

Xavier College Preparatory

College Counseling Resource Book



26

TO DO

COLLEGE
APPLICATION

Personal Information

Name (Last)

Address (Mailing Address)

E-Mail Address

Current Income

High School Graduate Or GED
Highest grade completed





4710 N. Fifth Street
Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 277-3772
CEEB Code 030295

COLLEGE COUNSELING RESOURCE BOOK

Sister Joan Fitzgerald, B.V.M., President
Brittany Ecker, Interim Principal
Sister Lynn Winsor, B.V.M., Athletic Director
Denise Macrina, Dean of Students
Alexis Quintero, Counseling Department Chair



The Xavier Guidance Department's goal is to help students identify their strengths and counsel them in the correct direction to achieve their goals. Each year the counselors assist their student in achieving their highest personal and scholastic potential.

While the decisions made in college admissions offices are beyond our control, we can offer strategic advice to help seniors put their best foot forward with all their applications. The counselors are the most accessible source of information on colleges and the college admission process. The Xavier Guidance Department works as a team and all counselors are here to help you.

This college counseling workbook has been compiled by the Xavier Guidance Department from a collection of outside sources including the following: Naviance, Common App, College Board, The Princeton Review, Department of Education and NCAA Recruiting.

This is intended for Xavier students and families. This workbook is not to be copied or reprinted.

COUNSELORS INFORMATION



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT XAVIER

SCHOOL HISTORY & COMMUNITY

Xavier College Preparatory was founded in 1943 by the Sisters of Charity, B.V.M., and is the only all-girls Roman Catholic high school in the state of Arizona. Our students come from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, and ethnic backgrounds, and hail from more than 100 different middle schools across the Phoenix metropolitan area.

MISSION

Xavier College Preparatory is a Catholic community that strives to prepare young women of faith with the knowledge, skills, and integrity to meet the challenges of a changing global society in a positive and productive manner celebrating unity.

ADDRESS

4710 N. Fifth Street
Phoenix, AZ 85012

CEEB Code: 030295

Accreditation: Cognia | Western Catholic Educational Association

Class Rank: N/A

Xavier does NOT rank

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Xavier offers a rigorous and traditional college preparatory curriculum. A minimum of 25 credits are required for graduation.

English: 4 credits

Mathematics: 4 credits

Theology: 4 credits

Social Studies: 3.5 credits

Laboratory Science: 3 credits

World Languages: 3 credits

Fine Arts: 2 credits

Physical Education: 1 credits

Computer Science: 0.5 credits

Christian Service: 50 hours

Honors Courses: 40 Honors level courses offered across all areas of the curriculum

AP Courses: 24 AP level courses offered to grades 9-12

COLLEGE APP TRACKER

[illegible]

- Scholarships
- Budget
- Work study
- Grants/Loans



Finances

- Clubs
- Greek life
- Sports
- Intramurals
- Faith community
- Student government



Activities

- Climate
- Distance
- Big city vs. college town



Location

COLLEGE

Major



- Do they have your specific major/minor?
- Pre-professional program?

Size



- Public
- Private
- Small
- Large

MAKING THE COLLEGE CHOICE

FINDING YOUR FIT:

College fit is not based upon a name. It is based upon how you feel, if you feel challenged, comfortable, accepted, successful, etc. Various factors such as size, location, community, diversity, living style and distance from certain facilities will all play into the decision of your college choice.

Naviance is a tool that can be utilized to gain a wealth of information about colleges and universities around the world. The Super Match search tool identifies schools that meet your desired criteria.

RESEARCH:

Research using Naviance, other search engines, and social media is an important piece of the puzzle. When you start your research, you will begin to discover the characteristics of an institution that are important to you, characteristics of an institution that you don't want, and characteristics that become important to you that you may not even think about until you begin this process.

SIZE & OTHER IMPORTANT FACTORS

As you begin to research, you will learn that there are colleges with 600 students and others with 60,000 students. Each college will have different aspects that fit with what you are looking for in your future school. Here are a few factors that size will affect:

- Program offerings
- Study abroad
- Student to faculty ratio
- Class size (classes of 25 or lecture pods with 100)
- Availability and accessibility to facilities
- Leadership opportunities, like student government
- Extracurricular activities
- Campus culture
- Residential options on and off campus

LOCATION:

A big factor in making the college choice is **LOCATION**. Everyone looks for something different when they are going through the college research process. Being close to home may be comfortable and convenient, while being further away can add to a different type of experience.

Which setting fits you best - community, rural, suburban, urban?

What part of the country do you see yourself living in?

Are you comfortable being far away from home?

Do you see yourself studying abroad for a semester or for a full year?

COLLEGE VISIT/VIRTUAL TOUR:

Virtual college visits are available on the school website. During in person visits, be sure to explore all of the different buildings and offices. Eat a meal in the dining hall, read the school paper, visit a classroom. Take mental notes of the school personnel with whom you interact. Take time to sit somewhere on campus and take in the environment. Attend a school or community event. Can you see yourself being a part of the school community for the next 4 years? Journal about the visit at the end of the day. When you are visiting a variety of schools, make sure that the details are captured at the time of the visit. Then, make contact with the school when you get home. Starting to establish a relationship is beneficial for the future and thanking the admissions team is a gracious step to take.

TIMELINE FOR JUNIOR YEAR

JANUARY

- Continue test prep for the mandatory ACT @ Xavier (Naviance and Khan Academy)
- Create your Resume- Naviance Resume Builder or preferred format
- Use the search feature on Naviance to help you learn about colleges that might suit your interests (i.e. SuperMatch tool)
- Start thinking about teacher relationships - Who do you want to ask to write you a letter of recommendation for college apps?
- Make sure to do a credit check for Rio Salado dual enrollment - Rolando Vasquez is on campus twice per month
 - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
 - Contact information: rolando.vasquez.jr@riosalado.edu
- Attend college representative visits on the XCP campus
 - Read notifications in your email from ygrinstead@xcp.org for more info
- Begin thinking about summer plans and other educational opportunities
- Take Naviance Self-Assessments (ongoing)

FEBRUARY

- Registration begins for senior year courses
- Christian Service Hours Progress
 - Log hours in Mobile Serve
- Talk with your counselor about the colleges you plan to visit (virtual or in-person) during your spring break
- Continue test prep for the ACT & SAT (Khan Academy/Naviance)
- Attend college representative visits on the XCP campus

MARCH

- Register for the MANDATORY ACT at XCP
- Plan college tours or virtual tours for spring break and summer vacation
- Attend college representative visits on the XCP campus to show demonstrated interest
- Continue building your resume- Use Naviance resume builder
- Continue college research on Naviance
- Add schools to your "Colleges I'm Thinking About" list
- Finalize your hours for your Christian Service Project
 - Log on Mobile Serve
 - Due at the end of Quarter 3

TIMELINE FOR JUNIOR YEAR

APRIL

- Attend College Planning Luncheon
- Take MANDATORY ACT @ XCP
- Spring break is a good time for virtual or in-person visits to a college campus
 - Plan ahead of time and contact each university you plan to visit
- Discuss college finances as a family (Budget expectations, etc.)
- Attend college representative visits on the XCP campus

MAY

- Think about teacher relationships - Have you decided which teachers to ask for letters of recommendation?
- Begin to research scholarships on scholarship databases (i.e. FastWeb, GoingMerry, MyScholly)
- Add schools to your "Colleges I'm Thinking About List" on Naviance
- AP Exams
- Prepare for Final Exams
- Follow @xcpcounseling on instagram

JUNE/JULY

- Work on College Packet (Resume, Student Self-Assessment, Parent Brag Sheet)
- Ask your parent/guardian complete the "Parent Brag Sheet"
- Begin looking over Common App essay prompts to brainstorm ideas
- Visit colleges in person or virtually, in-state and out-of-state
- Check out Gator Connections on GatorNet to get in touch with XCP Alum on college campuses
- Add schools to your "Colleges I'm Thinking About List" on Naviance

AUGUST

- College Packet due to your counselor by August 6, 2025
 - Parent Brag Sheet
 - Resume
 - Self-Assessment)
- Finalize your "Colleges I'm Applying to" list
- Attend small group meeting with your counselor
- Senior 1 on 1 meetings

TIMELINE FOR SENIOR YEAR

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- Complete your College Packet and submit it to your counselor (Parent Brag Sheet, Resume & Self-Assessment)
- Apply to an in-state university (ASU, NAU, U of A)
 - Choose AT LEAST one in-state to apply to
 - Remember to self-report your grades
 - Sending direct to the institution has a quicker turnaround
- Attend Senior small group meetings with your counselor
- Match youCommon App with your Naviance account
- Narrow your college list down
 - Every school you apply to has an application fee attached to it, so we recommend applying to a reasonable amount of schools
- Look at the supplemental essays that will be required by the schools to which you plan to apply and begin drafting those
- Start making final application plans - Early Action, Early Decision. Rolling decision
- Determine the earliest application deadline
- Make sure all of your deadlines on Naviance are accurate and that your "Colleges I'm Applying to List" is accurate
- Request teacher letters of recommendation at least **one month prior** to your earliest deadline
- Update Naviance application list by moving schools from the "Colleges I'm Thinking About" List to the "Colleges I'm Applying To" List
- Talk to your counselor about the financial aid process, the FAFSA and CSS Profile forms, and the deadlines for financial aid applications
- Revise college application essays
- Attend College Representative visits

OCTOBER

- Complete the FAFSA
- Attend the XCP/BCP College Fair
- Send ACT/SAT Scores to the colleges where you are applying
 - We recommend sending three weeks ahead of deadlines
- Research scholarship opportunities on scholarship databases and university websites
- Stay in communication with your Counselor about any changes to your Naviance list
- Request teacher recommendations for Regular Decision deadlines
- Have test scores sent to your Early Decision/Early Action and Rolling Admission schools
- Keep Naviance up to date

TIMELINE FOR SENIOR YEAR

NOVEMBER

- Early Application deadlines (October 15, November 1, November 15)*
- Keep track of all admissions deadlines
- Make sure you have attended the NCAA Athletic Scholarship Night if you are considering college athletics
- Remember to file FAFSA and CSS Profile by priority deadlines
- Continue working on applications with January deadlines
- Keep Naviance up to date
- REMOVE schools you are no longer applying to
- Clarify whether you are applying via Common App or Directly to the Institution

DECEMBER

- Have test scores sent to your Regular Decision schools where required
- Receive Early Decision/Early Action decisions
- Notify and thank teachers who wrote letters for you
- Complete all applications with January and February deadlines
- Keep Naviance up to date
 - REMOVE schools you are no longer applying to
 - Clarify whether you are applying via Common App or Directly to the Institution

JANUARY

- January 1 & January 15: Typical Regular Decision and Early Decision 2 (ED2) deadlines
- If you have been deferred by an Early Decision or Early Action school and remain interested, contact the school with an update to reiterate your commitment
- Continue to research private and university-specific scholarships
- Update your Naviance
 - REMOVE schools you are no longer applying to
 - Clarify whether you are applying via Common App or Directly to the Institution
- Check e-mail and application portals to check status of applications

TIMELINE FOR SENIOR YEAR

FEBRUARY/MARCH

- February 1: Some Regular Decision deadlines
- Check e-mail and application portals to check status of applications
- Colleges begin notification of admission decisions
- Submit all awards/scholarships as requested for the Commencement Program and Awards Assembly

APRIL

- All decisions should be received by mid-April
- Check e-mail and application portals to check status of applications
- Make decisions among your college options - consult family, friends, counselor and current students
- Attend open houses or campus visits for admitted students
- If you have been wait-listed and wish to pursue admission to that institution, see your counselor for appropriate guidelines and procedures
- AP Exams

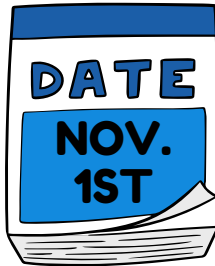
MAY

- May 1: National Candidates Reply Date - Notify all colleges to which you are admitted where you have decided to matriculate no later than May 1*
- Check e-mail and application portals to check status of applications
- Continue to work hard! Colleges do look at your final senior year grades-your matriculation is contingent on continued academic performance through the end of senior year
- Update Naviance indicating whether you are accepted/deferred/waitlisted/denied for all schools
- Set attending college on Naviance
- Students are responsible for sending Rio Salado transcripts
- Graduate! You've made it! Congratulations and good luck!

