

Olathe Public Schools



Senior Year College Planning Guide



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Post-Secondary Options for Students

 Gap Year

 Employment

 Significant On the Job Training

 Apprenticeship

- Licensure – Paid On the Job Training

 Military Training

- Transferable College Credits
- Certifications

 Technical School

- Associate's Degree
- Certificate

 Comm. College

- Associate's Degree

 4 Year College or University

- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Professional/Doctorate degree

COLLEGE PLANNING

www.careercruising.com



Taking a GAP Year

What is a Gap Year?

The Gap Year Association describes a gap year as “A semester or year of experiential learning, typically taken after high school and prior to career or post-secondary education, in order to deepen one’s practical, professional, and personal awareness.”

Planning a GAP year is very important. Here are some things to consider:

- There are a lot of resources on the Internet devoted to planning a GAP year. One Gap year planning site is The Center for Interim Programs: www.interimprograms.com
- Try to speak with a former GAP year participant. Learn from their experience.
- Focus on finances – a GAP year can be expensive if not planned well.
- Many colleges allow enrollment to be deferred for a year before beginning classes. Therefore, it may be a benefit and be easier to gain admission into college before beginning the gap year. Submit college applications prior to the completion of the senior year, and elect to defer enrollment for one year.

GAP Year Programs and Resources

- AmeriCorps offers local and national community services opportunities. They also offer a variety of benefits such as living allowances, educational awards, health coverage, loan forbearance and more. <http://www.nationalservice.gov>
- The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) offers programs for college bound graduates who want to volunteer, teach, or live abroad learning and exploring different cultures during their Gap year. <http://www.ciee.org>
- City Year offers its members a variety of benefits which range from educational and living stipends, health insurance, and more in exchange for a yearlong commitment to transform schools in the United States and Africa. <http://www.cityyear.org>
- Gap-Year.com offers a wealth of information on taking time away from school to travel abroad, work, volunteer and more. <http://www.gap-year.com>
- Studyabroad.com offers information on opportunities to study in another country as well as volunteer and internship programs. <http://www.studyabroad.com>
- STATravel offers gap-year travel and planning information. They also offer travel insurance packages. <http://www.statravel.com>

Military Opportunities

Requirements:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien.
- Must be at least 17 years old (17-year-old applicants require parental consent).
- Must (with very few exceptions) have a high school diploma.
- Must pass a physical medical exam.
- Must complete the ASVAB.

Enlisting: Enlisted members do the hands-on work of the military. A high school diploma is required (a GED may or may not suffice).

Officer: Officers are the managers of the military. Most officer programs require a college degree at the minimum and office positions are very competitive. Many officers have Master's degrees.

Before visiting with a local recruiter, be sure to meet the minimum qualifications for serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Some qualifications are required by all five services. For each branch of the military, there are slightly different requirements. This information can be attained from a local recruiter or military career counselor.

The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. It is administered annually to more than one million military applicants, high school students, and post-secondary students.

Immediate Benefits of serving in the military: (not limited to)

1. Educational and career training (technical and professional)
 - College degrees
 - Vocational or technical certificates
 - Certificates of completion of civilian apprenticeship programs
2. Specific guaranteed training and an opportunity to become a commissioned officer
3. Guaranteed pay and promotion opportunities
4. Free medical and dental care

Long Term Benefits of serving in the military: (not limited to)

1. G.I. Bill
2. Scholarships and Fellowships
3. Pay bonuses
4. Lifetime Retirement benefits after 20 years of service

Technical College and Certificate Programs

A great option for students who want to get training and into the workforce in two years or less is to attend a technical college and to receive a certificate. Students who learn a technical trade can earn a competitive wage with opportunities for continual growth. The following are some Kansas Technical Schools:

Flint Hills Technical College

Kansas City Kansas Community Technical College

Manhattan Area Technical College

North Central Kansas Technical College

Salina Area Technical College

Wichita Area Technical College

There could be many job opportunities available to students graduating from technical colleges and community colleges. In fact, some of the fastest-growing jobs in Kansas will require career- focused training, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Check out this chart with a number of vocational-level jobs in Kansas, and recent salary information for each:

Career	Total Employment	Annual Mean Wage
Advertising Sales Agents	1,570	\$48,110
Carpenters	5,560	\$41,830
Chefs and Head Cooks	1,180	\$37,070
Civil Engineering Technicians	1,270	\$46,430
Dental Laboratory Technicians	540	\$37,440
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	540	\$68,580
Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses	7,380	\$40,880
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	1,860	\$44,480
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	5,900	\$46,140
Real Estate Sales Agents	710	\$63,640
Respiratory Therapy Technicians	90	\$44,450
Web Developers	990	\$58,510

Source: 2016 Occupational Employment Statistics May 2016 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates Kansas, Bureau of Labor Statistics, BLS.gov.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

What is a Community College?

Community colleges are typically two-year institutions that offer the benefits of low tuitions and convenient locations. Students usually choose a community college with one of the following goals in mind:

- To begin earning basic credits that will later transfer to a four-year college
- To pursue a two-year Associate Degree or certificate program to prepare for a specific career
- To take continuing education classes in order to build new job skills, explore a new career or pursue a personal interest

When Should You Consider a Community College?

A community college offers plenty of benefits, but it might be a particularly good option for you in one of the following is true:

- ***Cost is an issue.*** Tuition at most community colleges is quite a bit cheaper than at their four-year counterparts. Even if you plan to eventually attend a four-year school, you can save a lot of money by taking a couple of semesters of general prerequisites at a community college
- ***Your grades do not make the grade.*** Unlike competitive four-year colleges, community colleges typically have open admission policies which only require a high school diploma. Plus, attending a community college is a great way to improve an academic track record in order to get accepted to a four-year college.
- ***You are not quite ready to leave home.*** Plenty of high school grads are just not ready for the responsibility of living on their own. Community colleges are a good stepping stone, since you can ease into college courses while still living at home.
- ***You want job-specific training.*** At a community college, you can usually dive right into a two-year program that will give you specific training for a specialized field or a technical or vocational career.

4-Year College

Requirements:

High School Diploma: A high school diploma is required (a GED may or may not suffice).

ACT or SAT: These national tests must be completed prior to application.

Application/Admission: Application requirements typically include an essay and multi-page application.

FAFSA: If financial assistance is needed to cover college costs, this application must be completed.

Many students begin college as undeclared majors, but this can make getting some scholarships more difficult. There are general education requirements that must be completed by all graduates. Often, undeclared majors use these general education classes to explore a degree of interest.

Additionally, four year colleges offer many special interest clubs and groups that can help students explore their interests and better narrow down a major. Using the first two years to explore degrees can create a heavy junior and senior course load; however, by this point the student is ready to take classes in their chosen degree.

Immediate Benefits of a 4-year college: (not limited to)

- Transfer of AP and Concurrent courses taken in high school
- Independent living with support systems
- A sense of direction

Long Term Benefits of a 4-year college: (not limited to)

- Apply for jobs requiring a 4-year degree
- Continued study at the master and doctoral level
- In-depth knowledge in course of study
- Income potential over the course of a career

COLLEGE PLANNING RESOURCES



COLLEGE VOCABULARY

- **Associate Degree:** An associate degree is typically a two-year degree program requiring students to earn approximately 60 hours of college credit; often awarded through community and technical or junior colleges. Many public and private four-year universities in Kansas also offer associate degrees. At Kansas community colleges, different types of associate degrees are offered, such as an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.), which is considered a degree for going directly into a career, an Associate of Arts (A.A.) or an Associate of Science (A.S.), which can be used to either go into a career or can be applied toward a bachelor degree at a Kansas public university.
- **Bachelor's Degree:** Traditionally a four-year degree program requiring students to earn approximately 120 hours of college credit; also known as a baccalaureate or undergraduate degree.
- **Certificate:** A certificate demonstrates that a student has earned knowledge in a very specific area of study, often focused on a vocational or professional subject. A certificate typically does not involve taking general education courses and usually can be completed in days, weeks, or months, rather than years. Kansas community colleges and technical institutes offer certificate programs.
- **Community or Junior Colleges:** generally, offer the first two years of a liberal arts education in addition to specialized occupational preparation. An associate degree is awarded at the end of a two-year program of studies, following which many students continue their education at a four-year institute.
- **Financial aid:** comes in many forms and helps students with financial need pay for college costs. Financial aid includes:
 - **Grants:** money given to students based upon family income
 - **Scholarships:** awards based upon school performance, test scores, or special talents (like sports or music)
- **Hispanic-serving Institutions:** are colleges, universities or systemic/districts where total Hispanic enrollment constitutes a minimum of 25 percent at either the undergraduate or graduate level.
- **Historically Black Colleges and Universities:** find their origins in the time when African-American students were systematically denied access to most other colleges and universities. Students at HBCUs have a unique opportunity to experience an educational community as the majority. They find committed faculty mentors who encourage their expectations of success.
- **Liberal Arts Colleges:** focus on the education of undergraduate students. Classes are generally taught by professors who see teaching as their primary responsibility. Students who attend liberal arts colleges are exposed to a broad sampling of classes. In addition, they select at least one area of in-depth study that is their college "major." Many employers look for graduates of liberal arts programs, because they are "well-rounded."

