

Portales High School Counseling & Guidance Office

College Admission Timeline for PHS Seniors

Fall Semester

- Select the colleges or schools that you desire to attend.
- Obtain the applications from the school. You can easily get the application online or through your school counselor or at College Day.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT.
- Decide who you will ask to write your recommendations. Give this person plenty of time (at least 2-3 weeks prior to your request date).
- Keep a track of important dates. You don't want to miss a deadline.
- Begin working on your essays.
- Complete applications for early admissions (early submissions are usually in November and December). Many of these submissions can be made online.

Spring Semester

- Complete applications for admissions (regular submissions are usually in January and February). Check your college for submission dates.
- Get your school transcripts sent to your intended schools. See your guidance counselor.
- Collect your letters of recommendations. Be sure to formally thank your teachers, counselors, coaches, supervisors, etc.
- Make plenty of copies of your essays, letters of recommendations and application.
- Your college should send out acceptance letters. If you don't hear from your college, contact them to make sure your application is complete (they may be waiting for a transcript or other item).
- Start looking for housing during this time. If your school requires first-time student to live in approved housing, start making arrangements. The best units can go fast.

Summer

- Finalize your admissions requirements:
 - housing
 - final transcript
 - registrations
 - medical appointments
 - other

2008–2009 ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline (\$31)	<u>(Late Fee Required - \$51)</u>
October 25, 2008	September 19, 2008	September 20–October 3, 2008
December 13, 2008	November 7, 2008	November 8–20, 2008
February 7, 2009	January 6, 2009	January 7–16, 2009
April 4, 2009	February 27, 2009	February 28– March 13, 2009
June 13, 2009	May 8, 2009	May 9–22, 2009

2008–2009 SAT Test Dates

Test Dates	Test	Registration Deadlines *			
		U.S. Regular	U.S. Late (fee applies)	International Early	International Regular
October 4, 2008	SAT & Subject Tests	Sep. 9, 2008	Sep. 16, 2008	Aug. 26, 2008	Sep. 9, 2008
November 1, 2008	SAT & Subject Tests	Sep. 26, 2008	Oct. 10, 2008	Sep. 10, 2008	Sep. 26, 2008
December 6, 2008	SAT & Subject Tests	Nov. 5, 2008	Nov. 18, 2008	Oct. 15, 2008	Nov. 5, 2008
January 24, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	Dec. 26, 2008	Jan. 6, 2009	Dec. 3, 2008	Dec. 26, 2008
March 14, 2009	SAT only	Feb. 10, 2009	Feb. 24, 2009	N/A	N/A
May 2, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	Mar. 31, 2009	Apr. 9, 2009	Mar. 11, 2009	Mar. 31, 2009
June 6, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	May. 5, 2009	May 15, 2009	Apr. 15, 2009	May. 5, 2009

2008–2009 THEA Test Dates

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (additional fee applies)	Emergency Registration Deadline (additional fee applies)
October 18, 2008*	September 19, 2008	October 8, 2008	October 15, 2008
February 28, 2009	January 30, 2009	February 18, 2009	February 25, 2009
April 25, 2009	March 27, 2009	April 15, 2009	April 22, 2009
June 27, 2009	May 29, 2009	June 17, 2009	June 24, 2009
July 25, 2009	June 26, 2009	July 15, 2009	July 22, 2009



Internet Registration

All registration periods. To **register** on the Internet, your registration must be completed by 5:00 p.m. central time on the registration deadline for the period.



U.S. Mail Registration

Regular registration period only. To register by mail, your registration materials must be **postmarked** by the regular registration deadline.

The deadline for submission of requests and all necessary documentation for alternative testing arrangements is the regular registration deadline. Because of space, staff, and time constraints, there can be no assurance that requests received after this deadline can be accommodated.

What Schools Look for in Prospective Students

- *Academic Record:*

Admission representatives look at the types of classes taken in 9th-12th

Algebra I, II
Geometry, GTA
Trigonometry
Pre-Calculus, Calculus

Physical Science
Biology
Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology
Physics

Foreign Language (e.g. Spanish) 2 years

Fine Arts (Music, Theater, & Art) 1 year

- *Grades/Overall High School GPA*

Consistent performance that shows you have worked to your potential. If your grades are not good initially, colleges look to see that significant improvement has been made. Some colleges have minimum grade point averages they are willing to accept.