IMPORTANT DATES



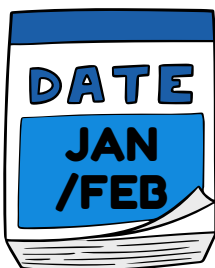
- Some Early Action deadlines
- Scholarship applications



- Early Action deadlines
- Early Decision deadlines
- ASU Barrett Priority deadline
- Scholarship applications



- Early Action deadlines
- Early Admissions decisions
- U of A Honors College deadline
- Scholarship applications



- Regular Decision deadlines
- Scholarship applications
- Update Naviance for all application decisions



- Regular Decision admission decisions released
- Scholarship applications
- Set attending college on Naviance



- Decisions must be made
- Enrollment Deposit payment is due to your university
- Scholarship applications
- Set attending college on Naviance

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Submit Application
(Common App or directly to the institution)
- ☐ Make sure that the Naviance submission type/
application deadline matches your Common App
account
- ☐ Submit ACT/SAT scores (3 weeks before application
deadline)
- ☐ Submit Common App essay/ supplemental essays
- ☐ Pay the application fee
- ☐ Email your counselor each time you submit an
application
- ☐ Every school that you have applied to or planning on
applying to is on your Naviance account
- ☐ Exhale 😊

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

WHAT DO COLLEGE ADMISSIONS COUNSELORS CONSIDER WHEN MAKING THEIR DECISION?

- Grades / GPA
- Rigor / Strength of schedule
- Test Scores* (Note: See test optional policies)
- Essays
- Teacher Recommendations
- Counselor Recommendations
- Extracurricular Activities, Résumé
- Demonstrated interest

WHAT KIND OF SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ON MY COLLEGE LIST?

- Safety
 - Schools to which you have more than an 80% chance of acceptance
- Target
 - Your test score/ GPA is higher than the average accepted student
- Reach
 - Schools that have less than a 25% acceptance rate

ADMISSION DEADLINES

Every college or university has different admission plans so be sure to carefully review each school when picking deadlines.

EARLY ACTION (EA):

This plan allows you to complete your applications early. It is a non-binding application. The typical deadline for Early Action is November 1st or November 15th. Students who decide on Early Action will hear back early in the admissions cycle (in December or January). You can apply Early Action to as many schools as you would like.

RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION (REA):

Some schools offer Restrictive Early Action which is an early deadline option that enables you to receive a decision early. With this plan, you may be restricted from applying to any other schools Early Action and/or Early Decision. Be sure to look carefully at each school's instructions as it will vary from school to school. REA schools include: Boston College, Georgetown University, Harvard University, Princeton University, Stanford University, University of Notre Dame and Yale University.

EARLY DECISION (ED):

This plan is for students who want to apply early to their first-choice college. This is a binding agreement so if accepted a student must agree that she/he will attend. You should be certain that you would like to attend the school before you apply. You can only apply Early Decision to one school. One parent and the counselor need to sign an application contract before the admissions materials can be submitted.

EARLY DECISION II (EDII):

Some schools offer a second round of Early Decision. It is the same policy as Early Decision I, except the deadline falls later (around January 1st). This is a binding agreement, so if accepted you must agree to attend. Your parent and counselor need to sign an application contract before the admissions materials can be submitted.

REGULAR DECISION (RD):

With this plan, you will submit an application by the deadline. Regular Decision falls around January 1st. You apply in January and will hear back in March or April with the admission decision. This is a non-binding application. You may apply to as many schools Regular Decision as you would like.

ROLLING DECISION (Roll):

You may submit your application when you choose and decisions are made through the entire admissions cycle. (September-April) Once you submit your application you will usually hear back within 4-6 weeks after submitting your application. This is a non-binding application.

"PRIORITY" DEADLINES (PRI):

Schools with Rolling Admissions, commonly set a priority deadline. It is a non-binding agreement. Applicants who submit their application by the priority deadline are considered priority for admissions. Depending upon the school, the priority deadline can mean you will receive priority for on-campus housing, financial aid scholarship money or to a specific program.

TESTING

ACT VS. SAT



Test Structure:

English, Math, Reading & Science Reasoning

Length:

2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay)

3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)

Reading:

4 passages

Science:

1 science section testing critical thinking skills
(not your specific science knowledge)

Math Covers:

Arithmetic, Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry,
Trigonometry, Probability & Statistics

Essay: Optional

Calculator Policy:

You can use a calculator on all math questions.

How It's Scored:

Scale of 1-36

Test Structure:

Reading, Writing & Language, Math

Length:

3 hours (without essay)

3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)

Reading:

5 passages

Science:

None

Math Covers:

Arithmetic, Algebra I & 2, Geometry,
Trigonometry & Data Analysis

Essay: Optional

Calculator Policy:

Some math questions do not allow you to use
a calculator.

How It's Scored:

Scale of 400-1600

Note:

ACT and the College Board have completed a concordance study that is designed to examine the relationship between scores on the ACT test and the SAT. These concordance tables do not equate scores, but rather provide a tool for finding comparable scores.

ACT COMP	SAT TOTAL	SAT RANGE	ACT COMP	SAT TOTAL	SAT RANGE
36	1590	1570–1600	22	1110	1100–1120
35	1540	1530–1560	21	1080	1060–1090
34	1500	1490–1520	20	1040	1030–1050
33	1460	1450–1480	19	1010	990–1020
32	1430	1420–1440	18	970	960–980
31	1400	1390–1410	17	930	920–950
30	1370	1360–1380	16	890	880–910
29	1340	1330–1350	15	850	830–870
28	1310	1300–1320	14	800	780–820
27	1280	1260–1290	13	760	730–770
26	1240	1230–1250	12	710	690–720
25	1210	1200–1220	11	670	650–680
24	1180	1160–1190	10	630	620–640
23	1140	1130–1150	9	590	590–610

TEST PREP

PREPARATION, PREPARATION, PREPARATION.

The best way to prepare for a standardized test is to take the time to prepare for whichever exam you choose to take. Whether it is the ACT or the SAT, become familiar with the structure of the test and review the directions for each section. Set up a plan and stick to the timeline when it comes to test prep. Naviance and Khan Academy are incredible resources:

Naviance Test Prep includes:

- ACT lesson plans
- SAT lesson plans
- Study tasks
 - Lessons
 - Flashcards
 - Practice problems
 - Practice tests
- Test countdown
- Knowledge goals
- Results that focus on strengths/weaknesses
- Tips for how to prep
- Critical reading Prep
- Math Prep
- Tips for timing
- Study games

Khan Academy includes:

- Online SAT Tests
- Paper SAT Tests
- Math Prep
 - Heart of Algebra
 - Passport to advanced mathematics
 - Problem Solving and data analysis
 - Additional topics in math
- Reading & Writing Prep
 - Reading
 - Writing: Passages
 - Writing: Grammar
- SAT Tips & Strategies
- How to Prep for the SAT
- SAT lesson plans
- Test question guides

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SENDING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS TO COLLEGES:

- ☐ Application
- ☐ Common App Essay
- ☐ Supplemental Essays
(if applicable)
- ☐ FAFSA/ CSS Profile
- ☐ ACT Scores/ SAT Scores
- ☐ Rio Salado Transcripts
(if applicable)



Note:

It is your responsibility to send your standardized test scores (AP, SAT, ACT) approximately one month before your application deadlines. Your scores can be sent from www.collegeboard.com or www.act.org.

Many colleges allow you to self-report your scores on Common App and will verify your scores with an official score report once you have submitted them.

Rio Salado: It is the student's responsibility to log in to the *MyMaricopa Portal* to request official transcripts through Rio Salado. (SEND ONCE SEMESTER IS COMPLETE)

For any questions please contact the Rio Salado Success Coach at success.coach@riosalado.edu or call 480-517-8080.

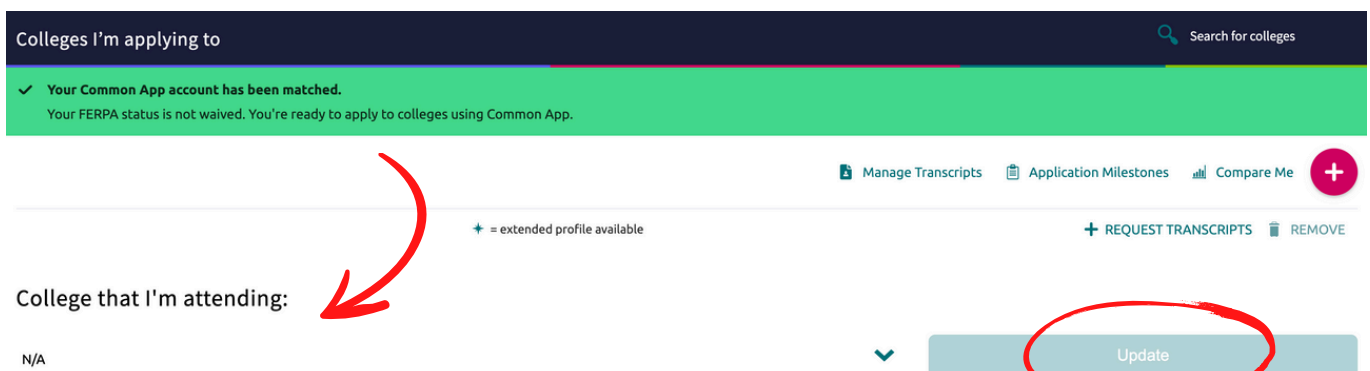
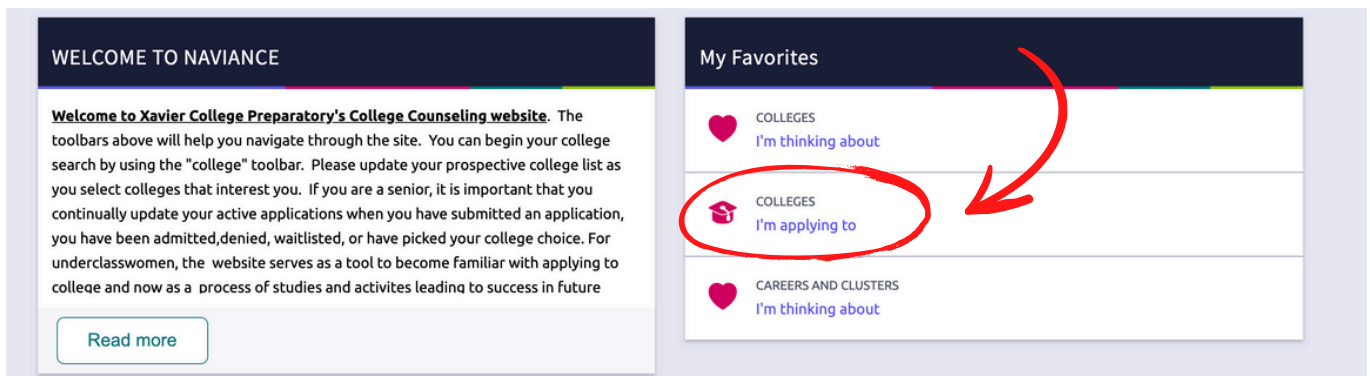
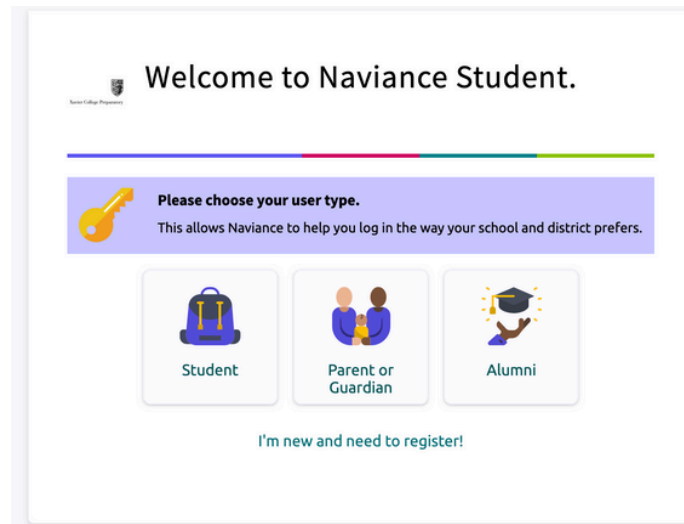
COUNSELOR SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

There are various documents sent from the Xavier Guidance Counseling Office for every student: an official transcript, a school profile, teacher letters of recommendation, counselor letter of recommendation, the school report, the mid year report and various evaluations.

