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Creating a College Timeline

When preparing for college, it is helpful to ask the following:

Q: What is the college application deadline?

A: Different schools have different application deadlines. Make sure to check each school you plan to apply to and add that deadline in your calendar. Also, read about the differences between <u>Early Action, Early Decision, and Rolling Admissions.</u>

Q: What tests are required?

A: Did you take the ACT? The SAT? Both? Although not all colleges require an SAT/ACT score, it is good to have one, including for scholarships. Check the registration and test dates online and put them in your calendar.

Q: What other dates to I need?

A: After admission and test deadlines, financial aid is the next area to have on your calendar. First, it is essential you complete the FAFSA with your parents/guardians which opens on December 1st. You also want to note the deadlines of any scholarships you plan to apply to.

Give Yourself Plenty of Time

Do not wait until a deadline to start on a task. If a college application is due on the 15th of December, plan to start completing it a month earlier to give yourself plenty of time to work on a personal statement, send in test scores and transcripts, and review your application with a parent/guardian or with your College and Career Readiness Coordinator (See Below).

Winter Season Is Here!

While two weeks of hot cocoa and comfy pajamas sounds cheery, you can also use your time over break to pursue your college and career goals. With help from your CCRC, there is so much you can accomplish after high school. Make sure to read this through and focus on what applies to your college or career pathway.

> *"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."*

> > -B.B. King

"The best way to predict your future is to create it." -Abraham Lincoln

"The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

-Dr. Seuss

CONTACT YOUR COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELOR

Palo Verde—<u>Email Andrea Vasquez</u> Sabino—<u>Email Alex Karaman</u> Sahuaro—<u>Email Sean Haynes</u> Santa Rita—<u>Email Lauren Peralta</u>

Important Dates and Deadlines

The following list of dates and deadlines can help you with college and career planning. Make sure to read this list through and mark anything that applies to your personal college or career plan. School specific dates for your high school can be found on the next page.

December Dates

- December 1—FAFSA: This is the time to begin creating an FSA ID for students and one or more parents/guardians and beginning the FAFSA form. Every student and at least one parent/guardian needs to create an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA. An FSA ID is basically a username that can be used to access the FAFSA form (See page 3 for more details about the FAFSA). <u>Click Here to</u> <u>Learn How to Make Your FSA ID.</u>
- O Throughout December—Various Scholarship Applications: While most scholarships are not due until the Winter or after New Year's, some are due as early as September. Make sure to add scholarship deadlines to your calendar. <u>Click Here for Scholarships Due in December</u>
- December 20-January 5—Winter Break is a great time to work on scholarship applications. Before break, plan a schedule for yourself listing which scholarships you plan to apply to and when. With the free time of break, try to set of goal of applying to at least four scholarships. While some scholarship applications are very quick, those ones typically have a lot of applicants, so try to complete applications for larger scholarships that require an essay, letters of recommendation, or transcripts/test scores. Download our SCHOLARSHIPS 101 PRESENTATION for more info about how to search for scholarships. (Note: Open the Scholarships 101 presentation in PowerPoint and start the slideshow with your speakers turned up to hear the live narration of each slide).
- December 20-January 5—Winter Break is also a good time to begin planning and studying for any AP Exams you will have in May. We have prepared a presentation on how to use Winter Break to lay out a study plan to achieve success on your exams. <u>Click here to view the presentation</u> (Download the PowerPoint and play the slideshow with your speakers on).

January Dates

- January 3—Registration Deadline for ACT: This registration deadline is for the ACT that will be held on February 8th. If you need to take or retake the ACT, this is the latest recommended date to do so to be able to send in your scores with college applications. <u>Click Here to Register</u>
- January 20—Late Registration Deadline for ACT: This late registration deadline applies to the ACT that will be held on February 8th. If you need to take or retake the ACT, this is the latest recommended date to do so to be able to send in your scores with college applications. <u>Click Here to Register</u>
- Throughout January—Various Scholarship Applications: Make sure to add scholarship deadlines to your calendar. <u>Click Here for Scholarships Due in</u> <u>January</u>



School Specific Dates and Deadlines

The following list of dates and deadlines are unique to specific schools in the East Region. Look below to see what is happening at your high school and see Page 1 to find out how to email your College and Career Counselor if you have questions.

