

College Planning FAQs

- 1.) **Can you explain more about the FAFSA or WASFA and how to sign up for that?** Go to [Fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov) for detailed information. It is open as of October 1st each fall, to apply for aid for the following school year. For students ineligible for federal aid, go to [WASFA](https://wasfa.org) to see if you should be filing that out instead. Also visit the CCC and JHS Counseling websites for links and resources regarding Financial Aid and paying for college.
- 2.) **Do I need to take the ACT or SAT?** Many schools are test optional for the fall 2022 and 2023 admission cycles (that's you!). Go to [Fairtest.org](https://fairtest.org) to see the full list of colleges that do not require the ACT or SAT! Be sure to visit the individual colleges' admissions websites to confirm their testing requirements.
- 3.) **What is WUE and what does it have to do with discounted tuition at out-of-state colleges?** WUE is an amazing program that allows WA state students to attend college at select out-of-state universities for a discounted tuition rate. Check out the [WUE website](https://wue.wa.gov).
- 4.) **How do I access internship or volunteer opportunities/jobs/etc?** Student can access this information through out College & Career Center (CCC) Teams page. Each graduating class has their own CCC Teams page set up just for them. Students should also check out the [City of Kirkland's teen volunteer page](#) as well as the [Where to Care](#) booklet for local volunteer opportunities.
- 5.) **How can I get help on my college application essays?** Many senior English classes spend time in the fall working on college application essays. The College & Career Specialist, would also be happy to read over your essay and give you feedback.
- 6.) **Will I need a Letter of Recommendation from my counselor?** Not always! Always check with the specific colleges you are applying to. Some require teacher letters but not counselor letters. Some schools will not accept letters of recommendation at all. If you are applying to universities that use the Common Application or the Coalition Application, you will invite your counselor, if necessary, directly through that site. If a letter is needed, make sure to also submit the MS Form for your specific counselor in order for your counselor to write a well-rounded and balanced letter for you.
- 7.) **Am I going to need transcripts to apply to college or for scholarships?** If you need transcripts, Ms. Michelle, our Registrar, handles all transcript requests. Please use the Transcript Request button on the webpage. If you are applying to a college on the Common Application or Coalition Application, your official transcript will be uploaded to that site once you have invited your counselor on the site.