- ☐ Official Transcripts
- ☐ School Profile
- ☐ Teacher Letters of Recommendation
- ☐ Counselor Letter of Recommendation
- ☐ School Report
- ☐ Mid-Year Report Transcripts
- ☐ Teacher Evaluation / Counselor Evaluation
- ☐ Final Transcripts (sent first week of June)
you must set your attending college on Naviance in order for your final transcript to be submitted

SET ATTENDING COLLEGE

- The final step on Naviance is setting the **"College that I'm Attending"**
- Log in to your Naviance portal
 - Under **"Favorites"** select **"Colleges I'm Applying To"**
 - At the bottom of the page, you will see **"College that I'm Attending"** with a drop down option.
 - Select the school of your choice, then click **"Update"**.



WAIVING FERPA RIGHTS

- Log in to your Common App account
- Add a college to your list under "My Colleges"
- Click the drop down arrow
- Click "Recommenders and FERPA"

The screenshot shows the Common App interface. At the top, there are tabs: Dashboard, My Colleges, Common App, College Search, and Financial Aid Resources. The 'My Colleges' tab is active. On the left, under 'My Colleges', there is a list of links: Arizona State University, College Information, Application, Questions, Recommenders and FERPA, and Review and Submit - Common App. The 'Recommenders and FERPA' link is circled in red. The main content area is titled 'Recommenders & FERPA' and contains a section for 'FERPA Release Authorization'. It explains that before inviting counselors, teachers, recommenders, parents, or advisors, the user must complete the FERPA release authorization process. A link 'Learn more about FERPA' is provided. A blue button labeled 'Complete Release Authorization' is circled in red. A 'Continue' button is also visible at the bottom right.

- Click "Complete Release Authorization"
- Read the fine print
- Check the box that says: "I have read and understood the FERPA Release Authorization explanation above."

1. How does FERPA relate to your college application?

- FERPA regulates the privacy of student education records, which could include your application to the college where you enroll. FERPA also gives you the right to review confidential letters of recommendation provided as part of that application after you enroll.

2. In a moment, you'll be asked if you want to waive the right to review confidential letters of recommendation. What should you know about this waiver?

- Waiving your right lets colleges know that you do not intend to read your recommendations, which helps reassure colleges that the letters are candid and truthful.
- Some recommenders may decline to write a letter for you if you do not waive your rights. Check with your counselor or teachers to see if any of them follow such a policy.

3. Still unsure how to respond?

- That's OK. Many students are. Before you move on, take a moment to discuss your decision with your counselor, another school official, or your parent/legal guardian. For more information about FERPA, visit the [Help Center](#).

☐ I have read and understood the FERPA Release Authorization explanation above.*

Continue

The screenshot shows the 'Release authorization' form titled 'FERPA Form'. It contains a checkbox for acknowledging FERPA release, radio buttons for selecting a waiver option, and a checkbox for understanding the waiver's scope. The 'Save and Close' button is circled in red.

Release authorization

FERPA Form

☒ I acknowledge that every school that I have attended may release all requested records and recommendations to colleges to which I am applying for admission. I also understand that employees at these colleges may confidentially contact my current and former schools should they have questions about the information submitted on my behalf.*

Please select one: *

☐ I waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents.

☐ I DO NOT waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents.

☐ I understand that my waiver or no waiver selection above pertains to all colleges to which I apply and that my **selections on this page cannot be changed once I sign and click Save below.***

Signature *

Date *

Date uses "month day, year" format (e.g. August 1, 2002)

TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Colleges/ universities look for information on students' work ethic, attitude, creativity and mastery of individual subjects. Teacher recommendations should be honest appraisals of a student's academic performance and intellectual promise. They are intended primarily to convey the teacher's classroom experience with the student — to give colleges an idea of how the student is likely to perform academically.

Please remember that it takes a lot of time and effort for teachers to write letters of recommendation for the senior class. Make sure to give them a **minimum of 4 weeks notice before your first deadline.**

HOW TO REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Before you complete the teacher letter of recommendation form - you must ask your teacher in person

Once you have submitted your college packet and met with your counselor, you will receive a "Teacher Letter of Recommendation Request Form".

To formally request a letter of recommendation, follow these steps:

1. Submit your **"College Packet"** including:
 - a. Student Self-Assessment
 - b. Parent Brag Sheet
 - c. Resume
2. Attend your scheduled one-on-one meeting with your counselor
3. Complete the **"Teacher Letter of Recommendation Request Form"**
4. Send teacher **"Teacher Letter of Recommendation Request Form"**
5. Add teachers to Naviance Recommendation Request (see next page)
6. Be sure to select **"All Current and Future Colleges"**

NAVIANCE REQUESTS

REQUESTING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

1. Login to your Naviance account
2. Click "**Colleges I'm Applying To**"
3. **Scroll to the bottom.**
4. Click on "**Letters of Recommendation**" section.
5. Click "**Add Request**"
6. Select the teacher you've asked to write your LOR.
7. Check the box that says "Select All".
8. Write a simple note to your teacher, say THANK YOU
9. Click "**Submit Request**"
10. Wait until you see the Status as "**Requested**" (see below)

COLLEGES
I'm thinking about

COLLEGES
I'm applying to

CAREERS AND CLUSTERS
I'm thinking about

SCHOLARSHIPS & MONEY
Favorite Scholarships


Letters of recommendation

Some colleges require letters of recommendation to be submitted with your application. Please visit the [letters of recommendation section](#), accessible from the main colleges page, for more information

Letters of recommendation

Your Requests

You can request new letters of recommendation and track the most recent status of your requests here.

Recommendation For ^	Deadline ^	Recommender(s)	Status ⓘ	Cancel Request
<div></div> <p>Your recommendation requests will show up here.</p> <div>Add Request</div>				

Add Request

Add Request

1. Who would you like to write this recommendation?*

Select A Teacher

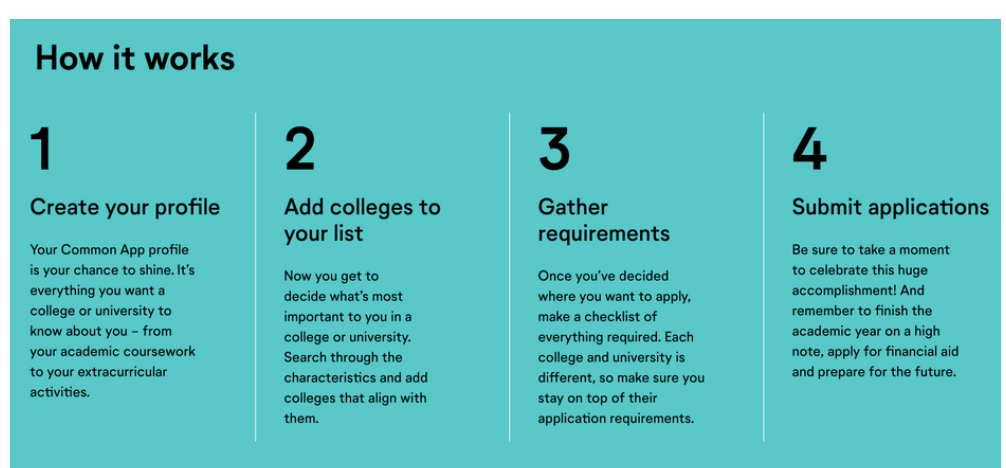
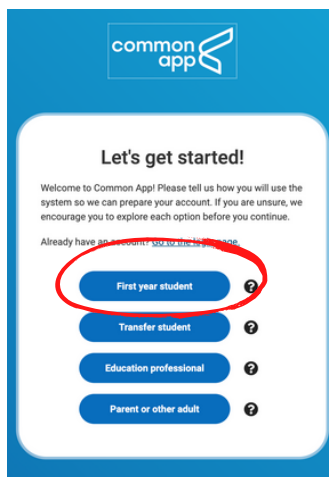
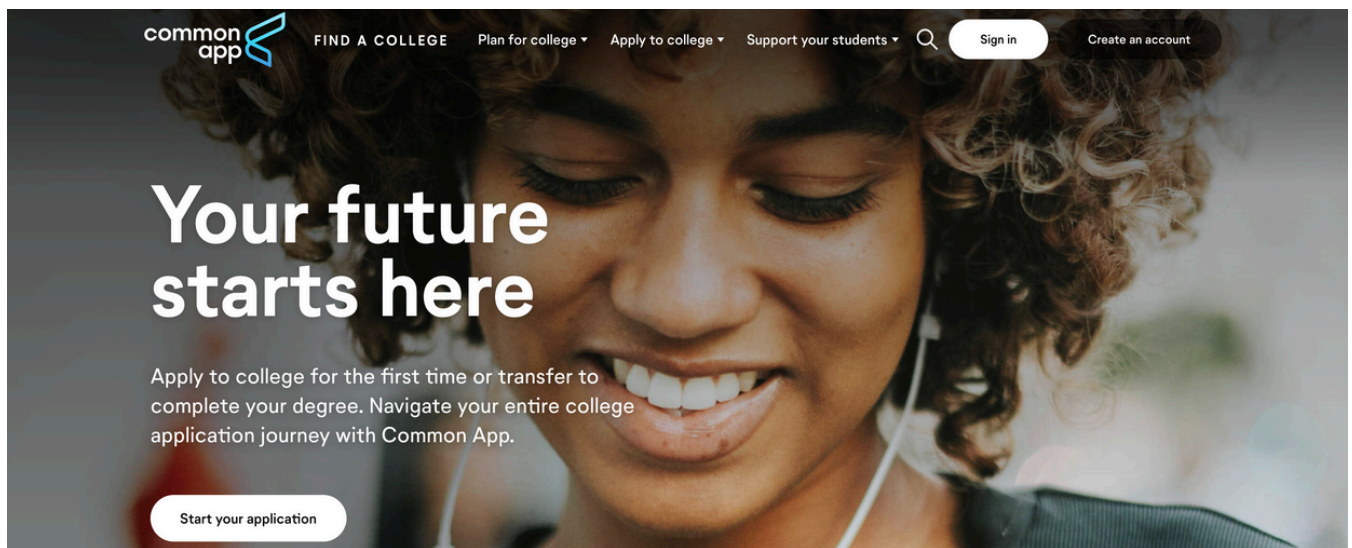
2. Select the recommendation request type:*

☐ Select All

Colleges ^

Due ^

COMMON APP

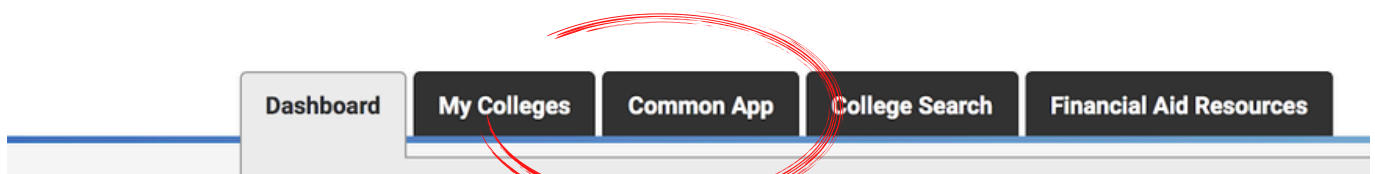


COMMON APP OVERVIEW:

- FERPA/Waive Rights
- Fill out entire Dashboard
 - Common App Tab
 - i. Profile
 - ii. Family
 - iii. Education
 - iv. Testing
 - v. Activities
 - vi. Writing
 - vii. Courses & Grades
- Submit Applications

A few important tips:

1. Do **NOT** fill out the "Education" section of the CommonApp until August 1, 2022
2. You do NOT request Letters of Recommendation on Common App, ONLY on Naviance (See Naviance page)



COMMON APP ESSAY PROMPTS

**The 2024-2025 Common App
Essay Prompts were as follows:**

***we anticipate similar prompts for the 2025-2026
application cycle**

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

ESSAY ADVICE

Essays are an opportunity for the applicant to share something significant about herself that she would feel valuable for the admissions committee to know. Be sure to proofread your essay. Be yourself and write something that you feel is unique to YOU! Some things to think about when writing your essay are: How will you be an asset to their campus? What is something about you that stands out that hasn't been talked about in other parts of your application?