Palo Verde Info

No Upcoming Events for December/January

Sabino Info

- O December 17th: Navy Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard
- ♦ January 9th: Air Force Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard
- January 9th: Marines Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard
- O January 14th: Army Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard
- January 15th: Coast Guard Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard
- January 16th—Navy Tabling at Lunch—Cafeteria Courtyard

Sahuaro Info

Every Friday: FAFSA Fridays in the College and Career Center (Room 122)
Get Help on Your FAFSA (See Flyer Below)

Santa Rita Info

January 22nd: Pima Community College Fair — During WIN











FAFSA ALERT—OPEN NOW

The Federal Application for Free Student Aid (FAFSA) is an essential part of the college process. This federal form is used to determine your eligibility for need-based financial aid. Make sure to have your parents or legal guardians with you to provide household financial information. The FAFSA opened on December 1st and should be completed by you as soon as possible.



questions: Q: Where can I complete the FAFSA?

A: Go to StudentAid.gov to complete the FAFSA or <u>Click Here.</u>

Q: If my parents make a lot of money, should I still complete the FAFSA?

A: Yes. The FAFSA is often a requirement for other scholarships, not just scholarships based on financial need. You do not want to miss out on a scholarship because you did not fill it out.

Q: If I am an undocumented or DACA student, can I complete the FAFSA?

A: It depends. DACA students with a Social Security Number are eligible to complete the FAFSA. For non-DACA undocumented students, you cannot complete the FAFSA. However, there is a ton of financial aid out there so contact your school's college counselor (See page 1) to learn more in a confidential setting. You can also <u>Click</u> <u>Here</u> to learn more about the FAFSA for undocumented and DACA students.

Q: Where can I find other FAFSA FAQs? A: <u>Click Here</u> to see more popular questions people have about the FAFSA.

FAFSA Prize Incentives

Your school might be offering prize giveaways or other incentives for completing the FAFSA beginning in January. Talk to your school's College and Career Counselor (See Page 1) to find out if your school participates. Scholarship Search Engines

- ⇒ <u>Fastweb</u>
- ⇒ <u>Scholar-</u> <u>ships.com</u>
- ⇒ <u>Cappex</u>
- ⇒ <u>Petersons</u>
- ⇒ <u>College</u> <u>Board</u>
- \Rightarrow <u>Niche</u>
- ⇒ <u>Chegg</u>
- ⇒ <u>Scholly</u>
- *Click To Follow Links*

College Fairs and Tours: In-Person and Virtual

College fairs offer a wonderful opportunity for students to meet college admissions advisors from many universities in a single setting. When the COVID-19 pandemic affected in-person events, many virtual college fairs popped up, allowing students to explore myriad colleges from home and to meet college representatives who might not travel to Tucson for an in-person fair, including those from East Coast, Southern, and Midwest schools. Below you will find information about the TUSD College and Career Fair, and information on virtual college fairs offered by the National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC).

College Tours Over Winter Break

This coming Winter Break offers you two weeks of rest and time with friends and family. With so many amazing universities near Tucson, it is also a wonderful time to visit schools. In a short weekend, you could visit Arizona State University, Grand Canyon University, and Northern Arizona University in addition to community colleges throughout the state. If you are considering an Arizona university outside of Tucson, grab some friends and go visit the many options out there.

The College Tour ►

The College Tour is an amazing website that provides multiple, detailed, and engaging video tours of colleges all over the country. Not only do the videos help you tour campus from the comfort of your home, but they also highlight the fun aspects of student life cinluding dorms and eateries, student events, recreation centers, and so much more. If you cannot make a campus visit, use The College Tour to check out schools outside of Tucson. <u>Click Here to Start Exploring Virtual College Tours</u>

NACAC Virtual College Fairs

NACAC Virtual College Fairs are online, remote for and students fairs to attend parents from home. They typically have between 200-300 schools represented at each fair, so you need to register and indicate which schools you plan to meet with during the event. All NACAC Virtual Fairs take place the

