- **Earn College Credit Through IB** - You're now enrolled in IB's Diploma Programme (DP), which provides you the opportunity to earn college credit pending the IB assessments you take your senior year. Consider this year being the building blocks to your final year at Uplift, where you have the opportunity to earn at college credits.

- **Secure a Strong GPA** - For most of your college applications, your final GPA after your junior year year will be used to determine your academic qualifications. Keep your eye on the prize, ask for help, go to tutoring and ensure you're devoting enough time to studying. It's getting real!
- **Visit and Explore** - Attend all college and career trips to learn more about the options available to you. Sometimes visiting an organization or a school can help give you confidence and direction in your college and career planning.
- **Get Those Recommendations!** - Most universities and internships will require letters of recommendation from your school teachers, counselors and mentors. Be sure to ask 3-5 people to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf.



- **ACT/SAT** - It's time to officially take the ACT and/or SAT, which will be used by colleges and universities to determine your acceptance into their school. It's important to prepare to the best of your ability and be informed with all you need to know. Don't forget--your scores could qualify you for scholarships! Good luck!



Don't forget to attend JUMP (Junior to Undergrad Master Plan) events in the spring where parents can join sessions on topics like senior year overview, financial preparation for college, career preparation, and self-advocacy during the transition from high school to college.



12th Grade

The Final Stretch!

You're Ready!

12th grade

Make it Happen: Your Next Chapter is Here

- **Watch for campus visitors** - September of your senior year be on the lookout for more information from your RTCC campus team. Universities, business and military branches from across the country will be in attendance for you to speak with.
- **Apply, Apply, Apply!** - FAFSA and college applications will soon be open! Deadlines will be approaching sooner than you expect so start your applications now! Need help? Connect with your RTCC counselor.

- **Finish strong!** - You're almost to the finish line! Continue to remain committed in your classes, manage follow-up items from your college and financial applications, be sure you're on track to graduate and keep your RTCC counselor up to date with all of your progress. Congratulations on a job well done!

We know this can be a very stressful year with the potential to experience joy and disappointment. Support your scholar, check-in with them weekly, attend family sessions hosted by the RTCC team..



GLOSSARY

College Application: A college application is part of the competitive college admissions system. Admissions departments usually require students to complete an application for admission that generally consists of academic records, personal essays, letters of recommendation, and a list of extracurricular activities. Most schools require the SAT or ACT. Deadlines for admission applications are established and published by each college or university, with more competitive schools having a deadline of December 1st.

Apply Texas: ApplyTexas is similar to the Common App, but specifically for Texas schools. You can apply for admissions to any Texas public university, participating community colleges, or participating private universities, and you can easily copy parts of your application to another Texas school so you can avoid having to do an entirely new application for each school.

Application Deadline: The date, set by college admissions offices, after which applications for admission will not be accepted.

Advanced Placement (AP): AP courses are college-level classes taught in the high school following guidelines and covering material that will instruct students in AP subject areas and should prepare them to take Advanced Placement tests offered by The College Board.

“Best Fit or Right Fit”: The college search is not about getting into the best college. There is no school that is best for all students. Some students do best at large public universities; others excel in small liberal arts colleges; still others want to study far from home. If you want to make the most of college, don’t just apply to the big—name schools or the ones your friends are excited about. Do your own research to find schools that are the best fit for you.

College Essay: A brief composition on a single subject, required by many colleges as part of the application process for admission.

College Fair: An event at which colleges, universities, and other organizations related to higher education present themselves in an exposition atmosphere for the purpose of attracting and identifying potential applicants.

College Rep Visit: This is when a college or university admissions representative visits a high school or community site for the purpose of recruiting students for admission to the institution.

College Search: These are the steps you take in the early phases of college planning in order to identify, locate, and investigate college-level programs that meet your individual interests, abilities, and needs as a student.

Common Application: The Common Application (informally known as the Common App) makes it possible for students to use one admissions application to apply to any of 456 member colleges and universities. There is a Common Application for First-Year Admission and a Common Application for Transfer Admission. Both versions allow the application to be filled out once online and submitted to all schools with the same information going to each.

Extracurriculars: Extracurricular activities are simply anything you do that is not a high school course or paid employment (but note that paid work experience is of interest to colleges and can substitute for some extracurricular activities). You should define your extracurricular activities in broad terms—many applicants make the mistake of thinking of them solely as school-sponsored groups such as yearbook, band or football. Not so. Most community and family activities are also “extracurricular.”

Associate’s degree: Undergraduate degree that generally requires two years of full-time study.

Bachelor’s degree: Undergraduate degree that generally requires four years of full-time study. Students must declare a major in a particular field of study and choose a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree path.

Certification: A non-degree credential that proves knowledge or skill in a specific area. Valued credentials vary by industry and job title.

GPA (Grade Point Average): The GPA is figured by averaging the numerical value of a student’s grades. It is cumulative, starting freshman year: grades count every year. A poor GPA in ninth grade can drag down the overall average, despite, for example, good grades junior year.