1: START EARLY

If you start early, you will be sure to have a well thought out essay and you will reduce stress because you have more time.

2: BE YOURSELF

Write about a topic or an idea that you feel is authentic and genuine to you. This is a time that colleges want to learn about you and you want to be sure to portray the real you. Don't write about something that you think colleges want to hear.

3: BE HONEST

College admission officers will read hundreds, even thousands of essays. They are masters at discovering any form of plagiarism. Don't risk your college career by buying an essay off the internet or getting someone else to write your essay.

4: STAY FOCUSED

Read the essay question carefully. Write down a few ideas, then choose the one that looks like the most fun to write about. Stick to that main theme throughout the essay. Essays can help you make your case to admission officials, but don't go overboard. There will be opportunities elsewhere in the application to list all your achievements.

5: PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

Applying online may feel like you're sending an email, but you're not. Incorrect capitalization or abbreviations like B4 or "thanx" are not appropriate for a formal document. Make sure your essay represents the best of you.

6: WRITE AND REWRITE

Don't try to knock out a masterpiece on your first try. For your first draft, write anything that comes to mind about your topic. Let it "rest" for a few hours or a few days. When you come back to the draft, look for ways to make it more focused and better written. Are there details that don't really relate to the topic? Cut them. Do you need another example? Put it in.

7: GET A SECOND OPINION

When you've rewritten the essay to your satisfaction, find someone who can give you advice on how to make it even better. Choose a person you respect and who knows something about writing. Ask them to tell you what they like best about your essay and what you can do to improve it.

8: KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Criticism can be tough to hear but try to listen with an open mind. You don't have to make every change suggested. After all, it's your essay and no one else's, but you should seriously consider each suggestion.

9: PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD

Little errors creep in throughout the writing and editing process. Before you submit your essay, make sure to proofread. Try reading your essay aloud or having someone else read it to you. Another strategy is to read the essay backward, from the last sentence to the first. Errors your eye may have previously skipped over will jump out at you.

10: DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM AN ESSAY

The application essay is important but admission officers look at the whole package. This includes your academics, extracurricular activities, standardized tests, and other factors. Make your essay as well-written as you can, but don't put so much pressure on yourself that the rest of the application fades in importance.

INTERVIEWS

Admission interviews are a good way to spend some time asking questions, learning more about the university and demonstrating your interest in that college. Some schools have eliminated the interview process and only suggest it through an alumni system.

GENERAL RULES:

- Be yourself!
- Don't take your parents or your friends with you
- Wear your Xavier uniform or business casual dress
- If meeting in person, pick a public place, like the library or a coffee shop
- Have a copy of your transcript and resume
- Make eye contact and stay engaged
- Do not use your cell phone during the interview
- Be an active listener and take your time answering questions
- Be pleasant and honest
- Avoid slang, fidgeting, chewing gum, etc.
- Think of a few questions to ask

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Why are you considering (X) university?
- What do you hope to major in and why?
- What other schools will you be applying to?
- What would you like to get out of your college experience?
- What is your greatest passion?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?

POST INTERVIEW/FOLLOW UP:

- Send a 'thank you' to the interviewer
- Email the college representative and tell them the benefits of your experience
- Keep an eye on your email for any post interview questions or follow up
- Schedule a campus visit

COLLEGE VISITS

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR COLLEGE VISITS

The Princeton Review

If possible, visit every college that you are strongly considering. No website, guidebook, or testimonial will give you a better feel for a school than you'll get by seeing it for yourself. Many students change their minds after a campus visit. This is obviously preferable to changing your mind after you enroll! Get the most out of your time on campus with our college visit checklist:

1. Mind the calendar.

Schedule your visit while school is in session. You won't get a realistic idea of student life in August (or if you attend during a special event like Spring Fling).

2. Meet the experts.

Talk to the current students—they may soon be your peers. If they have a problem or complaint, they will probably share it with you. If they love their school, they won't be shy about it either. Come prepared with some questions to ask—specific ones will get you more interesting (and helpful) answers.

3. Meet the other experts.

Stop by the admissions office and introduce yourself. Let them know what interests you about the school so they can direct you to the best place for further investigation. Collect contact information and send a brief, friendly e-mail thanking them for taking the time to talk to you. If there is a sign-up sheet, add your name! Colleges do keep track of which applicants have demonstrated genuine interest in the school. A visit is a great way to demonstrate your interest.

Some schools will let you interview with an admissions rep during your campus visit. If this opportunity is available, don't pass it up.

4. Take the campus tour...

While it's the most obvious thing to do, the official campus tour is worth your while. (Find out if you need to register to get a spot.) It gives the school a chance to show off its best features, like the newly-built theater or their rooftop planetarium. While you're walking around, check out the flyers and bulletin boards and pick up a school newspaper to get a sense of what's going on.

5. ...then venture out on your own.

The official tour will probably steer you clear of the school's less attractive features, like the shoddy dining hall or the tiny gymnasium. Take your own un-official tour by wandering around campus. If there are any facilities that are important to you, find them and have a look for yourself. Make sure your destinations include the library and the first-year dorms.

6. Be a student for a day (or night).

Some schools sponsor overnight programs in which you can stay with a current student. This is a great opportunity to get a deeper sense of campus life and interact with your potential future friends and roommates.

Even if you don't stay over, most schools will allow you to sit in on lectures. Browse the course catalogue before you arrive, or ask the admissions office what classes are in session that day.

7. Save the best for last.

You'll get better at visiting colleges with practice. As you compare schools, you pick up on the aspects you like and the aspects you're not so fond of. You also figure out the right questions to ask, as well as the best campus spots to gauge student life. For that reason, visit your favorite schools last, so you'll be in the best position to make comparisons to the others on your list.

8. Keep a record of every college visit.

If you visit many schools, your memories of them are bound to overlap. Use a note-taking or voice-recording app on your phone, or plain old notebook and pen, to keep track of the details you like and the stuff that you don't like. When more questions arise (as they most definitely will), you can fire off an email for an answer rather than visiting a second time.

9. Don't rush to judgment.

Try not to base your opinion of a school on bad weather or one boring class. There are bound to be sunny days and more interesting classes. Same goes for overnight visits—you might end up staying with a student who has very different interests than you do. At the same time, trust your gut. Sometimes it's love at first sight. Other times, something feels wrong (even if you can't put your finger on it).

COLLEGE VISIT QUESTIONS

Scheduling a formal college visit can be beneficial to your college decision. If you plan to visit a campus, scheduling a tour is the best option. Try planning a visit to a college while they have classes in session. This gives you the opportunity to speak to students, see students on campus and you might be able to sit in on classes. You do not need to have a formal tour with the admissions office to make a college visit valid. If you know a current student attending a college you are interested in, visit them! Have them take you on a tour and show you a day in their life- this can be very informational. We encourage you to see the colleges you are applying to. *With COVID, some campus protocols have changed. Virtual visits are wonderful options as well.

****Even if you don't have a formal appointment, stop into admissions, there might be someone to speak to****

5 THINGS TO ASK AN ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR:

What are the research opportunities at (X) University?

What are the benefits of a small/large student population?

What is it like to take a class in (X)? Can I sit in on a class?

What are the benefits of a liberal arts education?

Can you give me an example of a student who has been successful at your college?

5 THINGS TO ASK A STUDENT:

What are your relationships with professors like?

How long did it take for you to feel at home ?

How much time do you spend on homework?

Why did you choose (X)?

What is campus like on a Saturday night?

5 THINGS TO ASK THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE:

What amount of need does the school usually meet?

What is the average debt that students have when they graduate?

What is the typical breakdown of loans vs grants?

What work-study opportunities are available?

Do scholarships renew automatically?

COLLEGES COMMONLY VISITED TOGETHER

Boston Area

Boston College
Boston University
Emerson College
Harvard University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Northeastern University
Stonehill College
Tufts University

Chicago

DePaul University
Lake Forest College
Loyola University Chicago
Marquette University (WI)
Northwestern University
University of Notre Dame (IN)
University of Chicago

Central New York Area

Colgate University
Cornell University
Hamilton College
Ithaca College
LeMoyne University
Marist College
Nazareth College
Skidmore College
Syracuse University
Union College
Vassar College

Central/Western Massachusetts

Amherst College
College of the Holy Cross
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

DC Area

American University
Catholic University of America
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Johns Hopkins University
Loyola University Maryland
University of Maryland

Denver Area

Colorado School of Mines
Colorado College (Colorado Springs)
Regis University
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Denver

Los Angeles Area

CalTech
Chapman University
Claremont College
Loyola Marymount University
Occidental College
Pepperdine University
University of California Irvine
University of California Los Angeles
University of Southern California

New York City

Columbia University
Eugene Lang College
Fordham University
Manhattan College
New York University
Saint Peter's University

Northern California Area

Santa Clara University
Stanford University
UC Berkeley
University of San Francisco

Philadelphia Area

Drexel University
Haverford College
University of Pennsylvania
Saint Joseph's University
Swarthmore College
Temple University
Villanova University

San Diego

San Diego State University
UC San Diego
University of San Diego

COLLEGES XCP GRADS HAVE ATTENDED THE PAST FIVE YEARS

American University
 Arizona Christian University
 Arizona State University
 Auburn University
 Azusa Pacific University
 Babson College
 Baylor University
 Barrett Honors College
 Belmont University
 Benedictine College
 Berklee College of Music
 Berry College
 Boise State University
 Boston College
 Boston University
 Bowdoin College
 Bridgewater State University
 Brandeis University
 Brigham Young University
 Bucknell University
 Brown University
 Butler University
 California Lutheran University
 California Polytechnic State University,
 San Luis Obispo
 California State University, Long Beach
 California State University, Northridge
 Catholic University of America
 Chapman University
 College of Charleston
 Claremont McKenna College
 Clark University
 Clemson University
 College of the Holy Cross
 Colby College
 Colorado College
 Colorado Mesa University
 Colorado State University
 Columbia College Chicago
 Concordia University, Wisconsin
 Cornell University
 Creighton University
 University of Dallas
 Dartmouth College
 DePaul University
 Duke University
 Elon University
 Embry Riddle Aeronautic University
 Emerson College
 Emerson College
 Emory University
 Fairfield University
 Florida State University
 Fordham University
 Fort Lewis College
 Franciscan University of Steubenville
 George Mason University
 George Washington University
 Georgetown University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Gonzaga University
 Grand Canyon University
 Hamilton College
 Harvard University

Harvey Mudd College
 University of Hawaii, Manoa
 Hawaii Pacific University
 Hofstra University
 Holy Cross College
 Howard University
 Ithaca College
 Idaho State University
 Indiana University, Bloomington
 James Madison University
 Johns Hopkins University
 Kansas State University
 Lehigh University
 Lewis and Clark College
 Louisiana State University
 Loyola Marymount University
 Loyola University Chicago
 Loyola University New Orleans
 Marquette University
 Marymount California University
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Miami University of Ohio
 Miami University Oxford
 Michigan State University
 Montana State University
 New York University
 The New School
 Northeastern University
 Northern Arizona University
 Northwestern University
 Notre Dame College
 Ohio State University
 Ohio Wesleyan University
 Old Dominion University
 Oregon State University
 Pace University
 Pennsylvania State University
 Pepperdine University
 Point Loma Nazarene University
 Pomona College
 Portland State University
 Princeton University
 Purdue University
 Regis University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Rice University
 Rutgers University
 Saint Louis University
 Saint Mary's College of California
 San Diego State University
 San Jose State University
 Santa Clara University
 Sarah Lawrence College
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 Scripps College
 Seattle University
 Seton Hall University
 Smith College
 Souther Methodist University
 Stanford University
 Stevens Institute of Technology
 Swarthmore College
 Syracuse University
 Texas A&M University

Texas Christian University
 Texas State University
 The University of Alabama
 The University of Arizona
 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 The University of Tampa
 The University of Tennessee Knoxville
 The University of Texas at Austin
 The University of Texas at Dallas
 Tufts University
 Tulane University
 University of Arkansas
 University of British Columbia
 University of California Berkeley
 University of California Davis
 University of California Irvine
 University of California Riverside
 University of California San Diego
 University of California Santa Barbara
 University of California Santa Cruz
 University of Central Florida
 University of Chicago
 University of Colorado Boulder
 University of Colorado Denver
 University of Connecticut
 University of Denver
 University of Florida
 University of Georgia
 University of Hawaii at Manoa
 University of Houston
 University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
 University of Iowa
 University of Kansas
 University of Kentucky
 University of Massachusetts- Amherst
 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
 University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
 University of Mississippi
 University of Missouri
 University of Nebraska
 University of Nevada-Reno
 University of New Haven
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Oklahoma
 University of Oregon
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of San Diego
 University of San Francisco
 University of Southern California
 University of Virginia
 University of Washington
 University of Wisconsin
 United States Air Force Academy
 United States Naval Academy
 University of Utah
 Vanderbilt University
 Villanova University
 Wake Forest University
 Washington State University
 Washington University in St. Louis
 Wellesley College
 Williams College
 Xavier University
 Yale University

IN-STATE UNIVERSITIES



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Apply directly on Arizona State University's website or Common App.

