

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, many Seniors will not be able to do a lot of activities that they were looking forward to, such as prom, graduation, graduation parties, and of course, hanging out with friends for the last time before heading off to college.

And there is where the problem lies, heading off to college. How are Seniors supposed to do that? According to Business Insider, there is a predicted second wave of COVID that will arise in the early fall. If governments take this information seriously, they might be forced to close down airports. That begs the question; how are our seniors going to get to their new college campuses?



A typical Amtrak sleeping cabin, assigned to routes that last more than 4 days in length. *Photo courtesy of Amtrak Guide.*

For some, it is not that big of a problem; they can just drive there. Seniors that are attending colleges in Washington state itself can just drive to their new college campus without much hassle. Even those attending Colleges in Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and even California can drive to their college's campus, if need be. The problem lies with colleges that are on the East coast, or even internationally.

For traveling across the country, the US Government still maintains their AMTRAK rail lines, which can take students from Seattle to Boston in just under five days. While antiquated and slow, they still are transporting passengers and freight all across the country and will definitely be a great way for seniors to see America's vastly differing landscapes on the journey.

When it comes to international schools, one may assume that they are hopeless, but there is a way, (albeit long and expensive) to travel to another continent for college; Container ships.

Even though the nation is currently at a standstill, manufactured goods built in factories must still be transported. Many container ships offer Passenger cabins that can be booked and used to travel from port to port. The only downside is that the trip will take a long time. The average time it takes for a Ship to travel from Tacoma, WA to London, UK is about one month, and the price of this type of crossing is easily over 2,000 dollars.



A typical passenger stateroom aboard a container ship. *Photo courtesy of The Planet D*

As a result of coronavirus and the task of trying to keep new cases low, many colleges have decided to host their fall quarter online. This solves the inherent issue of not being able to travel, by hosting classes online, but some are still on the fence or are adamant on being open for the Fall quarter, for which the students will need to find a way to travel. Luckily, air travel has not yet been banned by the United States, Canada, or the EU so travelling to a prospective freshman's college is still possible. Until fall quarter classes begin, however, seniors still need to focus on schoolwork issued by their teachers, as well as complete any steps needed to successfully start college in the fall. For the time being, it is highly encouraged to pay attention to what each specific college is saying about whether or not they go online in the fall or not.