NACAC Fair Schedule:

from 10am-3pm Arizona

time

February 16th

<u>Click Here to Register</u> <u>for NACAC Virtual</u> <u>College Fairs</u>



Requesting Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are often required for college and scholarship applications. In some cases, they are optional, but submitting a good letter of recommendation is always a safe bet. Consider all the information below when requesting letters of recommendation from teachers or counselors:

- Make a formal request to your recommender at least three weeks before a recommendation letter is due. Teachers and counselors are very busy and writing a letter of recommendation takes time. Ask early to give them plenty of time to write you a good letter.
- Be ready to provide a resume to your recommender. School staff do not have your whole list of achievements and interests memorized, so provide a resume that includes your extracurriculars, major accomplishments and awards, volunteer or community service experience, employment experience if applicable, and additional skills to make the letter writing process easier.
- Make sure you are requesting the right recommender. Some colleges want a letter from a teacher, others from a counselor, and some from both. Make sure you know who the school wants a letter.
- Know that you might not be able to read a letter of recommendation. Students have a legal right to see letters of recommendation written for them, but a lot of colleges and the CommonApp ask students to waive that right to ensure they do not have influence over the letter writing process and that the letter is honest and true. It is recommended that you do waive your rights to see a letter, so make sure you are confident that your recommender will write a good letter.
- Write a thank you letter. It is proper to provide a formal thank you to whoever writes a letter for you. Don't forget!

College Spotlight

Located in Silver City, just a few hours from Tucson, is Western New Mexico University. WNMU offers more than 70 areas of study. Twelve master's degrees, 41 bachelor's degrees, and 20 associate degrees and certificate programs are available. Fields of study include accounting, business, chemistry, criminal justice, education, environmental sustainability, forest/ wildlife, graphic design, history, nursing, occupational therapy psychology, social work, sociology, and zoology.

WNMU has been recognized as one of the best affordable college degress in the Southwest, offering top-notch academics along with fantastic students organizations, sports, and campus life. Silver City is a gorgeous town with lots of outdoor activities and wonderful weather all year round.

Click to Learn More About Western New Mexico University



Understanding Financial Aid: The Big Picture

The world of financial aid can be confusing, so you can use this general overview to gain some basic understanding of how to get money for college:

Q: What types of scholarships are out there?

A: Financial aid comes in a few forms. Scholarships are free money that can be given by the college you attend (called internal scholarships) or by private organizations and donors (called external scholarships). Normally, you will find out about potential scholarships a specific college once you are accepted for admission, either in your acceptance letter or shortly after. Scholarships can be merit-based, given for your academic record, need-based, given for those in financial need, or diversity and leadership-based, given to students from marginalized communities or students who have a history of volunteering and leadership.

Q: What else is required for scholarships?

A: Did you take the ACT? The SAT? Both? Although not all scholarships require an SAT/ACT score, it is good to have one. Check the requirements for scholarships before you apply to make sure you qualify. Additional requirements might include a personal statement, a letter of recommendation, and/or transcripts.

Q: What other types of financial aid exist?

A: Besides scholarships, students can be eligible for grants and loans. Grants are free money you can get, like scholarships, that does not need to be repaid. The most common grant is the Federal Pell Grant, given to students with financial need who complete the FAFSA. You can read about your Pell Eligibility on the email you receive when you submit the FAFSA. Loans, however, need to be repaid. For most student loans, you do not need to make payments until you graduate from college. The most common loan students use is the Direct Safford Loan, a federal student loan that is also mentioned in your FAFSA submission email (See page 3 for FAFSA info).

Q. What is the order of tasks for getting financial aid?

A. While there is no perfect approach, you should 1. Complete the FAFSA and list colleges you plan to apply to on your FAFSA (See Page 3). Check if you are eligible to receive a Pell Grant. 2. Apply to colleges and read about any potential scholarships you are awarded. 3. Calculate the remaining cost of college by subtracting any scholarships and grants you have been offered from the cost of attendance. 4. Search for and apply to additional scholarships to bring you total cost of attendance as close to zero as possible (See Page 3 for scholarship search engines).

DOWNLOAD OUR SCHOLARSHIPS 101 PRESENTATION FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SEARCHING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Note: Open the Scholarships 101 presentation in PowerPoint and start the slideshow with your speakers turned up to hear the live narration of each slide.