OTHER COMMON COLLEGE TERMS:

- **Private Colleges and Universities:** are not supported by states or taxes. Some receive support from religious groups and other endowments.
- **Proprietary Institutions:** are considered for-profit companies that operate under the demand of investors and stockholders. They attract adult learners and part-time students in search of narrowly-focused professional training opportunities. These programs usually offer a non-traditional format; many for-profits also have classes solely available online.
- **Public colleges and universities:** are financed by state taxes. Their primary mission is often to serve students who live close to their campus. Generally, they cost less than private colleges.
- **Technical Institutes and Professional Schools:** enroll students who have made clear decisions about what they want to study and emphasize preparation for specific careers, for example in music or fine arts, engineering or technical sciences.
- **Tribal Colleges:** are similar to HBCUs, in focusing on the needs and education of American Indian students.
- **Universities:** are generally larger and include a liberal arts college, as well as colleges focused on preparation for a specific career, like nursing or education. Universities offer a greater range of academic choices than do liberal arts colleges, but often come with classes that are quite large.
- **Women's Colleges:** with their large numbers of female faculty and administrators, offer college women confidence-building role models, greater opportunities to serve in a full range of student leadership positions, and a heightened awareness of career possibilities for women. Women's colleges graduate a higher number of science majors, as well as students who continue on to graduate school and/or professional studies.

Career Cruising

Career Cruising is a great resource available for students in the Olathe School District. Students can access the website at <http://www.careercruising.com> and log in with their username and password. Some of the resources available include:

- **Skill inventories**
- **Career Assessments**
- **Career Overviews**
- **College Exploration**
- **Campus Visit notes**
- **Financial Aid and Cost Analysis**
- **Individual Plan of Study**
- **Career and Life Goals**
- **Resume Builder**
- **Community Service Log**

Students will be completing their portfolio of activities as part of their Individual Plan of Study.

Students have access to their Career Cruising information for 5 years upon graduation. If a student logs into the site once during the 5 years, access is extended for 5 more years for a total of 10 years of Career Cruising access.



Senior Year Checklist

THE SUMMER BEFORE THE SENIOR YEAR

- Request College Applications and financial aid information. Organize and plan for their completion.
- Research scholarship opportunities. Find out if parents' employers offer scholarships or tuition reimbursement. Check with all organizations and associations to which your family belongs.
- Learn more about how financial aid eligibility is determined; a good source of information is www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Register with Selective Service at www.sss.gov if you are a male who will be 18 at the time you complete the FAFSA. You won't be eligible for federal aid unless you do.

SEPTEMBER

- Attend College Fairs and meet with college admissions representatives visiting your school.
- Make a calendar of key application and financial aid deadlines.
- Complete your Senior Profile Sheet (at the back of this guide) and turn in to Student Services.
- Ask teachers, school counselors and other adults who know you for letters of recommendation for scholarship and admissions applications. Please allow a minimum of two weeks' notice when asking for a letter of recommendation. Provide a copy of your Senior Profile Sheet and/or a Resume to each person writing a letter for you.
- Take the ACT if necessary.
- Begin submitting college applications.
- Request transcripts through Career Cruising. Allow at least two weeks prior to a college's deadline for processing.
- Continue to research scholarships.

- Learn if your family qualifies for financial aid by using the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Calculator to help (FAFSA or FAFSA4caster).
- Make sure you have the forms you need for financial aid; be ready to submit the FAFSA beginning October 1.
- Learn as much as possible about financial aid from multiple sources. Look for special state, federal and local programs from which you may be able to get aid.

OCTOBER

- Take the SAT or ACT if necessary.
- Work on admissions applications essays.
- Continue completing college applications.
- Continue to seek and apply for scholarship awards from a variety of sources.
- Check website and print materials to see if the colleges you are considering require you to submit your aid application earlier than the typical deadline so that you can receive priority consideration for merit or need-based scholarships.
- Complete the FAFSA.** Remember that is the FREE application for Federal Student Aid. Don't pay to complete the form online. Sign and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1. Applying early improves the chances of receiving aid from as many sources as possible.
- Complete the CSS PROFILE online for institutions that require it if you are applying early decision or early action.

NOVEMBER

- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR); it should arrive two to four weeks after you submit the FAFSA. The EFC figure is printed on the front page at the upper right hand corner. If there are any errors on the SAR, make corrections to SAR online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Continue to complete your college applications.
- See if there is an asterisk next to the EFC figure on your SAR. If there is, your FAFSA was chosen for a routine process known as "verification." During verification, the information you submitted is checked against copies of signed tax returns. Be sure to submit all requested documentation to the financial aid office in a timely fashion.

DECEMBER

- Apply for scholarships in time to meet application deadlines.
- Review any early decision and early action responses. If you are admitted to your early decision school and have applied for financial aid you should receive a financial aid award. Some early action programs may admit you but not send a financial aid award notice until later in the spring.
- Read the award letter carefully. Some require you to submit a written acceptance. Make sure you understand the terms and conditions of the award before making a final decision.

JANUARY

- Most admission and financial aid award letters should be arriving. Read aid award letters carefully and be sure to meet deadlines for accepting awards.
- Get information on state and federal scholarships. Many of these programs require the FAFSA, the CSS PROFILE, or both.
- Complete the institutional financial aid application for each college, if one is required.
- Have mid-year transcripts sent to the schools to which you have applied via your Career Cruising account.

FEBRUARY

- Register for AP exams. See your AP teacher for the Total Registration website.
- Make sure to submit your applications and meet priority deadlines for the PROFILE in early to mid-February. Applications received by the priority deadline are given the highest consideration.
- Compare your aid awards to decide which schools will be a financial fit.
- If it is difficult to pay the EFC, start pursuing alternatives, such as parent loans, to close the financial aid gap.

MARCH

- Look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. Pay special attention to the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and discuss it with your parents and family.

APRIL

- Watch the mail for acceptance letters and financial aid award letters. Compare the financial aid packages.
- Consider meeting with financial aid staff members at the college to discuss your situation if your full need has not been met, or if your family's financial circumstances have changed.
- Choose a school.
- Mail the enrollment form and deposit check to the college by May 1.

You should never pay more than one enrollment deposit!

- Write thank you notes to the people who wrote you letters of recommendation.

MAY

- Enjoy your high school graduation!** 😊
- Review your financial aid package. If it includes student loans, your college will send you instructions about the loan application process. You need to complete and sign the Master Promissory Note (MPN) to receive your Stafford Loan.

THE SUMMER BEFORE COLLEGE

- Return the fall semester bill with proper payment as quickly as possible.
- Make sure you have completed all forms correctly and met all deadlines so that financial aid funds will be credited to your student account before the beginning of the semester.
- Finalize your housing plans.
- Check your college's student email account. This will be your college's method of communication.

SEPTEMBER (fall of first college semester)

- If you have a Stafford loan, complete loan counseling (or an entrance interview) so it can be disbursed. This is a federal requirement to ensure that you understand all loan obligations. The college's financial aid office provides you with information about the counseling process. In most cases, you complete a brief questionnaire online.
- Sign a promissory note if you have been awarded a Perkins Loan.

If you have questions, your high school counselor can help. However, if you have very specific questions, the best answers might come from a college/university's financial aid office. They are an excellent resource and can help with very specific questions and unique situations.

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST AND DEADLINES

Name of College	Acceptance Rate	Common App or College App	Admission Option Deadline: ED, EA, REA, RD, Rolling	Priority Scholarship Deadline	Date requested transcript on Career Cruising (must allow two weeks' notice)	Teacher Rec letters (# required) Must allow two weeks' notice	ACT/SAT requirement/score	Application fee	Essays, Resumes, Interview, Portfolio, Audition, etc.

ED – Early Decision

EA – Early Action (REA – Restrictive Early Action)

RD- Regular Decision

Tips for writing your College application essay.....

Here's advice from the people who read them!

Does writing a college application essay seem like a daunting task to you? For most people, the answer is a resounding “yes!” However, the essay is also an opportunity for you to show your talents and creativity to their best advantage.

To help you get started, here are some insights on writing an essay from the people who read hundreds of them every year — admission officers at ACM colleges.

The essay is your chance to use your voice

The essay is the living, breathing part of your application to a college. In the essay, you can speak in your own voice and **personalize** your application. Here's your opportunity to show something about you that doesn't really come across elsewhere in your application.

So, step back and be reflective. Think about who you are as an individual. How do you view the world? What do you care about deeply? What experiences and people have been important in shaping you as a person? What are your aspirations in life?

It is in such reflection that you can find your own, unique voice. That's the voice that will help you write an interesting essay that only **you** could have written.

Now, on to some nuts and bolts of writing the essay.

