



Prepare | Explore | Empower

The Academy and Beyond

Post-Graduate Pathways

Class of 2022

THE ACADEMY MISSION

The Academy's mission is to help all students grow into college-ready, exemplary citizens by combining academic mastery with personal empowerment to drive life-long success. We serve our full community by intentionally developing a school culture that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion.

CONTENTS

[The Academy Mission](#)

Class of 2022 Goals

Academy Graduation Requirements

[The Academy Class of 2022 Goal](#)

Senior Year Calendar 2021-2022

[2021-2022 College Test Dates](#)

[2021-2022 College Information Sessions/Fairs](#)

[There is a College for You!!](#)

Resources for the College Search

[A Few Words about Deadlines...](#)

Early Decision, Early Action, and Regular Decision Applications...

[The Application Itself](#)

[Letters of Recommendation](#)

Tips for Campus Visits

[Paying for College](#)

Transferring Concurrent Enrollment

[and Advanced Placement Credits](#)

[Utilizing VA Benefits](#)

[Other Post Graduate Opportunities](#)

[Academy Dates for Seniors](#)

THE ACADEMY MISSION

Class of 2022 Goals

1. 100% graduation rate
2. 100% of our students are accepted to a post-secondary option
3. Students will fulfill the CDE graduation readiness requirements that best fits their needs
4. Students feel prepared and empowered to pursue their post-secondary goals upon graduation

Academy Graduation Requirements

English	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	3 credits
World Language	2 credits
Physical Education	1 credits
Academic Electives	2 credits
General Electives	5 credits
Total Credits	24 credits

The Academy Class of 2022 Goal

100% of the Class of 2022 will have completed the necessary steps to fulfill their post secondary plans. Understanding the process of college admission is important even if a student elects to pursue post high school education through the military, vocational, or on-the-job training.

Senior Year Calendar 2021-2022

September

- Stay strong academically throughout your Senior year
- Attend an individual pathways conference with your counselor to plan postgraduate steps
- Plan to take SAT or ACT if choose to
- Research colleges
- Add colleges and request letters of recommendation via Naviance Student account
- Keep your college research organized
 - Goals, choices, applications, essays, recommendations, financial aid, and scholarship applications
- Set up a calendar with important deadlines
- Request letters of recommendation from counselors and teachers; remember to complete the Letter of Recommendation Request Form
- Plan to attend college fairs
- Understand the differences between early decision and early action
- Register for the College Opportunity Fund
- Review your Facebook/Social Media content as colleges may check it out
- Let Counseling Office know where you've been accepted
- Check your emails!

October

- Register with FAFSA; keep looking for scholarships
- Attend college fairs
- Continue to follow up with teachers and counselors regarding recommendations
- Narrow down college list to three to five options
- Add colleges and request letters of recommendation via Naviance Student account
- Continue college research
- Check application dates for colleges
 - Colorado Free Application Day\$ 10/19-10/21
- Write your essays and have at least two people edit them
- Complete early deadline applications by the end of the month
- Continue with scholarship searches
- Let Counseling Office know where you've been accepted and any scholarships you've been awarded
- Check your emails!

November

- Watch deadlines for applications
 - General rule: Out-of-state applications should be completed by Thanksgiving
- Keep a copy of your application materials
- Add colleges and request letters of recommendation via Naviance Student account

- Most colleges are going “test optional”
- Let Counseling Office know where you’ve been accepted and any scholarships you’ve been awarded
- Check your emails!

December

- Complete remaining college applications no later than winter break
- Be sure FAFSA information has been submitted to colleges
- Keep looking for scholarships (see list of websites later in packet and on Naviance)
- Make sure your 1st semester grades are accurate
- Add colleges and request letters of recommendation via Naviance Student account
- Let Counseling Office know where you’ve been accepted and any scholarships you’ve been awarded
- Check your emails!

January-February

- Submit required documents to financial aid office at chosen school
- If any major awards, championships, honors have been received since initial application, send information to the college for consideration
- Let Counseling Office know where you’ve been accepted and any scholarships you’ve been awarded
- Check your emails!
- Update contact information with your college, if applicable

March-April

- Check your acceptance status
- Keep your grades up
 - Colleges always accept applicants conditionally – and one of those conditions is maintaining or improving 2nd semester grades
- Complete scholarship applications by deadlines
- Let Counseling Office know where you’ve been accepted and any scholarships you’ve been awarded
- Check your emails!