ACT Re-Testing Preparation

If you are looking to re-take the ACT to boost your score and help with college applications or scholarship eligibility, we have something for you. Revolution Prep, a well known and respected company in the test prep industry, has graciously offered to provide a suite of free test prep services to TUSD students. One of the best ways to prepare for an ACT test is to do practice tests in the same setting and with the same time restrictions as the real thing.

From your own home, you can do a real ACT practice test and get feedback on what areas you need to improve on. The test is real-world accurate, with the same amount of time and number of questions as the real ACT.

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR THE PRACTICE ACT

Unique Scholarship Opportunities

CONTRACT OF DORRANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PER ACADEMIC YEAR FOR UP TO FOUR YEARS

THIS IS A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM VALUED AT OVER \$100,000.

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY IF YOU:

IMPORTANT DATES:

Application opens online: October 1, 2024

Phase I Deadline February 5, 2025

APPLY ONLINE



Dorrance@DorranceScholarship.org www.DorranceScholarship.org 480-405-2410

Will be a first-generation college student (neither parent, stepparent, or legal guardian holds a four-year degree in any country)

- Are an Arizona resident.
- Are a current graduating senior attending a public, private, charter, or home school
- Have a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA (weighted or unweighted)
- Have a minimum test score of 1110 SAT, 22 ACT, or 72 CLT
- Demonstrate financial need by completing the FAESA
- Plan to attend ASU-Tempe, NAU-Flagstaff, or UA-Tucson
- Agree to live in on-campus housing during freshman and sophomore year

Unique Scholarship Opportunities

A Legacy of Excellence

c/o Education Enrichment Foundation 5049 East Broadway Boulevard, Suite 107 Tucson, Arizona 85711

legacyofexcellencescholarship@gmail.com



A Legacy of Excellence Application Announcement Class of 2025

A Legacy of Excellence College Scholarship Committee -in partnership with the Educational Enrichment Foundation and Tucson Unified School District- awards scholarships each year to African American seniors graduating from TUSD who demonstrate outstanding commitment to learning, community, and legacy. These students demonstrate a desire to further their education and build an empowering future. The scholarship funds may be used towards college, university, or vocational studies of the student's choice.

Student winners will be honored May 3, 2025 at the A Legacy of Excellence College Scholarship Banquet Event at Westin La Paloma.

A Legacy of Excellence College Scholarship Committee will award 14 scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 17, 2025 @ 11:30pm: https://bit.ly/ALOE2025apply

Selection for the scholarship awards will be based on the following:

- Minimum 3.2 weighted GPA
- Completion of A Legacy of Excellence College Scholarship Application: <u>https://bit.ly/ALOE2025apply</u>
- 400-600-word essay response to "Tell us about an issue you identified or experienced in your community (school, home, clubs, or teams, etc.) and what actions you took to improve the situation."
- Two Recommendations: one from a school official and one from any personal reference of your choice



Recommenders will be contacted directly from the committee for comment, they do not need to write a letter. The sooner you submit your Legacy Application, the sooner we can reach out to your recommenders!

Honorees must attend the student recognition program and scholarship banquet at Westin La Paloma on May 3rd, 2025. Honorees will have banquet tickets provided for them and a guest.

Send any questions to legacyofexcellencescholarship@gmail.com

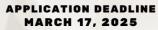
Gifts to fund the work of A Legacy of Excellence in supporting African American students graduating in the Tucson Unified School District can be made online at eeftucson.org/legacy.

Friends of Agua Caliente

2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM!



\$1000 to \$5000 scholarship for graduating high school seniors entering college, trade or vocational school!



for more details on application procedures and documents required please contact us at

SCHOLARSHIP@FRIENDSOFAGUACALIENTE.ORG

Scholarships for Undocumented Students **WHAT IS PROP 308?**



Prop 308 provides in-state tuition for Undocumented high school graduates in Arizona if theu meet a set of qualifications.



QUALIFICATIONS

IF I DO NOT MEET THE

PROP 308, WHAT ARE MY

OPTIONS?

u don't d

REQUIREMENTS FOR 🧍

FOR SOME CONTEXT

STATE AID . aid is **now**

available to the **Prop 308 residency** requirements. This Includes fee waivers, tuition waivers scholarships, and grants given by colleges or organizations. Each opportunity will have its own requirements.

