

RHS

CLASS OF 2024

Postsecondary Information



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STAY CONNECTED

Class of 2024 Google Classrooms Use your RPS30 email
Mountie Counseling Google Classroom
rg2w4ej

SCHOLARSHIP REMIND [text code to 81010]

Last Name:	A-F	G-L	M-R	S-Z	PARENTS
Class of 2024	@rhssch24af	@rhssch24gl	@rhssch2rmr	@rhssch24sz	@rhsschP

COUNSELING REMIND

Text code to 81010

STUDENTS ONLY

Due to class size limits

Last Name:	A-CI	CL-GUT	GUY-JI & Newcomers	JO-NE	NG-SANC	SAND-Z
Counselor:	Ms. Moose	Coach Efurd	Ms. Marquez	Ms. Mitchell	Ms. Smith	Ms. Raybourn
Class of 2024	@moose24	@efurd24	@cmarquez24	@mitch24	@ssmith2024	@raybourn24

MOOSE	EFURD	MARQUEZ	MITCHELL	SMITH	RAYBOURN
Carla.moose@rpsar.net	Carlton.efurd@rpsar.net	Crystal.marquez@rpsar.net	Tracy.mitchell@rpsar.net	Shelena.smith@rpsar.net	Amy.raybourn@rpsar.net

Ms. Matkowski, RHS Scholarship Coordinator

email: ellen.matkowski@rpsar.net

Office Hours:

Mountie Counseling Office: 8:00 am- 4:00 pm MTWF

9:00 am- 4:00 pm Thursdays

Scholarship Office:

8:00 am- 2:30 pm MTWF

9:00 am- 2:30 pm Thursdays

WHO'S WHO in the Counseling Center?

During your senior year, you will have a lot of people helping you out with different things.

This reference will help you determine who you need to contact for help.

COUNSELING SECRETARY	SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR	REGISTRAR	ATTENDANCE CLERK
MICHELLE JONES	ELLEN MATKOWSKI	WENDY ATKINSON	GABRIELA HENDRICKS
Michelle.jones@rpsar.net	Ellen.matkowski@rpsar.net	Wendy.atkinson@rpsar.net	Gabriela.hendricks@rpsar.net
-Fee waivers for ACT & SAT	-Scholarships -Financial Aid -FAFSA -College Info	-Transcripts -Cords -Honor Grads -Diplomas	-College Visits

COUNSELORS			
College & career advising, Common App, recommendation letters, college application fee waivers, etc.	A-CI	Carla Moose	Carla.moose@rpsar.net
	CL-GUT	Carlton Efurd	Carlton.efurd@rpsar.net
	GUY-JI & Newcomers	Crystal Marquez	Crystal.marquez@rpsar.net
	JO-NE	Tracy Mitchell	Tracy.mitchell@rpsar.net
	NG-SANC	Shelena Smith	Shelena.smith@rpsar.net
	SAND-Z	Amy Raybourn	Amy.raybourn@rpsar.net



SENIOR INFO At-a-GLANCE

From the Mountie Counseling Center

College Entrance Exams

Why should you test? Scores are used for college admissions,
course placement & scholarship decisions.

RHS CEEB Code = 042165

Do you have free/reduced lunch? If so, you qualify for fee waivers for testing (4 total for ACT & 2 total for SAT).
You MUST have a photo ID for admission into all tests. No exceptions!
Know the last test date accepted by your college.

ACT

Register at www.act.org / Last test date for many colleges: December 9
You are responsible for finding out if your college will take spring 2024 ACT scores.
The ACT is offered six times between now & the end of the year. Most dates offered at RHS.

SAT

Oct. 7 & Dec. 2, 2023 — typically offered at RHS / Register at www.collegeboard.org / Fee waivers available.

ACCUPLACER

Offered on a limited basis at RHS or most days at NWACC (\$10, must register online) / Online test, scored immediately.

TEST OPTIONAL / TEST FLEXIBLE / TEST BLIND

These are options at some schools. Research to help you decide if this will work in your favor.

FAFSA: What is it? The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA determines what type of financial aid you may qualify for. The FAFSA is FREE!

Do you qualify for free/reduced lunch? You must reapply each year. If so, you qualify for test & application fee waivers!

COMMON APP: What is it? The Common App is a college application used by over 400 colleges. You do the application once and submit it to multiple schools. It is tied to [Naviance](#) and must be matched.

Applying to private or out-of-state colleges?

Use [Common App](#) whenever possible.

These applications typically require supplemental materials. Common App has counselor portions and teacher recommendation uploads. **Plan ahead! Give all adults 2 weeks' notice before your deadlines.** Some schools also require the [CSS Profile](#) in addition to the FAFSA. The CSS Profile is a more in-depth financial aid application.
DO YOUR RESEARCH!

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Applications are available online now.

Some schools require an application fee.

Students who have free/reduced lunch may be eligible for a fee waiver to cover application fees.

KNOW YOUR DEADLINES! Apply early.
Check scholarship deadlines.

Narrow your choices so you aren't overwhelmed!

Did you know?

At 18, you become the legal owner of your educational, legal, medical, and personal records. Start being responsible for monitoring your own grades, attendance, credits, etc. Know where your important personal documents are. In college or career, it's your responsibility! No one will talk to your Mom or Dad!



CONSIDERING [NWACC](#)?

Stay tuned for more info about the NWACC VIP Program, a 2-part event to help students attending NWACC.

- 1) You will attend an informational session with NWACC staff.
- 2) You will take a field trip to NWACC to register for classes, get your ID, etc.

Dates TBD.

TRANSCRIPTS

Order through [Naviance](#).

Allow 24 hours to process request.

Can pick up in Registrar's office or have Registrar send directly.

Most schools prefer that they come directly from the Registrar's office.

Everyone needs to fill out a [Records Release form](#) which gives us permission to send your records.

Not 18? Your parents must sign your records release. 18? Fill it out yourself.

Transcripts are free for current seniors.

Taking NWACC classes? You need to send your high school transcript plus your NWACC transcript to your college or university.

AP TEST SCORES

Have you earned a 3 or higher on an AP exam?

If so, you must present those scores to the college that you will be attending. You can submit them at registration (or earlier).

Most colleges will let you know how many hours you will be awarded during your first semester of college.

RVL STUDENTS

Be sure to stay plugged in at RHS! Also check in with your RVL teachers often to keep up with your grades.

COLLEGE VISITS

FILL OUT RED FORM.

Pick up in Counseling Center.

Have a parent, your AP, and your teachers sign your green form & return it to the Attendance Office. Bring back proof of attendance within 5 days.



NEED A COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATION?

- Pick up a [Brag Sheet \(recommendation request\)](#) in the Counseling Center.
- Give a minimum 1-week notice.
- Two weeks is preferred. Give your teachers the same courtesy!

HONOR GRADUATES

Honor Grad status is determined in the spring semester, usually after spring break.

CLASS OF 2024

CLASS OF 2024
GOOGLE CLASSROOM
CODE:

rg2w4ej

Concurrent Credit (ECE) Students

Even though you are earning some college hours, on your applications, you are still applying as a freshman, not a transfer student.

ASVAB: What is it? The ASVAB is a vocational battery used by the military. The military uses it for recruiting and job placement. It includes a fantastic career planning tool.

INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK
Follow Mountie Counseling Center

COUNSELOR REMINDS

Students only; no parents due to class limits. Text 81010.

MOOSE	@moose24	MITCHELL	@mitch24
EFURD	@efurd24	SMITH	@ssmith2024
MARQUEZ	@cmarquez24	RAYBOURN	@raybourn24

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDS: Text class code to 81010.

LAST NAMES A-F
@rhssch24af

LAST NAMES G-L
@rhssch24gl

LAST NAMES M-R
@rhssch24mr

LAST NAMES S-Z
@rhssch24sz

PARENTS: @rhsschp

TEST SCORES

Sending official test scores is your responsibility.

Log into your ACT and/or SAT account and order score reports using a credit or debit card for payment.

If you tested with a fee waiver, you may be able to send scores at no cost.

All students receive 4 free score reports **IF** schools are selected during the test registration window when you sign up to test.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Oct. 1—[ADHE](#) Scholarship application opens

Oct. 18—[Buck Scholarship](#) deadline

Oct. 28—next [ACT](#)

Nov. 30—[Community Scholarship](#) deadline

December —[FAFSA](#) opens

Dec. 2—[SAT](#) at RHS

Dec. 9—last [ACT](#) of this semester

Dec. 15—end of 1st semester

March 1—[Governor's Dist. Sch.](#) deadline

May 17—Graduation

July 1—[Arkansas Challenge Sch.](#) due
[U of A](#)

Nov. 1—priority application deadline

Nov. 15—priority scholarship deadline

Dec. 1—priority financial aid deadline

COUNSELORS

Moose (A-Ci)

Efurd (Cl-Gut)

*Marquez (Guy-Ji
& Newcomers)*

Mitchell (Jo-Ne)

Smith (Ni-Sanc)

Raybourn (Sand-Z)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Ms. Matkowski

FEE WAIVERS

Ms. Jones

TRANSCRIPTS

Ms. Atkinson

COLLEGE VISITS

Ms. Hendricks

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This list is NOT all-inclusive but is a quick reference for some important dates for this year.

Sept. 14	Last day for senior yearbook photos
Oct. 1	Arkansas Challenge Scholarship opens
Oct. 4	Jostens – Cap & gown orders open
Oct. 18	Buck Scholarship deadline
Oct. 28	Next ACT
Oct. 30 – Nov. 30	Community Scholarship application period
December	FAFSA opens (date TBD)
Dec. 2	SAT given at RHS
Dec. 9	Last ACT of fall semester
Dec. 15	End of fall semester
March 1	Governor's Distinguished Scholarship deadline
May 1	National College Decision Day
May 17	GRADUATION!!!!
July 1	Arkansas Challenge Scholarship deadline

**STAYING ORGANIZED & PLANNING AHEAD
WILL KEEP YOU FROM GETTING STRESSED
AND ANXIOUS AND ALLOW YOU TO ENJOY
YOUR SENIOR YEAR.**





MOUNTIE GRADUATION

MAY 17
8:00
p.m.

CAP &
GOWN
ORDERS

[Click here](#)

Order your cap and gown
online from Jostens.
Ordering early will save you
\$\$\$\$\$.

The cost increases as we get
closer to graduation.

You can order extra
graduation merchandise if
you want, but you only need
the basic cap and gown
package to walk the stage.

Financial issues?

Talk to your Counselor.
We can often get a cap
and gown for you at no
cost to you!