Honors Classes: The difference between a regular class (such as English 1) and the honors class (English 1 Honors) is not necessarily the amount of work, but the type of work required and the pace of studying. Honors courses are not advanced in the same sense that high school Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses are. Rather, honors courses are enriched; they offer the same material in greater depth and with a faster pace.

Instate (Resident) Student: A student whose permanent residence is in the same state as the college or university he or she attends or hopes to attend. In-state students pay lower tuition than do out-of-state students.

GLOSSARY

Out-of-State (Non-Resident) Student: Student whose permanent residence is in a different state than that of the college or university which he or she attends or hopes to attend. Out-of-state students generally pay higher tuition than do instate students.

Post-secondary: Any education, whether degree-seeking or not, pursued after high school.

“Reach School”: A college or university that you have a chance of getting into, but your test scores, GPA and/or class rank are a bit on the low side when you look at the school’s profile. The top U.S. colleges and top universities should always be considered reach schools.

Recommendations: Statements or letters of endorsement written on a student’s behalf during the college application process.

“Safety School”: A college or university where you clearly meet the admission requirements: minimum GPA, test scores, etc. It’s important, though, that the school also be one that you would want to attend, should you not gain admission to more selective colleges.

School Profile: This is an overview of your high school’s program, grading system, course offerings, and other features that your school is submits to admissions offices along with your transcript. For better or worse, admissions offices use this information to weigh your GPA, placing a student’s GPA against the academic reputation of the school she/he/they attends.

Transcript: This is the official document containing the record of a student’s academic performance and testing history. The school at which a student is or has been officially enrolled must issue the transcript, certified by the signature of an authorized school administrator. The school’s official seal or watermarked school stationery may also be used to authenticate the transcript.

Virtual Tour: This is an online feature offered by some colleges and universities to allow prospective students to view various aspects of campus life without visiting the institutions in person.

ACT: A two-hour-and-55-minute examination that measures a student’s knowledge and achievement in four subject areas -- English, mathematics, reading and science reasoning -- to determine the student’s readiness for college-level instruction. There is also an optional writing test that assesses students’ skills in writing an essay. The ACT is scored on a scale of 1 to 36 for each of the four areas. The four subject area scores are averaged to create a Composite Score.

PSAT Test: This exam prepares students for the SAT and is used to qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship semifinals and other academic awards.

SAT: This is a widely used college entrance examination program. This includes the SAT Reasoning Test, which assesses students’ critical thinking skills as they relate to the ability to manage college-level instruction. It is a 3-hour exam measuring verbal and mathematical skills, as well as grammar/conventions and the ability to write a brief essay. Students may earn a total of up to 2400 points on the three-hour exam (up to 800 points in each of the exam’s content areas: verbal, math, and writing).

College: An institution of higher learning, often referred to as a “four-year” institution, which grants the bachelor’s degree in liberal arts or science or both.

Community College: Community colleges, sometimes called junior colleges, technical colleges, or city colleges, are primarily two-year public institutions providing higher education and lower-level courses, granting certificates, diplomas, and associate’s degrees. Many also offer continuing and adult education. After graduating from a community college, some students transfer to a four-year liberal arts college or university for two to three years to complete a bachelor’s degree.

Historically Black College: Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) are institutions of higher education in the United States that were established before 1964 with the intention of serving the black community. There are 105 HBCUs today, including public and private, two-year and four-year institutions, medical schools and community colleges. Almost all are in former slave states

Private School: This is a college or university funded by private sources without any control by a government agency. The cost of attending a private institution is generally higher than the cost at a public institution.

Public School / State School: A college or university that receives public funding, primarily from a local, state, or national government that oversees and regulates the school’s operations is considered a public institution.

University: A “post-secondary institution” that consists of a liberal arts college, a diverse graduate program, and usually two or more professional schools or faculties, and that is empowered to confer degrees in various fields of study.

GLOSSARY

Vocational or Technical School: This type of institution is similar to a community college in that it offers specific career-oriented programs that last from a few months to a couple of years. Most are specialized and offer intense training in one specific skill area.

Faith-based School: These are colleges and universities established by and currently operating under the sponsorship of a church, synagogue, or mosque; a denomination; or a particular religion.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): The EFC is the amount of money you and your family could be expected to pay for one year of college costs, based on the data gathered from the FAFSA and determined by a federal formula applied to that data. This figure often differs from the actual amount you will be required to pay.

FAFSA: This is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, a federal form required as the application from all students who wish to apply for need-based financial aid, including grants, loans and work-study awards.

TAFSA: TASFA is the Texas Application for State Financial Aid. It's meant for students who are ineligible for federal aid through FAFSA® who are Texas residents, and went to high school for at least three years in the state. These include, but are not limited to, foreign nationals, permanent residents, and eligible non-citizens. You can only apply for either FAFSA or TASFA, not both.

Fees: These are charges that cover costs not associated with the student's course load, such as costs of some athletic activities, clubs, and special events.