Show your command of the basics of good writing

Here are some key points that admission officers look for in an essay:

- Make sure to **answer the essay question** and to follow **all** the instructions that are given.
- Start off with a strong opening paragraph that captures the reader's interest.
- Use a style that you find comfortable and that is appropriate for the subject matter.
- Use correct grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Make a point and stick to it; develop your argument or narrative.
- Check **all** of your facts. Do you mention a date, place or event in your essay? Make sure it's correct.
- Have you given your reader complete information, so he or she won't be confused?

(continued)

Why do colleges require essays?

A college application includes a lot of information about you, such as grades, recommendations, lists of your extracurricular activities and test scores. All of that information is very important and helps admission officers form a picture of your accomplishments and abilities. However, while it tells about how other people see you, there isn't much about how you see yourself. It's that inside view — how you see yourself — that colleges hope to find in your essay.

The essay performs other functions, as well, such as:

- The essay can be a way of showing that you have researched and thought carefully about the college to which you are applying. It shows, in your own words, why you and the college would be a good “match.”
- An essay demonstrates your writing ability, which is a key component to success in college.
- In your essay, you can show that you are willing to put **yourself** into what you do. That kind of commitment is an important part of effective learning in college. And it shows the admission committee that you are someone who is willing and able to be a contributing member of a community of learners.
- Your academic record is the central and most important part of your application. For selective colleges especially, your essay provides additional insights about you — as a student and as an individual — for a college to consider as it reviews your application.



Beloit • Carleton • Coe • Colorado • Cornell • Grinnell • Knox
Lake Forest • Lawrence • Luther • Macalester • Monmouth • Ripon • St. Olaf
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- In general, it's best to be succinct. If there a recommended length for the essay, pay attention to it.
- The essay should be neatly typed.
- Remember that mistakes, especially sloppy mistakes, make it look like you don't take the essay (and, by extension, the application) very seriously.

What to write about? Where to look for an essay topic

Does the application ask you to choose a topic to write about? There are as many (actually, many more) good topics as there are applicants. Here are some ideas for where you might look for an essay topic:

- Do you have hobbies and non-school pursuits that really excite you and that engage your heart and mind? Writing about your out-of-classroom interests could help bring out a part of you that's not covered — or not covered completely and to your fullest advantage — elsewhere in your application.
- Is there a social cause that you hold near and dear? Remember, an essay is not an academic paper; but a cause that you feel passionately about, and that has been in your thoughts and activities, might be the basis for a strong essay.
- Perhaps there is an event (local, national or international) that has touched you in a personal way.
- Is there an academic subject that really sparks your interest? Why does the subject engage you? Has it led to experiences or study outside of school? There may be essay material that goes beyond the courses you took or scores on AP tests.

How to handle a topic

Often, colleges will ask you, the applicant, to write about an experience you've had, an achievement in your life, or someone who has had a significant influence on your life. In handling such a topic — or, for that matter, any topic you select — go beyond the *what* and dig into the *how* and *why*. In other words, don't settle for simply providing a description of an event. Take the next step and tell about the impact the situation had on you. For example:

- This is a personal essay, not a travelogue. So, if you're writing about a trip to another country, tell about how your experiences affected you, and why they were interesting or meaningful to you. In other words, the people reading the essay are interested in what makes you tick and how you got the way you are, not in how the trains run in Paris.
- Are you writing a tribute to your grandparents and their influence on your childhood? Be personal and specific, not just sentimental. Explain how the particular things your grandparents did or said were important to you.
- Did you overcome an athletic injury and recover to perform well? A description of the type of cast you wore and your rehab routine is not likely to make a compelling essay. However, your reflections on what it felt like to be watching your teammates, instead of competing alongside them, might be the basis of a memorable essay.

Possible pitfalls when writing an essay

- Writing a poem or making a videotape in place of an essay is probably not a good idea, unless you're applying to a specialized school that encourages such a submission.
- Humor can be risky, so be careful how you use it.
- "Honor code" rules are in effect when you write an essay, so do your own work and don't make things up.
As a practical matter, other items in the application, such as letters of recommendation, make it quite possible that you would be found out if you tried to make things up.

Some final tips

- **Leave yourself time to rewrite and revise.** For the great majority of people, this is not an easy assignment. Start early and leave plenty of time! Most likely that means to give yourself weeks (not days, and certainly not hours!) to rework your essay.
- If your essay is longer than three pages (unless the instructions call for something longer), then it had better be interesting! Think hard about what you really want to focus on, and take out whatever gets away from your central point.
- **The admission committee will take your essay seriously.** You should, too. You have a lot to gain by putting in the time and effort to write a good essay!

Suggested reading

The College Application Essay by Sarah Myers McGinty (The College Board, New York, NY).

My Transcripts Career Cruising

Students use Career Cruising to request their transcript. Please request transcripts at least 2 weeks prior to an application deadline.

To initiate a request for a transcript:

1. Log onto **www.careercruising.com**. After logging into Career Cruising using your schools credentials, log onto your individual plan.
2. From **My Plan**, click **My Education**
3. Select **My Transcripts**.
4. Click **Send Ad-Hoc Transcript Request**.
5. Select the destination for your request.
6. If the NCAA is the destination, confirm the request. If the destination is a college, click a state and then choose the college by name.
7. Click **Send Now** to confirm the request.

College Admission Options

<p>Regular Decision</p>	<p>Students apply by a specific date, usually the beginning of December to mid-January and receive notification in a clearly defined period of time.</p>
<p>Rolling Admission</p>	<p>Students are considered in the order in which their application is received. Schools provide admission decisions throughout the admission cycle, until they have reached full capacity.</p>
<p>Early Action (EA)</p>	<p>Early action is similar to early decision; however, the key difference is that it's not a binding agreement. You apply early and receive a decision much sooner than the school's regular response date.</p>
<p>Early Decision (ED)</p>	<p>Early decision should be utilized when you have a top school you'd like to attend <i>no matter what</i>. You must be sure that this is the school you'd like to attend because it is a binding contract. If you apply to a school via early decision and apply to others in the meantime, you must withdraw your applications to the other school if you are admitted to the early decision school.</p>
<p>Restrictive Early Action (REA)</p>	<p>Students apply and receive a decision early. You may be restricted from applying ED, EA, or REA to other institutions. Students have until May 1 to confirm.</p>

College Visits

- Seniors are encouraged to attend information sessions with college admission representatives that visit high schools each fall and spring.
- Before the visit, students are encouraged to research the colleges they would like to meet with. The information gained from the representatives should supplement what has already been learned from other sources, including the college's website.
- Come to each visit with a college admission representative with questions. Get the representative's contact information and follow up with him/her. They can be great allies in the admissions process.
- Check with your school's Student Services to learn the process for signing up to visit with an admission's representative.

There's no substitute for seeing a college yourself!

Before you go

There are lots of ways to find out about a college, from brochures to videos to college fairs.

But the bottom line is that

nothing beats the test of going to a college and seeing it for yourself.

Here are some ideas to help you make the most of a campus visit.

Call the admissions office in advance

Just as there's no substitute for seeing a college firsthand, there's no substitute for advance planning.

When you call the admissions office, tell them the date you'd like to visit and the time of day you expect to arrive.

If you want to stay overnight in a residence hall, ask if they can make arrangements.

Also, find out about lining up an interview (if they offer them and you'd like one) or attending an information session, visiting classes and talking with faculty.

Read up on the college and think about questions

Go back through the information you've collected about the college. Check the resources at your school's guidance office and browse the college's Web site, if possible.

This research will help you

think of questions to ask and aspects of the college to explore while you're there.

The other side of this page has lists of questions to help you get started. As you think of other questions, write them down.

While you're there

Talk to as many students as you can

Once you're on campus, try to take advantage of a variety of ways to learn about the college:

- Meet with an admissions officer or attend an information session
- Take a tour of the campus
- Sit in on a class

- Have a meal in the cafeteria
- Pick up copies of the student newspaper and alumni magazine.

Throughout your visit, talk to as many students as you can and don't be bashful about asking questions!

Prepare for the interview

If you have scheduled an interview, take along your list of questions, so you're sure to cover everything you wanted to find out.

You'll probably be asked about your academic background,

interests, hobbies, goals and why you're interested in the college, so be ready to talk about that.

As with any interview, be on time, or call ahead if you know you'll be delayed.

Take time to look around on your own

Take some time to explore the campus on your own and absorb the atmosphere. While

organized activities can give you information you can't get on your own, the reverse is true, too.

A campus visit is informative at any time, but it's best to see a college in action, when students are in classes.

Colleges encourage visits, but their schedules for tours, interviews and overnight stays might fill up early. Call ahead!

Have some extra time during your visit? Stop by the campus coffee shop or grill, read bulletin boards, try to strike up conversations with students, or go to a play or lecture.

Nervous about the interview? That's natural. Try to look at it as a conversation in which you ask questions, too. You'll be more likely to relax, be yourself and enjoy it.

Lots and lots of ????

You've probably already thought of lots of questions to ask during your campus visit.

Here are some suggestions, but be sure to ask the questions that are important to YOU.