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

RHS CEEB CODE - 042165

MOST STUDENTS NEED TO TEST MORE THAN ONCE.

You can send scores to 4 colleges for free IF you order them when you register to test.
USE THE SAME EMAIL ADDRESS EVERY TIME YOU TEST TO AVOID ISSUES WITH YOUR ACCOUNT.

Dates in green: accepted by most universities. Dates in red: too late for most universities.

ACT www.act.org free practice	TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE	TENTATIVE SCORE REPORT DATE
	September 9, 2023	August 4, 2023	August 18, 2023	September 19, 2023
	October 28, 2023	September 22, 2023	October 6, 2023	November 7, 2023
	December 19, 2023	November 3, 2023	November 17, 2023	December 19, 2023
	February 10, 2024	January 5, 2024	January 19, 2024	February 27, 2024
	April 13, 2024	March 8, 2024	March 22, 2024	April 16, 2024
	June 18, 2024	May 3, 2024	May 17, 2024	June 18, 2024
	July 13, 2024	June 7, 2024	June 21, 2024	July 23, 2024
\$68.00 or \$93.00 with Writing / Late Registration - \$36 / Standby - \$68 / Score Reports - \$18 / Changes - \$42 4 fee waivers for students who receive free or reduced lunch / application waivers available Most test dates offered at RHS				
SAT www.collegeboard.org free practice	TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE	TENTATIVE ONLINE SCORE RELEASE DATE
	August 26, 2023	July 28, 2023	August 15, 2023	September 8, 2023
	October 7, 2023	September 7, 2023	September 26, 2023	October 20, 2023
	November 4, 2023	October 5, 2023	October 24, 2023	November 17, 2023
	December 2, 2023	November 2, 2023	November 21, 2023	December 15, 2023
	March 9, 2024 - digital	February 23, 2024	February 27, 2024	March 22-29, 2024
	May 4, 2024 - digital	April 19, 2024	April 23, 2024	May 17-24, 2024
	June 1, 2024 - digital	May 17, 2024	May 21, 2024	June 14-21
\$60.00 / Late Registration - \$30.00 / Waitlist – not available 23-24 / Score Reports - \$12 / Changes - \$25 2 fee waivers for students who receive free or reduced lunch / application waivers available More time per question than the ACT. Will be online only in 2024. October & December test dates offered at RHS				

ACCUPLACER www.accuplacer.collegeboard.com free practice	Online, untimed test that is used for course placement. Can use scores to qualify for AR Challenge Scholarship. Can take at NWACC for \$10.00. MUST REGISTER ONLINE IN ADVANCE. Limited opportunities to test at RHS. Scores released instantly. Can take separate sections.
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HOW TO REQUEST YOUR RHS TRANSCRIPT

Your transcript is a legal document and must be treated as such.

We will not send your transcript unless you request it.

Any transcript that is given to you is considered unofficial unless it is sealed.

Transcripts that come from the Registrar are considered official.

You will request your transcripts through Naviance.

Transcripts are free for current seniors.

TRANSCRIPT TERMS

OFFICIAL: Sent from the Registrar directly to the college, scholarship organization, etc., or given to you in an unopened, sealed envelope.

UNOFFICIAL: You have physically touched it or have it on your computer, email, etc.

INITIAL TRANSCRIPT: Sent with your college application (ends with junior year, 6 semesters).

MID-YEAR: Includes senior year, 1st semester grades. Available in January or February.

FINAL: Has all 8 semesters and shows your graduation date. Sent only to the college that you are going to attend. Available and sent out after you graduate.

1. Before we can send records, you must submit the **Records Release Form**.

This form gives consent for RHS to send your official records to the places that you request.

Over 18? You can fill the form out yourself.

[ENGLISH](#)

[SPANISH](#)

[MARSHALLESE](#)

2. Follow this [Quick Guide](#) for requesting transcripts through [Naviance](#). Remember that your Naviance login is:

- **Username:** HAC login
- **Password:** e=ID#

3. If using Common App, don't forget to match your Common App to Naviance.

[Common App Matching Guide](#)

4. Order your transcripts early. The office is closed on weekends and holidays. If you procrastinate and order your records close to your deadline, they may not be sent or received on time.

5. **ECE & SCC STUDENTS:** You will also need to send your [NWACC transcript](#) or [NWTI transcript](#) to your college.

REMINDER: You are responsible for sending your ACT scores, AP scores and other relevant documents to your college or scholarship.

RHS REGISTRAR: Wendy Atkinson: wendy.atkinson@rpsar.net

[Additional Detailed Instructions](#)

ADULTING 101

BASIC LIFE SKILLS

DOCUMENTS	FINANCIAL KNOW HOW	FINANCIAL HEALTH
At 18, you are the owner of your legal records. Be sure that you have ownership of your birth certificate, Social Security card, passport, & other important personal documents. Be sure you have a license or state photo ID.	Do you know the basics of earning, saving, spending & budgeting? You will need a checking account and debit card and may want to consider a savings account. You can open these on your own when you turn 18.	Budget so that you have enough money to cover your bills & put some away in savings. While debt is often a part of life, be careful that you carefully monitor to avoid getting deep into debt. Learn the basics of paying taxes.
PHYSICAL HEALTH	MENTAL HEALTH	CHORES & REPAIRS
Get regular exercise. Eat well. Get enough sleep (7-9 hours). Manage doctor & dental appointments. Be able to access any medical insurance you have. Know how to access emergency care if needed.	Anxiety is a part of life. Work on coping skills to help you manage it. If you have concerns about your mental health, contact a professional. Manage any symptoms & if you are on medication, manage it & don't miss doses.	At the minimum, make sure you can do your own laundry & keep your dorm room, apartment, etc. clean. Can you change a tire? Plunge the toilet? Take out the trash? Fix a sink? Cook a meal for yourself? If not, consider learning these basic adult skills.
CAREER	HARD SKILLS	SOFT SKILLS
Get a professional email address (no silly phrases or nicknames). Write a resume and keep it up to date. Clean up your social media because potential employers will often look you up.	Work on basic hard skills such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to dress for the job (it can matter)• Learn Microsoft Office & Google & other basic computer skills• Presentation skills• Organization• Writing & Language skills	Improve your soft skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership• Communication• Work ethic• Teamwork• Problem-solving skills• Flexibility/adaptability• Interpersonal skills• Creativity• Attitude

HOW TO SEND A PROFESSIONAL EMAIL

Follow these instructions for sending a professional email.
Be sure you have a professional email address.
Do not use silly names or phrases in your email address!

Email Etiquette

Guidelines for sending emails to Learner Mentors, faculty & staff

- 1** Include a clear, concise subject line so I know what your email is about
- 2** Address people properly
- 3** A nice greeting sets the tone
- 4** Identify why you are sending the email
- 5** If requesting a meeting include availability

Sample Email:

From: Coffey, Cathryn
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 3:26 PM
To: Smith, Jane
Subject: Advising Meeting

Dear Professor Smith,

Hope this message finds you well. My name is Megan, I am a first year student at Richard Bland. I was wondering if you would have time this week to meet with me to discuss courses for next semester. I am available any day this week after 2:00pm

Let me know what time is best or if I can provide any further information. Thank you in advance, looking forward to hearing from you.

Cathryn Coffey
ccoffey@RBC.edu, 804-862-6100 Ext 8556

- ✓ Did I spell everything correctly?
- ✓ How is my grammar?
- ✓ How is my tone?
- ✓ Please and thank you go a long way

CAREER SEARCH TOOLS

CHOOSING A CAREER IS HIGHLY PERSONAL.

Use these free resources to help you explore your interests, skills, personality traits, etc.

All of these are important when selecting careers.

Don't choose something because your friend is choosing it, your parents want you to do it, or because it is prestigious. Explore careers you've never heard of!

CHOOSE A CAREER THAT IS MEANINGFUL TO YOU.

16Personalities

Enneagram Personality Test

Real Life Arkansas

My ACT (same account you use to register to test)

O*NET OnLine Career Site

O*NET My Next Move Interest Profiler

UWannaDu Career Site & Quiz

1 2 3 Career Aptitude Test

Keirsey Temperament Assessment

Princeton Review Career Quiz

MAPP Assessment

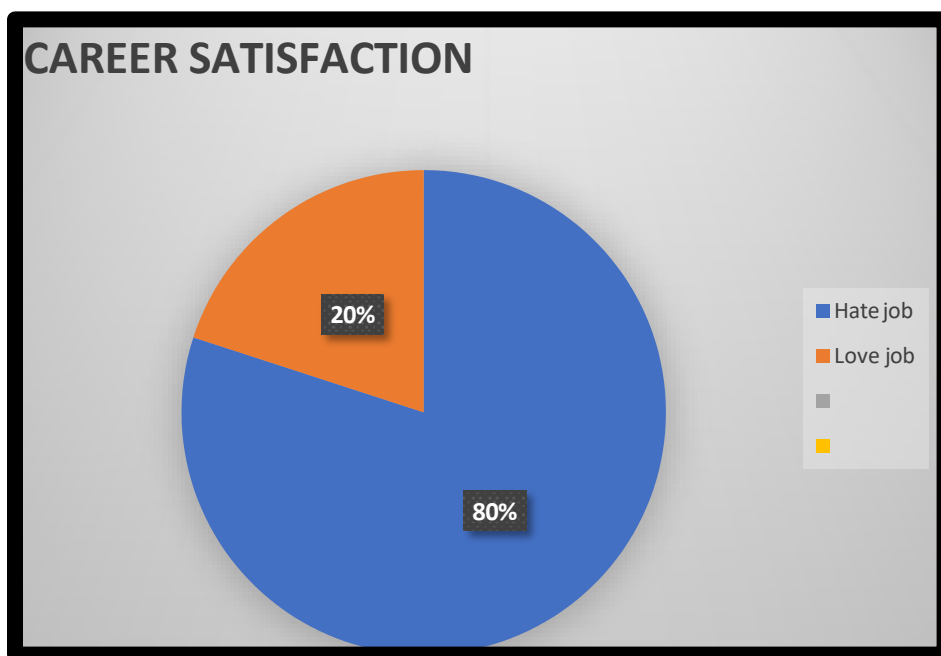
Don't be a
part of the
80% of adults
who hate
their job!

Use tools to
help you
choose the
right career &
be in the 20%
who love their
job!

There are other free assessments online.

ACT WORKKEYS: This assessment can also help with career exploration.

All RHS seniors will take the ACT Workkeys during the school day.