- *Class Rank:*

Colleges consider the academic standing of a student in relation to the other members of his/her class. Are you in the top 25 percent of your class? Top half? Ask your counselor for your class rank.

- *Standardized Test Scores:*

Colleges look at test scores in terms of ranges. Highly selective colleges look for ACT scores of at least 27 and SAT I scores above 1220. If your scores are not high but you did well academically in high school, don't be discouraged. There is no set formula for admission. Even at the most competitive schools, some students' test scores are lower than you would think.

Competitive Colleges also look at the following:

- *Out-of-Class Activities:*

Colleges look for depth of involvement (variety and how long you participated), initiative (leadership), and creativity demonstrated in activities, service, or work.

- *Recommendations:*

Most colleges require a recommendation from your high school guidance counselor. Some ask for references from teachers or other adults.

- *College Interview:*

Required by most colleges with highly selective procedures. For more information see next page.

Selecting the Right College

When the time comes will you be ready? For a high school student, just knowing what factors to consider can be one of the biggest challenges of college selection. Here are a few issues to reflect on when choosing the right college for you.

- **Money** – The majority of colleges and universities are very expensive. Unless you can get into a school that will meet the demonstrated financial need of your family, a school's price tag must be a consideration. Research the money issue carefully. Do not exclude schools based on their published tuition price. Because of widely available financial aid, the actual cost to each student may be well below the "sticker price" of tuition. Financial aid officers can create custom financial-aid packages to meet your needs.
- **Location** – Distance from home can make a big difference in a college student's budget. If you have to spend a couple hundred dollars every time you want to come home, don't forget to include that expense in your budget plans. Don't forget the weather factor. Rain, heat, and cold are all factors that will affect your college life.
- **Housing** – The freshman experience is one of the great aspects of a college education. That experience can be made memorable (or forgettable) by where and how you live. The campus visit becomes crucial in determining just what the living arrangements are at any college or university. The larger the school, the more housing tends to vary. Go there. Check it out. You may decide that you and the dorm situation are incompatible. Also find out how students live. Are off-campus apartments affordable and available? The school you select will be your home for four years. Think about it. Most of the colleges you look at may require you to live your first and second year on campus. Find out.
- **Where your boyfriend or girlfriend goes** – Every year some high school sweethearts pick the same college so that they can be together during their college studies. What's wrong with this picture? Obviously, if one of the sweethearts decides to break off the relationship (for any of a host of possible reasons), the other will be in Misery City, trapped on the same campus with the "ex"; and tortured with every chance encounter. If there are solid, logical reasons for both of you to go to the same campus, that's great. Don't let the relationship be the deciding reason. Going where your buddies go is also another bad way to pick a college.
- **Other cautions** – Don't pick a college just because: it's very popular or rated high in rankings; it has an attractive student-faculty ratio and average class size; its course catalog is impressive; it looks great in the view book; the faculty has great credentials; your parents or counselors love it; its library has a lot of books. These are all factors to consider but none should be the overriding one.
- **Major** – Make sure the schools you are considering offer the fields you want to pursue, but don't feel you have to be locked into one area. Colleges and universities provide the opportunity for exploration and, sometimes, for designing your own major.
- **Size** – Are you interested in a larger school, or one with a smaller enrollment?
- **Athletics** – If you want to play a certain sport, check to see if there are varsity or intramural teams you can join.
- **Educational quality** – will your college choice offer an education that ensures you won't get lost in the crowd? Will you be taught by professors, not teaching assistants, and have wide opportunities for leadership and service?

Select the Right College

Figure Out your Academic Profile

Here are some questions to help you figure out where you stand academically and what college environment will be the best match for you:

- How difficult are your high school courses and how well have you done in them?
- What were your SAT/ACT scores?
- Are you taking any advanced-placement (AP) classes?
- How do you measure up to your peers? Are you one of the top students, near the top, or somewhere in the middle?
- Do you have good study habits and the ability to discipline yourself and work independently?
- Are you organized, good at managing your time, and prioritizing?
- Are you good at seeking help with schoolwork when needed?

You should also think about your attitude toward studying and classes in general. Competitive colleges have extremely rigorous academics and if you don't like spending many hours reading tough material, you might want to apply to some less rigorous schools.