Important deadlines: Rolling Admission

Priority deadlines centered around Barrett

Barrett, The Honors College

- Separate application that you can start after you have applied and been accepted to ASU
- 2 teacher letters of recommendation are required
- Essays (2) required

Deadlines: Early Action, November 1

- Regular, January 15
- Late Consideration, March 7
- Late Consideration II, April 4

Popular Majors: Business, Education, Engineering, Nursing

Scholarships: New American University Scholarship(s)



Grand Canyon University

Apply directly on Grand Canyon University's website

Important deadlines: Rolling Admission

No application fee

Popular Majors: Nursing, Elementary Ed, Business, Hospitality Management

Scholarships: Chancellor Award, Antelope Scholarship

IN-STATE UNIVERSITIES



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Apply directly to Northern Arizona Universities website

Important deadlines: Rolling Admission

Honors College:

- A separate application that you can start after you have applied to NAU
- The application is on the NAU website
- Essays required (2) essay

Deadlines: Priority, November 1 | Final, Rolling Admissions

Popular Majors: Sciences, Education, Communications

Scholarships: Lumberjack Scholarship



UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Apply directly to the University of Arizona's website or Common App

Important deadlines: Rolling Admission

Honors College:

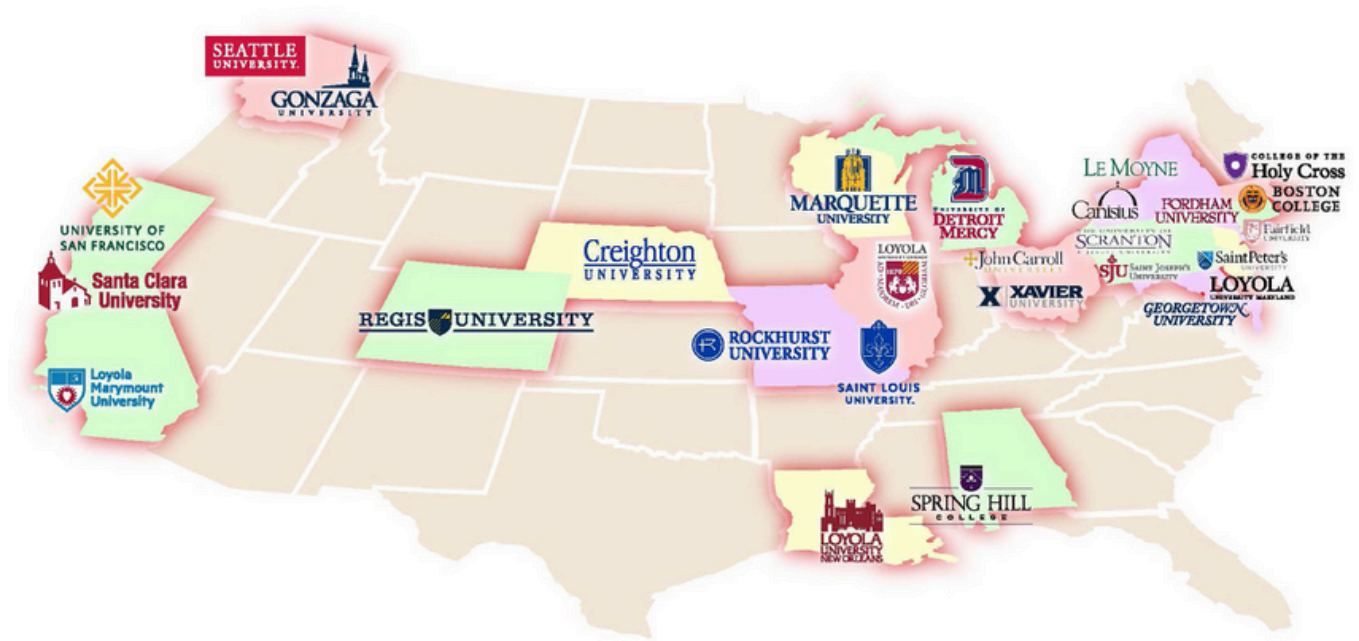
- Separate application that you can start after you have applied to U of A. On the U of A Future application, indicate your interest in applying to The Honors College
 - Applied through Common App?
 - Make a U of A Future Account. A link will be sent to you after you apply

Deadlines: Priority, November 16 | Final, February 15

Popular Majors: Business, Computer Science, Pre-Med

Scholarships: Wildcat Excellence Awards

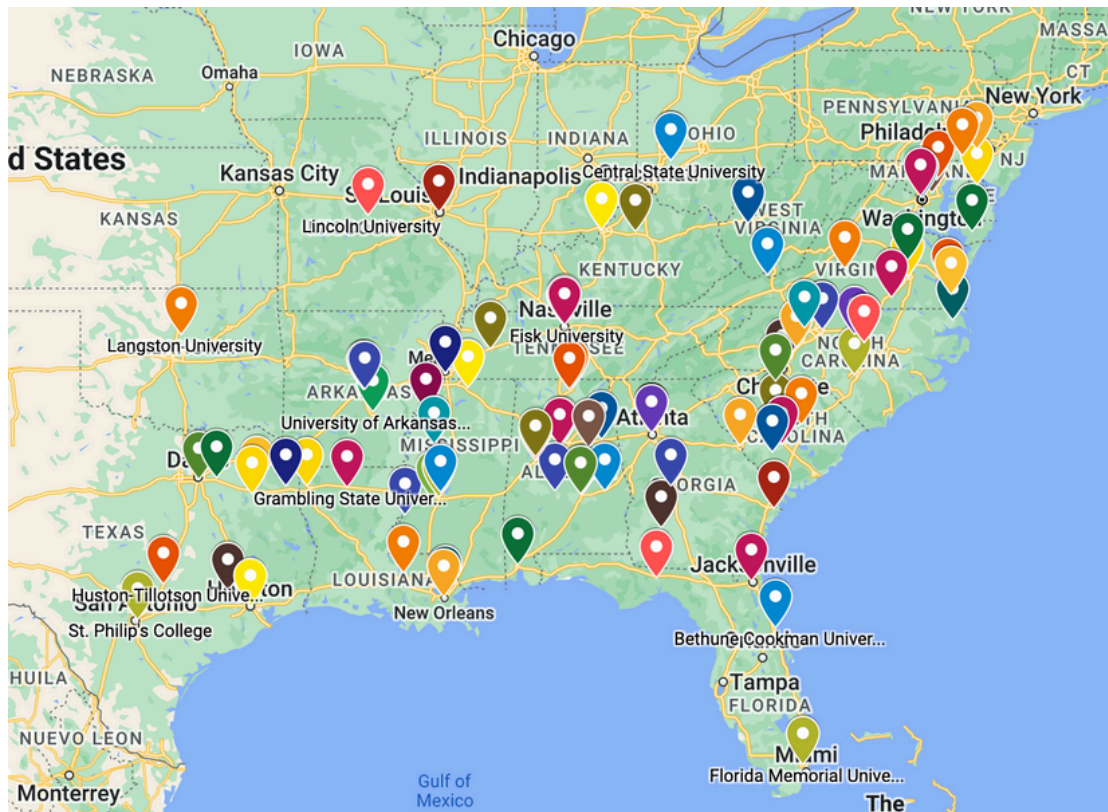
JESUIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



LISTED ALPHABETICALLY:

- Boston College
- Canisius College
- College of Holy Cross
- Creighton University
- Fairfield University
- Fordham University
- Georgetown University
- Gonzaga University
- John Carroll University
- Le Moyne College
- Loyola Marymount University
- Loyola University Chicago
- Loyola University Maryland
- Loyola University New Orleans
- Marquette University
- Regis University
- Rockhurst University
- Saint Joseph's University
- Saint Louis University
- Saint Peter's University
- Santa Clara University
- Seattle University
- Spring Hill College
- University of Detroit Mercy
- University of San Francisco
- University of Scranton
- Xavier University

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs)



Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) are institutions that were established before 1964 with the principal mission of educating Black Americans. Admission is not limited to only Black Americans, but are a resource for many.

There are 100+ Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) located in 19 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Here are a list of the top HBCU's ranked by US World Report:

- Spelman College
- Howard University
- Florida A&M University
- Tuskegee University
- Morehouse College
- Xavier University of Louisiana
- Hampton University
- Delaware State University
- Morgan State University
- North Carolina Central University

HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS



2,094,717 Hispanic
students enrolled at HSIs



516 Hispanic-serving
institutions



Located in 28 states,
the District of Columbia,
and Puerto Rico

Hispanic-Serving Institutions:

A Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) is defined as an institution of higher education that—

- is an eligible institution; and
- has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application.

A list of all Hispanic Serving Institutions can be found by state here:

https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d22/tables/dt22_312.40.asp

UC APPLICATION

OUT-OF-STATE

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS



UC sets slightly different criteria for applicants who are **not** California residents. If you're an out-of-state applicant, you must meet the same admission requirements as a California-resident student, but with one important difference:

You must earn a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.4 or better in the 15 college-preparatory courses (A-G courses), with no grade lower than a C.

Some other distinctions that you should keep in mind as an **out-of-state applicant**:

- There is no pre-approved course list for schools outside of California. Referring to the A-G course list site (a database of UC-certified course lists in California schools) and the 15 college-preparatory course categories can provide guidance on the types of courses that have been UC-approved.
- Honors courses are calculated differently. In calculating an out-of-state student's GPA, UC will grant honors weight for AP or IB courses only, but not for school-designated honors courses. The weight is given to letter grades of A, B, or C.
- Letters of recommendation are not required. Please do not submit them as part of your application. However, some campuses/majors may require letters of recommendation as part of a supplemental application review.
- The UC system requires you to self-report your grades when filling out your application. UC does not require official transcripts to be sent with the application; however, you must refer to your transcript to ensure the information you enter is accurate. Send in a final, official transcript by July 1 if you are admitted.
- As a public institution, the UC system prioritizes admission for California residents. However, all of our campuses offer admission to out-of-state students.

Good things to know about California Residency:

- Obtaining California residency for the purposes of tuition and fees is extremely difficult for undergraduates with nonresident parents (this includes transfer students from community colleges and other postsecondary institutions within California).
- Virtually all nonresident undergraduates with nonresident parents remain nonresidents for the duration of their undergraduate career at UC.
- UC undergraduates at all campuses pay the same \$14,226 in system wide tuition and fees. Nonresident undergraduates pay an additional \$29,754 in nonresident supplemental tuition. The fees figure above includes the average cost of additional campus-based fees. Your total costs will vary depending on your personal expenses and the campus you attend. All fees are subject to change without notice.

UC APPLICATION

A-G BREAKDOWN

SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS (A-G)

To meet minimum admission requirements, you must complete 15 year-long high school courses with a letter grade of C or better — at least 11 of them prior to your last year of high school. Keep in mind that taking approved high school (A-G) courses isn't the only way to satisfy these requirements.