BEST CAREERS THAT DON'T REQUIRE A COLLEGE DEGREE

THE 10 HIGHEST-PAYING JOBS YOU CAN GET WITHOUT A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

RANK	JOB TITLE	OPENINGS (through 2024)	MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE (2016)
1	Air-traffic controllers	7,500	\$122,410
2	Nuclear-power-reactor operators	2,600	\$91,170
3	Transportation, storage, and distribution managers	27,100	\$89,190
4	First-line supervisors of police and detectives	43,000	\$84,840
5	Power distributors and dispatchers	3,900	\$81,900
6	Radiation therapists	6,200	\$80,160
7	Nuclear technicians	2,800	\$79,140
8	Elevator installers and repairers	5,900	\$78,890
9	Detectives and criminal investigators	28,300	\$78,120
10	Commercial pilots	15,100	\$77,200

SOURCE: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

BUSINESS INSIDER



- [80 Jobs That Pay Over \\$50K and Don't Require a Degree](#)
- [Top 15 High Paying Jobs Without a Degree in 2023](#)
- [25 Best Jobs That Don't Require a College Degree](#)
- [18 Good Careers That Don't Require College Degrees](#)

There is a lot of information out there, so do your research!

NAVIANCE

Naviance has multiple tools to help you plan for your future. You can take the Career Cluster Finder & Career Interest Profiler multiple times. The Strengths Explorer can only be taken one time.

- Career Cluster Finder
- Career Interest Profiler
- Strengths Explorer

RoadTrip Nation contains hundreds of videos to help you learn more about careers. After you take the career tests, watch video interviews to learn more about careers that may be a fit for you.

- Explore RoadTrip Nation video archives (career interviews)

The Resume Builder provides a template to help you prepare a professional resume. If you have never created a resume, this is a great place to start.

- Resume Builder

The College Supermatch allows you to search for colleges by criteria that you select (ex. size, majors, locations, campus life, etc.). It will provide you with a list of colleges that might be a fit for you.

- College Supermatch

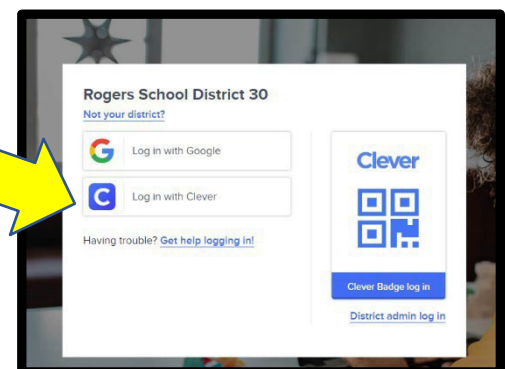
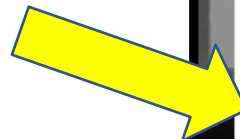


LOG IN WITH CLEVER

Username: HAC login

Password: ID # (use e=)

Ex: tmitche01 / e=123456





MILITARY INFORMATION

What is the ASVAB?

ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY

The ASVAB is a timed, multi-aptitude test developed by the Defense Department. Scores are used for career placement. The ASVAB includes tests in 10 areas. Score requirements are different for each branch.

BRANCH	MEMBER NAME	PROS & CONS OF MILITARY COMMITMENT	
<u>ARMY</u>	Soldiers	Travel the country / world	Away from family
<u>NAVY</u>	Sailors	Protect your country	May be dangerous
<u>AIR FORCE</u>	Airmen	Financial benefits	Very hard work
<u>MARINES</u>	Marines	Job Security	Freedom is limited
<u>COAST GUARD</u>	Coast Guardsmen	Fulfilling, respected work	Must take orders
<u>SPACE FORCE</u>	Guardians	Free college education	Can be stressful work
<u>ARMY NATIONAL GUARD</u>	Guardsmen	Find direction, learn discipline	Must do things you don't like

- 1 Do your research & contact recruiters from each branch to find out which branch will benefit you the most.
- 2 Discuss your options with your family.
- 3 Take the ASVAB. This score can determine which branches you are qualified for.
- 4 Talk to your recruiter about which jobs you are qualified for based on your ASVAB scores.
- 5 Take the physical examination.
- 6 Sign the contract & take the Oath of Enlistment.
- 7 Depending on which branch you enlist with, you will direct ship or enter Delayed Entry Program (DEP).
 - Direct Ship: Report to Basic Training as soon as you complete MEPS testing requirements.
 - DEP: Commit to Basic Training at a time in the future, generally within one year (most common option).

You can enlist and go to college. Ask your recruiter for more information.

[Video explanation of 3 components of the Army](#)



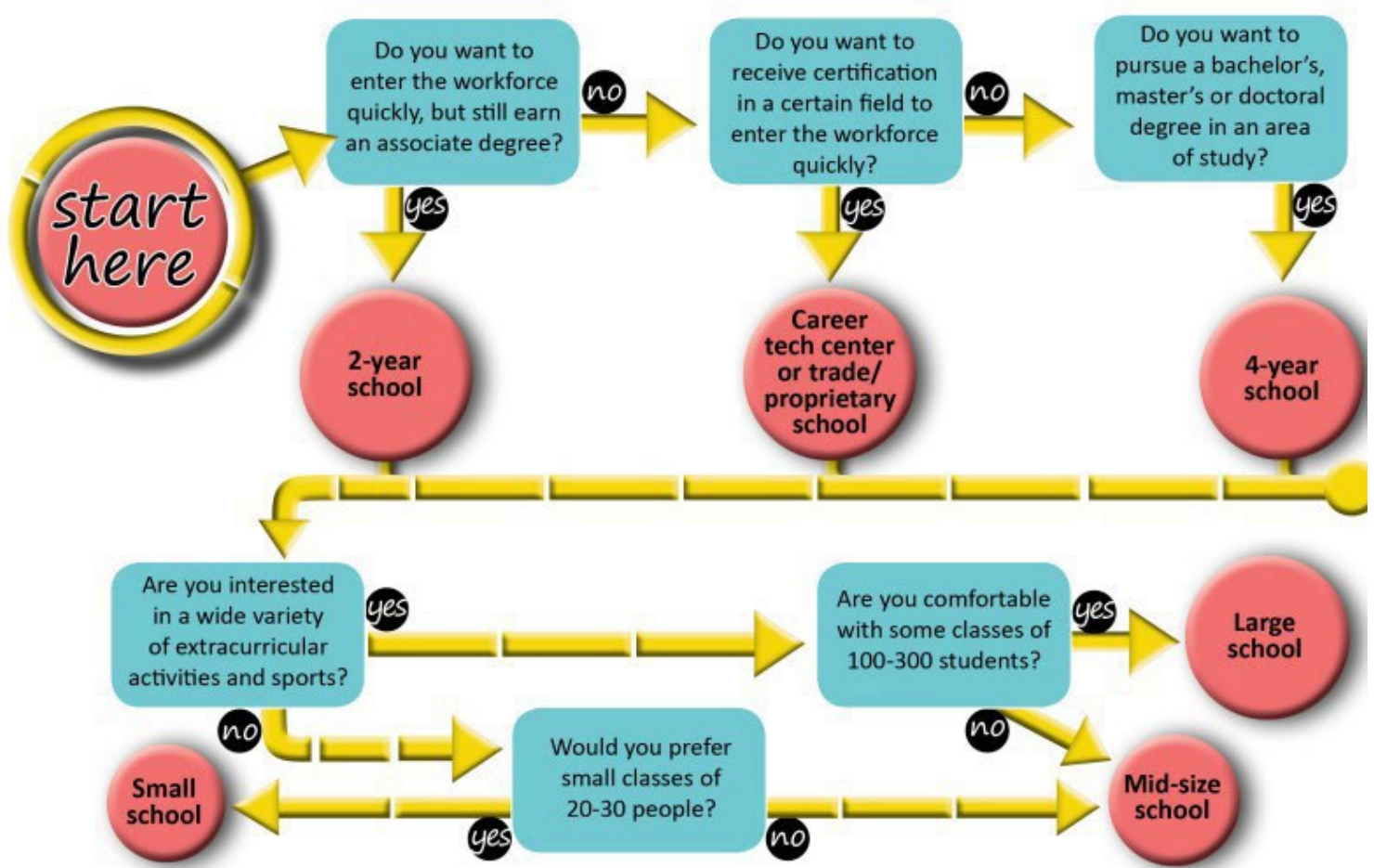
POST HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

Which one is right for you? You can do more than one.

Ex. Join the military & go to school, or work and attend school part-time.

WORKFORCE	APPRENTICESHIPS / INTERNSHIPS	TRADE SCHOOL	COMMUNITY COLLEGE	COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY	MILITARY	GAP YEAR
Going straight to work full-time after high school without seeking any type of higher education. Usually low-paying jobs.	Get on-the-job training for a particular skill or trade. May be paid or unpaid. Apprenticeships follow a structured training plan and are usually paid. Internships are often unpaid.	Schools that teach a specific skill or trade. Usually award certificates in the trade. Also called vocational or technical schools.	A 2-year college that offers 2 paths: 1) 2-year degrees or certificates 2) Transfer courses to a university (i.e., the basics)	Earn a Bachelor's (4-yr.), Master's or doctorate degree in various fields. Also prepares students for law school, med school, etc.	Serve your country in one of 6 Armed Services branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or Space Force. The National Guard is also an option.	Take a year off before the next stage of your life. Meant to be an educational experience. Use it to figure out what you want in your adult life!

CHOOSING A COLLEGE



Watch the [“What is College”](#) video for a brief explanation of different post-secondary education options.

TO DO LIST

This list is **NOT** all-inclusive but is a quick reference for things that you should be working on this semester.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fill out the FAFSA .
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Take the ACT or SAT again if needed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Struggling with those tests? Consider the Accuplacer .
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make a short list of colleges to apply to.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Narrow down your major / career choices.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Start working on college essays.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request recommendation letters 2 weeks in advance.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Create a resume if you do not have one already.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make a list of important deadlines.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Complete college applications.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Apply for scholarships.



**DON'T PROCRASTINATE. IT'S TIME TO GET
STARTED PLANNING YOUR FUTURE!**

WHAT ARE COLLEGES EVALUATING APPLICANTS ON?

1) What the student does

- ❖ **Transcript & possibly test scores**
- ❖ **Resume**
- ❖ **Involvement & activities**

2) What the student says

- ❖ **Essays**
- ❖ **Personal statement**
- ❖ **Interviews**

3) What others say about the student

- ❖ **Counselor recommendations**
- ❖ **Teacher recommendations**
- ❖ **Supplemental recommendations**

4) School Profile

- ❖ **What opportunities were available at your school**
- ❖ **Did you take advantage of them?**

HOW TO APPLY TO COLLEGES

Some schools may want you to apply directly from their websites. Others will direct you to an outside website (referred to as common applications) that allow you to apply to multiple colleges. Once you apply, you will need to request records to send to the college.