May

- Send tuition and housing deposits as early as possible, thereby reserving a spot in the dorms
- Take Advanced Placement exams if applicable
- Write thank you notes to teachers, scholarship organizations, and anyone else who has been helpful to you in this process of being a successful young adult
- Let Counseling Office know where you’ve been accepted and any scholarships you’ve been awarded
- Complete graduation checkout and GRADUATE ☺
- Check your emails!

2021-2022 College Test Dates

Many schools are going “test optional” for **admissions** this year. See this [link](#) for the full list.

Note: This option may not apply to qualifying for **scholarships.

The Academy is not a test center, so selection is made for your test site when you register. The CEEB code for The Academy is 061-351.

Check www.collegeboard.org for SAT Subject Test Policies

SAT		ACT	
SAT Test Dates	Registration Deadline	ACT Test Dates	Registration Deadline
11/6/2021	10/8/2021	10/23/21	9/17/21
12/4/2021	11/4/2021	12/22/2021	11/5/2021
3/12/2022	2/11/2022	2/12/2022	1/7/2022
5/7/2022	4/8/2022	4/2/2022	2/25/2022

Register at: www.collegeboard.org Register at: www.actstudent.org

Advanced Placement Exams May 2-12, 2022

- Monday May 2nd 8 AM: AP Government & Politics
- Monday May 2nd 12 PM: AP Chemistry
- Wednesday May 4th 8 AM: AP Literature
- Wednesday May 5th 12 PM: AP Statistics
- Friday May 6th 8 AM: AP US History / AP Art submissions due by 6 PM MST
- Monday May 9th 8 AM: AP Calculus AB / AP Calculus BC
- Tuesday May 10th 8 AM: AP Language
- Wednesday May 11th 8 AM: AP Spanish Language
- Wednesday May 11th 12 PM: AP Biology
- Thursday May 12th 8 AM: AP World History
- Thursday May 12th 12 PM: AP Physics

2021-2022 College Information Sessions/Fairs

College Fairs of Greater Denver, in partnership with the Northern Colorado College Fair, Southern College Fair, and Colorado Western Slope College Fair present:

Sessions are free for students, parents, and high school counselors!

These virtual presentations give you the opportunity to hear from college admissions officers from over 200 colleges! Sessions will also be available on Scholarships, Financial Aid, NCAA Eligibility, and Essay Writing.

Sign up today at: www.collegefairsdenver.org

 2021 Day/Night Fairs

Virtual College Fairs

Colorado Council Virtual College Fair Week

November 8th - 11th

Click [here](#) to view a video with more information.

There is a College for You!!

The important part of this process is the match between the student and the college. Do you want a broad education and plan to attend graduate school? Do you want an education very focused on a particular area? Who are you and what settings give you the best results? Are you an extrovert or an introvert? Are you self-motivated? Do you need some assistance to structure your time? Now is the time to think about and answer these questions – as you take charge of your future.

Consider your likes, dislikes, strengths, weaknesses, and interests – both academically and non-academically.

Complete the SuperMatch College Search on Naviance Student. Discuss these questions and the answers with your parents and your counselor. You'll be surprised at how easily you can narrow down your choices.

What Are Colleges Looking For?

The NACAC (National Association of College Admission Counseling) surveys colleges and universities to determine the top factors used to influence admission decisions. The following are important factors:

1. Grades in College Prep Courses
2. Grades in All Subjects
3. Class Rank
4. Essay Writing or Writing Sample
5. Counselor Recommendation
6. Teacher Recommendation
7. Interview
8. Community Service
9. Leadership/Work/Extracurricular Activities

Resources for the College Search

There are many websites, guidebooks, and people serving as helpers for your college search. Listed here are some of the recommended sources:

- Naviance Student is your #1 go-to resource: <https://student.naviance.com/tamc>
 - Login: Academy email address
 - Password: Student+ID number (eg. Student123456)
- Both ACT and SAT have very informative and helpful websites. They contain a plethora of information from reliable sources:
- www.act.org
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.colleges.niche.com
- www.petersons.com
- www.Fastweb.com for scholarships
- Individual colleges and universities each have their own websites usually designated by .edu suffix.

People

Your counselor is an excellent resource to help guide you. She is your partner in this process and wants to make sure that each of you are successful.

Teachers, coaches, and other significant adults in your life can also be helpful. Those who know you may have distinct opinions about a “good fit” for you.

Recent Academy graduates and other friends who are currently enrolled in college are other good resources. They will tell you their stories, both positive and negative.

Parents, family, friends, and relatives are great resources.

In Denver, many of the larger universities have alumni organizations, and they would love to be contacted by you to talk about their alma mater.