A) HISTORY

UC - approved high school courses

Two years of history, including:

- one year of world or European history, cultures and geography (may be a single yearlong course or two one-semester courses),
- one year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government

B) ENGLISH

- Four years of college-preparatory English that include frequent writing, from brainstorming to final paper, as well as reading of classic and modern literature.

C) MATHEMATICS

- Three years of college-preparatory mathematics that include the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. A geometry course or an integrated math course with a sufficient amount of geometry content must be completed. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement, as may math courses taken in the seventh and eighth grades if the high school accepts them as equivalent to its own courses; also acceptable are courses that address the previously mentioned content areas and include or integrate probability, statistics or trigonometry. Courses intended for 11th and/or 12th grade levels may satisfy the required third year or recommended fourth year of the subject requirement if approved as an advanced math course.

D) SCIENCE

- Two years of college-preparatory science, including or integrating topics that provide fundamental knowledge in two of these three subjects: biology, chemistry, or physics. One year of approved interdisciplinary or earth and space sciences coursework can meet one year of the requirement. Computer Science, Engineering, Applied Science courses can be used in area D as an additional science (i.e., third year and beyond).

E) LANGUAGE

- Two years, or equivalent to the 2nd level of high school instruction, of the same language other than English are required. (Three years/3rd level of high school instruction recommended). Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture. American Sign Language and classical languages, such as Latin and Greek, are acceptable. Courses taken in the seventh and eighth grades may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement if the high school accepts them as equivalent to its own courses.

F) VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

- One yearlong course of visual and performing arts chosen from the following disciplines: dance, music, theater, visual arts or interdisciplinary arts — or two one-semester courses from the same discipline is also acceptable.

G) COLLEGE PREP ELECTIVE

- One year (two semesters) chosen from courses specific to the elective (G) subject area or courses beyond those used to satisfy the requirements of the A-F subjects.

Introduction to Studying in the UK

The UK is one of the world's leading destinations for higher education, known for its rich history of academic excellence, cutting-edge research, and a globally recognized education system. Studying in the UK not only offers a world-class education but also a unique cultural experience that shapes graduates into adaptable, employable professionals sought after by employers worldwide.

Why Study in the UK?

Top Universities and Research: The UK is home to two of the world's top three universities and 26 others in the top 200. It is ranked #1 globally for the impact of its scientific research.

Innovative Education System: UK universities, particularly those in the Russell Group, offer a research-driven environment that equips students with the ability to think critically, analyze information, and develop new ideas.

Global Recognition: A UK degree is respected globally, and its graduates enjoy high employability rates across the world.

Key Benefits of Studying in the UK

World-class education and teaching: Students will learn from experts in their fields and develop vital critical thinking skills.

Cultural Exposure: Studying in the UK offers students a chance to live in one of the most diverse and culturally rich environments in the world.

Affordable Living Costs: Compared to the US and Australia, living costs in the UK are 7% and 3% lower, respectively.

Scholarships and Funding: The UK offers a range of scholarships for international students, including partial and full scholarships, with 31% of US students receiving some form of funding.

UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)

What is UCAS?

UCAS is the UK's CommonApp. It is a centralized application system used to apply to undergraduate programs in the UK. It simplifies the process by allowing students to apply to up to five universities with one application. The platform also provides valuable tools for tracking your application status and handling communications with universities.

How to Apply through UCAS

Personal Statement: This is a critical part of your UCAS application. You need to explain why you want to study the course, why you're a good fit for it, and how your experiences have prepared you. The personal statement should reflect your passion, academic background, and long-term goals.

Note: UCAS personal statements focus specifically on your chosen course and your academic readiness, which differs from the personal statement used in CommonApp.

Application Process:

1. **Create an Account:** Set up your UCAS account at the UCAS website.
2. **Select Your Courses:** Choose up to five programs that align with your academic goals. Each program has specific entry requirements.
3. **Submit Documents:** Include your transcripts, reference letters, and personal statement.
4. **Pay the Application Fee:** The fee is about \$35 for one choice or \$75 for multiple choices.
5. **Track Your Application:** Once submitted, you can track the progress of your application through UCAS.

Key Deadlines:

Mid-January is the main deadline for applying to most UK universities.

For Oxford and Cambridge, as well as for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, and some other courses, the deadline is earlier, usually October 15th.

UCAS Tools

Course Search Tool: Find thousands of undergraduate courses offered by UK universities. You can filter courses by subject, level of study, and university location.

Scholarship Search Tool: A platform to explore funding options, including scholarships available to international students.

Tracking and Updates: UCAS allows you to check the status of your application and communicate directly with universities.

IMPORTANCE OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE FINANCES

NATIONAL AND LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

These scholarships are offered by corporations, non-profit organizations, or other groups. You can qualify for these scholarships based upon a wide range of factors, including interests, leadership, financial need, intended major, and more. A separate application is usually required.

NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Need-based scholarships and grants are another form of financial aid given to those with financial need based upon family income. Similar to the scholarships described above, this form of aid doesn't need to be repaid. Need-based scholarships can be awarded by both individual institutions and corporations, non-profit organizations, or other groups. To apply for need-based aid, you first need to fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

There are other types of need-based aid from the federal government in the forms of grants, loans, and work-study. To determine eligibility, you must complete the FAFSA form.

HOW DO I FIND SCHOLARSHIPS:

Scholarships can be discovered through a number of sources including:

- **Naviance:** To find scholarships in Naviance, navigate to "Scholarships and Money" under the "Colleges" tab and click on "Scholarships List." On this page, you can choose to see the college-specific scholarships you may be eligible for as well as national and local scholarships under the corresponding tabs.
- Your high school counselor
- Financial aid or admission representative at a particular college or university
- Specific college websites
- Specific scholarship websites

Scholarships can significantly lower the net price of attending college, and it's important to fully understand how the process works early in your college search. By understanding what the true cost of your education is sooner, it can open the doors to institutions that may not have been a financial fit based upon their sticker price.

Throughout the process, be sure to visit your high school counselor for guidance and don't be afraid to reach out to a specific institution's financial aid or admission office with any questions. Everyone is here to help you get to where you're trying to go.

FINANCIAL AID BASICS

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid is help for meeting the costs of college. This includes costs of tuition, food, books, personal living expenses, room and board, travel and personal expenses.

There are a few types of financial aid available: need-based financial aid (determined by federal guidelines or institutional policies) and no-need or merit based financial aid. Other scholarships are awarded for academic excellence, athletics, artistic talents, leadership, or various other criteria.

HOW DOES FINANCIAL AID WORK?

"Need" is the difference between what it costs to attend a particular college/university and what you and your family can afford to pay towards those costs. A student's financial aid eligibility is often equal to the amount of your families "demonstrated need". A student will be eligible for different amounts of aid at different universities.

NEED BASED FINANCIAL AID

Colleges determine financial aid packages based upon the information provided by several forms including the FAFSA, CSS Profile and the college's own institutional forms. These forms help their financial aid offices determine the estimated family contribution (EFC) compared to the student's educational costs. Most colleges will put together a combination of grants, loans and work study programs for students.

GRANTS

The federal government provides grants for students attending college or trade school. Most types of grants, unlike loans, are sources of free money that generally do not have to be repaid. Grants can come from the federal government, your state government, your college or career school, or a private or nonprofit organization. Do your research, apply for any grants you might be eligible for, and be sure to meet application deadlines!

LOANS

If you apply for financial aid, you may be offered loans as part of your school's financial aid offer. A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest.

If you decide to take out a loan, make sure you understand who is making the loan and the terms and conditions of the loan. Student loans can come from the federal government, from your private sources such as a bank or financial institution, or from other organizations. Loans made by the federal government, called federal student loans, usually have more benefits than loans from banks or other private sources.

FINANCIAL AID QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

1. What types of financial aid do you offer? What are the requirements for need-based aid and for merit-based aid?
2. How much debt do students have when they graduate? What percentage of students graduate with debt?
3. If I get a work-study job, how many hours will I be required to work per week? Are part-time jobs available to students who don't qualify for a work-study job?
4. Do you offer a tuition payment plan that lets me pay the college bills in monthly installments over the academic year? If so, what fees do you charge for this service?
5. Does your college practice need-blind admissions? Or will applying for financial aid hurt my chances of being admitted? Do you consider financial need when deciding whether to accept students off of the waiting list?
6. If I don't apply for financial aid this year, will that affect my eligibility for financial aid in subsequent years?
7. Does your college meet my full demonstrated financial need, or do you practice "gapping"? Will you meet my full financial need for all four years of college?
8. Do you practice front-loading of grants? Or can I expect to receive a similar financial aid package all four years, assuming my financial circumstances do not change very much?
9. If I win a scholarship, do you reduce my financial aid package? If so, does the scholarship replace loans or grants?
10. How do I apply for financial aid? Which application forms are required to apply for financial aid? Does the college require the CSS Financial Aid Profile or its own forms in addition the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?
11. What are the deadlines for applying for financial aid?
12. How does the financial aid application process differ for early admission students?
13. When will I receive my financial aid award letter?
14. If the financial aid is insufficient or my circumstances have changed, how do I appeal for more financial aid?
15. Where can I find information about other sources of financial aid, such as state grant programs and scholarships?

FAFSA – FEDERAL STUDENT AID



MORE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION:

<https://www.thebalance.com/resources-for-financial-aid-795072>

[FAFSA4caster](#), which helps you estimate your future eligibility for aid

The **FAFSA** form is usually available starting on October 1*. With updates to the FAFSA in the most recent years, the deadline may be later or earlier than October 1. Please be diligent in reading your email for the most accurate and up to date information regarding the FAFSA. In order to complete the form, you will need this information:

- Your Social Security number and your parents' Social Security numbers if you are a dependent student
- Your driver's license number if you have one
- Federal tax information or tax returns including IRS W-2 information, for you (and your spouse, if you are married) and/or for your parents if you are a dependent student or a foreign tax return if you are not a U.S. citizen
- Records of your untaxed income—including child support, interest income, and veterans benefits—for you and your parents if you are a dependent student information on cash holdings; bank account balances; investments, including stocks, bonds, and real estate (but not the home in which you live); and business and farm assets for you and for your parents if you are a dependent student in order to electronically sign the completed FAFSA, you or your parent (if you're a dependent student) must create an FSA ID, which consists of a user name and password.

Where to create a FSA ID:

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



Complete the Form

Completing the FAFSA form has never been easier. Get an overview of what you'll need and the steps involved.

[Review what to expect](#)



Find FAFSA Help

Learn how to fill out the FAFSA form and browse common FAFSA help topics.

[Get FAFSA help](#)



Renew Your Form

You must submit a FAFSA form for each school year in which you want to be considered for federal student aid.

[Get info on FAFSA renewal](#)

CSS PROFILE – STUDENT GUIDE

WHAT IS THE CSS PROFILE?

The **CSS Profile** is an online application that collects information used by nearly 400 colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal aid. (For federal aid you must complete the FAFSA, available Oct. 1 at fafsa.ed.gov.) Some colleges may require the CSS Profile from both biological/adoptive parents in cases of divorce or separation.

WHEN DO I COMPLETE THE CSS PROFILE?

You may complete the CSS Profile as early as Oct. 1, 2021. You should submit no later than two weeks before the **EARLIEST** priority filing date specified by your colleges.

WHO MUST COMPLETE THE CSS PROFILE?

Check your colleges' information to determine whether they require the CSS Profile. A list of participating colleges is also found on the CSS Profile Homepage.

HOW DO I COMPLETE THE CSS PROFILE?

You submit the CSS Profile at cssprofile.com. Once you sign-in, you will find a list of useful documents, such as your federal tax returns and other financial information that you'll need to have at hand to complete the application. Help is provided within the application and additional help is available by chat, phone or email by clicking "Contact Us in the application."

WHAT DOES THE CSS PROFILE COST?

The fee for the initial application is \$25. Additional reports are \$16. Payment may be made via credit or debit card. First-time domestic college applicant may receive CSS Profile fee waivers if the student qualifies for an SAT waiver or if the student is an orphan or ward of the court under the age of 24 or based on parental income and family size.