Common App

The Common App is the best known and most widely used application. Use Common App if you are applying to multiple colleges. There are over 900 member schools.

Coalition App

The Coalition for College is a planning tool that allows you to apply for colleges. It is much less widely used than The Common App.

Universal Common Application

You may come across this application tool, but it now is linked to very few colleges. Use The Common App instead.

Common Black College App

A common application for HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges & Universities).

Apply Texas

Included because several students apply to Texas schools each year. Includes most Texas universities. Other states have similar applications.

Records Release

A form giving permission for your academic records to be sent to outside organizations, such as colleges. Form available in [Spanish](#) & [Marshallese](#) if needed.

Transcripts

This is a legal document that contains your academic history (grades, credits, & GPA. Must order through Naviance. Turn in your Records Release form first.

School Reports

A form required by some schools (mostly private). Filled out by your Counselor.

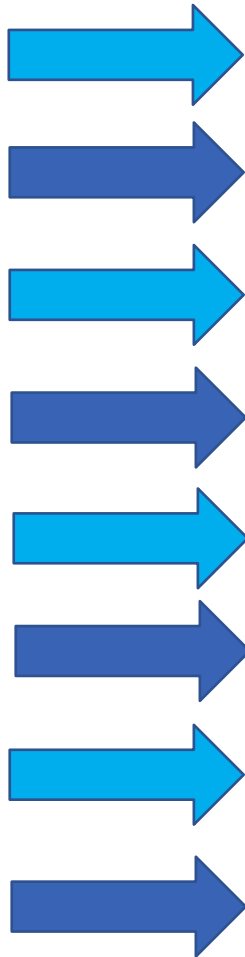
LORs (Letters of Recommendation)

Letters written on your behalf by a Counselor, teacher, or someone else.
Required by some colleges and scholarships.

FERPA Waiver

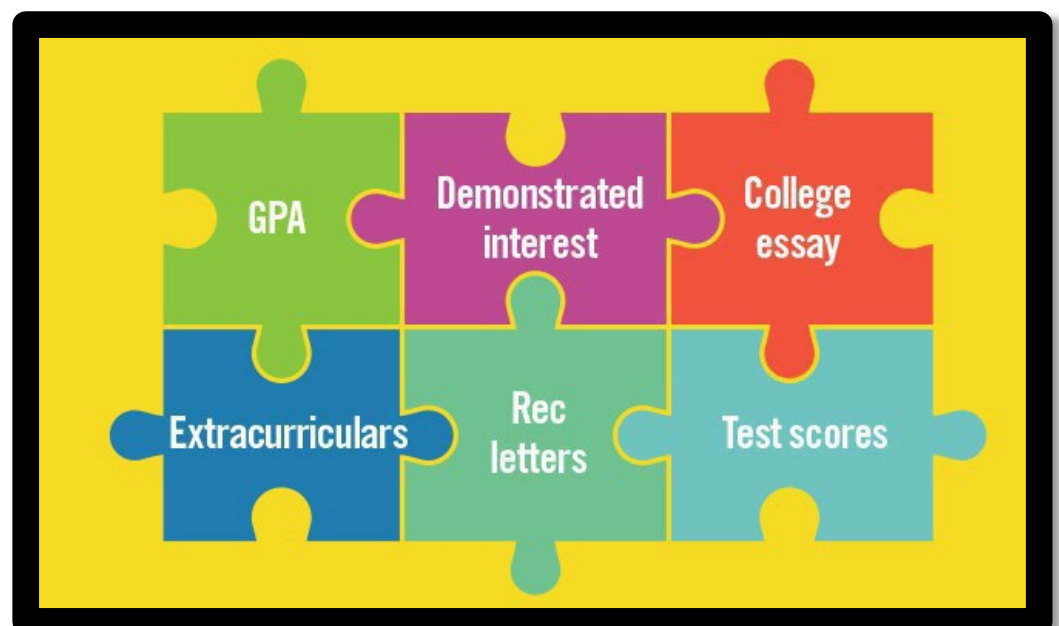
Colleges expect you to waive your right to see recommendations. They are meant to be confidential. We expect you to waive your rights to see your Counselor recommendations.

COLLEGE APPLICATION & ADMISSIONS OPTIONS



ROLLING ADMISSIONS	Students can apply anytime during the application window and will usually get a quick decision back.
PRIORITY DECISION	Similar to Early Action. Used by schools with rolling admissions. Application receives priority consideration if student meets deadline.
EARLY DECISION	A binding application. If you apply ED and are accepted, you must attend this school and pull all other applications submitted to other schools. Can only apply ED to one school.
EARLY DECISION 2	Some schools offer a 2 nd round of binding ED applications. If you don't get into your 1 st ED school, you can apply to a 2 nd ED school.
EARLY ACTION	Allows students to apply early and get a quick decision, often by the 2 nd week of December. Non-binding. May be restrictive and allow only one EA application or may allow you to apply EA to more than one school.
REGULAR DECISION	Students apply during the regular application period. This is non-binding, and you can choose whether to attend if accepted. Deadlines vary by school.
OPEN ADMISSIONS	Nearly all high school graduates (or those with a GED) are admitted. GPAs and test scores do not necessarily prevent admissions. Common for community colleges and online schools.
DEFERRED ADMISSIONS	Students taking this option have been admitted to a school, but choose to defer enrollment for a year.

**WHAT
ARE
COLLEGES
LOOKING
FOR?**



FIND YOUR FIT

When making your college list, stick to 3-10 colleges. Choosing more than that can lead to extra stress as it can be difficult to manage.

Choose:

REACH SCHOOLS: chances of admission may be very low

TARGET SCHOOLS: GPA & test score averages are in line with yours (not a guarantee for admission)

SAFETY SCHOOL: chances of admission are extremely high

Most important: Find your fit!

Environmental fit: You will live there (consider weather, urban vs. rural, large vs. small, etc.).

Academic fit: Do they offer what you need to get the career that you want?

Personal / social fit: Are there social opportunities in line with your interests?

Financial fit: Most importantly, can you afford it? If you can't afford it, you can't go.



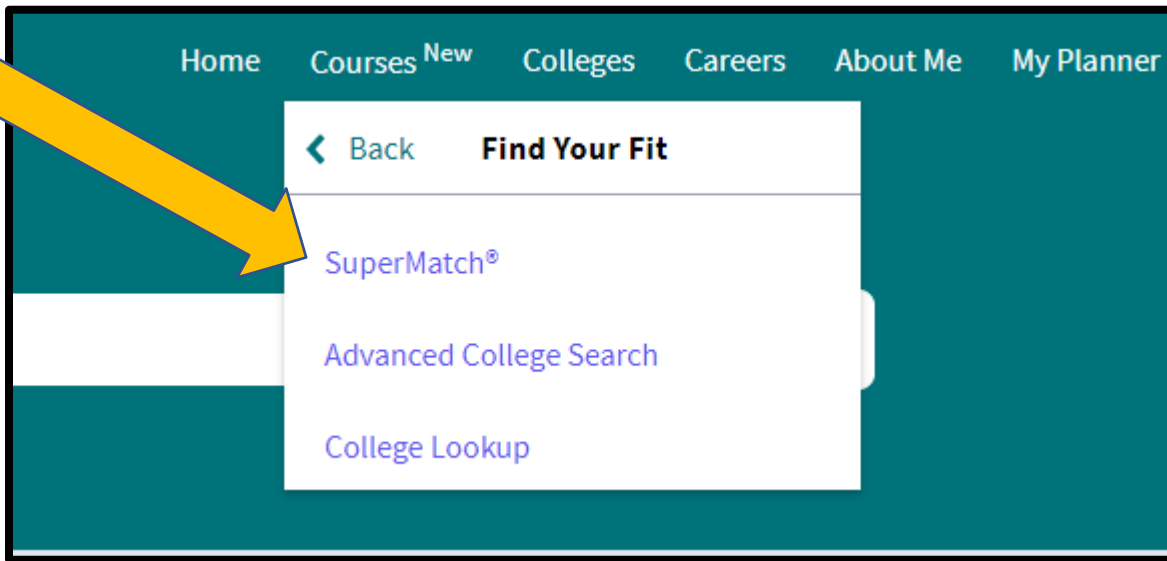
Naviance College SuperMatch

Use this great search tool to help you find the right college.

You choose the criteria that matters to you, and Naviance will search for you and match colleges to your criteria.

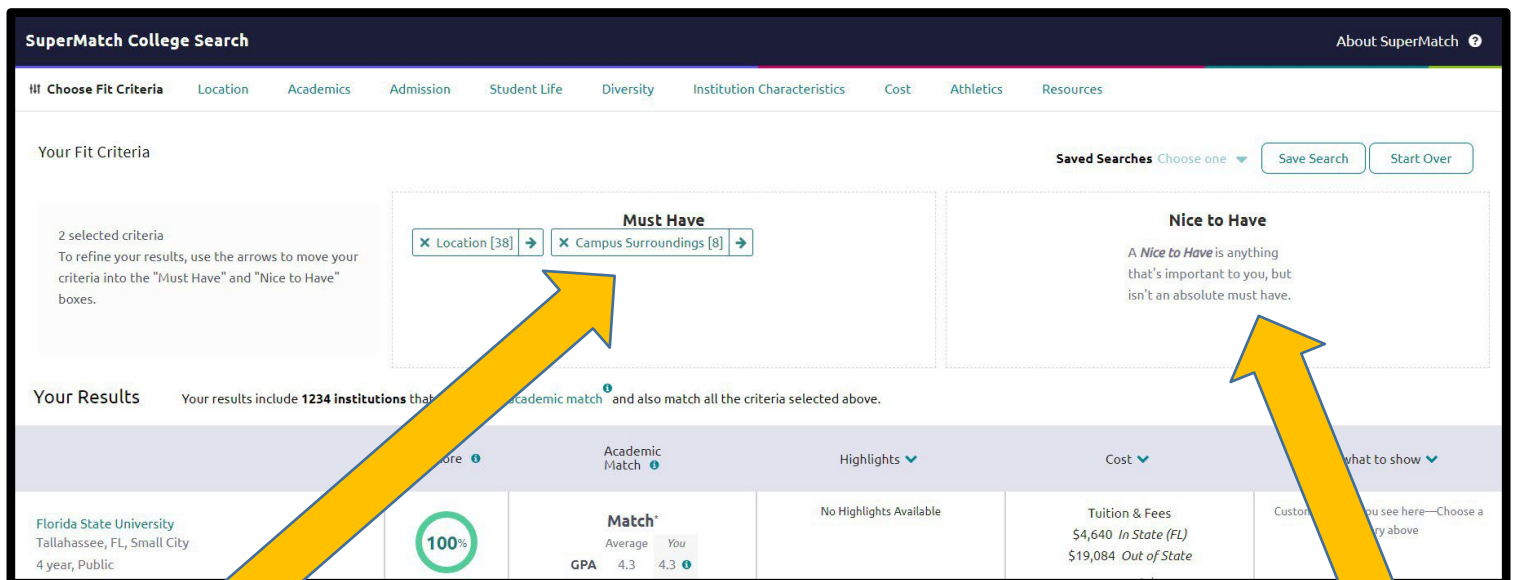
Log in through Clever, then select:

Colleges → Find Your Fit → SuperMatch



Select Fit Criteria

Start with your “Must Haves” & your “Nice to Haves” to see colleges that are a good fit for you.