When you talk to students, ask . . .

1. How many hours a week do you study? Is that typical here?
2. Are faculty members interested in students and accessible outside of class?
3. Do many students go home on weekends?
4. Are the athletic facilities open to all students or only to athletes?
5. Is it possible to study in your dorm room?
6. Is the food good?
7. Are campus jobs readily available?
8. Is there easy access to computers? Where are they located?
9. What's the library like as a place to study? to do research?
10. What do you like most about this college? least?
11. How easy is it to get the classes you want?
12. If you could change something about this school, what would it be?

If you attend a class, ask yourself . . .

1. Are students prepared for the class? Do they seem interested in the material?
2. Do I feel that the students are learning—either new facts or new ways of thinking about a subject?
3. Is there time for questions and discussion? Do students participate?
4. Am I intellectually challenged by what is taking place in the class?
5. Is there good rapport between professors and students?

As you tour the campus, ask yourself . . .

1. Are the buildings in good repair? the grounds well-kept?
2. Are the residence halls pleasant and quiet enough to study in? Are there laundry and kitchen facilities?
3. What's the cafeteria like?
4. Are computers and lab equipment up-to-date and plentiful?
5. What's the surrounding town or city like?

In an interview or information session, you could ask . . .

1. Does the college have academic programs that fit my interests?
2. Where are computer terminals located? Will I have to pay extra for computer time?
3. Will I have access to special equipment (such as an electron microscope) as a first-year student?
4. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the college's advising system?
5. How many students will there be in courses I'm likely to take in my first year? Are those courses taught by professors or graduate assistants?
5. What kinds of campus jobs are available for first-year students?
6. Will there be any new programs or facilities in the next two years?
7. What are the college's recent graduates doing now?

Write down your impressions

After the visit

People's views about a college or university can vary widely, so try to talk with as many people as possible.

Write down your questions so you'll remember them and can refer to them during your visit.

As you tour the campus and talk with people, ask yourself whether this is a place where you'd feel comfortable and able to learn and do your best.

Are you interested in any extra-curricular activities? If so, ask about them and try to see the facilities.

If possible, write down your impressions of the college while they're still fresh in your mind.

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

1. Degree Programs

If you know what you want to major in, definitely look at colleges that are strong in that program. But, if you have no idea what you want to study, it's just as important to choose a school with a wide range of degree programs to explore and choose from.

2. Learning Environment

Consider factors like a college's average class size, student-to-teacher ratios, whether classes are taught mainly by professors or graduate assistants, and whether you learn better through discussions or through hands-on activity.

3. Campus Life

What do you want your college experience to be like outside of the classroom? Think about what's important to you in terms of extracurricular activities, social life, school spirit and traditions, and housing.

4. Distance from Home

Decide how far from home you want your college experiences to take you. Do you want to have the support of friends and family nearby, or experience life in an entirely new part of the country?

5. Location

Do you see yourself attending college in a small town where the campus is the center of activity, or a major metropolitan area where you will enjoy the benefits of city living? Also, decide if you want to be in a certain geographical area or climate.

6. Type of College

Private, public, religiously affiliated, single-sex, or co-ed? There are many types of colleges and all offer benefits and drawbacks. Weigh the pros and cons and decide what type is right for you.

7. Size

A tiny liberal arts school and a huge state university will give you two very different college experiences. Visit colleges of different sizes to see where you feel most comfortable.

8. Student Body

Do you want a college where you will be surrounded by students similar to yourself, or one where you will meet people from a variety of backgrounds? Check out student demographics for colleges you are considering, such as male-to-female ratio, average student age, and geographic, ethnic, and religious diversity.

9. Cost

Don't limit your college search just because of cost, as financial aid and scholarships can do a lot to offset cost differences between two colleges. Do, however, think realistically about how you plan to pay for college, and find schools that will work within your financial circumstances.

10. First Impressions

No matter what, you should visit the top two or three colleges you are considering. Talk to students, take a walk through campus, sit in on a class or grab a cup of coffee in one of the buildings. The best way to get a real feel for a college and decide if you belong there is to go there. And if you're like many students, you will visit one college that just feels "right." Go with your instincts and believe in first impressions.



UPCOMING COLLEGE FAIRS

www.gotocollegefairs.com/kansas

KC College Exp
Shawnee Mission College Fair
NACAC College Fair
Hispanic College Fair
Christian College Fair

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT A COLLEGE FAIR

REMEMBER TO SHAKE HANDS AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF

STUDENTS

- How would you characterize the majority of students? (age, gender, race/ethnicity, etc.)
- What percentage of first-year students return the following year?
- What percentages of graduates are employed within one year?

ADMISSIONS

- What are your admissions deadlines?
- Can credits be earned online or transferred from other colleges?
- Does your college award credit for Advanced Placement (AP) and College NOW at JCCC (concurrent enrollment)?
 - What are the test score requirements?
- Are admission interviews conducted? Are they required?
- Do you look at demonstrated interest (campus visits, calls, emails, etc. from interested students)?

ACADEMICS AND FACULTY

- What is distinctive about education here? What is the educational philosophy of the college? Has it changed much in recent years?
- How are faculty advisors assigned, especially before a major has been chosen?
- How would you characterize the academic pressure and workload?
- Are there research possibilities with the faculty? In what areas?
- What is the quality of student and faculty relationships? Is the faculty interested in and accessible to students after class?
- What is the average class size?
- Will a professor or graduate student most likely teach the courses?
- When must you decide on a major?

FINANCIAL AID

- How much does it cost to attend your college (including tuition, room and board, fees, etc.)?

- What financial aid options are available?
- Does the school participate in federal and state aid programs?
- What percentages of undergraduates receive aid? How much do they receive on average?
- Will private/non-government scholarships reduce the amount of need-based aid I receive?

SOCIAL LIFE AND CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

- What is the role of fraternities and sororities on campus? If I didn't want to join, could I have a satisfactory social life?
- What role do team sports play in the social life of the college? What happens on football or basketball weekends?
- Is there a good balance of academics, social life, and extracurricular activities?
- Do students feel safe on campus?

CAMPUS FACILITIES

- Housing and Dining
 - What are the types of food plans (Vegetarian, Kosher, Gluten Free, etc.)?
 - What types of meal plans are available (all you can eat, points, etc.)?
 - Are freshmen required to live on campus their first year?
 - How do you assign roommates?
 - Are freshman allowed to have cars on campus?
 - What are your parking fees?
- Activity Centers and Athletic/Recreational Facilities
 - What kinds of facilities does the student center have?
 - Do students get free admission to athletic events?
 - Are intermural, club, and/or varsity sports offered?
- Health, Career Counseling, Student Services, and Security
 - Is there a doctor/nurse or health clinic on campus?
 - Do you have a counseling center for students?
 - What is the average waiting time for appointments?
 - Do you provide academic services such as tutoring or career counseling?
- Library
 - What have been students' experiences with the library?
 - Is the library well equipped with the latest technology?

COMMUNITY OFF CAMPUS

- What is there to do in town?
- Is public transportation provided if students do not have a car?
- Is the community supportive of the college and students who attend college?

FINANCIAL AID

www.fafsa.ed.gov



FAFSA: Step-by-Step

What is it? FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The federal government uses this form to determine your eligibility for federal financial aid for college, which may include grants, scholarships, work-study and loans.

Why fill it out? The FAFSA is used to apply for financial aid from the federal and state government(s) and from most public and private colleges. Private colleges may have their own supplemental forms in addition to the FAFSA for awarding their own aid funds. For example, about 250 private colleges require an additional form called the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. The FAFSA is a prerequisite for the unsubsidized Stafford and Parent PLUS loans, which do not depend on financial need.

EFC stands for **Expected Family Contribution**.

According to the government's calculation, you and your family should be able to contribute this amount in the coming academic year to your college costs. The EFC is a harsh assessment of you and your family's ability to pay for college. It does not consider the impact of consumer debt on a family's financial strength.

How does it work? The college you plan to attend will try to meet your demonstrated financial need with a package of different types of aid from multiple sources, including federal, state, school and private sources.

You can do the following on www.fafsa.ed.gov:

- Electronically sign your FAFSA
- Check the status
- Make corrections
- Add additional colleges and universities
- Fill out an online renewal FAFSA next year
- To obtain a FSA ID, eligible students should visit <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas>.
- Fill out the form to create a FSA ID and follow all instructions.
- Keep your FSA ID confidential. It allows you to electronically sign federal student aid and loan documents and access your confidential FAFSA information.

Step 1: Assemble forms needed to complete FAFSA

You and your parents (if you are dependent) need the following to fill out the form:

- Social Security Number
- Current bank and brokerage account statements
- Driver's license (if any)
- Current mortgage and investment records (if any)
- Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen)
- Current federal tax return (estimates are OK on tax questions, if you or your parents haven't filed yet)
- Current untaxed income records (if any)
- Current W2 and 1099 forms and other record of money earned
- Parents' current income tax return (if dependent)

Step 2: Complete the FAFSA

- Download, print and complete the FAFSA on the Web worksheet.
- Complete FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The online version is used by over 99% of the applicants since it includes skip logic to avoid asking you unnecessary and redundant questions. Processing is quicker and more efficient with built-in edit-checks to reduce errors on the form.
- In order to maximize the amount of aid, fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1.
- Once finished, print the FAFSA summary as well as the "Submission Confirmation" page (or write down your confirmation number and date). If you complete the paper version, make a copy for your records.

