

Planning for College

What you need to know
about the college
admissions process

AND what to expect your
senior year!

Arizona Requirements

Required course competencies:

- 4 English
- 4 Math (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 & an advanced math such as Pre Calculus, or AP Calculus)
- 3 Lab Science (4 recommended)
- 3 Social Studies
- 2 World Language (same)
- All credits completed necessary to graduate from RRHS

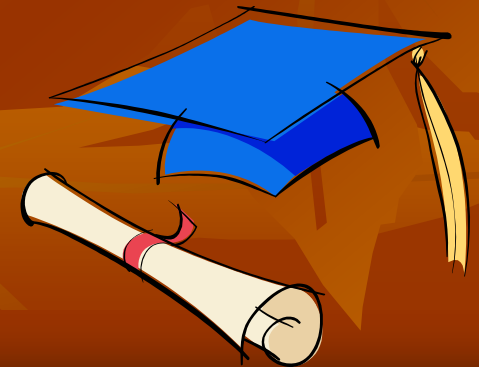
Competitive and/or out-of-state universities MAY require:

- **AP & Honors Classes**
- **Additional Academics**
- **Additional Fine Arts**
- **Additional World Language**
- **Additional Tests, i.e., SAT Subject Tests**
- **Letters of Recommendation**
- Do your research on colleges you are applying to!

College Planning Process

**BUSY BUSY BUSY BUSY!! Time Management IS
KEY.**

- 1. ESSAYS
- 2.College Applications
- 3.Financial Aid
- 4. Research/ Search for Scholarships
- 5.Apply for Scholarships



What Do I Need To Know About Myself?

- G.P.A.
- SAT/ACT Scores
- Course Background
- Extra-curricular activities to support major interest
- Chances of acceptance if I meet general criteria
- Financial Resources
- Athletic or special talent
- Important school qualities
- Learning Style



Factors colleges consider when looking at a student profile.

Primary Factors

- -Quality/Rigor of Academic Courses
- -Academic Performance/ Grades Grade Point Average
- -Test Scores (ACT, SAT, SAT Subject Test, AP, etc.)

Additional Factors

- -Extracurricular Activities
- -Essays
- -Letters of Recommendation
- -Demonstrated Interest



APPLY FOR FOUR YEAR UNIVERSITIES

- **Early Admissions:** Deadline typically by November 1st of senior year
- Early admissions means early answer plus the possibility of additional perks depending upon university, i.e., priority housing/orientation.

Two types of early admissions –

- **Early action** – non-binding: you can choose whether or not to attend that school.
- **Early decision** – binding: if you're accepted, you must attend that school. Typically used by more selective colleges.
- **Regular Admissions:** Deadline typically around February 1st of senior year
- **Reply Date:** May 1st of senior year
- Make your decision by or prior to this date, submit enrollment deposits.

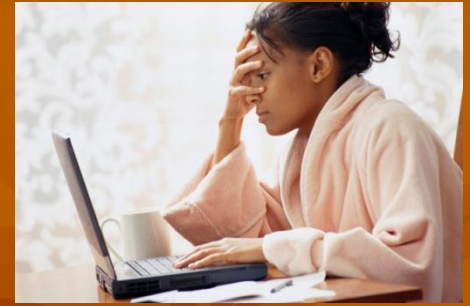
Explore College Options

- Now that you know what colleges are looking for, it's time to put them to the test.

**Which colleges
are right for you?**



What to Consider



- Size and diversity of student body
 - Location
 - Academic programs
 - Campus life –athletics, activities, housing
 - Graduation and retention rates
 - Financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
- Above all, think about where you will be the most happy and successful in your college life.

Get Organized and Apply

Narrow and categorize your choices:

- -“Safety” schools (1 or 2)
- -“On Target” schools (3 to 4)
- -“Reach” schools (1 or 2)



Get Organized and Apply

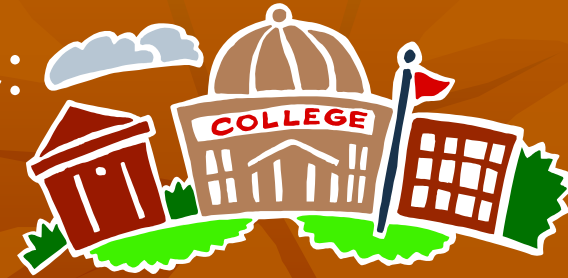


- Know the deadlines for applications and application requirements.
- Review scholarship and financial aid requirements.
- Revise application essays and share drafts with a trusted teacher, counselor or family member.
- Ask for recommendations and set firm dates for their completion.
- Request transcripts and schedule interviews, if needed.

Visit Campuses

Get to know a school from the inside:

- Take a campus tour.
- Speak with an admissions counselor.
- Ask about financial aid opportunities.
- Sit in on a class of interest.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Talk to students and faculty. Get to know a school from the inside.
- Explore College Options.