Interest Groups

You want to apply to colleges that offer classes and majors in the areas that interest you. Think about the following:

- What academic subjects interest you?
- What types of things do you like to study?
- What are some of your favorite classes?
- What extracurricular activities are you involved in?
- Is it important for you to continue with any of them in college?
- What things do you do outside of school?

Personality Matter

Honest self-reflection about who you are and what you like is more likely to lead you to a school where you feel comfortable being yourself and supported in what you are trying to achieve. Consider the following:

- How do you socialize—do you like small groups one-on-one interactions or large crowds?
- Do you like to be around people or do you need a lot of time to yourself?
- Are you the life of the part, or more shy and reserved?
- Do you like to be close to your family or is being farther away healthier for you?
- Do you love big, bustling cities? Or do you start to suffocate unless you're being with nature?

Don't Go It Alone

You don't have to figure out everything by yourself. The people who know you well can help in your self-evaluation. Bounce some ideas off your family, friends, teachers, and counselors.

“Who Am I?” Check list

- What do I do well? _____
- What are my strengths? _____
- What are my weaknesses? _____
- What’s important to me? _____
- How hard do I want to work? _____
- What kind of environment will reflect my values? _____
- Do I need special support of any kind? _____
- In what kind of setting do I like to live? _____
- What skills would I like to learn or develop further? _____
- Am I a self-directed person, or do I need a lot of guidance? _____
- What do I find satisfying? _____
- What do I find tedious? _____
- Is family part of my support system? _____
- Am I part of my family’s support system? _____
- Where do I see myself in ten years? _____

Self-Evaluation in Choosing the Right College

Do You Know Who You Are? Self evaluation is really just finding out about yourself.

Am I going to college and why am I going?

Is the assumption that you are going to college yours? Are you going because family expects you to go? Worse yet are you going because you have not thought of anything else to do?

Do I have a specific goal in mind, or am I going to college to broaden my knowledge?

Many students know what they want to do in life. Others may have no clue and know that going to college will help them find that path. If you do not have narrowly defined goals, pick a college that gives you plenty of options.

What would make me comfortable in a college setting?

The climate, makeup of the student body, institution size, location, courses, all contributes to your comfort level at a campus. A small campus might be a good place to develop leadership skills or to get the top roles in plays/musicals. A big campus offers lots of options and excitement and competition. Would you like to be at the top of an honors program in a less rigorous college, or in the bottom percentage of a top notch college?

What will motivate me to reach my highest potential?

You should not pick a college just because it fits your comfort level. Maybe you really need to be challenged to go beyond what you think you can achieve. You could choose a cozy atmosphere of a small rural campus or the stimulus of a large urban university, or even a campus where you will fit right in. Whatever you decide, be sure that you will be challenged to reach your highest potential.

Top 10 College Application Mistakes

Senior year is hectic, but don't let it affect the quality of your college applications. Take your time, pay attention to detail and plan ahead so you can meet the deadlines.

Following are some of the top responses from counselors and admissions staff who shared the most common mistakes on college applications.

1. **Misspellings and grammatical errors**—This is a big pet peeve of admissions people. If you misspell on something as important as the application, it shows that either you don't care or you aren't good at spelling. Some students even misspell their intended major. But don't stop with a spell check. Proofread for grammatical errors, too.
2. **Applying online, but the application isn't submitted**—If you apply online, you should receive confirmation that the college or university received it. Confirmation could be an email message, a Web page response or a credit card receipt. Follow through and make sure that your application has been received.
3. **Forgotten signatures**—Make sure you sign and date the form. Often students overlook that part of the form if it's on the back. Check that all spaces are completed.
4. **Not reading carefully**—For example, if the form asks what County you live in, don't misread it as Country and write United States.
5. **Listing extracurricular activities that aren't**—Those that make the list include sports, the arts, formal organizations and volunteer work. Talking on the phone and hanging out with friends don't make the cut. Make sure your activity information is accurate. Colleges may check with your high school.
6. **Not telling your school counselor where you've applied**—Let your counselor know which colleges you're applying to, and ask him or her to review your high school transcript before sending it to colleges. Sometimes transcripts have errors.
7. **Writing illegibly**—First impressions count, so take your time and use your best handwriting. It will make a better impression.
8. **Using an email address that friends might laugh about, but colleges won't**—Select a professional email address. Keep your fun address for friends, but select an address using your name for college admissions.
9. **Not checking your email regularly**—If you've given an email address, the college will use it. You don't want to miss out on anything because you didn't read your email.
10. **Letting Mom or Dad help you fill out your application**—Admissions people know if your parents help, whether you have two different styles of handwriting or your admissions essay sounds more like a 45-year-old than a 17-year-old. It's fine to get advice, but do the work yourself.

