



(10 pts) Approx. 2 days

Time to keep thinking about college! In this unit, you'll take some time to investigate what different colleges have to offer. You'll research UAF – it's so close, it'd be dumb *not* to consider it – as well as 2 other universities that you're interested in. In addition to finding out all about those universities, it's also your job to request a few letters of recommendation. Mr. Benshoof will write you one that focuses on your work in Lathrop's Engineering program, but you also need to find 2 teachers and 2 other adults that can give you a good recommendation.

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** This part is relatively quick. You need to identify at least two (2) non-Benshoof teachers and two (2) more adults outside of Lathrop to write you letters of recommendation. We want you to have a few letters that show your various strengths as a student, as an engineer, and as a well-rounded person. That way, when we start putting together applications for schools and scholarships you'll have some options to pick from when you need to include a letter of recommendation.
2. When you request a letter of recommendation from someone, you should give them a copy of your resume. You should also let them know what you plan to use the letter for (scholarships and college admissions), and ask them to have it done by a specific date (give them at least 2 weeks). You'll likely want to remind them once or twice as the deadline approaches. Ask for 3 copies of the letter, and collect them when your letter writers are finished.
3. **COLLEGE RESEARCH:** You have a wide range of colleges to consider for life after Lathrop. What you're being asked to do here is to research UAF as well as 2 other universities. In this work, you'll investigate things like cost, programs, and undergraduate opportunities for degree programs that interest you. All this research can be done online, but you should record the information on the College Research Sheet. Each topic you'll research is briefly discussed below:
  - a. **University Name & Location:** Basic information
  - b. **Program Area of Interest:** This is the subject you want to study in college. Probably something like "Mechanical Engineering", "Chemistry", "Chemical Engineering", "Computer Science", etc.
  - c. **School/Program that Specializes in that content area:** This is the smaller school within the university that specializes in your field. At UAF, the Math program is housed in the "Department of Mathematics & Statistics". The Economics program is part of the "School of Management".
  - d. **Bachelor's, Master's, PhD:** The expectation these days is for people to have Master's degrees. You should just plan on it for yourself. Many programs are starting to create combined Bachelors/Masters programs that help you finish both degrees earlier than normal.
  - e. **AP Credit:** It is important to know if your hard-earned AP credit will be worth something. Classes you get credit for through AP save you time and money!
  - f. **Enrollment & Graduation:** It's worth thinking about how big the school is in comparison to Lathrop. Larger schools or smaller schools might be something you're looking for. Also, universities with higher graduation rates may have better advising programs to help you complete your degree.
  - g. **Credits:** Credits for graduation cost you both time and money. Understanding how many credits it will take to graduate can tell you how long it will take to graduate. For example, some schools assume that their engineering program will take 5 years for a Bachelor's degree.
  - h. **Program Website:** Programs or degrees that have their own website are often the best place to find contact information, course descriptions, and to get a real understanding of what opportunities are available.
  - i. **Courses:** In the end, the goal is to get to a university where you can learn cool things. It's worth looking through the names and descriptions of the courses you would take if you went to a university. If the courses don't look exciting, maybe you will want to go somewhere else.
  - j. **Program Contact:** Find the name and contact information for a program coordinator for the academic program you've identified. This will be great place to start the communication process as you apply to the school and start looking for scholarships.



- k. **Program Summary:** Many programs will give a 3, 4, or 5 year plan of study to help students look ahead. See if you can find such a document (I know UAF has them) and get it printed out.
- l. **Extracurricular Activities:** You can't spend ALL your time at college studying. You'll want to have a few fun things going on. The school's website will have a "Student Life" page – take a look for some sports, clubs, or activities that would interest you.
- m. **Average Student Stats:** Find out what the average test scores (SAT/ACT) and GPA are for incoming freshmen. Consider where you fall in relation to that. If your numbers are much lower, don't worry.
- n. **Required Scores:** Find out if there is a required SAT/ACT score or a required GPA. Also find out if there is a specific requirement for having taken certain classes in high school. Some schools will require that you had some art or maybe foreign language classes. Think about where you fall in relation to those entrance requirements. If you don't meet their minimums, don't worry. It will just be something that we need to think about.
- o. **Cost:** When people talk about college the conversation often turns to the price tag. That's an important thing to consider, but should not be a barrier to applying. Instead, the potentially high cost of things should motivate you to be looking for scholarships. For this section, find the university's financial aid page and find out how much different costs are. Also go to [alaskaair.com](http://alaskaair.com) to find out how much a round-trip plane ticket is to/from the college. We then multiply the total number by 4 to find the cost of going to that school for four years. In all cases, it's worth rounding-up to give you a good estimate for total cost of your degree. If you find a longer program that includes Masters work, maybe multiply by 5 or 6.

<i>Part 2: College Tasks</i>	<i>5 points</i>	<i>2 points</i>	<i>1-0 points</i>
 College Research	+ You should have taken some notes from the presentation + You should have recorded your brainstorming	- Notes from missing from either presentation or brainstorming	- No notes
 Letters of Recommendation	+ Create a professional and complete personal resume + Resume includes all sections	- Resume is not professional - Resume is incomplete	- Resume is missing