THE PROCESS

1. **SIGN-IN:** Use your College Board username and password or sign up for a new account. If you created an account for the SAT or to view your PSAT or AP scores, you should use the same user name and password for your CSS Profile application.
2. **COMPLETE THE APPLICATION:** As you answer questions, the system builds an application tailed to your family's situation. The application provides online help and edits to guide you. You do not need to complete the application in one sitting; save your application and return to complete it at any time.
3. **SUBMIT THE APPLICATION:** The date and time you submit your completed application will be recorded based on Eastern Time and your reports will be sent to the colleges you selected.
4. **REVIEW YOUR DASHBOARD:** Once you submit your application, your dashboard will include your payment receipt and any next steps, such as submitting documents to the Institutional Documentation Services (IDOC).

You may add a college at any time. Sign in to the CSS Profile and click ADD COLLEGE OR PROGRAM on your dashboard. You will be charged \$16 for each college you add. Any unused waivers will be automatically applied to your charges.

Questions? Customer service representatives are available via email, online chat and phone. Visit collegeboard.org/contact-us#css for more details.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH TOOLS

SOME SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES

Fastweb:

www.fastweb.com

Cappex:

<https://www.cappex.com/scholarships>

Niche:

<https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/>

JLV College Counseling/Scholarship Saturday:

<https://jlvcollegecounseling.com/>

Scholarships.com:

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

Scholarships on College Board:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search#!welcome>

<https://www.collegescholarships.org/financial-aid/>

Scholly:

<https://myscholly.com/>

SOME PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Gates Scholarship:

<https://www.thegatesscholarship.org/scholarship>

Coca Cola Scholarship:

<https://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/>

Dorrance Scholarship:

<https://dorrancescholarship.org/>

Local Scholarships:

<https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-state/arizona-scholarships/>

Arizona Foundation:

<https://www.azfoundation.org/Scholarships/Scholarship-Opportunities>

Society of Women Engineers:

<https://swe.org/scholarships/phoenix-section-scholarship/>

College Depot:

<https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot/scholarships>

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund:

<https://www.hsf.net/>

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

5 STEPS FOR CREATING A LIST OF COLLEGES TO CONSIDER

by Barbara Connolly

Before you choose a college, a college chooses you. You decide which colleges to apply to, but ultimately, you choose a college from among those that accept you. To make sure you have a good selection, you need a strategic college list.

With over 3,000 four-year colleges in the United States, it can be daunting to decide which colleges belong on your list. Here are tips that can help.

START EARLY AND NEARBY

High school students and their families should browse for colleges as early as sophomore year. Start with colleges close to home. Because you are already familiar with the location, you can focus on the defining features of each college. Put at least one college that is close to home on your list. Proximity to home may be what you need when the time comes to make a final choice. Search far and wide. After you have learned about your local colleges, find schools throughout the United States to add to your list. There are many books and software applications that can help you search. • The Fiske Guide, an encyclopedia-size print manual, has been the classic college search tool for families for generations. Today, Fiske Interactive Online is also available. • SCOIR and Naviance, college admissions software that helps students search for colleges online, are available at many high schools. • The College Board Big Future is a free online college search tool available to everyone. • “Colleges that Change Lives” by Loren Pope is a wonderful book that discusses the merits of some hard-to-find colleges.

ESTABLISH YOUR FOUR BASIC NEEDS

Most students have some idea about what they want from a college: a picturesque campus, big sports, etc. Decide the features that are important to you, then narrow them to four primary requirements that will serve as the basis for your list. Here is a list of features from which to choose: • **Location** — Is it important to attend college in a particular region of the country, or in a foreign country? Do you want to be close to home or far away?

- **Setting** — Would you prefer to be in an urban, suburban or rural area?
- **Size** — Is it critical you attend a small, medium or large college? Define these terms for yourself. A “small” college can have an undergraduate population ranging from 5,000 to only 1,500 students.
- **Cost** — Do finances factor significantly? Include private and out-of-state colleges on your list, because you may receive a financial award that could make the cost of attendance manageable. Also include in-state public colleges, which are often an excellent value.
- **Majors** — Do you need a technical college, a business school or one that offers assured admission to medical school?
- **Prestige** — Is it important that your college has a famous name or a certain placement in a ranking system?
- **Extracurricular** — Are big sports, athletic programs, Greek life or arts programs important to you?

MAKE A LONG AND SHORT LIST

Your preliminary list should include many schools with a wide range of features. You will shorten the list after considering your four essential requirements. Your first list may include as many as 30 schools, while your final list will ideally contain half as many. The time you will need to spend completing college applications should be kept in mind as you decide which colleges to keep on your list. If your list is too long, you may not be able to give each application the attention it requires to impress the college and gain admission.

FINALIZE YOUR LIST

To make a strategic and balanced list, compare your grades and test scores to those normally required for admission by each college you’re considering. Also, research the admission rate for each college. Based on this information, categorize each school as one of three types: **Reach** — Schools with admission rates lower than 20 percent that are unlikely to admit most applicants. **Target/Reach** — Schools with admission rates between 20 and 60 percent that are matches for you and offer a range of chances for admission. **Likely** — Schools with admission rates greater than 60 percent that are likely to admit you. Include a few “reaches,” several “target/reaches,” and a few “likely” schools on your final list, and make sure one likely college is close to home. Applying to college according to a well-rounded list will yield real choice when the moment arrives to decide which you will attend. Creating this list should be your first step in the college admission process.

COLLEGE ATHLETICS

NCAA: The main website for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The site not only includes information on Division I, II & III schools, but also daily updates, blogs, job information, and sport-by-sport statistics. <https://www.ncaa.com>

NCAA (Clearinghouse): www.eligibilitycenter.org – This site provides information for prospective NCAA student-athletes regarding Division I & II eligibility requirements. Here you can register with the clearinghouse if planning on playing a NCAA sport in college (after setting up an online account).

Best College Reviews – A Student's (and parent's) guide to playing sports in college. Resources include ethics in college sports, a guide for the college-bound student-athlete, best practices for supporting student-athletes, and a college planning guide for student-athletes.

<https://www.bestcollegereviews.org/students-guide-to-playing-sports-in-college>

More information about the college recruitment process can be found here:

<https://www.ncsasports.org/recruiting/how-to-get-recruited/college-recruiting-process>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS: Naia.org



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN SHOULD I START?

The summer before your senior year is the best time to start. Most students do the majority of their application work in the fall of their senior year. Find out what goes into an application and begin collecting the materials you need. Create a folder for each college you are applying to. At the front of each folder, put a checklist of what you'll need for the application and when it's due.

HOW MANY COLLEGES SHOULD I APPLY TO?

To increase your chances of getting in to a selective school—and to account for colleges you may not have considered before—we recommend a balanced list. A balanced list includes at least 3 reach colleges, 2 matches, and 1 safety school. They should all be colleges you'd be happy to attend.

WHAT ARE REACH, MATCH AND SAFETY SCHOOLS?

BigFuture™ introduces test scores as one additional factor to weigh as you refine your list. Think about narrowing your colleges into three categories:

REACH:

Your SAT or ACT® score is lower than the average score range of last year's freshman class.

MATCH:

Your SAT or ACT score is in the same score range as last year's freshman class.

SAFETY:

Your SAT or ACT score is higher than the average score range of last year's freshman class.

SHOULD I SEND ADDITIONAL MATERIAL?

It's best if you can express everything about your qualifications and qualities in the materials requested. Colleges spend a great deal of time creating their applications to make sure they get all the information they need about each applicant. If you feel it's absolutely necessary to send additional material, talk to your counselor about it. Some arts programs may require portfolios or videos of performances. Check with the college to find out the best way to submit examples of your work.

IS IT OK TO USE THE SAME MATERIAL ON DIFFERENT APPLICATIONS?

Definitely. There's no need to write a brand-new essay or personal statement for each application. Instead, devote your time to producing a great version of the basic parts of your application.

SHOULD I APPLY TO COLLEGES IF MY ADMISSION TEST SCORES OR GRADES ARE BELOW THEIR PUBLISHED RANGES?

Yes. The admission scores and grades that colleges show on their websites are averages or ranges—not cutoffs. There are students at every college who scored lower (and higher) than the numbers shown. Remember that colleges consider many factors to get a more complete picture of you. For example, they look at the types of classes you take, your activities, recommendation letters, your essay and your overall character. Colleges are looking for all kinds of students with different talents, abilities and backgrounds.

SHOULD I EVEN BOTHER APPLYING TO COLLEGES I DON'T THINK I CAN AFFORD?

Absolutely. Remember that after financial aid packages are determined, most students will pay far less than the "sticker price" listed on the college website. You don't know if you can afford a college until after you apply and find out how much aid that college will offer you (if you're accepted). Fill out the FAFSA® as early as possible after Oct. 1 to qualify for the most aid. Even if the aid package the college offers is not enough, you have options.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACT

A standardized college admission test. It features four main sections: english, math, reading and science and an optional essay section.

CLASS RANK

Please note that Xavier does use class rank for our students. If this question is asked on an application please indicate N/A or 0.

COMMON APPLICATION

Online application tool. You can fill out this application once and submit it to many different schools without repeating information for each institution.

DEFERRING ENROLLMENT

Most colleges will allow you to defer your enrollment for a year for the purpose of a personal/family commitment or for pursuing a special interest or experience.

Denial

If you have been denied admission to a college, the decision is, unfortunately final and not subject to appeal.

EARLY ACTION (EA)

Early Action is an option for students to apply to a college and get an admission decision earlier than usual. Early action plans are not binding, however are competitive. Some colleges require students to apply Early Action to meet scholarship deadlines.

EARLY DECISION (ED)

Early decision plans are binding. An ED application means that the student is agreeing to enroll in the college immediately if admitted (and offered a financial aid package that meets your needs). Some colleges have an early decision option called ED II, which has a later application deadline than their regular ED plan.

EARLY DECISION II (ED II)

Some schools offer two rounds of Early Decision. It is the same policy as Early Decision I, except the deadline falls later around January 1st. This is a binding agreement, so if accepted you must agree to attend.

FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is most commonly referred to as FAFSA. This is a government run financial aid form that determines the amount of federal and state aid a student is eligible to receive. The FAFSA is based upon parent tax information from 2 years prior to the students application, also referred to as "prior prior".

FINANCIAL AID

Money given or loaned to you to help pay for college. Financial aid can come from federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations. Learn more about financial aid.

PRIORITY DEADLINE

Colleges have priority deadlines for scholarships, housing and admission that are recommended to be given the strongest consideration.

RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION (REA)

Some schools offer Restrictive Early Action which is an early deadline option and you will receive a decision faster. With this plan, you may be restricted to apply to any other schools Early Action and/or Early Decision. Be sure to look carefully at each school's instructions because instructions will vary from school to school.

REGISTRAR

The college official who registers students. The registrar may also be responsible for keeping permanent records and maintaining your student file.

ROLLING ADMISSION

Colleges with Rolling Admissions dates collect applications in batches. They release decisions quicker than those with hard deadlines. Arizona In- State schools participate in Rolling Admission.

SAT

The College Board's standardized college admission test. It features three main sections: math, reading and writing, which sometimes includes a written essay.

TRANSCRIPT

The official record of your coursework at a school or college. Your high school transcript is usually required for college admission and for some financial aid packages.

UNWEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

The most common way to measure academic performance in high school. Unweighted GPAs are measured on a scale of 0 to 4.0 and do not take the difficulty of your courses into account. This means that an A in an AP class and an A in a low-level class will both translate into 4.0s

WAITING LIST

IF you have been placed on a college's waiting list, you should discuss this with your counselor. There might be additional forms to fill out for the school.

WEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

A grade point average that's calculated using a system that assigns a higher point value to grades in more-difficult classes. For example, some high schools assign the value of 5.0 (instead of the standard 4.0) for an A earned in an AP class. See how to convert your GPA to a 4.0 scale.

COLLEGE PACKET

The "College Packet" consists of three pieces that are due to your counselors TYPED no later than **August 30th**.

1. PARENT BRAG SHEET

- a. The Parent Brag Sheet is to be completed by the PARENT/GUARDIAN of the rising senior.

2. SELF-ASSESSMENT

- a. The Student Self-Assessment is to be completed by the STUDENT.