Scholarships: Suggestions for Applying

When you apply for a scholarship, a committee will rate your application. Some scholarships are national, such as the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the Gates Millennium Fund, or something sponsored by a national corporation. Hundreds or thousands of students might apply to these, and you should, too. You may have more opportunity to earn a scholarship at the local, state or regional level, such as the County Electric Co-op Scholarship.

Scholarship Requirements:

Read each scholarship carefully to be sure you meet the qualification. Most scholarships require you to have a minimum GPA (grade point average). Other requirements that scholarships may ask for include:

- Anticipated graduation date
- GPA, class rank, ACT/SAT scores
- Where you live (school or county area)
- Participation in student activities or organizations
- Participation in a religious organization
- Participation in a particular program (such as a TRIO program)
- A specific major or area of study
- Work experience
- Leadership experience
- Volunteer work
- Age (traditional versus non-traditional students)
- A certain number of college level credits
- Ethnicity and/or Gender
- Income

Letters of Reference:

Scholarships usually require 1-3 letters of reference. Some scholarships ask you to submit letters of reference from very specific sources, such as an employer, an advisor, or a teacher.

- Be sure you have the 'right' people to ask for letters of reference. This means that the person should know you well enough to write you a positive letter and should be comfortable writing such letters. It would be helpful to furnish these people with a copy of your personal statement and your resume.
- It is VERY IMPORTANT that you ask people for letters of reference WELL IN ADVANCE of the DEADLINE. You need to give them enough time in their busy schedules to complete the task.
- All letters of reference should be typed in the business style format.
- CAREFUL! Some scholarship applications require you to submit "SEALED" letters of reference. This means that the person who writes it for you must put it in an envelope and sign their name across the back seal. The envelope should include the name of the scholarship committee and your name. For example:

TO: Hispanic Scholarship Fund Committee
RE: Ms. Betsy M. Lopez

- The person who writes you a sealed letter is NOT REQUIRED to provide you with a copy. However, most people are happy to share their letter with you and you might want to ask them for a copy for your files.

Personal Statement:

This is usually the most crucial part of your application, and the part that the scholarship committee spends the most time evaluating. Sometimes it is called a “letter of intent” or a “personal essay”.

- The simplest way to write your personal statement is to first tell about your educational goals and future plans. Then discuss what you have done so far to reach those goals, including how you dealt with any obstacles or challenges. Next, discuss what you have remaining to do to reach your goals and what challenges you still have. This is usually a good place to address the financial reasons you may have for applying for the scholarship.
- It is important to give the reader enough detail so that they understand your situation. However, while they can appreciate the obstacles you have to deal with, they may not want to read a long, emotional life history. **DO** tell them about your life changing experiences: be positive and demonstrate to the committee that you are worthy of their consideration.
- **DO** put your essay in business letter form. For the salutation, you can say “Dear Members of the Scholarship Committee” or “to Whom It May Concern”.
- **DO** thank the committee for considering your application.
- It is a good idea to make sure your name is printed on every paper included in the application. This way, if any papers get misplaced, the committee will be able to match your paperwork to the rest of your application. (Several copies of your application will be made for the committee members).
- Do treat your essay like an important paper for one of your classes. Have a few different people read it over and be sure it is well edited!

Other:

- Some applications may require you to submit a resume. If so, be sure you submit it in whatever format they specify.
- Some applications may require you to answer additional questions in a specific space provided; some will allow you to attach a page. **ALWAYS** plan out your answers (through writing) before you type them on to the form!
- **MAKE A COPY!** Keep a copy of everything you are submitting for your own records. You will have it to refer to when you apply for other scholarships.
- **BE SURE TO MEET DEADLINES FOR MAILING YOUR APPLICATION!!!!** Some may have a “due by”, and others may have a “posted by” date.
- Work closely with your ETS advisor and your English teachers.