College admissions officers/counselors provide enormous amounts of information, and they can be contacted via email, phone, at college fairs, and on campus. Remember that their time is limited, so have your questions ready for them. Do some homework ahead of time so you already have basic information on the school.

A Few Words about Deadlines...

Application deadlines are critical in the college admissions process. Missing a deadline often means that you have lost the opportunity to apply at all. Additionally, please remember that the Counseling Office has its own deadlines to keep, and we are not open during the breaks. Generally, you must give the office two weeks prior to your college's deadline to get the transcripts and supporting documents ready.

Early Decision, Early Action, and Regular Decision Applications...

These terms can be confusing and colleges often use more than one type of process:

Early Decision is the process in which students make a commitment to a first choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. Students must withdraw any other applications as soon as they have been admitted. If a student is granted Early Decision admission and not granted the financial aid that makes attendance possible, he/she will be released from the commitment. Deadlines can be as early as late October.

Early Action is the process of applying well in advance of the regular deadline for admission to a particular institution. Admission under Early Action is not binding. Each school has different requirements surrounding this option, so be sure to check the institution's guidelines.

Regular Decision is the process by which a student applies by a particular date and receives a response from the school by a particular date. These dates are usually in March, but not later than April 15.

Rolling Admission is the process through which an institution reviews applications as they are completed and decisions are made throughout the admissions cycle.

Wait Listing is a process by which institutions attempt to hedge against under enrollment. They place students on a list, and then as their acceptances come in, they may offer admission to wait-listed students.

The Application Itself

Colleges have different applications. Most require some or all of the following parts:

- **Application Form** – These are typically online. You may apply via the school’s website or the Common Application. You will be asked for biographical and parent information as well as school information.
 - ❖ Common Application: www.commonapp.org
- **Application Fee** – The fees usually range from \$0-\$100. The fee is non-refundable and many colleges offer fee waivers for low-income families.
- **High School Transcripts** – Transcripts must be official and submitted from the Counseling Office via Naviance.
 - ❖ Be sure your Naviance Student account is updated.
- **Admission Test Scores** – At many colleges, you must submit SAT, SAT Subject Tests, or ACT scores. Most schools require that scores are sent directly from the national testing agency, i.e. ACT or College Board. Many schools are going “test optional” for this year. See this [link](#) for the full list.
- **Letters of Recommendation** – Many colleges ask for one or more letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or other significant adult who knows the student well. The letters of recommendation are due at the time of the application deadline. Please allow two weeks for teachers and counselors to write your letter of recommendation. Remember, even though the person writing the letter knows you, please also complete the Letter of Recommendation Request Form.
- **Essay** – The essay is an opportunity for colleges to get a glimpse of your thinking process, your writing skills, and your personal story. This is a chance to express your individuality and to set yourself apart from others. The College Essay is your first major assignment in Senior English or AP Literature classes. Use this opportunity to complete the essay that you will submit to colleges.
- **Interview** – Some schools and programs may require an interview. Please contact your counselor to schedule a mock interview before going to an interview.
- **Audition/Portfolio** – If applying to a program such as art, music, theater or design, students may need to submit work examples. The college or university will guide you as to ways to submit your portfolio. In some cases, a personal audition may be required.

The entire application should present a single picture of a student. Fill out the application honestly and carefully to reflect your best self.

October 19-21,2021 - FREE Application Day\$ for all instate college applications received to any college on these days only!!

Letters of Recommendation

Many colleges and universities require a specific number of letters of recommendation. They may also be specific about who should write them. Typically, the requirement includes two academic teachers and a counselor recommendation. Choose teachers with whom you have a strong, positive relationship. If the college or university does not specify who the letters should be from, you may also consider asking for a letter from a coach, a supervisor, your pastor, or another non-family member adult who can speak to your specific skills and strengths. Please remember to complete the Letter of Recommendation Request Form and provide ample time to whomever has agreed to write your letters. Note that some colleges do not require any letters of recommendation and some colleges only need one. If you request several letters and the college only takes a specific amount of letters, some of those requested letters will not be sent to the college.

Tips for Campus Visits

Brochures and websites give you a lot of information, but you are not able to get the “feel” of the campus and truly imagine yourself there. A campus visit allows you the opportunity to visit the residence halls, to get more specific information about the school and the programs offered, and to get a general sense of campus life.

Sometimes it’s not feasible to visit an out-of-state campus. Other options include a virtual tour online, calling the admissions office to gather more information, or ideally, speaking to a student who attends or has graduated from the college or university.

