



CHENEY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PACKET

2022-2023

CHENEY HIGH SCHOOL
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CHENEY, WA 99004
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Counselors

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Senior Timeline

September

- Register for the SAT and/or ACT if you haven't taken one yet or want to better your scores. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require (ex: SAT Subject Tests) (if offered).
- Look at college or trade school applications and gather all of the information you will need.
- Keep a folder or binder of all your passwords, logins, scholarships you applied to, applications, etc. so you can refer back to them when needed. You can also create a Google sheet
- Check your credits with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate.
- Take every opportunity to get to know colleges, trade programs, military options: meet with college/trade/military reps, attend college and career fairs, visit campuses.
- Narrow down your list of colleges/programs to "safe," "realistic," and "reach" schools.
- Create your FAFSA ID at <http://studentaid.gov/fsa-id> at least a few days before you plan on filing your FAFSA. Be sure to use your commonly used personal email when creating your ID and write it down!
- Create a checklist of:
 - Test Dates, registration deadlines, and fees
 - College application due dates
 - Financial aid application forms and deadlines
 - Other materials you'll need for college applications (recommendations, transcripts, essays, etc.)

October

- Well before your application deadlines; ask for teachers, registrars, and counselors to submit transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- Make sure you fill out the Personal Data Form on the CHS Counseling website
- Fill out the FAFSA, which opens Oct. 1st. You will need the ID you created earlier!
- Check your deadlines and make sure you are meeting

them. Look at each college's/program's webpage for application deadlines.

- Talk with your counselor if you feel like you qualify for college fee waivers.
- Finalize your college essays, personal statements, and any resumes.
- Research scholarship opportunities. (You should **NEVER** pay for scholarship information.)

November

- Finalize and send any early decision or early action applications normally due this month. Have a parent, teacher, counselor, or other adult review the application before it is submitted.
- Make sure you request your transcript in advanced through Schoolinks
- Make sure your SAT or ACT scores have been sent to the schools of your choice.
- After finishing applications continue applying for scholarships. Create a free account at these websites to see scholarships available to you:
 - Thewashboard.org
 - Fastweb.com
 - www.cappex.com/scholarships/
 - Bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
 - wsac.wa.gov

December

- Begin to organize your regular decision applications and financial aid forms, which will be due in January or February (Check the college for deadlines).
- Make sure you have asked for all your letters of recommendation at the beginning of this month. Don't expect people to write them over winter break.

January

- Keep track and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork. Make sure you are meeting all of your deadlines.
- Send first semester transcripts to schools where you applied.
- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) by logging in to your FAFSA and making sure the information is correct.

February/March/April

- While most of your applications will be complete and you are waiting to receive admission decisions, don't slack in the classroom. The college that you do attend will want to see your second semester transcript. **NO SENIORITIS!!!**
- Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid award packages, visit your final choices, especially if you haven't already.

May

- May 1st is usually the date when the college you plan to attend requires a commitment and deposit. When you've made your college decision, notify your counselor and colleges. Send in your deposit by the postmark date of May 1st. If you've been offered financial aid, accept the offer and follow the instructions given. Also notify schools you will not attend of your decision.
- Make sure you have requested through Parchment your final transcript be sent to the school you will be attending.
- If you are "wait-listed" by a college you really want to attend, visit, call and write the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.
- Sign-up for your college's orientation.

June

- Finish strong!!!
- Enjoy your summer and stay sharp for any post high school plans come fall!

SAT vs ACT Information

	SAT	ACT
Why Take It	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.	Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
Test Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing & Language • Math • Essay (Optional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Math • Reading • Science Reasoning • Essay (Optional)
Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 hours (without essay) • 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) • 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)
Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arithmetic • Algebra I & II • Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis 	Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arithmetic • Algebra I & II • Geometry and Trigonometry
Calculator Policy	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.	You can use a calculator on all math questions.
Essays	Optional. The essay will test your comprehension of a source text.	Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
How It's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400–1600	Scored on a scale of 1–36

CHENY HIGH SCHOOL CEEB code is 480185

SAT & ACT Registration

SAT Dates 2021-2022

Test Dates	Regular Registration	Late Registration
November 5, 2022	October 7, 2022	October 22, 2022
December 3, 2022	November 3, 2022	November 19, 2022
March 11, 2023	February 10, 2023	February 25, 2023
May 6, 2023	April 7, 2023	April 22, 2023
June 3, 2023	May 4, 2023	May 20, 2023

Test Fee:

SAT	\$60.00
Late Fee	\$30.00

Registration Information:

Online at: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

- You must have a valid credit card to register online. Check with your counselor if you feel you qualify for a fee waiver.

Students should have their scores sent to their top 4 universities when registering for the SAT. It is free to send your scores to a college this way. It will cost you to send your scores after you have taken your test.