Resumes

A resume is a written document that describes your education, work experience, accomplishments, skills, honors, and career goals. It is an organized summary of your background and qualifications that can be used for a variety of purposes. It attempts to communicate to an employer, a college, or a scholarship committee what you have to offer based on what you have already accomplished.

Students who maintain a list of their activities, awards, and work experiences all through high school have an easier job when it comes time to write the first resume. The resume, with some modifications, can be used for college applications, scholarship applications, and job applications. It is also helpful to give a person a copy of your resume when you ask him/her to write a letter of recommendation for you.

A Resume Should Include:

Heading: Include your name, address and zip code, and telephone number.

Job Objective: (For job application resume) State the title of the position you are applying for. If you are applying for any job available, leave this blank.

Education: Give the name of your school and your current grade. When you have graduated from high school, you will list the year of your graduation. When you have graduated from college, you will list your year of graduation and your degree and/or major. You can include your grade point average or rank in class if you feel these statistics present you in a good light.

School-related Activities: List any activities in which you have participated beginning with grade 9. These can be clubs, class activities, performing groups, sports, etc. Be sure to mention any leadership roles you have undertaken. Something as simple as being chairman of a committee can show leadership.

Honors and Awards: If you have received any honors or awards, be sure to list these.

Community-Related Activities: List all community-related activities that you have participated in beginning with grade 9. Include any leadership roles you have undertaken and any volunteer work.

Enrichment Activities: Include any summer enrichment programs, travel experiences, and/or hobbies related to your educational experience. Include leisure activities only if they reflect accomplishments or skills that you'd like a college/scholarship evaluation committee or an employer to know about.

Work Experience: For each paid work experience, include your job title; the name, address, and telephone number of the business; and the dates of your employment. Start with your most recent employment and work backward. Describe your major duties and any recognition you received on the job. If you have no paid work experience, list any volunteer work that you have done to show that you have assumed responsibility at some level.

References: Use the phrase Available Upon Request. Make sure you notify people ahead of time if you would like to use their names as references.

Format for Resume

YOUR NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
(AREA CODE) TELEPHONE NUMBER

CURRENT EDUCATIONAL STATUS:

- List your present level of education including the name of your school.
- If not asked for elsewhere, you can list your grade point average and class rank.

AWARDS AND HONORS:

- List any awards or honors that you have received beginning with grade 9.
- For each award or honor, indicate the grade level (refer to sample on page 12).

SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES:

- List all school-related activities you have participated in beginning with grade 9.
- Be sure to include any leadership roles.

COMMUNITY-RELATED ACTIVITIES:

- List all community-related activities that you have participated in beginning with grade 9.
- Be sure to include any leadership roles.
- Examples of community activities are: volunteer work, youth group activities, church activities, scouting, city or county sports activities.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES:

- If applicable, list any summer enrichment programs, travel experiences, and/or hobbies that have expanded your educational experience.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- Beginning with your most current or recent job, list your work experience including the type of position.

REFERENCES:

- Be prepared to give the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of two to four people as character references. You might choose a couple of your teachers, your counselor, and a person in the community who knows you well. Be sure to ask permission of these people before you use their names.

Sample 1: Resume

SUSAN BROWN
23 MILL CREEK ROAD
LENEXA, KS 66012
(913) 543-6712

EDUCATION:

I am currently a senior at Mission West High School with a cumulative grade point average of 3.62 and a class rank of 7 out of 36.

AWARDS AND HONORS:

Math Student of the Year: 9th
Citizenship Award: 9th
Perfect Attendance Award: 9th, 10th
Girls' State Delegate: 11th
National Honor Society: 11th, 12th

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Staff Writer for School Newspaper: 9th, 10th, 11th
Girls' Tennis: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th (Captain, 12)
Student Council Representative: 11th, 12th
Spanish Club: 11th, 12th (Secretary, 12)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Church Youth Group: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
Volunteer at Shawnee Mission Medical Center 10th, 11th, 12th (200 total hours)
Tutor at Indian Creek Elementary School: 12th
Volunteer at Kansas City Rescue Mission: 12th

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES:

K. U. Summer Science Camp: 1999
Church Mission Trip: 2000

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Dinosaur Den Day Care: Playground Helper, 10th
Dairy Queen: Counter Helper, 10th, 11th
Hy-Vee Grocery: Checker, 12th