Before Visiting...

Schedule a guided tour either via the school’s website or through the admissions office. While there, you may want to visit the bookstore, library, and student union. The tour often includes question and answer sessions with current students. Consider some questions you might want to ask. Some examples may include:

- Why did you choose this school?
- How many hours per week do you study and where?
- How big are the classes?
- Where do students go to socialize?
- What is there to do in the surrounding town/city/around campus?
- Do you have sororities and fraternities?
- What kind of school-sponsored activities are there (eg. sports)?

Paying for College

Cost is always one of the first concerns when choosing a college. There are several options to help fund a college education. Financial aid (income based) and merit (scholarship) are two categories of funding. The Net Price calculator on each college's website can be used prior to applying to estimate the amount of financial aid or scholarship money your family may qualify for.

Financial aid is money that is given, borrowed, or earned for educational purposes. Sources of financial aid include federal and state governments as well as the school, college, university, and private businesses. Much of financial aid is dependent upon the income of the family and is determined through FAFSA, CCS Profile, or both.

Types of Financial Aid

College Opportunity Fund (COF) - This is a stipend paid for by the state of Colorado and covers a portion of your total **in-state** tuition when you attend a participating Colorado public or private institution. The state pays the stipend directly to the college. Sign up for COF online at cof.college-assist.org and click on "Apply for a Stipend." COF will cover the following tuition costs:

- Public Institutions: \$40/credit hour
- Private Institution: \$20/credit hour

To be eligible for COF financial aid, a student must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have a valid Social Security Number
- Comply with Selective Service registration required by law for men between the ages of 18-25
- Enroll at least half-time in an eligible program
- Have a high school diploma, GED, or enroll at a community college and successfully complete six credit hours
- Be enrolled or accepted as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program at a school that participates in the federal student aid programs
- Not have a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid
- Not owe a refund on a federal grant or be in default on a federal student loan
- Demonstrate financial need

Grants - Money from the federal or state government, college/university, or private companies or organizations. Most grants are need based, and do not need to be repaid. Many families in the typical middle income bracket do not qualify.

Scholarships – Money that is won or given for a variety of reasons, such as academic, athletic, personal attributes, or affiliations. Some are need based but others are not. They do not need to be repaid.

Work Study – Money that is earned typically on campus when in college. Work study does not need to be repaid and may be based on need. The student receives the income as he/she works, so the funds are not available upfront to pay tuition. Many students use these funds for living expenses.

Loans – Money that is borrowed from the federal or state government, a lender, or other private sources which has to be repaid is considered to be a loan. Each of the loans has different stipulations regarding interest rate and deadline for repayment. It is important to understand the parameters of a specific loan. It is best not to borrow more than you need.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the universal application for financial aid for all schools in the United States. The **only** legitimate place for you to complete a FAFSA is www.studentaid.gov. Also, one parent and the student must apply for a PIN (Personal Identification Number) to electronically sign the FAFSA form.

The earliest possible date you can complete the ***FAFSA is October 1st*** of the year before the student plans to attend school, i.e. If a student plans to attend college beginning in the fall of 2021, the earliest day to submit FAFSA is October 1, 2020. To complete the FAFSA you need: the students' and parents' Social Security Numbers, driver's licenses, W-2 forms, and other earning records for the family, current bank statements, business and farm records, and investment records.

The EFC (Expected Family Contribution) is sent to the family after completing the FAFSA. This is the amount the government believes your family can afford to send your student to school. The COA (Cost of Attendance) minus the EFC (Expected Family Contribution) equals the family's financial need. COA varies by college, so a family may appear to have a need at some schools and not at others.

Please be aware:

- If parents are divorced, students should only answer questions about the parent with whom they primarily lived with for the past 12 months.
- Be aware that scam websites will charge you to submit your FAFSA – ONLY apply at www.fafsa.gov
- You may receive FREE help with the FAFSA on College Goal Sunday. Visit the following website for more information: www.collegegoalcolorado.org

CCS Profile (Non-Federal Financial Aid)

This application can be completed on your College Board website at www.collegeboard.com. On October 1st, complete the Financial Aid PROFILE where you apply online for financial aid with one form whereby almost 400 colleges, universities, professional institutions, and scholarship programs utilize.