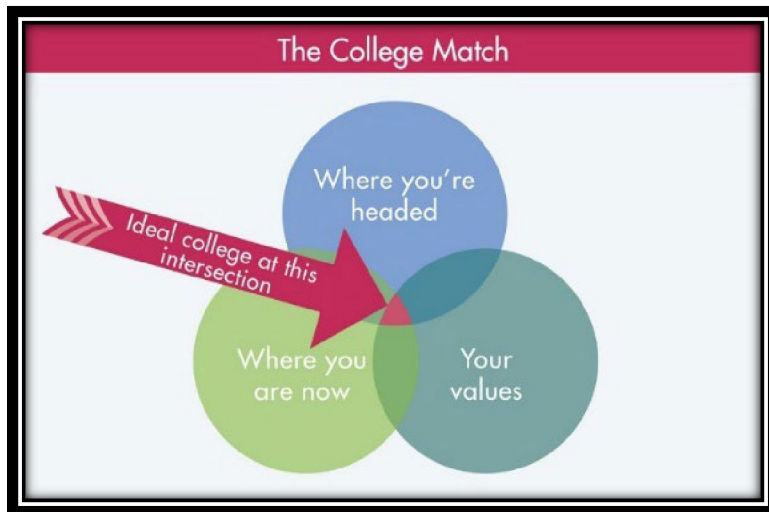


COLLEGE SEARCH TOOLS

Choosing a college is a challenging decision. Here are some sites to help you with your choice.

ARKANSAS COLLEGE SEARCH TOOLS

- [Comprehensive List of Arkansas Colleges](#)
- [Degree Directory \(see which colleges have your degree\)](#)
- [Career Watch College & University List](#)
- [AR Department of Higher Education College List](#)
- [AR Community College List](#)
- [Arkansas Colleges Cost Comparison](#)



ArkAcrao

Digital
College
Quickbook

22-23

The [College Quickbook](#) is a great resource for anyone exploring Arkansas colleges & universities.

NATIONAL SEARCH TOOLS

[BIGFUTURE](#) - The College Board's free college planning tool. Find colleges by test scores, location, majors, support services, diversity, etc.

[CAPPEX](#) - Another top resource & college search engine. Search 1000s of schools and you can estimate your chances of admission based on your GPA and admission test scores. Also includes a "Fit Score" to gauge whether a college could be a good match for you.

[UNIGO](#) - Instead of applying filters, take a college match quiz and Unigo will match you based on your responses. You can also search for scholarships.

[US DEPARTMENT OF ED COLLEGE SCORECARD](#) - Find out about college costs, programs, admissions, results, etc.

COMMON APP & NAVIANCE

If you are using Common App for your college applications, **you must match your accounts** so that your Counselor and your teachers can upload your LORs & information.

Follow the instructions linked below to match your Common App & Naviance accounts.

NOTE: *Students should NOT invite counselors & teachers through their Common App account.*

COMMON APP ACCOUNT MATCHING GUIDE

COMMON APP ESSAY PROMPTS

Below is the full set of essay prompts for 2023-24.

Common App will also retain the optional community disruption question within the Additional Information section.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

We will retain the optional community disruption question within the Writing section.

Letters of Recommendation– Do you need them?

Q: What is a LOR?

A: A LOR is a letter of recommendation. They can be from a teacher, Counselor, coach, etc.

**HOW TO REQUEST
YOUR LETTERS OF
RECOMMENDATION
IN
NAVIANCE**

Q: How do I know if I need them?

A: You are responsible for checking your college application requirements & scholarship application requirements. Most state schools do not require them. Common App schools usually require both teachers LORs and Counselor forms as part of your application. Many scholarship applications require LORs.

Q: How do I ask for one?

A: You can email the person or request one in person. If you are using Common App, you will make the request through Naviance. Be sure to ask your recommender to save their recommendation so that you can use it later for other things if needed.

Q: How far in advance should I request one?

A: You should request them at least two weeks in advance. Remember that your failure to know your deadlines is NOT an emergency for your teacher or Counselor. We will be busy with other student's requests and will not be able to drop everything and write one that is due on short notice. Students who make late requests will receive no letter or a generic recommendation that is not personalized. Students who requested their LORs on time will be prioritized.

Q: How do I know which teachers to ask?

A: Be sure that you are on good terms with that teacher! Do you turn in your work on time? Come to class prepared? Contribute to the class? Are you on time? All of these things will factor into your teacher's LOR.

Q: What is a Brag Sheet (or Recommendation Request Form)?

A: The Brag Sheet is a form allowing you to tell us your accomplishments and some things about your personality. It helps your recommender write a more personal LOR. You can find it at the end of this packet or in the Counseling Google Classroom.

Q: Will I see my LOR?

A: That is up to your recommender. Counselor recommendations are all confidential. You will not see your letter or other forms. These are meant to be confidential and genuine.

FERPA – on Common App & some other sites, you will be asked if you waive your right to see your recommendation. You are expected to say that you DO waive your rights as your recommendation is meant to be candid & confidential. This is an expectation of both the Mountie Counseling Center & colleges.

College Essay Do's & Don'ts

Do:



- Carefully read the prompt and follow it.
- Follow instructions carefully (formatting, word count, etc.).
- Allow yourself lots of time. Don't rush it!
- Spend plenty of time brainstorming.
- Ask others for inspiration (but never let anyone write or re-write your essay).
- Catch the reader's attention quickly. Admissions officers are time-constrained!
- Your essay adds a human touch to your application and creates a connection between you and the reader.
- Keep topics narrow and go deep. Vivid detail and deep reflection can have an impact!
- Take a break after writing before you edit. Approach it with a clear mind.
- Have other people read and help you proof your essay. Limit to 2 (or very few).
 - 1 person who is great at grammar
 - 1 person who can verify that your essay represents you well
- Read & reread. Then reread again!
- Be honest, be genuine, be you!

Don't:



- Lie, exaggerate, plagiarize, or recycle a school assignment.
- Let anyone else write your essay. You need an editor to help you proof, but NOT a second author.
- **This includes ChatGPT!**
- Use emoticons, text-speak, or other highly informal language.
- Use the essay to praise the college you are applying to or to criticize other schools.
- List information already covered in your application, resume, etc.
- Write about controversial issues. You don't know the political, religious, moral, personal, or other beliefs of the reader, and you don't want to offend someone!
- Write about risky or inappropriate subjects. Be careful writing about, for example, the time you were arrested for shoplifting and learned a life lesson from the experience. While it can make for interesting self-reflection, airing your poor judgment may not work in your favor.
- Make the essay about someone else. Unless the prompt is "Write about your hero" or something similar, never make someone else the subject of YOUR essay. **Even then, tie it back to you (how did they impact YOUR life for example)!** They are considering YOU for admissions, not someone else!
- Get too stressed out. This is your time to let people know what makes you special!

COLLEGE & SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE QUICK CHECKLIST

	COLLEGE 1	COLLEGE 2	COLLEGE 3	COLLEGE 4	COLLEGE 5	COLLEGE 6
COLLEGE NAME						
APPLICATION DEADLINE						
APPLICATION SUBMITTED						
TRANSCRIPT SENT						
TEST SCORES SENT						
LORs SENT						
ESSAYS / OTHER						
SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE						
SCHOLARSHIPS SUBMITTED						
LISTED ON FAFSA						
HOUSING, HONORS COLLEGE, etc.						

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid – opens December

- ☐ Create [Student FSA ID](#)
- ☐ Create [Parent FSA ID](#)
- ☐ Must have 2022 tax return
- ☐ Fill out [FAFSA](#)
- ☐ Review SAR report (sent through email)

COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Opens Oct.30, deadline Nov. 30 at 2:00 p.m.

☐ [Apply here:](#) RHS website > Support > Scholarships > Scholarship Information > Rogers Public Schools Community Scholarship Program

☐ Application ☐ Transcript ☐ ACT scores ☐ Essay ☐ 3 references (1 = teacher or your Counselor)

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE (LOTTERY) SCHOLARSHIP

- ☐ For In-state colleges only
- ☐ [Apply here:](#) <https://sams.adhe.edu/>
- ☐ Does the school have my Social Security Number (SSN)? If not, provide to Counseling Secretary.
- ☐ 19 Comp/SS on ACT? **YES** - you qualify **NO** - take Accuplacer **Highest Score:** _____
- ☐ Complete online survey & application / click "submit" / receive confirmation email
- ☐ Have I logged back in to accept my award?
- ☐ Do I know the requirements to keep my scholarship throughout college?
- ☐ Due July 1, 2024
- ☐ FAFSA submission required

RHS SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITE: RHS homepage > Support > Scholarships
See Ms. Matkowski with questions regarding scholarships.

COMMON APP, LOR (LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION) & TRANSCRIPT CALENDAR FOR MAJOR COLLEGE & SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

Be sure to adhere to these deadlines so that we can send your materials to your college or scholarship organization on time. *Remember that we request a two-week notice in order to process materials. This includes Naviance/Common App and all LOR requests.*

Please plan ahead and do not procrastinate on this. The office is closed over Winter Break, so any transcripts or forms not requested by the deadline below will not be sent.

We want to help you, so request on time.

Counselors, the Registrar, and the Scholarship Coordinator do NOT work on school holidays!

YOUR FAILURE TO PLAN IS NOT OUR EMERGENCY.