Sample 2: List of Extra-Curricular Activities

(STUDENTS NAME HERE)

Athletics

- *Volleyball*: Lettered 4 years
District Champion (give years)
Regional Champion & Runner-up (give years)
State Champion & Runner-up (give years)
- *Basketball*: Lettered 4 years
District Champion (give years)
Regional Runner-up (give years)
4th in State (give year)
- *Track*: Lettered 4 years
Alternate for the 400, 800, Medley relays (give years)

Student Government

- Class Representative (give years)
- Student Body Secretary (give years)
- Student Mentor Program (give years)

Church Activities

- Children Sermon Presenter (give years)
- Recreational Department Director of Vacation Bible School (give year)
- Member of community youth group (give years)

Volunteer/Community Activities

- Citywide Halloween carnival for children (give years)
- Adopt a Mile – Clean up of a designated mile (give years)
- Veterans Day Program (give years)
- Relay for Life Cancer Drive (give years)
- Instructor for elementary school basketball camp (give years)

Educational Travel

- Attended Summer Honors Program at Cornell University (give years)
- Attended the National Youth Leaders Conference I Washington DC (give years)

AWARDS/HONORS INFORMATION

Academic Honors

- Principal's Honor Roll (give years)
- National Leadership Merit Award (give years)
- Who's Who Among American High School Students (give years)
- Member of the National Honor Society (give years)
- Honor Classes
 - English
 - Trigonometry, Pre Calculus, Calculus
 - Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry, Physics

Sample 3: Personal Statement or Essay

(STUDENTS NAME HERE)

As my senior year comes to an end, attending college is first and foremost on my mind. My next step in life is to apply for admission to Eastern New Mexico University. There I will strive to obtain a degree in secondary education.

Having been brought up in the small community of (*can be any community*) has given me a unique attitude toward education. I have always worked hard to make good grades, and tried my best to retain any and all information possible. Having attended a resource-limited school, I have tried to prepare myself by taking every honors course offered. I stay busy with extra-curricular activities in order to make sure I keep myself out of mischief and unwanted trouble. I take advantage of every opportunity provided to visit college campuses for tours or ENMU to get my research done for my English paper.

For as long as I can remember, I have always enjoyed helping others. My classmates always come to me when they need a little extra help. I truly enjoy seeing the gleam in their eyes when I have helped them "figure it out."

I know now that the only way to achieve my goal will be through going to college. I have come to realize that not only will I have to attend class everyday, implement very regularly the study skills provided by the ETS personnel all these years, but also grow intellectually in order to make a success of the career I have chosen for myself.

In ten years I see myself in front of a class full of eager to learn students. Setting this goal and knowing I will reach it brings me much confidence and personal satisfaction. Therefore, I have chosen to apply for the TRIO Scholarship so that if awarded to me, I will be that much closer in fulfilling my goal of being a high school English teacher.

Having learned that I am a low-income, first generation student in a world of unlimited opportunities, I thank you for this scholarship opportunity.

For additional scholarship essay samples visit: <http://4lawschool.com/scholarshipessays.htm>

Financial Aid

Whether you have already chosen a college or you're still trying to decide, this is a good time to figure out what it will cost and how you'll pay for it. The cost of education includes:

tuition and fees	transportation
room and board	other personal expenses
books and supplies	

There are several types of financial aid and a variety of sources providing assistance. Remember, not all aid is based on financial need. Some awards are based on academic performance or selected skills.

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

The first step in applying for financial aid is to complete the U.S. Department of Education Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) starting in January.

- File only one FAFSA regardless of how many colleges you are considering. The FAFSA includes a section to list the colleges where you want your information sent.

Types of Financial Aid

Scholarships—Awards based on merit or merit plus need. They don't have to be repaid.

Grants—Awards that do not need to be repaid. They are usually based on financial need.

Loans—Funds loaned through a lending institution or college. Interest rates vary by program. For federal loans, qualifying students—based on need—will not have to pay interest while in school. Loan programs also are available to eligible parents to help with college expenses of their qualifying children.

Work-study programs—Jobs that allow students to earn money toward their education while they are enrolled in school. Students can sometimes get jobs related to their program of study.

Sources of financial assistance include:

the federal government	state agencies
professional and service organizations	private foundations
individual postsecondary schools	

State programs

To learn more about the financial aid programs in your state and any additional application requirements, contact the state financial aid agency. State programs may include: scholarships, grants, work, state loans, and tuition assistance.