3. RESUME

PARENT BRAG SHEET

1. Please give a specific example of how your daughter has demonstrated her ability to problem-solve.
2. Please give a specific example of how your daughter has demonstrated creativity and innovation.
3. Please give an example of how your daughter has demonstrated resilience personally and academically.
4. Please list three words that best describe your daughter.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
5. Please explain any special circumstances or challenges that would be helpful to know when reviewing your daughter's performance in high school?

STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. What are your academic/career interests?
2. Has any academic, work, or summer experience been of significant importance to you? Please describe.
3. What do you consider your greatest passion? / What is unique about you?
4. Is your transcript an accurate measure of your ability and potential? If not, what circumstances, if any, have interfered with your academic performance?
5. Please provide three words that best describe you and why.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. Is there any other information that you would like to share with me (your counselor) or anything that we have spoken of in the past that you would like to remind me of?
7. What contributions have you made to your school, community, and/or clubs?
8. Describe any significant obstacles and how you have overcome them. Describe your greatest accomplishments.
9. Please provide the list of schools you are currently considering and why.

RESUME

There is a resume template that can be completed on Naviance. It is one of the 3 necessary documents your counselor needs in order to complete your "Letter of Recommendation" for your college applications.

1. Go to <http://xcp.org>
2. Go to Quick Links and then Naviance.
3. Once you have logged into Naviance, click on About Me and then My Stuff.
4. Complete the Resume. Contact your counselor if you have any questions.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

Center for Education Statistics – Great information on Colleges and universities that includes enrollment, admissions, average net price, outcome measures, campus security /safety, & much more. <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

College Board's Net Price Calculator (Participating Schools Only) – A Great tool for students and families to calculate the Net Price of schools. Each college and university is required to have a Net Price Calculator on their website but varies greatly by accuracy and usefulness. The College Board Net Price Calculator is considered to be quite comprehensive.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/calculate-your-cost/net-price-calculator>

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities: Site for the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. Offers a college search for those institutions, as well as various publications, AJCU job bank, online courses, and much more.

<https://www.ajcunet.edu>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Catholic Colleges: A site to search Catholic colleges and universities with links to the schools. Also includes up-to-date news, events, and a job board. <https://www.usccb.org/committees/catholic-education/catholic-colleges-and-universities-united-states>

Sisters of Mercy: Links to and contact information for Mercy-sponsored colleges and universities.

<https://mercyhighered.org/mercy-colleges-and-universities-2>

HBCU Connect: A great site to search for historically black colleges and universities. Also has links for scholarships, jobs, and much more. <https://hbcuconnect.com>

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities - https://www.hacu.net/hacu/K-12_Resources.asp

College Guide for Hispanic and Latina Students - ACU represents more than 500 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the US. <https://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/hispanic-latino-student-guide>

Best Colleges for Women – The site discusses that because female students face unique financial challenges, both in college and throughout their professional lives, the importance of merit- and aid-based scholarships is stressed. They investigate the major sources of financial aid awards, which, unlike loans, do not have to be repaid. They also explain how scholarships, grants, and fellowships work and then identify awards for women that are worth pursuing.

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/scholarships-for-women>

Common Application: – The official site for the Common Application, used by many selective, independent colleges and universities for admission to their undergraduate programs. www.commonapp.org

Petersons: A comprehensive site where you can identify colleges by location, major, tuition and more. There is also test prep and financial aid information. <https://www.petersons.com>

Princeton Review: A site to help with standardized test preparation, as well as a great college search function.

<https://www.princetonreview.com>

UNIGO: A college guide created by college students nationwide, covering everything from the admissions process to academics to social life at various schools. A great way to get a student's perspective, or "inside scoop" on the college(s) you're interested in. <https://www.unigo.com>

U.S. News: A link to U. S. News & World Report that keeps up-to-date college rankings, including "Best Colleges" (nationally), "Best Graduate Schools", and "World's Best Universities" to name a few. <https://www.usnews.com/education>

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

CSS Profile online – The CSS Profile is the form many private colleges and universities require for those applying for financial aid. This is in addition to the FAFSA form. <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>

Free Application for Federal Student Aid – It walks you through preparation for completing the FAFSA application, filing the form, & checking your application status after completion. <https://studentaid.gov>

Fastweb.com – Includes a database of over 180,000 private scholarships. It offers a free search using an online profile you create. Also, has numerous other resources including information on Gap Years, Career, and College information. Some resources are available in Spanish. <https://www.fastweb.com>

Pay4CollegeArizona – Pay4CollegeArizona helps students and parents gain knowledge of the financial aid process. The Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education provides accurate and timely resources. <https://collegegoal.az.gov/pay4collegearizona-0>

The Federal Student Aid Gateway – Source for free information, guidance, and tools for federal student assistance—from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid. Click on the section for “Students, Parents, and Counselors” – you are then sent to a portal of websites that give options for federal student aid, ways to get started with funding, and ways to repay federal student loans. As an example, it includes links to the FAFSA website (for info and to apply) and to the FAFSA4caster website (where you can get an early estimate of your eligibility for federal student financial aid). <https://studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid>

FinAid – A great resource for financial aid & scholarships, including a financial aid estimator. It also has information on prepaid tuition plans, athletic assistance, loans, grants, & more. <https://finaid.org>

Going Merry - One place for students to find and apply to scholarships online, absolutely free. <https://www.goingmerry.com>

Cappex – Assists in finding merit aid scholarships by matching students with merit scholarship opportunities from colleges across the country. Merit aid is awarded to students with a broad range of GPAs, and can even be based on interests, intended majors, leadership & community service. <https://www.cappex.com/scholarships>

Western Undergraduate Exchange – The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) is a 16-state tuition reciprocity program. Over 160 colleges and universities in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming offer each other's' citizens affordable rates. Public institutions agree to charge no more than 150% of the in-state resident tuition rate; private institutions offer a 10% reduction on tuition rates. <https://www.wiche.edu>

Scholarships.com – A free college scholarship search that has over ten million members. Scholarships posted are thoroughly researched and verified as legitimate, making certain there are no fees to apply. <https://www.scholarships.com>

College Scholarships.org – an informative scholarship database. <http://www.collegescholarships.org/financial-aid>

Guaranteed Scholarships - Scholarships guaranteed by nearly 100 colleges (listed by schools) to students who meet the individual listed criteria for each. <https://www.guaranteed-scholarships.com>

Hispanic Scholarship Fund - HSF empowers students and parents with the knowledge and resources to successfully complete higher education while providing support services and scholarships to as many exceptional students, HSF Scholars, and Alumni as possible <https://www.hsf.net>

United Negro College Fund - Information on scholarship and grant programs funded by the United Negro College Fund. <https://uncf.org/scholarships>

Sallie Mae: A good place to get a head start on preparing for college, whether you're a student wondering where to go to school and how you'll get there, or a parent who is trying to figure out the college and financial aid application processes. You'll find pointers on the entire “go-to-college” process from preparation to getting loans. There are also interactive tools that enable you to analyze the affordability of schools. <https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning>

CAREER RELATED WEBSITES

Career Planning: The Occupational Outlook Handbook is the #1 resource for learning about different careers and the education and training needed for those careers. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh>

Mapping Your Future – Sponsored by participants in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) this is a one-stop site for advice on financial strategies, choosing a college, and career planning. Webinars <http://mappingyourfuture.org>

O*Net OnLine – Sponsored by the US Department of Labor. A tool for career exploration and occupation searches. Contains detailed descriptions of the world of work. Great information on careers and jobs including STEM. Breaks down careers to include work values, work style, work context, etc. <https://www.onetonline.org>

My Next Move - This career database, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, is designed to be student-focused and includes a career assessment tool, along with details on more than 900 occupation. <https://www.mynextmove.org>

JumpStart! Reality Check - Fill in the choices on the next page to see if you can afford your dream life. You might be surprised at how much that life will cost. While local salaries, wages and lifestyle costs will vary throughout the United States, the internal data used in this calculator are national averages. The results will indicate a ballpark relationship between your expenses and the income you will need to support your dream lifestyle.

<https://www.jumpstart.org/what-we-do/support-financial-education/reality-check>

Become with Lantern - An all in one education and career resource. A free career search website that helps students explore a variety of careers that looks at several different criteria such as being your own boss, job stability, pay, etc.. <https://www.learnhowtobecome.org>

Naviance Career Assessments-

SOURCES

Article by C. Sarikas explain what a priority deadline is for college and why it is important.

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/priority-deadline>

National Association for College Admission Counseling- www.nacacnet.org

Top 10 Tips for Writing a College Essay:

<https://www.nacacfairs.org/learn/apply/EssayTips>

ACT to SAT Score Conversion Chart:

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/act-to-sat-conversion>

ACT/SAT Concordance

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/act-sat-concordance.html>

University of California Admissions- <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/subject-requirement-a-g.html>

College Knowledge: 5 Steps for Creating a List of Colleges to Consider-

https://www.theoaklandpress.com/opinion/college-knowledge-5-steps-for-creating-a-list-of-colleges-to-consider/article_e3191a4a-5fed-11eb-840b-6f647f90682b.html

Princeton Review – College Advice and Tips <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice>

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-admissions/college-counseling?ceid=nav-1>

This website link takes you to pages that about signing up for packages you have to pay for.

NCAA – Want to Play College Sports? Resources and link to Eligibility Center

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

Recruiting – Eligibility Center:

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

CSS Profile Fall 2022 - <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>

Article on What are Holistic College Admissions? Selective Colleges Consider More Than Just Grades and Test Scores

<https://www.thoughtco.com/what-are-holistic-admissions-788426>

10 Best College Guide Books: Must-Read Books for Parents and Teens

<https://www.collegetransitions.com/blog/college-guidebooks>

Fastweb - Connection to college scholarships, financial aid and more. www.fastweb.com

Cappex - National Scholarship Database <https://www.cappex.com/scholarships>

Niche- Search lists of scholarships by category or get matched by eligibility to college scholarships .

<https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships>

The College Solution – Article by Lynn O'Shaughnessy Why You MUST Use Net Price Calculators!

<https://thecollegesolution.com/why-you-must-use-net-price-calculators>

Expected family Contribution (EFC) – Explanation of EFC and EFC calculator examples.

<https://thecollegesolution.com/expected-family-contribution-10-things-to-know>

SOURCES

Jessica and JLV College Counseling website and blog:

<https://jlvcollgecounseling.com>

College Board Scholarship Match: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search#!welcome>

College Scholarships.org scholarship search engine - <http://www.collegescholarships.org/financial-aid>

College Board EFC Calculator - This tool calculates your EFC, a measure of your family's financial strength. Colleges and states use this number to help determine your financial aid award.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/calculate-your-cost/expected-family-contribution/efc-calculator>

The Gates Scholarship (TGS) is a highly selective, last-dollar scholarship for outstanding, minority, high school seniors from low-income households. Each year, the scholarship is awarded to 300 of these student leaders. <https://www.thegatesscholarship.org/scholarship>

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation invests in our future — offering college scholarships to exceptional high school students dedicated to leadership, service, and action that positively affects others. We've done it for 32 years, changing the paths of more than 6,300 young people ready to change the world.

<https://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org>

The Generation Google Scholarship was established to help students pursuing computer science degrees excel in technology and become leaders in the field. Selected students will receive \$10,000 USD (for those studying in the US) or \$5,000 CAD for the 2022-2023 school year. The Generation Google Scholarship will be awarded based on the strength of each candidate's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, demonstrated leadership, and academic performance. The program is open to students who meet all the minimum qualifications and we strongly encourage students that identify with groups historically excluded from the technology industry, including Women, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, American Indian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, to apply. <https://buildyourfuture.withgoogle.com/scholarships/generation-google-scholarship>

Arizona Scholarships List - By using the state of residence or college attendance as one of the search criteria, Scholarships.com will help students find information about the awards they need to pay for a college education. <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-state/arizona-scholarships>

Arizona Community Foundation Scholarship Opportunities

<https://www.azfoundation.org/Scholarships/Scholarship-Opportunities>

Society for Women Engineers Phoenix Scholarship - <https://swe.org/scholarships/phoenix-section-scholarship>

College Depot at Phoenix Public Library Scholarship Search and other Resources

<https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot/scholarships>

Hispanic Scholarship Fund - <https://www.hsf.net>

HBCUFirst.com- <https://hbcufirst.com/>

White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics - <https://sites.ed.gov/hispanic-initiative/>