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Welcome Back Sabercats

You are reading this year’s first issue of the Sabercat College and Career Newsletter produced by your counselor team here at Sabino. Inside you will find important dates and deadlines, college application info, career readiness resources, and financial aid info. Make sure to read it through and focus on what applies to your college or career pathway.

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 Early Action, Early Decision, and Rolling Admissions.

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 October 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, Dr. Karaman.

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day-in and day-out.”

-Robert Collier

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

-Malcolm X

“So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.”

-Christopher Reeve

CONTACT SABINO COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING

Dr. Alex Karaman
College and Career Readiness Coordinator
Office: 520-584-7740

Email Dr. Karaman

Website: Click Here

Twitter: Click Here



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.

September Dates

- ◇ Throughout September and October—Tri-University Tour: This series of afternoon, online events can help students and parents learn more about applying to the three state school, UA, ASU, and NAU, as well as info about financial aid and scholarships. An in-person event is also being offered at UA at 6pm on September 12th. [Click Here to Register](#)
- ◇ September 16—Registration deadline for ACT: This registration deadline is for the ACT that will be held on October 22nd. There is a late registration deadline if you miss this one. [Click Here to Register](#)
- ◇ September 20—Late Registration Deadline for SAT: This late registration deadline applies to the SAT that will be held on October 1st. [Click Here To Register](#)
- ◇ September 29—Sabino College Fair: This college fair for all of our Seniors is an opportunity to meet admissions counselors from multiple universities and colleges both in and outside of Arizona. Information on the college fair will be provided to Seniors in the coming week. It will be hosted in the Library from 1st-3rd period.
- ◇ September 30—Late Registration Deadline for ACT: This is the late registration deadline for the ACT which will be held on October 22nd. 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. [Click Here to Register](#)
- ◇ Throughout September—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. [Click Here for Scholarships Due in September](#)

October Dates

- ◇ October 1—FAFSA Opens Online. See page 3 for info on this important step towards getting financial aid for college.
- ◇ October 1—SAT Testing: This is the next SAT test date during the Fall semester. Late registration is due on September 20th. [Click Here to Register](#)
- ◇ October 7—Registration Deadline for SAT: This registration deadline is for the SAT that will be held on November 5th. If you need to take or retake the SAT, this is the latest recommended date to do so to be able to send in your scores with college applications. Late registration deadline is October 25th. [Click Here to Register](#)
- ◇ October 22—ACT Testing: This is the next test date during the Fall semester. Registration is due on September 16th. Late registration is due on September 30. [Click Here to Register](#)
- ◇ October 25—ASVAB: All senior students will be taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) during school time. This test is for all students, but if you are serious about joining the Armed Forces, you should take practice tests by [Clicking Here](#). For those not interested in the Armed Forces, this test is a great career exploration tool which will help you identify possible careers for your future.
- ◇ Throughout October—Various Scholarship Applications: Make sure to add scholarship deadlines to your calendar. [Click Here for Scholarships Due in October](#)



FAFSA ALERT—OCTOBER 1ST

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 opens on October 1st and should be completed by you as soon as possible.



FAFSA FAQs

Here are some answers to common FAFSA questions:

Q: Where can I complete the FAFSA?

A: Go to StudentAid.gov to complete the FAFSA or [Click Here](#).

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 Dr. Karaman](#) to learn more in a confidential setting. You can also [Click Here](#) to learn more about the FAFSA for undocumented and DACA students.

Q: Where can I find other FAFSA FAQs?

A: [Click Here](#) to see more popular questions people have about the FAFSA.

FAFSA Gift Card Drawing

To get our FAFSA completion rate as close to 100% as possible, we will be doing monthly drawings beginning in November and going through February. If you completed the FAFSA, you will be entered in the drawing and eligible to win a gift card. More info will be provided during the month of October so keep your ears open.

Scholarship Search Engines

- ⇒ [Fastweb](#)
- ⇒ [Scholarships.com](#)
- ⇒ [Cappex](#)
- ⇒ [Petersons](#)
- ⇒ [College Board](#)
- ⇒ [Niche](#)
- ⇒ [Chegg](#)
- ⇒ [Scholly](#)

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College Fairs: 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 Sabino's Senior College Fair, happening on September 29th during school, and information on virtual college fairs offered by the National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC).

Sabino's Senior College Fair

We are excited to host an in-person college fair for our Senior students on **September 29th**, during conference period and 1st-3rd period. Below you will find important info about the event. We hope to see all of our Seniors there!

Q: How do I register?

A: All Seniors with a Senior-only class during 1st-3rd period will come with their teachers. If you do not have a Senior-only class during that time, [Click Here to Sign Up](#). If you are a parent who plans to come during conference period, you can use the same link to register.

Q: What schools will be represented?

A: While our list is not finalized, you can expect to see the major state schools, regional colleges from New Mexico and California, and an assortment of Junior College and other out-of-state schools, both public and private. Local trade schools will also be present at the fair.

Q: What if I am not in school that day and want to learn more about colleges?

A: There are lots of other options for learning about colleges. You can visit our Career Center in the Administration Building to get admissions information for multiple colleges. You can also schedule a meeting with Dr. Karaman (see contact info on page one) to discuss school options. Finally, you can attend one of the virtual college fairs hosted by NACAC (see column to right for info).

NACAC Virtual College Fairs

NACAC Virtual College Fairs are online, remote fairs for students and parents to attend 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 from 10am-3pm Arizona time.

NACAC Fair Schedule:

- September 11th**
- October 9th**
- November 6th**

[Click Here to Register for NACAC Virtual College Fairs](#)

MEET YOUR SABINO COUNSELING TEAM

For any counseling you need that does not relate to College and Career Readiness, you can reach out to our amazing counseling team:

Mrs. Ibarra
Counselor, Last Names L-Z
Academic and Mental Health
Renee.Ibarra@tusd1.org
520-584-7741

Mrs. Mateos
Counselor, Last Names A-K
Academic and Mental Health
Kristine.Mateos@tusd1.org
520-584-7742

Mrs. Deshaies
Emotional and Mental Health Support
Specialist
Photini.Deshaies@tusd1.org
520-584-7716



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

California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), is a public university located off the beach just south of Los Angeles. Boasting dozens of major, a diverse student body, a gorgeous campus, and a ranking of 3rd Best Public University in the West, you are certain to find a great education and college life. It is also the alma mater of your College and Career Readiness Coordinator, Dr. Karaman.

CSULB is known for being one of the most diverse student bodies of any university in the world. With over 80 different majors, hundreds of student organizations, and twelve Division I sports teams, you are sure to find something to study and plenty to do for fun. Located near to the Pacific Ocean, the beach is just a short walk from campus. Many people are amazed when they see the unique sports arena called The Pyramid which you can see below.

[Click to Learn More About CSULB](#)





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

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 Sabino 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.

On October 1st, from 9:00a.m.—1:00 p.m. Revolution Prep will have an online practice test that replicates the exact testing conditions of the ACT. Do not miss this valuable opportunity.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR THE PRACTICE ACT](#)