ACT Dates 2021-2022

Test Dates	Regular Registration	Late Registration
October 22, 2022	September 16, 2022	September 30, 2022
December 10, 2022	November 4, 2022	November 11, 2022
February 11, 2023	January 6, 2023	January 20, 2022
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023	March 24, 2023
June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 19, 2023
July 15, 2023	June 16, 2023	June 23, 2023

Test Fee:

ACT	\$63.00
ACT with writing	\$88.00
*Late Fee	\$36.00

Registration Information:

Online at: <http://www.act.org/>

- You must also upload a photo ID online. The deadline is one week after the last day of the late registration.
- You must use a valid credit card to register online. Check with your counselor if you feel you qualify for a fee waiver.

Students should have their scores sent to their top 4 universities when registering for the ACT. It is free to send your scores to a college this way. It will cost you to send your scores after you have taken your test.

Choosing the Right College

Choosing the right college can be a daunting task, but it does not have to be a seemingly impossible one. Here are a few things to consider that will help make your choice easier.

Location:

Climate and distance from home can be huge considerations, but we urge you to think more broadly. For instance, colleges seeking geographic diversity may give an out-of-state student a competitive edge in the admission and financial aid process.

Check the WUE: <http://wiche.edu/wue>

Size:

There are pros and cons for both small and large colleges. It is important for students to consider what environment they would be most successful in. Small vs. large class sizes, university athletics/clubs available, student support resources like tutors, multicultural resources, etc. are all things to look into for each school. Students should ask themselves if they will feel overwhelmed or challenged by a large university atmosphere. Would a small school make them feel claustrophobic or supported?

Academic Offerings:

Many students clamor for big-name schools – the Ivy League or UW for instance – without knowing what their academic strengths are. We suggest that students with an interest in a particular field of study use websites like <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/> or <https://www.cappex.com/>. Students are also encouraged to speak with professionals in their field of interest and their school's available counselors.

Character:

Ultimately, the school has to feel right to the student – not to his or her family, best friend or counselor. What atmosphere best suits the student? Intellectual? Preppy? Nonconformist? Experimental? Steeped in history? Religious? Are clubs important? Are athletics important? Are you interested in the Greek system? College visits should happen early in the fall, as many schools desire applications in November. Some schools even offer scholarships just for registering and attending one of their college visit days!!!

Cost:

In researching the different colleges or programs, be sure to note the different scholarships and types of aid the schools can offer. Do not overlook private schools entirely because there is often a good amount of aid available to accepted students since they know the price tag is high. Most colleges offer financial aid after you complete and submit the FAFSA or WASFA (undocumented students). The amount of aid schools can offer you is usually known in early spring. After you apply and once you have received your financial aid offer, compare them to other university offers and make sure it fits with what you are ok with spending. Consider this: How much will you have to pay out of pocket? Are you ok with taking out loans? How much in loans are you comfortable taking out? How much is your family expected to contribute after you get your financial aid package.

Resources to help your research:

- Big Future: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- Federal Student Aid Office <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>

Financial Aid

Financial aid is money to help pay for college. It comes from the federal and state governments, colleges and universities, banks, and organizations. Applying for financial aid is a separate process from applying for admission to a college. You have to do both. To receive financial aid, you must apply for it using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA (www.fafsa.gov) or the Washington Application for State Financial Aid or WASFA (<http://readysetgrad.org/wasfa>). Colleges use the results of the FAFSA or WASFA to create a financial aid package. There are dozens of College Goal Washington events throughout the state in October and November if you need help filing your financial aid application.

State Financial Aid for DREAMers

Eligibility for several Washington State financial aid programs has expanded to include students who are ineligible for federal financial aid due to immigration status. Students who meet individual program, income, or residency requirements for the Washington College Grant, the College Bound Scholarship, State Work Study, or Passport to College Promise Scholarship should complete the free WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) to apply for state financial aid. For more information, please go to <http://wasfa.wa.gov/wasfa>.

The FAFSA requires students to have a valid Social Security Number. U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals, U.S. permanent residents (those with a green card), and some non-residents can file the FAFSA. Please check the Federal Student Aid website (studentaid.gov) to see if you are eligible. Students granted refugee statuses are eligible to file the FAFSA. The WASFA is for non-citizen students who do not fall into any of the above referenced non-citizen categories.

Qualifying for Aid

Need-based financial aid programs are designed with the assumption that students and parents have a responsibility to pay a share of educational costs. The amount you and your family are expected to pay will vary based on factors like:

- Income
- Assets
- The number of children in the family
- The number of children attending college

The process for determining your eligibility for financial aid establishes what you and your family can reasonably be expected to pay. This is called your **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** and is used to identify your financial need.

CALCULATING YOUR FINANCIAL NEED

Cost of Attendance (COA) – Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = Financial Need

Federal and state need-based financial aid is only offered if your **EFC** is not enough to cover the cost of attending a particular school. Although your Expected Family Contribution will stay the same, your financial aid eligibility may increase when you apply to higher-priced colleges.