Scholarship Search Sites

Fastweb.com: matches students to scholarships – must sign up <http://fastweb.com/>

Scholarship Resource Network Express – must sign up <http://www.srnexpress.com/index.cfm>

Scholarship experts: <http://www.scholarshipexperts.com/>

AllScholar.com is a free scholarship search resource for students, parents, and educators. <http://allscholar.com/>

College Board - <http://apps.collegeboard.com/> - offers a data base with 23,000 sources of funding.

NextStudent: <http://www.nextstudent.com/> - offers students a free scholarship search, student loans, and loan counseling

SRN Express: <http://www.srnexpress.com/index.cfm> - has a data base of over 8,000 programs and 150,000 awards.

Collegenet/Mach 25: <http://www.collegenet.com/mach25/app> - allows you to search 600,000 awards.

FreSch: <http://www.freschinfo.com/> - uses a data base listing approximately 169,000 awards.

CollegeAnswer.com: offers free scholarship searches <http://www.collegeanswer.com/index.jsp>

Absolutely Scholarships: <http://www.careersandcolleges.com/> - boasts a data base of more than 200,000 awards.

BrokeScholar:: <http://scholarships.brokescholar.com/index> - will match your profile against 900,000 scholarships

FastAid: <http://www.fastaid.com/> - says they're the oldest and largest free scholarship search.

Scholarships.Com: is another free scholarship search service.

Princeton Review Scholarship Search: <http://www.princetonreview.com/finance/articles/scholarsearch.asp> - is offered by the test prep and college guide organization of the same name.

EduPrep: <http://www.eduprep.com/scholarship.asp> - maintains a data base of more than 2.5 million awards.

The Scholarship Page: <http://www.scholarship-page.com/> - is another free scholarship search.

Nationally Coveted Scholarships and Fellowships: <http://scholarships.fatomei.com/>

ScholarSite: <http://www.scholarship-page.com/> - allows students to search for scholarships by field of study.

StudentAwards: <http://www.studentawards.com/default.asp> - has both U.S. and Canadian scholarship data bases.

GoCollege: <http://www.gocollege.com/> - has 600,000 scholarships from more than 8,000 funding sources.

International Education Financial Aid: <http://www.iefaf.org/> - specializes in scholarships for study abroad.

CollegeScholarships.Com: provides scholarship searches and personalized scholarship application letters.

International Scholarships: <http://www.internationalscholarships.com/> - is just what it sounds like.

Petersons Scholarship: <http://www.petersons.com/ss/code/prompt.asp?ppcse=looksmart>

Clubscholarship.com Scholarship Search: lists more than 500,000 awards. <http://clubscholarship.com/>

Post Secondary Training and Internet Resources

The next step on your career journey is to begin the process of finding out where you will get the education and training you will need to pursue your career.

● ACT Preparation Site

<http://www.testprepreview.com>, <http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/index.html>,
<http://www.number2.com/exams/act/>, <http://www.4tests.com/>, <http://www.act-sat.com/>

● SAT Preparation Site

<http://www.princetonreview.com/home.asp>, <http://www.collegeboard.com/splash>,
<http://www.algebra.com/testing/scripts/st.mpl>, <http://www.collegepayway.com/students>,
<http://www.act-sat.com/>

● Mapping Your Future

Mega information linking careers, degrees, and colleges together for easy search and access; features assessments and Top 10 lists: <http://www.myplan.com>

Offers helpful steps and information for choosing a school, finding financial aid, and planning a career. <http://www.mapping-your-future.org>

Detailed career descriptions are available on this site. Excellent tools for anyone trying to decide on a career path. <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/>, <http://www.acinet.org>

● College Sources

This site helps you understand why everyone says, "Go to College."

<http://www.byqpub.com/books/tg2rw/college.htm>

Lists college web pages by state. Go to the College Locator link, and then choose the state.

<http://www.ecola.com/college.php>

This site is a directory that lists most colleges/universities in the USA that offer bachelor degrees.

<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/CLAS/american-universities.html>

Information on all aspects of going to college is addressed on The College Board's site.

<http://www.collegeboard.com/splash>

This site allows you to search for institutions offering professional degrees, by Program of Study under the areas of art, dance, music or theater. <http://www.petersons.com>

● Financial Aid Sources

Students can file their FAFSA on-line, which can speed up the financial aid process.