Step 3: Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)

The SAR is proof that your FAFSA was received. You should receive your electronic SAR in 1-3 days if you filed electronically (paper filing: 2-3 weeks).

What if I find errors on my Student Aid Report (SAR)?

- Report errors immediately to your financial aid office. You can also make corrections online using your FSA ID at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- If you don't receive your SAR in 3-4 weeks, call 1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4-FED-AID) or visit www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Quick Tip: New in 2016, the FAFSA application will now be accepted as early as October 1st. Early submission maximizes your chances of receiving aid.

Student Aid Report (SAR) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

What is the Student Aid Report (SAR)?

The SAR is a summary of the information you entered on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It tells you how much federal student aid you might be eligible to receive, and how much the government thinks you can reasonably pay for your school expenses. The SAR also notifies you if you are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. You will receive a SAR in 1-3 days after you filed an Electronic FAFSA or 2-3 weeks after you filed a paper version. Check immediately for your EFC and any mistakes or errors.

What is the Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

The EFC is the amount you and your family will be expected to pay for the coming academic year based on your financial situation. Some colleges do not satisfy the student's full demonstrated financial need, leaving the family with unmet need (a gap). Some need may be met with loans, which need to be repaid, usually with interest.

How is the EFC calculated?

The U.S. Department of Education uses the Federal Methodology (FM) to calculate your aid eligibility. The FM takes into account your family's income, the number of family members, in college, net value of assets and your enrollment status, among other factors. To estimate your EFC, utilize the Expected Family Contribution Calculator: www.finaid.org/efc.

What happens after I receive my SAR?

Look for mistakes or errors. Any colleges you listed on your FAFSA will also receive an electronic copy of your SAR. If you find an error notify your school's financial aid office immediately to let them know. Errors can also be corrected online using your FSA ID at www.fasfa.gov.

What if I find mistakes on my SAR?

Let your college know and go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. Under "FAFSA Follow Up," click "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA." Check the items you want to change and make corrections. On paper, on the last pages of the SAR, find your original FAFSA info. Make changes and only fill in the areas that need to be changed and/or corrected. You and your parents must sign and mail the corrected FAFSA to the central processor or send to each school to which you are applying to for admission and financial aid.

Highlights of each page in your SAR:

- Page 1 Intro: Tracks the aid process for you. If there is an asterisk next to your EFC, you have been selected for verification (see below)*.
- Page 2 Confidentiality information; reminders.
- Page 3 EFC, other info: EFC is listed at the top, along with other information, such as any issues with aid eligibility.
- Page 4 Summary of loans: Refer to your records and make sure your totals are accurate.
- Pages 5-8 FAFSA summary: Review the summary. Make corrections or changes in the spaces provided. You can also make changes online at: www.fafsa.gov.

SAR Information Acknowledgement: Correct any wrong information on pages 5 through 8 of the SAR or online.

When do I receive my financial aid?

Once your college reviews your SAR and verifies your eligibility, it will create and notify you of your aid eligibility and send an award letter. You do not need to accept all of the aid that's offered to you; accept only the aid you want. Rejecting one form of aid, however, will not result in increases in the other forms of aid. Federal aid will first be applied to certain school charges, such as tuition, fees, room and board. Excess may then be disbursed to the student or credited to his or her student account.

*Why is there an asterisk next to my EFC?

An asterisk (*) means you have been selected for verification and you must provide documents to your college to verify that information submitted on the FAFSA is correct. If your college asks verification documents, send as soon as possible to avoid a delay in the aid process. The US Department of Education has switched to a targeted verification process. About a third to half of all FAFSAs will be selected for verification. Some colleges verify 100% of their aid applicants, they find that this increases the accuracy of the information used to award financial aid. This helps ensure that the most deserving/neediest students receive financial aid.

Glossary of Key Terms

Award Letter: The financial aid award letter is a notification telling you about the financial aid offered to you by your college (including estimated costs, financing information, types of aid, amounts offered, specific program information, etc.). You may choose to accept some or all of what is offered. Unfortunately, colleges do not increase the grants in the financial aid package if you turn down student employment and/or loans.

Credit/Unit (or Credit Hour): A credit hour is a unit of measurement for fulfilling course requirements. Most colleges require that you complete a certain number of credits/units in order to graduate.

Cost of Attendance: The cost of attendance includes all costs associated with attending college: tuition & fees, room/board, books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses and a personal computer. Ask the school about increasing your cost of attendance if you have dependent care or disability-related expenses.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE: The PROFILE form is used to apply for financial aid at about 250 colleges. It calculates the student's expected family contribution (EFC) under the Institutional Methodology (IM). It is used to apply for the college's own financial aid funds and does not affect eligibility for government aid. It is filed online at profileonline.collegeboard.com.

Demonstrated Financial Need: Demonstrated financial need is the difference between the cost of attendance and the expected family contribution.
(Financial Need = COA – EFC)

Enrollment Status: Indicates you attend school full-time or part-time. In general, you must attend at least half-time to qualify for financial aid.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): Amount toward the cost of attendance each year a student; and his or her family are expected to contribute from their own financial resources.

Financial Aid Package: A financial aid package is a combination of multiple types and sources of financial aid. It may include money from the federal government, state government, the college itself and private sources.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA is a national form used to collect demographic and financial information from applicants for Federal, state, and some institutional financial aid programs. The form collects information from the student (and family, if applicable) such as prior year income, current net value of assets, family size and the number of children who will be enrolled in college on at least a half-time basis in the coming academic year.

Net Cost: The net cost is the difference between the cost of attendance and the need-based financial aid package. (Net Cost = COA – Financial Aid)

Net Price: The net price is the same as the out-of-pocket cost, the difference between the cost of attendance and just grants. The net price is the amount the family pays, earns or borrows to cover college costs.
(Net Price = COA – Grants)

Open Admissions: Students are admitted regardless of their academic qualifications. Most community colleges and for-profit colleges have an open admissions policy.

Out-of-State Students: Generally applies to students attending a public university outside of their home state. Out of-state students usually pay a higher tuition rate unless they establish legal residency for the state where they attend school or a reciprocity agreement is in place between the student's state and the state of the school.

Rolling Admissions: There is no set admissions deadline date; qualified students are accepted until classes are filled.

Student Aid Report (SAR): The Student Aid Report lists the data elements submitted on the FAFSA, some intermediate calculations, the student's expected family contribution along with other information such as the graduation rates of the colleges being considered.

Unmet Need: The unmet need, sometimes called a gap, is the difference between the full demonstrated financial need and the student's need-based financial aid package. (Unmet Need = Financial Need – Financial Aid)

Scholarships

<http://scholarships.olatheschools.com>



Scholarship Guide

Master the Basics

Where to start

- **Go online** and take advantage of free scholarship matching services such as www.fastweb.com for local, regional, state, national awards and college-specific scholarships.
- **Ask** your school guidance counselor about local, private and corporate sponsorships.
- **Search** your community. There are many philanthropic and non-profit organizations that may offer awards. Visit your school or local public library to research scholarships. Ask your parents' employers and unions if they sponsor scholarships for children of employees.

How to prepare

- **Get organized** and keep the scholarships you are working on separate from those you have not started. Use a calendar to keep track of dates and deadlines or the status tool available on Fastweb.
- **Know your time frame to apply.** Complete and submit the easiest scholarships first. Then focus on the scholarships with earlier deadlines and ones that may require more time. Allow plenty of time when requesting letters of recommendation.

Submit your application

- **Remember** to check your spelling and grammar.
- **Proofread your materials** and have a teacher, parent or friend review your application and essay if submitting online or by mail. They can provide feedback and catch mistakes.
- **Keep a copy** of your application, if you submitted paper or electronic copy.

The Scholarship Essay/Application

Before you begin:

- Develop a theme that fits the scholarship. Learn about the scholarship provider's mission and goals. Tailor your essay/application to complement the sponsor's expectations. For example, if the provider is interested in community service, highlight ways you impact your campus community and your community at large within your essay. Here are a few topic ideas:

Personal achievements

- Talk about specific interactions you had with others. Sponsors want to know the impact you had on others and what this says about "you". Do you still keep in touch with anyone you've helped? How did you influence their lives?
- How did your achievements reflect your values? Why are your achievements important to you? Did you do something that received high praise or recognition?
- Personalize your experience. For example, what makes the volunteer and community service you've performed unique? What made you stand out?

Academic plans and possible major

- Instead of saying, "Science is my favorite subject," discuss a *specific* assignment or project that you worked on that sparked your interest. Give examples.
- Avoid saying that you selected a major or career path to "help people." What specific actions can you take to improve the lives of others? Discuss how your values are relevant to what you will be studying in college.