Financial Aid Package: The total amount of financial aid a student receives. Federal and nonfederal aid—such as grants, loans, or work-study—are combined in a “package” to help meet the student's need. Using available resources to give each student the best possible package of aid is one of the major responsibilities of a school's financial aid administrator.

Tuition: This is the amount of money that colleges charge for classroom and other instruction and use of some facilities such as libraries.

Academic (Merit) Scholarships: Academic scholarships are based upon academic achievement as reflected in your college application.

Federal Pell Grant: This grant is a form of financial aid provided by the Federal government to students whose FAFSA indicates a high level of financial need

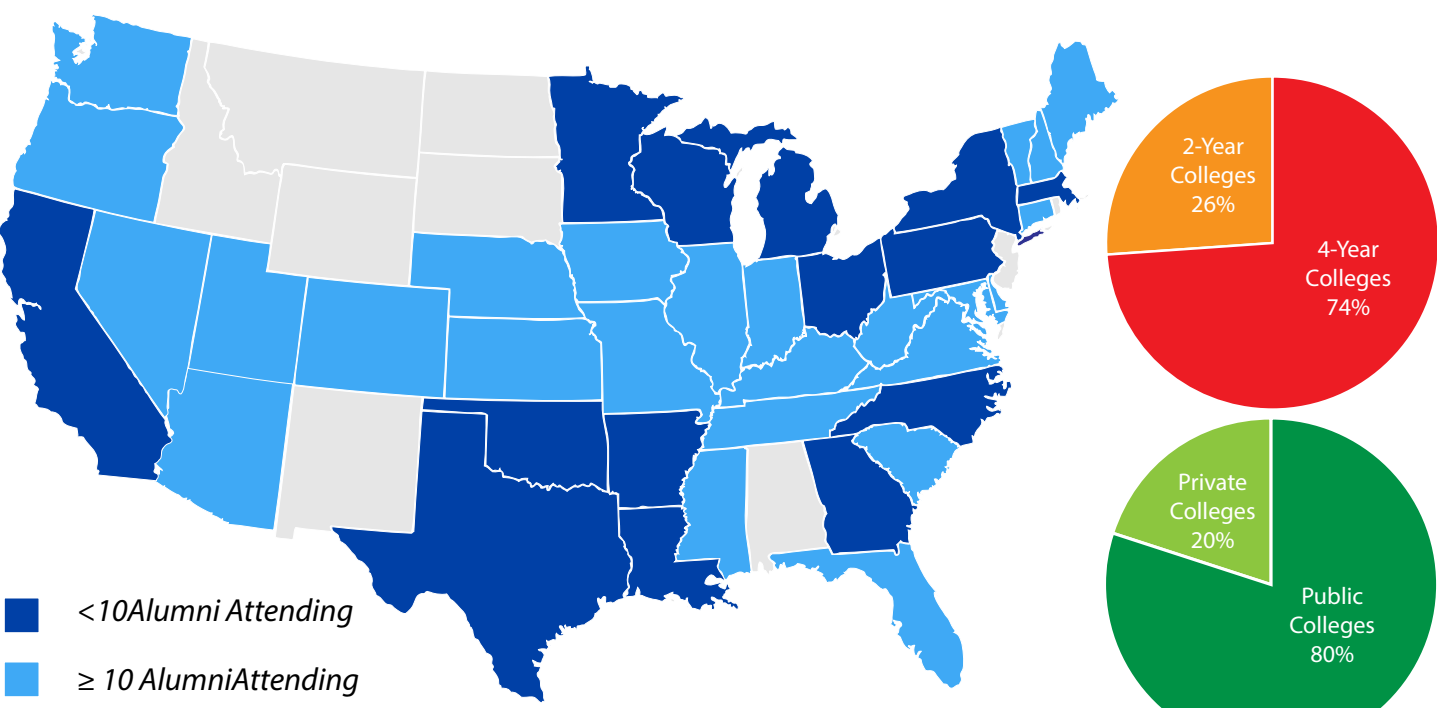
Stafford Loan: This is a federal student loan for college students used to supplement personal and family resources, scholarships, grants, and work-study. A Stafford Loan may be subsidized or unsubsidized, depending on whether it is need-based.

Subsidized Loans: These loans are need-based loans with interest paid by the government and payments deferred as long as the student is enrolled in a post-secondary program of studies

Unsubsidized Loans: Your school determines the amount you can borrow based on your cost of attendance and other financial aid you receive. You are responsible for paying the interest on a Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

Work Study: Most colleges offer work-study programs. They allow students to work part time during the school year as part of their financial aid package. The jobs are usually on campus and the money earned is used to pay for tuition or other college charges

Current College Enrollment for Uplift Alumni





uplifteducation
Road To College & Career

My RTCC Counselor: _____

Counselor Email: _____

Counselor Phone: _____

Visit

www.uplifteducation.org/rcccfamilies

for more resources and links to our podcast.