FEDERAL AID

FASFA and the Pell Grant. We **do not** recommend Undocumented or DACAmented students apply unless a students apply unless scholarship asks for it.

4

PRIVATE INSTITUIONS

🔆 All students pay the same tuition at private institutions. Private institutions are able to offer financial aid to students regardless of immigration status. Some examples in AZ are Grand Canyon University and Prescott College Ar.



- **EXAMPLES OF SCHOLARSHIPS**
- <u>scholarship</u> voke College Scholarship

If you don't quain y for it. Set of the set

also apply to private scholarships.

- AM.US Scholarship Amus Memorial Foundation
- hio Ior Scholars Obristensen Gould Memorial

alify for in-state tuition 🛛 😤

scholarships ♂♂♂♂ ∂-Z

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Scholarships Due in December

Open to Undocumented Students



The Dream. US National Scholarship

Applicants must be Undocumented, with or without DACA/ TPS, have come to the U.S. before the age of 16, before Nov. 1, 2018, & have continuously lived here since then. Can cover your tuition and fees at one of their Partner Colleges & is renewable each year through the completion of a bachelor's degree.

Application closes February 29, 2024! For more information, eligibility criteria, & to apply visit: thedream.us/scholarships/



Photo Contest Arizona Highways

Arizona Highways has a photo contest for all photographers 18 and older, under the age of 18 with parents' permission. Applicants must submit a photo and fill out application. Photo must be taken in Arizona. For more information, eligibility criteria, & to apply visit: arizonahighways.com/photo-contest-rules



First-Gen Trailblazers Scholarship

Calling all first generation college-bound students! Exclusively for high school juniors and seniors who will be the first in their family to attend college. Applicants must enroll at an accredited college or university. For more information, eligibility criteria, & to apply visit: getschooled.com/first-gen-trailblazers-scholarship/



Achieve Today Scholarship

The Achieve Today scholarship fund is awarding a college & university student. Applicants must submit a video, audio, or essay on their prompt under the subject of personal experience and development. Application must be submitted via email to scholarship@achievetoday.com. For more information, eligibility criteria, & to apply visit:

achievetoday.com/scholarships



East Region FAFSA Night for Families

The East Region CCRC Team is excited to host a FAFSA Night for all TUSD families regardless of which high school you attend. This event will provide hands on support to families trying to complete the FAFSA. Before coming to the event, make sure that each student and their parents/guardians have created an FSA ID. If you have questions, contact your school's College and Career Readiness Coordinator



After Hours FAFSA Workshops



The 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid is now open!

Every year, students in Pima County leave millions of dollars in federal aid unclaimed. Our program, the Pima College Access Network, is hosting community workshops to help families navigate the process and claim there own

Register for a workshop

Tues., Dec. 10 | 3:30 - 6:30 PM Quincie Douglas Library 1585 E 36th St

Mon., Dec. 16 | 3:30 - 6:00 PM Community Foundation for Southern Arizona 5049 E Broadway Blvd

Thurs., Dec. 19 | 3:30 - 6:30 PM W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library 10931 E Mary Ann Cleveland Way Mon., Jan. 6 | 3:30 - 6:30 PM Miller-Golf Links Library 9640 E Golf Links Rd

Wed., Jan. 15 | 3:30 - 6:00 PM Flowing Wells Library 3725 N Flowing Wells Rd

Mon., Jan. 27 | 3:00 - 6:00 PM Sahuarita Library 670 W Sahuarita Rd

Learn more about workshops from Feb. 2025 to May 2025 hosted by Pima Community College

Wed., Feb 12 | 4:00 - 6:00 PM West Campus Library C Building, 2nd floor

Thurs., March 13 | 4:00 - 6:00 PM Northwest Campus Computer Commons B Building, 2nd floor

Wed., April 9 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM East Campus Library L Building Sat., May 3 | 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM Downtown Campus Library LB Building

Register now at https://www.pima.edu/paying-for -college/financial-aid/events.html



After Hours FAFSA Workshops



Career Help from Pima County