Social issues and current events

- Think about current issues or events in the news that you feel strongly about.
- Do you know a lot about a controversial topic?
- Do you know of someone who is directly involved in an issue who might be able to provide insight?

Mentors, admirers and influences

- Think about your friends and family, community and the things you've learned outside of the classroom. Pick specific people, incidents and learning experiences to write about that will let your personality come through.
- Is there a person you aspire to be like within your chosen academic major or career path? Someone who encouraged you to succeed?
- Focus on specific qualities or actions that the person has inspired in you.

What Do Judges or Evaluators Look For?

Do you qualify? Every year, students waste time by applying for awards they aren't eligible to win. If you don't meet the eligibility criteria, don't enter!

Is your application presented well? Type your essay and check for grammar and spelling errors. Place the application, essay and other contents in a large folder for mailing. Do not fold any of the materials.

Did you include all required documents? Make sure you include all required academic transcripts, references and letters of recommendation. When selecting individuals to provide you a letter of recommendation, be sure you know them very well and give them ample time to provide you a letter and provide them a self addressed stamped envelope, if it will be mailed.

Did you answer all of the questions? Double-check that you haven't forgotten any required information.

Tips for Applying for and Managing the Scholarship Search

- Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible. There are many scholarships available to students in grades K-11, so don't wait until spring of your senior year. Continue searching for scholarships even after you are enrolled.
- Use a free scholarship matching such as Fastweb.com. The Fastweb database is updated daily and the site will email notifications of new scholarships that match your profile.
- Answer all of the optional questions on a scholarship matching web site to create as many matches as available.
- Look for local scholarships on bulletin boards near the guidance counselor or financial aid offices, or the library's jobs and careers section. Improve grades for more matches.
- To win more scholarships, apply to every scholarship for which you are eligible. It gets easier after several applications. Also, pursue small awards and essay contests. Essays can be reused and tailored to each new application.
- Don't miss deadlines. Use checklists to get organized.
- Tailor your application to the sponsor's goals. Read and follow the instructions carefully.
- If you have difficulty writing essays, record yourself as you answer the question out loud and transcribe the recording. Most people think and speak faster than they can write or type. Write an outline afterward to organize your thoughts.
- Personalize your essay and be passionate. Write about something of interest to you. Make your application stand out from the crowd, talk about your impact on other people and give specific examples.
- Check your online presence to ensure that it looks professional. Review your social media profiles and remove inappropriate and immature material. Use a simple email address, such as firstname.lastname@gmail.com.
- Proofread a printed copy of your essay and the application for spelling and grammar errors.
- Make a copy of your application before mailing it. Send by certified mail, return receipt or with delivery confirmation.

Common Scholarship Application Mistakes

- Missing deadlines
- Failing to proofread the application
- Failing to follow directions, especially regarding essay length and the number of recommendations
- Omitting required information
- Applying for an award when you don't qualify
- Failing to apply for an award for which you are eligible
- Failing to tailor the application to the sponsor
- Writing a boring essay
- Writing an essay that may offend the reviewer
- Including exaggerations or lies on your application

Beware of Scholarship Scams

- If you have to pay money to get money, it's probably a scam.
- Never invest more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships or to apply for a scholarship.
- Nobody can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship.
- Do not give out personal information like bank account, credit card or Social Security numbers.
- Beware of the unclaimed aid myth. The only money that goes unclaimed is money that can't be claimed

Essential Scholarship Resources

- Fastweb Free Scholarship Matching Service: www.fastweb.com
- FinAid's Scholarships Section: www.finaid.org/scholarships
- Search for Scholarships on the Web: www.finaid.org/websearch
- Beware of Scholarship Scams: www.finaid.org/scholarshipscams and www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams
- Education Tax Benefits: www.finaid.org/taxbenefits and www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf
- Federal Student Financial Aid: www.fafsa.ed.gov

Scholarship Scams Tip Sheet

How do I recognize a scholarship scammer?

- Indicates you won an award for which you didn't apply
- Does not supply valid contact information
- Guarantees you will win an award
- Requires personal financial information (such as, credit card numbers, checking account numbers, and/or Social Security numbers to verify or hold a scholarship)

How do I recognize a legitimate scholarship services?

- Does not guarantee you will win an award
- Sends information about awards when you request it
- Makes contact information available upon request
- Should not direct you to a fee-based provider because they know that financial aid information is readily available for free

What if you suspect a scam?

- Save all of the forms you receive from the company
- Keep copies of written details about the offer and any correspondence, emails or other paperwork
- Make sure all materials are dated
- Take notes during seminars and phone conversations (record the date, time, phone number and the person's name with whom you spoke), include a detailed account of your conversation
- Take a copy of all literature and correspondence concerning the scholarship to your school's financial aid office, who can verify if the organization is legitimate.

Financial Aid Seminars & Consultants

How do I protect myself from being scammed by a consultant or financial aid seminar?

- When choosing to utilize the services of a consultant, consider their qualifications carefully. Find someone who has worked as a college financial aid administrator, Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Financial Planner (CFP).
- If a financial aid consultant refuses to sign the paid preparer section of the FAFSA that is a red flag.
- Some seminars use high pressure tactics to get you signed up for their service, while only answering questions after you agree to pay a fee. Don't trust anyone who encourages you to do something unethical. If you falsify financial aid forms, you can be fined \$20,000, sent to prison, or both. If you need help understanding the financial aid process, contact your financial aid office as soon as possible.

Beware of False Claims

"For a small fee, we'll give you a list of scholarships."

- Never spend money on a fee-based matching service. The biggest and best award databases are free online. *"We'll help you complete complicated forms."*

- Information about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other forms is available for free from your guidance counselor, your library and the U.S. Department of Education. You still have to fill out the same basic information for a fee-based service that you would directly for the FAFSA.

- Your school financial aid administrator and College Goal Sunday programs can help: www.collegegoalsundayusa.org.

- For general financial aid or FAFSA-related questions, call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

"You are guaranteed a minimum of \$1000 in awards."

- A service can't guarantee any scholarships because they have no control over the scholarship judges' decisions.

"We have a 96% success rate."

- These false success rates indicate the percentage of students they've successfully matched with the database, NOT the number of students who actually receive money.

"We'll need a bank account and pin or credit card number to verify your information."

- A legitimate scholarship provider won't ask for bank account, credit card or Social Security information.

"We will do all the work for you."

- To win a legitimate scholarship, you must submit your own applications, write your own essays and solicit your own letters of recommendation.

Report suspected scams to the following organizations:

[National Fraud Information Center \(NFIC\)](http://www.fraud.org)

800-876-7060 / www.fraud.org

[Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](http://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov)

877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357)

www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov

[Better Business Bureau \(BBB\)](http://www.bbb.org)

703-276-0100 / www.bbb.org

[US Postal Inspection Service \(USPIS\)](http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov)

800-654-8896 / [postalinspectors.uspis.gov/](http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov)

[State Attorney General's Office](#) - Visit your state's website for state attorney general's contact information. Ask them about filing a complaint with the Bureau of Consumer Protection.

Top Scholarships by Category

Most Unusual Scholarships

- Scholarship for Left-Handed Students
- Duck Brand Duct Tape Stuck at Prom Contest
- David Letterman Telecommunications Scholarships
- Zolp Scholarships
- Patrick Kerr Skateboard Scholarships
- Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year Award
- National Marbles Tournament Scholarships
- Klingon Language Institute Scholarships
- National Beef Ambassador Program
- Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarships

Most Prestigious Scholarships

- Marshall Scholarships
- Rhodes Scholarships
- Winston Churchill Scholarship Program
- Harry S. Truman Scholarships
- Henry Luce Foundation Scholarships
- Morris K. Udall Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships
- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships
- Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest
- National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Most Generous Scholarships

- Intel Science Talent Search
- Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology
- NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program
- Elks Nat'l Foundation Most Valuable Student Competition
- Davidson Fellows
- Intel International Science and Engineering Fair
- Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships
- Collegiate Inventors Competition
- Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarships
- Gates Millennium Scholars

Scholarships for Age 13 and Under

- National Spelling Bee
- National Geography Bee
- National History Day Contest
- Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest
- Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
- Christopher Columbus Community Service Awards
- Dick Blick Linoleum Block Print Contest
- Gloria Barron Prize for Your Heroes
- Patriot's Pen
- Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

Scholarships for Community Service

- Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards
- The Do Something Awards
- Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarships
- Discover Card Tribute Awards
- Echoing Green Fellowships
- The Heart of America Christopher Reeve Awards
- Kohl's Kids Who Care Program
- Samuel Huntington Public Service Awards
- National Caring Awards
- Youth Action Net

Scholarships that Don't Need an A

- US Department of Education (Federal Student Aid)
- AXA Achievement Scholarship Program
- Horatio Alger Association Scholarships
- Ayn Rand Institute
- Girls Going Places Scholarships
- Holocaust Remembrance Project Essay Contest
- Americanism Essay Contest
- AFSA National Scholarship Essay Contest
- Red Vines Drawing Contest
- Community Foundation Scholarships



COMMUNITY SERVICE

How To Register Your Community Service Hours: All student volunteer community service hours will be recorded using their **Career Cruising** account. This will allow a more streamlined and accurate way of documenting volunteer hours. In order to access this site, please follow these step-by-step directions.