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

Obtaining a PIN number - <http://www.pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp>

You can find links to grants, loans, scam alerts, study abroad and special interests.

<http://www.finaid.org/>

The Student Guide: http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html

● Free Scholarship Searches

Matches students to scholarships – must sign up <http://fastweb.monster.com/>

College Board Scholarship Search – must enter personal/academic information
<http://www.collegeboard.com/splash> (click on “For Students” then click on “Pay for College”)

Scholarship Resource Network Express – must sign up <http://www.srnexpress.com/index.cfm>

The Princeton Review – must sign up <http://www.princetonreview.com/college/finance/>

College Net – Mach25 <http://www.collegenet.com>

Free Academic Scholarships: www.FreeCollegeScholarships.net

Super College – free scholarship database: <http://www.supercollege.com>

Free College Scholarships for you: www.Scholarships4all.net

Academic Scholarships: www.findtuition.com

● College Rankings

The 2007 rankings of America's Best Colleges as taken from the U.S. News

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/rankguide/rghome.htm>

● Military Branches

Air Force: <http://www.airforce.com/>

Army: <http://www.army.mil/>

Coast Guard: <http://www.uscg.mil/uscg.shtm>

Navy: <http://www.navy.mil/>

Marines: <http://www.usmc.mil/>

● Military Academies

US Military Academy, West Point, New York: <http://www.usma.edu/>

US Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs: <http://www.usafa.af.mil/>

US Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT: <http://www.cga.edu/>

US Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland: <http://www.nadn.navy.mil>

● NCAA

An information resource for regulations and requirements for athletic scholarships and participation.
<http://www.ncaa.org/wps/portal> & <http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net>

● College: A Parent's View

This website provides helpful information on the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Credits.
<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf>

Information for parents of college bound students – <http://www.higheredcenter.org/parents/>

Parents Association.com – <http://www.parentsassociation.com/>

● Research and Homework Assistance

www.nationalgeographic.com

www.homeworkhelp.about.com

<http://www.edhelper.com/>

www.cybersleuth-kids.com

www.refdesk.com/homework.html

www.homeworkspot.com

www.aplusmath.com

www.infoplease.com

www.schoolwork.org

www.factmonster.com

www.hotsheet.com

www.hwforkids.com

www.askforkids.com

www.kidinfo.com

www.jiskha.com

● Internships and Summer Jobs

Summer, Internship & Fieldwork – <http://www.jobweb.com/experiential/jintern.htm>

Internships & Summer Jobs – <http://www.skidmore.edu/administration/career/int2.htm>

Government site for apprenticeships, internships, grants: www.studentjobs.gov

● Job Search Tips

Job Choices Online – http://www.jobweb.com/Resumes_Interviews/default.htm

Resume Tutor – <http://www.umn.edu/ohr/ecep/resume/>

Monstertrak – click on Job Search Tips – <http://studentcenter.com>

● Volunteer Opportunities

This site explores the Peace Corps: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm>

When you complete service with the AmeriCorps, you will be eligible for an education award to cover costs for post-secondary school education: <http://www.americorps.org/>

The Corporation for National & Community Service: <http://www.cns.gov>

Lottery Success Scholarship

Purpose

The Lottery Success Scholarship helps pay tuition expenses for New Mexico high school graduates (or GED recipients) who plan to attend an [eligible New Mexico public college or university](#). Students establish eligibility in the first regular semester immediately following their high school graduation and funding begins in the second college semester. To find out more about scholarships for the first regular semester, contact the financial aid or scholarship office at your college.

How much is the award?

- Tuition or up to \$1,000 depending on school
- Renewable if student maintains satisfactory progress and full-time status
- May receive scholarship for a total of eight (8) consecutive semesters

What are the eligibility requirements?

- New Mexico residents
- Graduated from a New Mexico public high school or have obtained a New Mexico GED.
- Must be enrolled full-time and complete 12 credit hours, at an eligible New Mexico public college or university, in the first regular semester immediately following their high school graduation.
- Undergraduate and be enroll full-time

How do I apply?

Contact the Financial Aid Office at the college or university to inquire about the application process. Applicants may be required to submit a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#).

When is the deadline? *Deadlines are set by each institution.*