Web Resources for Financial Aid Information and Scholarships

The financial aid website for the college/university you are applying to will have the most specific and up to date information regarding your scholarship opportunities (eg. SAT/ACT cutoff scores, GPA requirements, etc.).

www.finaid.org

www.collegeinvest.org

www.educationcents.org

www.collegeincolorado.org

www.students.gov

www.fastweb.com

www.collegeboard.com

www.nasfaa.org

www.connection.naviance.com/tamc

<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships>

<https://highered.colorado.gov/Finance/FinancialAid/>

<https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/resources.jsp>

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/>

<https://formyourfuture.org/>

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/subject-specific.htm>

<https://www.smarttrackcollegefunding.com/> (Depending on level of involvement, a cost may be associated)

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

WUE (pronounced “woo-ee”) is the Western Undergraduate Exchange, a program coordinated by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Through this program, students in the western states may enroll in participating two- and four-year public college programs at a reduced tuition level. In all cases, WUE tuition is considerably less than nonresident tuition.

Each institution determines the eligibility criteria. Check the school you are interested in for qualifiers. There are also a limited number of slots available, so it is very important to **apply early!** When you apply, be sure to indicate WUE candidacy. If there is no indicator on the application, contact the admissions office for instructions. The WUE website is most informative at www.wiche.edu/wue.

Transferring Concurrent Enrollment and Advanced Placement Credits

Concurrent Enrollment: Be sure to request your final transcript from Front Range Community College and submit it to the college or university you will be attending. The Academy cannot submit these transcripts. This must come directly from Front Range Community College.

Advanced Placement: Students who took AP exams can submit their scores for possible college credit via www.collegeboard.org.

Transferring Credits: [AP Credit Transfer Policy](#)

Utilizing VA Benefits

<https://www.va.gov/>

Other Post Graduate Opportunities

Apprenticeship: Students can choose on-site training in the career field he or she is pursuing to get tailored experience from a master in the field. This opportunity allows students to practice developing skills in the career path most desirable. The company is able to give recommendations for future interviews or may even hire based on your performance.

More info on apprenticeship opportunities can be found at [Apprenticeship for Career Seekers | Department of Labor & Employment](#) and <https://talentfound.org/explore/> and <http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary>

Military: Options include U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard with standard enlistment and Delayed Entry Program (DEP) which allows you to enroll today and delay training for up to 365 days.

Recruiter Contact Information:

U.S. Army: Marvin Browning, 720-839-0896 or marvin.r.browning.mil@mail.mil

U.S. Navy: Crystal Munns, 720-799-3755, crystal.munns@navy.mil

U.S. Marine Corps: Bishop Guerrero, 303-912-5329 or bishop.guerrero@marines.usmc.mil

National Guard: Kyle Warren, 720-584-3754 or kyle.warren2.mil@mail.mil

Coast Guard: David Williams, 720-234-1480 or david.a.williams@uscg.mil

U.S. Airforce: Isaac Fifer, 720-601-4230 or isaac.fifer@us.af.mail

Academy Dates for Seniors

September 6, 2021	Labor Day
October 5, 2021	Jostens Graduation Meeting during Pride Time Order packets will be distributed: cap and gown, announcements, etc. Please see Mrs. Picaso in the Counseling Office if you did not receive an order packet.
October 5 and 6, 2021 October 7 and 8, 2021 October 14, 2021	Parent/Teacher Conferences No School: Fall Break Jostens Rep will be at The Academy to take graduation orders from 12:00 - 1:30 hallway outside HS Gym
October 15, 2021	For the following: *Please refer to The Academy's website under Parents & Students -- Yearbooks--High School (9-12) for full details *Senior pictures due for yearbook (\$25 late fee applies to orders placed after October 2nd) *Senior Quotes Senior Portrait Deadlines For Parents 2021-2022
October 19-21, 2021 October 20, 2021 October 29, 2021	Free Application Day Deadline for Early Bird price for Senior Baby Ad No school/ Teacher work day
November 22 - 26, 2021	Thanksgiving Break
December Date TBA December 17, 2021 Dec. 20, 2020 thru Jan. 3, 2022	Senior decisions due (quote, song, gift, and speaker) End of Semester 1 Winter Break
January 17, 2022	No School/Martin Luther King Day
February 15 & 16, 2022 February 17 & 18, 2022 February 21, 2022	Parent/Teacher Conferences Mid-Winter Break No School/Presidents' Day
March 4, 2021 March 21 - 25, 2022	No School Spring Break
April 22, 2022	No School/Spring Day/Prom
May 2 - 12, 2022 May date TBA May 20, 2022 May 20, 2021 May 21, 2022	AP Testing Senior Check-Out and Cap & Gown Distribution Day Seniors last day of school Bridging Ceremony/ Senior BBQ CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATION DAY