1. Log in to www.careercruising.com
 - a. Your login is "os-" followed by your network login.
 - b. Your password is your student ID number (unless you changed it last year).
 - c. Use "forgot password" and check your student email to reset.
2. Once there, you need to click "Build My Resume" on the left side of the page.
3. Next, click the pencil icon to the right of "Volunteer Experience".
4. Once you are on your Volunteer Experience page, click "Add a Volunteer Experience".
5. Once on this page, record all required information. **Be sure to accurately record the date and number of hours.**
6. **In the DESCRIPTION section, record the EXACT date(s).**

If you have any questions or problems with this website, please email your counselor in Student Services.

TESTING

- **ACT** <http://www.act.org>
- **SAT** <http://www.collegeboard.com>



The ACT and SAT

While the ACT and SAT are very different tests, they both fulfill the same role in the college admission process. They are designed to provide college admission officers with two things: a predictor of the first-year academic achievement in college and a common yardstick to use in comparing students from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

About the ACT (ACT registration and test dates can be found at ACT.org)

The ACT assesses the knowledge and information learned in high school by focusing on subjects and skills taught in high school.

- The ACT includes 4 tests: Reading, English, Math and Science.
- The ACT offers an optional writing test.
- There is no penalty for wrong answers.
- The ACT questions are not in order of difficulty.
- The ACT is 175 minutes (plus 30 minutes for the optional writing test).
- English: 45 minutes for 75 questions, Math: 60 minutes for 60 questions, Reading: 35 minutes for 40 questions, and Science: 35 minutes for 40 questions.

About the SAT (SAT registration and test dates can be found at collegeboard.org)

The SAT emphasizes reasoning, knowledge and skills.

- The SAT includes: Evidence-based reading and writing tests, math and essay (optional).
- There is no penalty for wrong answers.
- The SAT is 180 minutes. (230 minutes with optional essay)
- Reading: 65 minutes, Math: 80 minutes, Writing: 35 minutes, essay (optional): 50 minutes.

The ACT or the SAT?

The most important answer to the “ACT or SAT?” question is to check with your target schools about their requirements. Although most colleges in the United States now accept both the ACT and SAT test results, make sure to know the requirements of your target school.

Depending on strengths and weaknesses, students may perform better on one test than the other. As a result, many students starting the college admission process are now considering both the ACT and SAT to figure out which test provides a better showcase for their abilities. Results from a previously taken practice ACT and PSATs may be helpful in determining a preference as well.

ACT Test Taking Tips

The ACT is a widely used college admission standardized test. It has four mandatory subject tests: English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science. There is an optional Writing test which some colleges require.

➤ **General Tips**

- Answer the questions you find easiest first. Come back to the others later.
- Don't spend more than a minute or two on any question.
- When working a section, keep track of how much time remains. (It's a good idea to bring a reliable non-smart watch).
- Answer every question. There is no penalty for guessing.
- Be careful to mark only one answer choice per question.
- Write in the test book in any way that will help.
- Consider all answer choices before choosing one. Use the process of elimination to narrow choices.

➤ **English Section Tips**

- Consider the writing style used for each section. The correct answer choice will be the one that works best with the writing style used.
- When asked a question about something that is underlined, consider how the underlined portion fits with the rest of the section.
- Examine each answer choice to see how it differs from the others.
- For items that include "No Change" as an answer choice, choose this as the answer only if sure none of the other answers choices are correct.
- Reread the underlined portion with your answer choice to be sure it is correct.

➤ **Reading Section Tips**

- Read the passage carefully before reading the questions.
- Focus on the main ideas in the passage. Underline these. Don't get lost in the details.
- Try to identify how ideas in the passage are connected.
- Refer back to the passage as answering each question.

➤ **Mathematics Section Tips**

- Work out the problem before looking at the answer choices. When done, choose the answer choice that matches your answer. If none match, redo the problem.
- Don't overly rely on your calculator. Some problems are best worked out manually. Some don't even require calculation.
- The questions focus on much more on reasoning than on calculation. If you find yourself doing complicated calculations, you're probably on the wrong track.
- Make sure the answer choice makes sense. A calculator error can lead you to a wrong answer choice.
- Check your work.

➤ **Science Section Tips**

- Given the complexity of the passages, it may help to make some simple notes while reading them.
- Cross out irrelevant information
- Don't be overly concerned with any technical terminology. Technical terms usually have little to do with the correct answer choice.
- Be watchful for conflicting viewpoints in some of the passages.

➤ **Writing Section Tips**

- Organization is very important. Use a five-paragraph essay that includes an introduction, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Plan your response before you begin to write it.
- Stay with the topic throughout.
- Vary sentence structure and word choices.
- Use specific examples wherever possible.
- Write legibly.
- If time, check grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling.

SAT Test Taking Tips

- Did you take the PSAT? The test will be the same format, just a different number of questions.
- Manage time by wearing a watch to the test and keeping track of time.
- Practice! Practice on sample SAT tests provided by College Board. This helps to get familiar with test content, format, and timing.
- Mark up the test booklet. This helps with focus on reading passages.
- Know when to skip questions. Circle them and come back. Do not take too long on any one question.

Remember: Practice = Confidence!

These tips can help you get the most out of your knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Find other study skills at www.how-to-study.com

Athletics

<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future>





Division I and Division II Initial Eligibility Requirements

If wishing to participate in NCAA Division I or II athletics, students need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. You need to qualify academically and you will also need to be cleared as an amateur student-athlete.

Students are responsible for achieving and protecting your eligibility status!

Core Courses

- NCAA Divisions I and II require 16 core courses.
- For students enrolling on or after August 1, 2016, NCAA Division I will require 10 core courses to be completed prior to the seventh semester (seven of the 10 core courses must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science that meet the distribution requirements to the right). These 10 courses become “locked in” at the start of the seventh semester and cannot be retaken for grade improvement.

Test Scores

- Division I uses a Sliding Scale to match test scores and core GPA. To view the Division I Sliding Scale, visit www.2point3.org
- Division II requires a minimum SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.
- The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes only the critical reading and math sections. The writing section of the SAT is not used.
- The ACT sum score used for NCAA purposes is a sum of the following four sections: English, mathematics, reading and science

***When you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 9999 to ensure all SAT and ACT scores are reported directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores that appear on transcripts will not be used.*

Grade Point Average

Only courses that appear on your high school’s List of NCAA Courses will be used in the calculation of your core GPA.

Division I:

- A Sliding Scale is used to match test scores and core GPAs. The Sliding Scale can be found at www.2point3.org or on Page No. 10 of the Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete found at www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- The Division I GPA required to be eligible for competition is **2.300**.
- The Division I GPA required to receive athletics aid and practice is **2.000-2.299**.

Division II:

- The Division II core GPA requirement is a minimum of **2.000**.

Division I (16 Core Courses)

English - 4 years.
 Mathematics - 3 years (Algebra I or higher).
 Natural/physical science - 2 years (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
 Social Science - 2 years
 Additional year in English, mathematics or natural/physical science - 1 year
 Additional academic courses - 4 years

Division II (16 Core Courses)

English - 3 years.
 Mathematics - 2 years (Algebra I or higher).
 Natural/physical science - 2 years (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
 Social Science - 2 years
 Additional year in English, mathematics or natural/physical science - 3 year
 Additional academic courses - 4 years

Checklist for College-Bound Student-Athletes

- Register at the beginning of your sophomore year at www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- Send your transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center at the end of your junior year. (www.careercruising.org)
- Take the ACT or SAT and use the code “9999” to have your official scores sent directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Check with your high school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate on time with your class and are taking the required amount of NCAA-approved core courses.
- Request final amateurism certification during your senior year (beginning April 1).
- Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation.

NCAA DIVISION I SLIDING SCALE		
Core GPA	SAT Verbal and Math ONLY	ACT
3.550 & above	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
3.450	440	41
3.425	450	41
3.400	460	42
3.375	470	42
3.350	480	43
3.325	490	44
3.300	500	44
3.275	510	45
3.250	520	46
3.225	530	46
3.200	540	47
3.175	550	47
3.150	560	48
3.125	570	49
3.100	580	49
3.075	590	50
3.050	600	50
3.025	610	51
3.000	620	52
2.975	630	52
2.950	640	53
2.925	650	53
2.900	660	54
2.875	670	55
2.850	680	56
2.825	690	56
2.800	700	57
2.775	710	58
2.750	720	59

NCAA DIVISION I SLIDING SCALE		
Core GPA	SAT Verbal and Math ONLY	ACT
2.725	730	60
2.700	740	61
2.675	750	61
2.650	760	62
2.625	770	63
2.600	780	64
2.575	790	65
2.550	800	66
2.525	810	67
2.500	820	68
2.475	830	69
2.450	840	70
2.425	850	70
2.400	860	71
2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75
GPA's Below 2.3 Are Redshirt only		
2.299	910	76
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
2.200	940	79
2.175	950	80
2.150	960	81
2.125	970	82
2.100	980	83
2.075	990	84
2.050	1000	85
2.025	1010	86
2.000	1020	86

For more information, visit www.eligibilitycenter.org or www.2point3.org.