COLLEGE / SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE	DEADLINE TO REQUEST FORMS FROM OFFICE
November 1	October 13
November 15	November 1
December 1	November 15
December 15	December 1
January 1	December 12
January 15	December 12
February 1	January 16

COLLEGE CREDIT HOURS

RHS Students have several opportunities to earn college credit.
Your future college or university will determine the number of credit hours that you will be awarded and how those hours will be applied towards your degree.

1 high school credit = 3 college credit hours

In college, most courses award 3 credit hours.

3 credit hours per course = spending approximately 3 hours in the classroom each week

4-5+ credit hours per course = 3 hours in the classroom each week plus additional hours of required labs

College courses are all one semester long.

AP EXAMS

Research your colleges to see what AP credits are awarded. Some schools will give credit for a score of a 3, while others will require a higher score. A 3 on an AP exam is equivalent to a C in a college course.

Sometimes colleges will award elective hours rather than core hours.

You are responsible for sending your AP scores to your college. Most schools will notify of the hours you have received sometime during your 1st semester.

Even if you have passed multiple AP exams, you are still applying as an incoming freshman.

AA PROGRAM

Because you have earned a college degree, you will typically be applying as a transfer student. Be sure to send your NWACC transcript to your college.

ECE COURSES

You are applying as an incoming freshman regardless of the number of hours you have completed. Be sure to send your NWACC transcript to your college.

CLEP

COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM

CLEP offers 34 exams that cover introductory college-level material. A passing score on a CLEP exam is worth 3 or more college credits.

CLEP exams are accepted at 2900+ universities and colleges in the U.S.

CLEP exams cost \$93 plus the test center's administration fee.

Students can test at NWACC for a \$35 administration fee. Appointments are required.

COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Talk to your Coach about whether you need to register.
Fee waivers are available for qualified students. See Coach Efurd.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

National Collegiate Athletic Association

Division I, II, & III schools

D I & D II: Create a Certification Account (fee required)

D III or Undecided: Create a free Profile Page

NAIA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

Often small colleges & universities

Fee to register

NJCAA

National Junior College Athletic Association

Organization for 2-year colleges



COLLEGE TIPS FOR SUCCESS

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

Naviance
College
Application
Process

BE SURE TO CONSIDER:

- Size (tiny, small, medium, large, extra-large)
- Kind of school (2-year, 4-year, public, private, etc.)
- Majors
- Student life, extra-curricular activities, sports, Greek life, dorm life, etc.
- Social & learning environment of the college
- Freshmen retention rate & graduation rate
- Average class size and student/teacher ratios
- Health care / mental health care resources on campus.
- Location, setting (urban, suburban, rural) & climate (you will live there for 9-10 months of the year)
- \$\$\$\$ Total cost of attendance, financial aid, scholarships... can you afford it?
- **Always try to visit the campus.**

QUESTIONS TO ASK
ON A COLLEGE VISIT

Don't try to fit into the college, find a college that fits you!
Use free, online tools like Naviance College Supermatch & Big Future.

APPLICATION TIPS

- Be clear with your information. Admissions officers don't have time to cross-reference and interpret things!
- Don't embellish.
- List activities in order of importance rather than chronologically if you have the chance. Be specific with activity dates and leadership roles.
- Make sure that info on your resume is consistent with info on your application.
- Proofread your application and every essay carefully.
- Remember to make your essays about YOU, not others. Even if writing about someone who inspires you, the goal is for the college to learn about you.
- Avoid being snarky or trying to be funny. It may not come across well.
- Think carefully about whom you ask to write recommendations for you.
- Let your application and essays reflect your unique qualities. Never try to duplicate what someone else who got into a particular school did. Colleges are looking at many factors when choosing whom to admit. People often make incorrect inferences about why someone was admitted.
- Your essay should be unique and personal enough that it could only be written by you. The essay should offer new insight into the applicant.

Honesty and integrity are important in your application.

CREATE A PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE.

CLEAN UP YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA. SOME COLLEGE RECRUITERS WILL LOOK YOU UP!

ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

- Parent(s) won't be there to push you to do your work.
- Instructors won't hold your hand, but they will give you a hand if you ask.
- There will be fewer class hours but more work.
- The expectations will be higher.
- Failure can be costly in terms of educational opportunities lost & money wasted.

NON-ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

- You may get homesick. Don't hide out in your room, get involved. Bring some comforts from home. Call home – but not too much!
- College students often deal with stress, anxiety, and depression. Build a support system. Find an outlet (working out, journaling, etc.). Reach out to professionals if you need help.
- Organization and time-management are really important. Make plans and tweak them when needed – don't wing it. Avoid getting behind in your classes. Catching up is much harder than in high school and isn't always possible. Prioritize obligations, including study time. Make time for fun and socializing too!
- Roommates are a relationship like no other and can be challenging but can also be the start of amazing friendships. Maintain open communication. If you have a problem, seek mediation from your R.A.
- New-found freedom can be fun and exciting, but you have to learn to make responsible choices.
- Staying healthy and taking care of yourself is critical. Healthy eating, exercise, proper sleep, and stress management are all important for your health and mental well-being.
- Be sure you can handle the basics of laundry, the kitchen, money management, etc.

PARENTAL CHALLENGES

- Let your child drive the bus! Students shouldn't be applying in name only.
- It is the child who is applying; their voice needs to come through in the application and essays.
- Most colleges say that any part you play in the application is too big a part!
- Most common parent concerns:
 - My child is too busy to fill out the application. This is a concern to colleges because it makes a statement about what your child will give to the college experience.
 - My child is too shy to talk about him/herself. A student may be admitted due to the bolder tone of the parent, but that is not whom the college is getting in the classroom, school activities, etc.

Many busy and shy students are admitted to college. The college needs a real picture of who the student is.
- The application itself provides training for college. It is not just about filling out a form. It is about conveying information, brainstorming ideas, organizing others in the submission of recommendations, meeting deadlines, etc. All of these skills will be needed later in college, making the application a test drive.
- Have a "student first" attitude. Colleges always prefer to hear from the student!

Your child will experience a much greater sense of accomplishment when they have led the way on their applications and college choices.

ARKANSAS COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES



Arkansas has many excellent college options.

Be sure to explore your in-state options.

ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES & TRADE SCHOOLS



Our state has numerous community college
and trade school options for Arkansas students.

Explore the career training opportunities provided in the state.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS



IMPORTANT U OF A DEADLINES

Oct. 1 – Get your FSA ID

Nov. 1 – Priority Application deadline

Nov. 15 – Priority Scholarship deadline

Dec. 1 – Priority Financial Aid deadline

Oct. 5 – Housing application opens

December – FAFSA opens

Dec. 15 – Final Spring Application deadline

Feb. 1 – Final Scholarship deadline

Feb. 1 – Fellowship Scholarships deadline

May 1 – Deadline to accept or decline
merit-based awards

Apply online now for Fall of 2024

- **Test optional / test flexible** (based on GPA).
- **3.2 or higher GPA (standard 4.0 scale)** - will be admitted regardless of test scores
- **GPA below 3.2** – must submit ACT or Accuplacer scores
- **Low GPA / test scores** – apply and take Accuplacer (holistic review)
- Renewable Academic Scholarships will still require test scores
- Test scores must be submitted for placement
- GPA will be recalculated on a 4.0 scale
- **You do not have to use Common App to apply**
- More admissions info here:

Admissions info

U of A
Quick
Facts



*Be sure that you apply
for Freshmen
Scholarships.*

NWACC

SIGN UP FOR THE NWACC VIP PROGRAM THIS SPRING!

NWACC Applicant information:

- Test scores are not required for admissions.
- Scores are required for course placement.
- No minimum GPA – anyone can attend.
- Can enroll as a full-time or part-time student.
- Many courses will transfer to a 4-year university.
- Work with an academic advisor if planning to transfer.
- Also offers Associate's Degrees and certificate programs.
- Scholarships are available.
- **FAFSA Priority Deadline for fall: May 1**
- Be sure to sign up for the NWACC VIP program next year. NWACC staff will help you with applying, financial aid and enrollment.
- Can register later than most other colleges, but class selection will be limited.
 - More admissions info here:

Admissions info

*Be sure to apply for
NWACC Scholarships.*



Don't have the test scores you need to be placed into college classes? Consider taking the **Accuplacer Next Generation.**



NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

NWTI offers students a variety of diploma, certificate, and apprenticeship programs. They are affordable and take the FAFSA, making them an excellent option.

Many programs take just 6-18 months to complete.

NWTI TO DO LIST

- ✓ Select program(s) you want to apply for
- ✓ Schedule an appointment with [Shay Lastra](#)
- ✓ Complete the [application for enrollment](#) (\$10 application fee).
- ✓ Submit transcripts
- ✓ Submit [ACT](#) or [Accuplacer](#) scores
- ✓ Submit your [FAFSA](#)
- ✓ Apply for [NWTI scholarships](#)
- ✓ Complete enrollment

LEAP PROGRAM

LATINO
EDUCATIONAL
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM
[APPLY HERE](#)

ACT SCORES REQUIRED FOR ADMISSIONS

ENGLISH: 10
MATH: 16

ACCUPLACER SCORES REQUIRED FOR ADMISSIONS

READING COMPREHENSION: 224
ARITHMETIC: 222

*For Allied Health
programs*

READING COMPREHENSION: 263
ARITHMETIC: 249

NWTI COMMERCIAL DRIVER TRAINING ACADEMY

Earn your CDL through NWTI's
4-week training

CONTACT NWTI FOR INFORMATION



DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

Allied Health (6 programs)

- ✓ CNA
- ✓ Practical Nursing
- ✓ Surgical Technology
- ✓ *and more*

Automotive Service
Electronics
HVAC

Industrial Electrician
Industrial Maintenance
Information Systems
Medium/Heavy Truck
Welding
and more

Northwest Technical Institute

rethink education

ARKANSAS COLLEGE LINKS



ARKANSAS ELITE



WELDING ACADEMY



Northwest Technical Institute
rethink education



Baptist Health College
Little Rock

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

There are 4 main types of financial aid: scholarships, grants, work study, and loans.

[Finaid](#) is a free resource for information about all four kinds of financial aid. Filling out the FAFSA is a must.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are gift aid awarded to students based on merit (outstanding academic achievements, talents, or skills), or because they have met requirements set by (or have been selected by) the sponsor of the scholarship. May be need-based (based on financial need).

A full scholarship covers all expenses, while a partial one covers some expenses. Scholarships can be national, state, university, or local. They may be a one-time reward or renewable.