PREPARING TO APPLY TO COLLEGES & FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

ORGANIZE YOUR TIME

- Set aside a block of time every day or week that you can dedicate to the college & scholarship application process. Think of it as a part-time job (that costs you money).
- Set up a good calendar system where you can set goals and get reminders for upcoming deadlines.

ORGANIZE YOUR SPACE

- Create paper and file management systems so that you can keep track of all the documents, essays, brochures, scholarship applications, et al.
- Create an online file management system through Google Drive since most applications are done online now.

Research and Resources

- Visit The College Board
- Test Prep Programs

(Kahn Academy, Think Tank)



- College Visits / RRHS Visits

ECAP!!



Powerful Web service for students AND a graduation requirement

- College and career planning activities
- Dynamic college search and comparison tools
- Multimedia college profiles, with your school's data
- Resume Builders
- Career Exploration

College Representatives and College Visits



College Representatives

Students should meet with reps of prospective colleges here or at fairs (Tucson College Night!)

Remember – every contact counts!

Visit the Colleges you are interested in -

First-hand experiences: significantly helpful in decision-making – Think summer programs!

Making a Decision

- Try to visit colleges where you've been accepted
- Compare financial aid packages.
- Reply **ON TIME** and send your deposit
- Get ready to graduate!



College Planning Recap

Remember: College opportunities exist for everyone!

- Simplify the planning process:
 - -Understand admissions factors.
 - -Learn about College Admissions Testing.
 - -Explore college options.
 - -Develop a financial plan.
 - -Organize your time.



FINANCIAL AID

3 Steps to Getting Financial Aid

	Step 1: Submit the FAFSA.	Step 2: Find out if other financial aid forms are required.	Step 3: Search and apply for private scholarships.
Why it's important	Completing the FAFSA allows you to be considered for the greatest amount of financial aid from federal, state and college sources — and it's free to fill out.	Many colleges also award aid from their own funds — money from donations and gifts from alumni. Not all colleges require extra forms, so be sure to find out if yours does.	While many private scholarships may only award a few hundred dollars, this money can help you pay for books or living expenses.
What types of aid this step could get you	The FAFSA is the key to being considered for the most types of aid, including: -Grants -Scholarships -Work-study jobs -Loans	Aid from colleges can include: -Grants -Scholarships -Loans	Aid typically consists of: -Grants -Scholarships -Internships
When you can begin applying	The FAFSA is available online Jan. 1.	CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®: Available online Oct. 1. Your college's own forms: Ask the financial aid office or check the college's website.	Check with specific organizations.
When to submit application	Check college and state grant deadlines and submit the form by the earliest date to receive the most aid possible. You can request your FAFSA be sent to several colleges. And remember to reapply every year.	Each college sets its own deadline. Be sure to meet the priority deadline to be eligible for the most aid possible.	Each scholarship program sets its own deadline. Remember to read applications carefully and follow the instructions.
Where you can find applications	FAFSA website	CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE website Your college's financial aid office or website	Contact specific organizations directly, or use a search tool, such as Scholarship Search

*** Private funds, i.e., the Bank of Parents/Relatives**

*** Grants – based upon financial need**

*** Loans**

*** Work-Study**

•Scholarships

•FAFSA opens OCTOBER 2017

AFTER FAFSA IS FILED

- Your family's financial information is analyzed using the federal need formula.
- You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) which shows the expected family contribution (EFC). Your EFC is an indicator of your family's financial strength. It is sent to your state scholarship agency as well as to the colleges you listed on the FAFSA. They use this number to determine your financial aid award.
- You'll receive an award letter showing your "financial package," which may consist of scholarships, grants, loans and work study. You can decline all or part of it.
- You'll need to report information about private scholarships you've been awarded to the university's financial aid office. Your financial aid award may then be adjusted.

NOW WHAT?

Your next steps should be to

- ☐ Register for SAT or ACT and plan to take 2 tests before the end of this year. Plan for SAT II- Subj. Area Tests if needed.
- ☐ SAT.ORG, ACT.ORG, COMMON APP.ORG
- ☐ See counselors for fee waiver
- ☐ Review your current grades and adjust your work level if needed.
- ☐ Assess your academic record prior to making course selections for senior year.
- ☐ Identify what about you makes you special (the “hook”).
- ☐ Summer Plans: Visit Programs, volunteer in community
- ☐ Explore College Options
- ☐ Begin Essay/statements



Your next steps should be



- ☐ Clarify what you are looking for in a college and discuss criteria and parameters at home.
- ☐ Visit, visit, visit!
- ☐ Decide which teachers to ask for recommendations and do this before the end of junior year.
- ☐ Begin to develop resume of activities / honors – school and community.
- ☐ Oh, yeah Did we mention VISIT, VISIT, VISIT ?

ADVICE FROM SENIORS

- GRADES MATTER
- GPA MATTERS
- DO NOT LAG IN CLASSES
- DO NOT LET SENIORITIOUS GET TO YOU
- Apply to everything
- Actually take notes and study
- Show up to your ACT
- Don't let yourself get lazy



GOOD LUCK

Remember – there is no perfect school, nor is there just one “right” school for a student.

Look for good matches and go with the best fit