Division I Worksheet

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine your academic status after you graduate. Remember to check your high school's list of NCAA- approved courses for the classes you have taken.

Use the following scale: A= 4 quality points; B= 3 quality points; C= 2 quality points; D= 1 quality point.

English (4 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
✓	Example: English 9	.5		A		(.5x4)=2
	Total English Units					Total Quality Points

Mathematics (3 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	Example: Algebra 1	1.0		B		(1.0x3)=3
	Total Mathematics Units					Total Quality Points

Natural/physical science (2 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	Total Natural/Physical Science Units					Total Quality Points

Additional year in English, mathematics or natural/physical science (1 year required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	Total Additional Units					Total Quality Points

Social science (2 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	Total Social Science Units					Total Quality Points

Additional academic courses (4 years required)

10/7	Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
	Total Additional Academic Units					Total Quality Points
	Total Quality Points from each subject area / Total Credits = Core-Course GPA		/		=	
		Quality Points	/	Credits	=	Core-Course GPA

Core-Course GPA (16 required) Beginning August 1, 2016, 10 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester and seven of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science for competition purposes. Grades and credits may be earned at any time for academic redshirt purposes.

Division II Worksheet

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine your academic status after you graduate. Remember to check your high school's list of NCAA- approved courses for the classes you have taken.

Use the following scale: A= 4 quality points; B= 3 quality points; C= 2 quality points; D= 1 quality point.

English (3 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Example: English 9	.5		A		(.5x4)=2
Total English Units					Total Quality Points

Mathematics (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Example: Algebra 1	1.0		B		(1.0x3)=3
Total Mathematics Units					Total Quality Points

Natural/physical science (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Total Natural/Physical Science Units					Total Quality Points

Additional years in English, math or natural/physical science (3 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Total Additional Units					Total Quality Points

Social science (2 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Total Social Science Units					Total Quality Points

Additional academic courses (4 years required)

Course Title	Credit	X	Grade	=	Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)
Total Additional Academic Units					Total Quality Points
Total Quality Points from each subject area / Total Credits = Core-Course GPA		/		=	
	Quality Points	/	Credits	=	Core-Course GPA

NCAA Requirements

Language Arts (4 years)

Taken each year of high school

- English 1/Honors English 9 A
- English 1/Honors English 9 B
- English 2/Honors English 10 A
- English 2/Honors English 10 B
- English 3/AP Lang A
- English 3/AP Lang B
- CP English/AP Lit A
- CP English/AP Lit B

Math (3 years)

Algebra 1 or higher level

-
-
-
-
-
-

Science (2 years)

One year if lab offered

- Biology/Honors Biology A
- Biology/Honors Biology B
-
-

Social Science (2 years)

- MWH/Honors MWH A
- MWH/Honors MWH B
- US History/APUSH A
- US History /APUSH B

Additional English, Math, Science (1 year)

-
-

Additional Courses (4 years)

Can be any area above, foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Other components

Core GPA (min. 2.3):

ACT (composite):

ACT (math):

ACT(reading):

ACT (science):

ACT (english):

ACT (writing):

ACT (sum):

SAT:

*10 of 16 must be done before the end of junior year

**7 of these 10 must be English, math, or science

***ACT must match core GPA

What do I need to do and when?

- Grade 9
 - Verify with your high school counselor and the online core-course listing to make sure you are on track.
- Grade 10
 - Verify with your high school counselor and the online core-course listing to make sure you are on track.
- Grade 11
 - Register with the eligibility center.
 - Make sure you are still on course to meet core-course requirements (verify you have the correct number of core courses and that the core courses are on your high school's approved list with the eligibility center).
 - After your junior year, request to have your transcript sent to the eligibility center. If you have attended any other high schools, make sure a transcript is sent to the eligibility center from each high school.
 - When taking the ACT or SAT, request test scores to be sent to the eligibility center (the code is "9999").
 - Begin your amateurism questionnaire.
- Grade 12
 - When taking the ACT or SAT, request test scores to be sent to the eligibility center (the code is "9999").
 - Complete amateurism questionnaire and sign the final authorization signature online on or after April 1 if you are expecting to enroll in college in the fall semester. (If you are expecting to enroll for spring semester, sign the final authorization signature on or after October 1 of the year prior to enrollment.)
 - Request to have a final transcript sent with proof of graduation to the eligibility center.



SENIOR PROFILE SHEET

NAME: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CELL NUMBER: _____

COLLEGES/MAJORS OF INTEREST:

ACADEMIC LIKES/STRENGTHS: _____

DO YOU PLAN ON PARTICIPATING IN AN INTERCOLLEGE SPORT IN COLLEGE? IF YES, WHICH SPORT AND HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE NCAA Eligibility CENTER?

DESCRIBE AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY THAT YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT:

LIST OTHER ACTIVITIES YOU ARE INVOLVED IN: _____

DESCRIBE A TIME WHEN YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP:

HOW DO YOU ADD TO THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN THE CLASSROOM?

DESCRIBE A VOLUNTEER PROJECT YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT:

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE CLASS AND WHY?

WHY SHOULD YOU BE AWARDED ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE OF YOUR CHOICE AND HOW TO YOU PLAN ON CONTRIBUTING TO THE SCHOOL/COMMUNITY?

WHAT CHARACTER TRAIT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU AND HOW DO YOU EXHIBIT IT?

WHAT WOULD FRIENDS SAY ABOUT YOU?

WHAT WOULD YOUR TEACHERS AND/OR EMPLOYER SAY ABOUT YOU?

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR HIGH SCHOOL?

WHAT THREE WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF AND WHY?

WHAT EVENT(S) IN YOUR LIFE HAS CHANGED YOU?

WHAT MAKES YOU STAND OUT (UNIQUE) FROM OTHERS IN YOUR GRADUATING CLASS?



Parent Brag Sheet

Student _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this brag sheet on your student. Your insight will be valuable to me in the college search and application process. This form may be completed by either parent, or both. Two separate forms are perfectly fine, the more information, the better.

What are your thoughts for post-secondary education for your student? Types of colleges, cost, location, etc.

Please list 5 or 6 adjectives that describe your student.

What are your student's strengths and weaknesses?

Have there been any circumstances in your student's high school career that may have impacted his/her performance (behavioral issues, personal problems, learning disabilities, etc.) that you wish to share?

Please describe a specific situation where your student demonstrated great character, leadership, independence, and or maturity.

In which areas during high school have you witnessed the most development and growth?

Is there anything else you would like to share or feel would be valuable to mention for someone writing a letter of recommendation for your student?

This form was completed by

Web Resources Guide

Information about Financial Aid

Fastweb

www.fastweb.com

FinAid

www.finaid.org

Fastweb's College Gold

www.collegegold.com

Federal Student Aid for Students

www.studentaid.ed.gov

Financial Aid Calculators

www.finaid.org/calculators

College Cost Information

<http://navigator.ed.gov>

College Affordability and Transparency Center

www.collegecost.ed.gov

FTC Project Scholarship Scam

ftc.gov/scholarshipscams

Guide to Federal Student Aid

studentaid.ed.gov/guide/

International Students

www.edupass.org

Mapping Your Future

www.mappingyourfuture.org

National Student Loan Data System

www.nsls.ed.gov

Sources of Aid

Scholarship Search

www.fastweb.com

AmeriCorps*

www.americorps.gov

Athletic Scholarships

www.ncaa.org

City Year*

www.cityyear.org

College Savings Plan Network

www.collegesavings.org

Job Corps

www.jobcorps.gov

State Resources

www.finaid.org/state

Student Tax Information

www.irs.gov/individuals/students

**Award upon successful program completion*

Financial Aid Applications

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE

profileonline.collegeboard.com

FAFSA

www.fafsa.ed.gov

FAFSA FSA ID

<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

FAFSA 4Caster

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

General Information

Social Security Administration

www.ssa.gov

Selective Service

www.sss.gov

Study Abroad

www.studyabroad.com

U.S. Department of Education

www.ed.gov

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration

uscis.gov

Graduate and Admissions Testing

SAT & SAT Subject Tests

www.sat.collegeboard.org

ACT

www.actstudent.org

GRE

www.ets.org/gre

LSAT

www.lsac.org

GMAT

www.mba.com/mba

MCAT

www.aamc.org/mcat

Choosing a Career

MonsterCollege

www.monstercollege.com

Bureau of Labor Statistics

www.stats.bls.gov

Occupational Outlook Handbook

www.bls.gov/oco