Scholarships do not have to be paid back.

Apply for: university, state, local, then national.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH ENGINES

[Scholarships.com](#)

[Fastweb](#)

[Cappex](#)

[College Board Big Future](#)

[Niche](#)

[Peterson's](#)

[Unigo](#)

[Chegg](#)

[Sallie Mae](#)

[Going Merry](#)

GRANTS

- Grants are typically gift aid. Usually, grants are need-based. The main differences between a grant & a scholarship are where the funds come from, eligibility criteria, and the application process.
- Grant funding primarily comes from the federal & state government.
- Grants may be competitive or may be on a first come, first served basis until funding runs out.
- While most grants are gift aid, there are some that need to be paid back if certain criteria are not met.
- An example of a well-known grant is the Pell Grant.

Get more information about grants [here](#).

WORK-STUDY

Federal Work-Study is a way for students to earn money to pay for school through part-time jobs that are usually on campus (but sometimes off campus). Not every school participates in Federal Work-Study, and funds are limited.

Filling out the FAFSA early is important.

- Qualifying for work study doesn't guarantee you will get a job.
- Work-Study is need-based.
- Hours & pay may vary.
- Unlike grants & scholarships, work-study is intended to help pay for living expenses, not large expenses like housing & tuition.
- Work-study is not guaranteed from year-to-year.

Get more information about Federal Work-Study [here](#).

LOANS

Loans are a very common type of financial aid. Loans are not free and do need to be repaid with interest.

- Usually have fewer requirements to qualify and are in greater supply, so they are accessible to a broader range of people.
- Used to cover the expenses that other forms of aid and your savings don't cover.
- Federal student loans aren't due until after you graduate, leave school, or change your status to less than half-time.
- Private loans usually have higher interest and payments may be due while you are still in school.
- Federal student loans may be subsidized or unsubsidized.

SUBSIDIZED – Financial need, Govt pays part of interest.

UNSUBSIDIZED – No financial need, you pay all interest.

Get more information about loans [here](#).

ADDITIONAL INFO

APPLICATION FEES

Most colleges will charge you a fee to apply. Use a fee waiver if you qualify.

Look for free application events (usually a weekend) or other incentives

that waive application fees.

Narrow your application list to save money!

FEE WAIVERS

In addition to testing fee waivers, students who receive Federal Free or Reduced Lunch can also qualify for application fee waivers. The Common App and some colleges allow you to request an application fee waiver online. Your Counselor can also submit a form to the college for you. Be sure to ask us for fee waivers.

SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR \$\$\$\$

Check in frequently with Ms. Matkowski, RHS Scholarship Coordinator. She will help you stay on track with your scholarship applications.

Be sure you are on her REMIND so that you don't miss important scholarship information.

[START HERE FOR LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

ARKANSAS DEPT OF HIGHER EDUCATION (ADHE) SCHOLARSHIPS

ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP

Do you have a 19 Composite on your ACT or a 246 on the Accuplacer? If so, you qualify for the Arkansas Challenge Scholarship, also known as the Lottery Scholarship. You can apply for this as soon as you complete \$14,000.

your FAFSA. Worth

Must use the money at an Arkansas school.

**1st year of college: \$1000
2nd year of college: \$4000
3rd year of college: \$4000
4th year of college: \$5000
2-year colleges: 1st year - \$1000, 2nd year - \$3000**

GOVERNOR'S DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP

Up to \$10,000 year, academically rigorous

ARKANSAS WORKFORCE CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP

Financial assistance for trade certification programs in high demand areas

ARKANSAS CONCURRENT CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP

Financial assistance for ECE courses taken in high school.

COLLEGE COST ESTIMATOR WEBSITES

Concerned about college costs? These sites can help.

Have Free/Reduced Lunch?
Ask us for College Application Fee Waivers and apply for free!

[U.S. Department of Education](#)
College Affordability & Transparency Center

[Federal Student Aid Estimator](#)
Estimate of what financial aid you
may be eligible for

[MyinTuition](#)
Quick college cost estimator

[MyinTuition](#)
Video: How to use the site

[Finaid](#) is a free resource for all kinds of financial aid information.

Scholarship sites such as [Scholarships.com](#), [Fastweb](#), [Cappex](#), [Niche](#),
[Peterson's](#), [Unigo](#), [Chegg](#), & [Finaid](#) can help you find \$\$!

NET PRICE CALCULATOR

Use the U.S. Department of Education's Net Price Calculator to help you determine what your college costs will be.

What does Net Price mean?

Net Price is the amount that a student pays to attend an institution in a single academic year AFTER subtracting scholarships and grants the student receives. Scholarships and grants are forms of financial aid that a student does not have to pay back.

What is a Net Price Calculator?

Net price calculators are available on a college's or university's website and allow prospective students to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

COLLEGE COST COMPARISON

It is important to compare costs when choosing the place to continue your education. Use this template to compare tuition, fees, and your financial aid sources before making a final decision.

	School A	School B	School C
School Name			
	Estimated Direct Costs		
Tuition and Fees			
Housing			
Meal Plan			
Books			
Other			
Total Estimated Direct Costs			
	Estimated Financial Aid		
Grants & Scholarships			
Federal Pell Grant			
Federal SEOG Grant			
Federal TEACH Grant			
Arkansas Academic Challenge			
Other State Aid			
College / University Scholarship(s)			
Private Scholarship(s)			
Veterans Educational Benefits			
Employment			
Work Study			
Loans			
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan			
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan			
Federal Direct Plus Loan			
Private Loan			
Other			
Total Estimated Financial Aid			
	Estimated Out-of-Pocket Cost		
Total Estimated Direct Costs			
subtract Estimated Financial Aid			
Total Out-of-Pocket Cost			

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

When considering options to pay for school, remember:
Free money 1st, your money 2nd, and their money 3rd.

1

FREE MONEY

Scholarships & Grants

TYPES & TIPS

Non-conditional Scholarship / Grant

Free money without any requirements. Typically grants are need-based while scholarships are merit-based but scholarships may also be need-based.

Conditional Scholarship / Grant

Scholarships or grants with conditions you must meet, or you will lose the aid and possibly owe money back. Check if your assistance has any requirements and if there are penalties for not meeting those conditions.

2

YOUR MONEY

Savings, Work Study, or a Job

TYPES & TIPS

Savings

Common college savings accounts like 529s and general savings accounts. Use the most restrictive accounts first.

Federal Work Study

Offered as part of your federal financial aid, work study provides part-time jobs for students with financial needs.

Job

If working while in school, make sure you find a job that you can balance with your workload and your courses.

3

THEIR MONEY

Federal & Private Student Loans

TYPES & TIPS

Federal Student Loans

Types of federal loans include:

- Direct Subsidized Loans (financial need)
- Direct Unsubsidized Loans (no financial need)
- Direct Parent Plus Loans

Private Student Loans

Private student loans can have high variable interest rates and are not required to offer the same repayment benefits as federal student loans. Private loans generally cost more and typically require a credit check.

\$ FAFSA \$

What is it, and why do I need to complete it?

F - Free

A - Application for

F - Federal

S - Student

A - Aid

File your 2024-25 FAFSA

Opens December, 2023

**GET YOUR FSA ID
TODAY!**

TOP REASONS TO FILE EARLY

- Receive early award notifications
- Compare college costs earlier
- Some financial aid runs out
- More likely to qualify for grants





FAFSA TIPS



<https://fafsa.gov/>

- The [FAFSA](#) opens in December this year. File yours as soon as you can!
- You now have the option of using the mobile-friendly [fafsa.gov](#) website or the new app.
- Be sure you are working on the FAFSA for the 2024-25 school year.
- Create your [FSA ID](#) now. You need one & a parent needs one.

- <https://studentaid.gov>

- Use your 2022 tax return for your FAFSA.

- **Never pay. Filing is free!**

- Use the IRS DRT (IRS Data Retrieval Tool) to make the process faster and easier.
- Use [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#) for an estimation of your eligibility for financial aid.

7 things you need before filing:

- FSA ID (for you & a parent)
 - Social security number / card
 - Driver's License number (if you have one)
 - 2022 federal tax returns & W-2s
 - Records of untaxed income if applicable: child support, interest income, etc.
 - Records of assets (money): bank account balances, stocks & bonds, real estate (other than your home), current business and investment records, etc.
 - List of schools you are interested in attending. You can list up to 10!
- Once your application has been processed, you will receive a copy of your **SAR** (Student Aid Report).
 - Your SAR will include your **SAI** (Student Aid Index).
 - Your SAR will be sent to colleges you list. Schools use your SAR to determine what types and amounts of aid you may receive.

CSS PROFILE

This is a separate financial aid application required by some colleges (usually private schools). No Arkansas schools require the CSS Profile, but schools in other states may, as well as some scholarships. The CSS Profile allows you to provide more detailed financial information than the FAFSA. The CSS is not free. It costs \$25 to send to the first school and \$16 for each additional school, but some students will qualify for a fee waiver.

Don't fill this out unless your college requires it.

Contact the college to see what your next steps are.

FAFSA ASSISTANCE

If you have questions about your FAFSA or need to make corrections, first try to find the answers online. Many things can be edited online, and many questions can be answered by searching the FAQs.

*Often, your college's financial aid office can assist you as well.
If you need to contact FAFSA, use the information below.*

[Contact Us | Federal Student Aid](#)

LIVE CHAT: You can communicate using your computer or phone during operating hours.

PHONE: Call 1-800-433-3243 and follow the prompts.

Hearing Impaired? TTY calls only. 1-800-730-8913

EMAIL: Only for generic questions. For specific questions about your account, you must call or chat. FederalStudentAidCustomerService@ed.gov

YouTube: FAFSA videos from the U.S. Department of Education include a FAFSA overview and how to complete the FAFSA.

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday – 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Time

Saturday – Sunday – 11a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time

- *Closed on federal holidays, the day after Thanksgiving, and on December 24th.*
- *Open 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Presidents' Day.*

FAFSA INFO

[FAFSA CHANGES](#)

[FAFSA FAQs \(new FAFSA\)](#)

[CREATE AN ACCOUNT \(FSA ID\)](#)

[AM I DEPENDENT OR INDEPENDENT FOR THE FAFSA?](#)

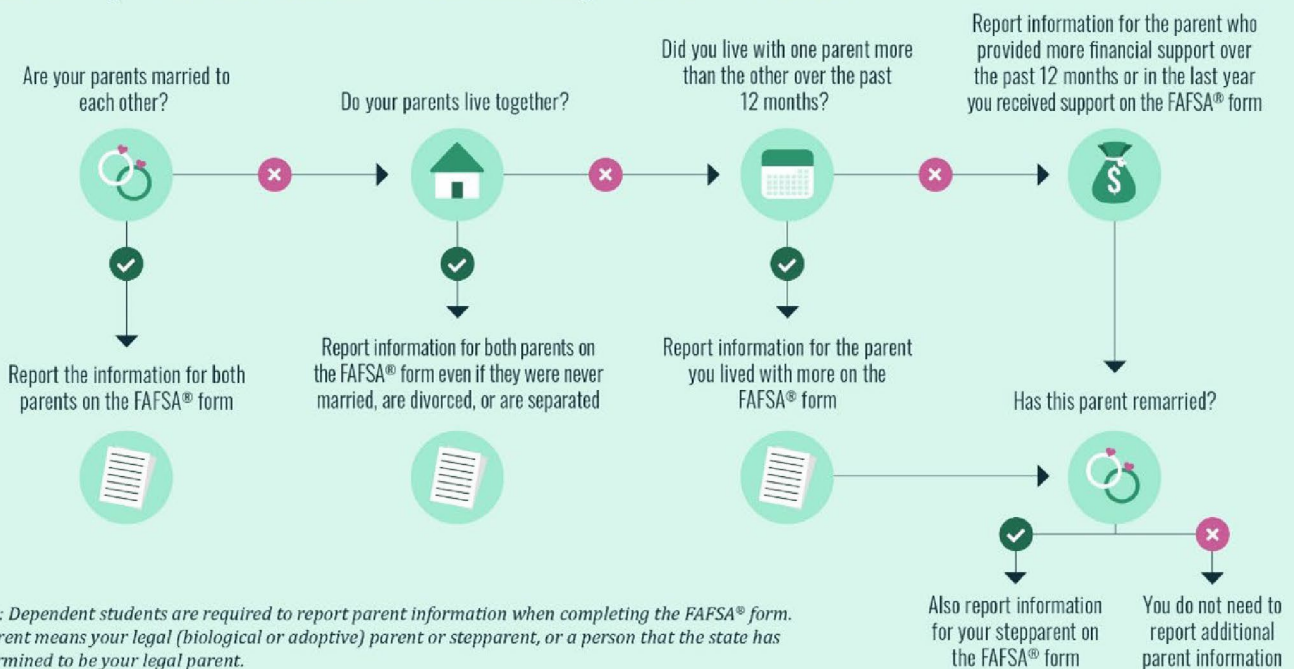
[WHO'S MY PARENT WHEN I FILL OUT THE FAFSA?](#)

[PARENT & DEPENDENCY GRAPHIC](#)

There will be some changes in this area on the new FAFSA.

Who's My Parent When I Fill Out My FAFSA® Form?

Federal Student Aid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



FINANCIAL AID and UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Questions & Answers

Federal Student Aid

Financial Aid and Undocumented Students

Questions and Answers

The questions and answers that follow provide information about student financial aid for undocumented students as well as guidance for a specific group of undocumented students who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). We have grouped the questions and answers into two categories: "Eligibility for Financial Aid" and "Completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) Form."

Eligibility for Financial Aid

1. As an undocumented or DACA student, am I eligible for federal student aid?

No. Undocumented students, including DACA students, are not eligible for federal student aid. However, you may be eligible for state or college financial aid, in addition to private scholarships.

2. As an undocumented or DACA student, am I eligible for in-state tuition?

It depends. In some states, undocumented students, or specifically DACA students, are eligible to receive in-state tuition. Please check with your high school or your college or career school's financial aid office.

Completing the FAFSA® Form

1. How do I apply for state and college financial aid?

Most states and colleges use information collected on the FAFSA form to determine whether you're eligible for aid. However, we first recommend that you check with your high school counselor or your college or career school's financial aid office to see what types of financial aid you may be eligible to receive and whether completing the FAFSA form is required to apply for that aid.

2. To complete the FAFSA® form, do I need a Social Security number (SSN)?

Yes. An SSN is necessary to complete the FAFSA form. If you are completing a FAFSA form online at fafsa.gov, an SSN is also required to create an account username and password called the FSA ID, which can be used to electronically sign the FAFSA form.

Most undocumented students aren't eligible for an SSN; thus, they cannot complete the FAFSA form. However, DACA students with SSNs can complete the FAFSA form. For information about obtaining an SSN, visit ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10009.pdf.

If your FAFSA form is rejected due to an issue with your SSN, contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing 1-800-325-0778).

Note: The remainder of the questions and answers in this document focus on completing the FAFSA® form, so the guidance applies only to DACA students with SSNs—not to all undocumented students.

3. Does my parents' citizenship status affect my eligibility for federal student aid?

No. Your parents' citizenship status doesn't affect your eligibility for federal student aid. In fact, the FAFSA form doesn't even ask about your parents' status.

4. In order for me to complete the FAFSA® form, do my parents need SSNs?

No. Since your parents' citizenship doesn't affect your ability to complete the FAFSA form, they don't need SSNs. If your parents don't have SSNs, they must enter 000-00-0000 when the FAFSA form asks for their SSNs.

If your parents don't have SSNs, they won't be able to create FSA IDs and therefore won't be able to sign your FAFSA form electronically. You'll have to print out the signature page from the online FAFSA form so that your parents can sign it and mail it to the address indicated.

5. On the FAFSA® form, how do I answer the question that reads, "Are you a U.S. citizen?"

DACA students must answer that question by selecting the option "No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen."

6. On the FAFSA® form, how do I answer the question that reads, "What is your state of legal residence?"

The state of legal residence is the state where you reside. The fact that you are a DACA student doesn't affect how you should answer this question for purposes of completing the FAFSA form. Note that each state determines legal residency differently, usually requiring a residence of five years or more. You should contact your high school counselor or college or career school's financial aid office for assistance with state of legal residence qualifications.

7. On the FAFSA® form, how do I answer the question that reads, "What is your parents' state of legal residence?"

Your parents' answer should reflect where they reside. Again, because each state determines legal residency differently, you should contact your high school counselor or college or career school's financial aid office for more assistance.

8. On the FAFSA® form, how do I submit my tax information?

If you are completing the FAFSA form online at fafsa.gov and you filed your income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), you may be able to access your tax information through the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT). If you didn't file an income tax return with the IRS, enter the requested financial information manually on the FAFSA website. If completing the FAFSA form on paper, follow the instructions that detail how to answer the financial information questions.

9. On the FAFSA® form, how do my parents submit their tax information?

If you are completing the FAFSA form online at fafsa.gov and your parents filed their income tax returns with the IRS and they meet certain requirements such as having SSNs, they may be able to access their tax information through the IRS DRT. If your parents didn't file their income tax returns with the IRS, you can enter the requested information manually on the FAFSA website. If completing the FAFSA form on paper, follow the instructions that detail how to answer the parental financial information questions.

For more information about the DACA program, visit uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-of-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-daca.

For more information about federal student aid and the FAFSA® form, visit StudentAid.gov or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

June 2022

*This form is also in Google Classroom (printable & typable).

Recommendation Request

- Request your letter of recommendation (LOR) two weeks in advance of the due date (by December 1st for January due dates).
- You are responsible for providing addresses, due dates, and other information regarding your recommendation request.
- Your recommendation is intended to be confidential and candid.
- If the recommendation needs to be mailed, provide a stamped, addressed envelope.
- If mailing, know the difference between a "received by" and a "postmarked by" deadline.

Name: _____ ID: _____ Date requested: _____

Email address: _____ Cell number: _____

Recommendation for: ☐ College application ☐ Scholarship application ☐ Job application Other _____

LOR delivery method: ☐ Upload ☐ Email ☐ Mail (these are preferred methods) ☐ Pick up (will be sealed)

Submit recommendation to: _____ Common App _____ Coalition App Other _____

Date needed / deadline: _____ I understand that my recommendation is confidential. Initial here: _____

ACT Score: Composite _____ Superscore _____ Are you testing again? _____

GPA: _____ Colleges I am applying to: _____

College major / future career: _____

Reason for interest in this major / career: _____

Family data / history that is relevant: _____

Academic strengths: _____

Honors received: _____

Personal strengths: _____

Community involvement: _____

Work experience: _____

Interests and hobbies: _____

High School Activities (indicate leadership positions held if applicable):

Most meaningful / fun activity and why? _____

Does your transcript reflect your abilities? Why/why not? _____

Something unique or special about me: _____

Something funny or quirky about me: _____

People say I am: _____

I want you to know that: _____

I will be an asset to my future college because: _____

Six adjectives describing me:		
Teachers who can be contacted for further input:		

Life goals: _____

Who is your role model and why?	
What do you do in the summer?	
Best compliment you have received?	
2 things you admire in others?	
If you could do anything?	
If you could go anywhere?	
Who would play you in a movie?	
Your superpower would be? Why?	
As a kid you wanted to be?	
Favorite quote or saying?	
Most prized possession?	
Best advice you've received?	
What do you really dislike?	
Favorite book or movie & why?	
Favorite thing about school?	
Least favorite thing about school?	
What are you looking forward to?	

What else would you like for a college, scholarship committee, etc. to know?

All students must fill this form out giving permission for us to send school records.

Over 18? Sign it yourself. Under 18? Get a parent signature.

This form is available in English, Spanish, and Marshallese in Google Classroom and in the Counseling Center.

Records Release Form

Rogers High School

2300 S. Dixieland Road, Rogers, Arkansas 72758 · Phone: 479-636-2202 · Fax: 479-337-8302

Lisa Williams, Principal
Ronnie Delk, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal
James Rappe, Assistant Principal

Sarah Raymond, Assistant Principal
Lynsey Reynolds, Assistant Principal
Tricia Tice, Assistant Principal

RECORDS RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

NAME: _____ ID: _____

GRADUATION YEAR: _____ DOB: _____

Records Release Authorization (as required by Public Law 93-380)

Parent or Guardian printed name: _____

I hereby authorize Rogers High School to release the transcript (official or unofficial) or other documents as requested including, but not limited to, grades, test scores, immunizations and identifying data as shown on the permanent records of the student named above.

A transcript may also be provided to me or my student upon request. All records released to students and parents/guardians are considered unofficial.

This records release is valid through the student's graduation date unless it is revoked.

By signing this form, I certify that I am authorized to request these records and that the information provided is accurate.

IF STUDENT IS 18 OR OVER:

Student Signature

Date

IF STUDENT IS NOT 18:

Parent Signature

Date



Glass OF 2024

This is your year!