How to Apply for Financial Aid

To qualify for financial aid, you must apply. The most important application is the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid. All federal financial aid programs, most programs offered by Washington State, and many programs offered by colleges require you to complete and submit the FAFSA. *If you do not have a Social Security Number, you should complete the WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) instead of the FAFSA.* You should aim to complete the FAFSA or WASFA as close to **October 1** as possible. **Financial aid dollars are limited and are often awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Important FAFSA facts

- Make sure you visit the official FAFSA webpage at <http://studentaid.gov/>. It is **FREE** to file the FAFSA! Be cautious of websites requesting you to pay a fee.
- At studentaid.gov, you can complete, submit, and track your application. There is also an online chat function to answer any questions students or parents might have. However, if you do not have Internet access, you can get a paper copy by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (433-3243).
- For instructions on how to complete the FAFSA correctly, visit <http://fsapartners.ed.gov>
- You will need to fill out the FAFSA to qualify for the Federal Pell Grant program. Pell Grants are need-based grants given to help meet the cost of college.
- You must file the FAFSA for every year you attend school. For example, if you are currently a college freshman, you should complete the 2022-2023 FAFSA to receive aid for your sophomore year.

Important WASFA facts

- Make sure you visit the official WASFA webpage at <http://wsac.gov/wasfa>. It is **FREE** to file the WASFA!
- You will need to fill out the WASFA to qualify for the State Need Grant.
- Whether you are planning to attend college for the first time or as a returning student during the 2022-2023 academic year, complete the 2022-2023 WASFA.
- You must file the WASFA every year you attend school. For example, if you are currently a college freshman, you should complete the 2022-2023 WASFA to receive aid for your sophomore year.

Types of Aid

Very few students get all of their financial aid for college from one source. When you are searching for financial aid, consider a wide variety of options and apply to as many programs as possible.

Grants

Grants do not have to be repaid *if you successfully complete the courses in which you were enrolled*. They are given to the students who have high financial need. Most grants come from the federal and state governments.

Scholarships

Scholarships do not have to be repaid *provided that you successfully complete your coursework*. They are awarded for good grades, cultural or religious background, sports and special talents. Most scholarships come from organizations and colleges.

Work Study

Work study helps you to earn money to pay for your education by working a part-time job offered through the college. There are federal, state, and institutional work study programs

Loans

Loans for students have lower interest rates than most other types of loans. Unlike grants or scholarships, loans must be repaid with interest when you finish college, *even if you do not graduate*. Student loans are offered through banks, colleges, and other institutions.

Scholarships

TheWashBoard.org

The Washboard is a free website for Washington students attending college both within and outside of Washington. It helps students quickly identify scholarships for which they are eligible by showing only those scholarship opportunities that match their personal profile data. Students' private information is kept confidential.

Scholarships listed on <http://thewashboard.org> are diverse and support a wide variety of student interests and accomplishments.

- One-third of listed scholarships require a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- More than half of scholarships are not based on financial need.

College Bound Scholarship

Established by the Legislature in 2007, the College Bound Scholarship program provides financial assistance to low-income students who want to achieve the dream of a college education. This early promise of financial aid is intended to alleviate the financial barriers that prevent low-income students from considering higher education as a possibility. Students would have signed up for this during their 7th or 8th grade year. The scholarship covers tuition (at comparable public colleges), some fees, and a small book allowance.

Before you begin...

For FAFSA Filing:

- You can save time by using the **IRS Data Retrieval Tool**, which automatically takes information from your tax return and fills in required information on the FAFSA form.
- **Create your FSA ID.** This is a username and password and allows you to gain entry to certain U.S. Department of Education websites. This FSA ID also acts as your online signature, which will allow you to submit your FAFSA digitally once you have completed it online. This ID will also allow you to check the status of your FAFSA later and to file again for next year. **You can create your FSA ID by going to fsaid.ed.gov.**

For WASFA Filing:

- Before getting started, review the WASFA instructions at <http://wasfa.wa.gov/wasfa> and gather any documents or other information you may need.

STEPS TO FILE A FAFSA

www.fafsa.gov

Step 1: Get your FSA ID

- You can create your FSA ID now at fsaid.ed.gov. If you do not have one when you start your FAFSA, you will be prompted to apply for one.
- Note: You and your parents will need a separate FSA ID number to electronically send your FAFSA. This ID should be different from your FAFSA login. (Put this number safe somewhere as you will use it every year when you fill out FAFSA)
- You will need the following:
 - Email address
 - Social Security Number (both student and parents)
 - Full name as seen on your Social Security Card (both student and parents)
 - Date of Birth
 - Mailing Address
 - Phone Number
 - You will be asked to provide answers to five challenge questions for security purposes
- **Feel free to use the “Steps to Create an FSA ID” handout at the bottom of these steps to stay organized and track your information.**

Step 2: Gather Documents

- You will need the following documents to complete the FAFSA:
 - Driver’s License
 - Alien Registration Number if you are not a US citizen
 - Federal tax information (2021 IRS 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ) including W-2 information
 - Last pay stub for 2021 (for each parent and yourself if you work)
 - Records of untaxed income such as child support received, interest income, and veteran’s non-education benefits
 - Information on checking and savings accounts, investments, and real estate (excluding your home)

Step 3: Fill out FAFSA (Free)

- On or after October 1st, go to www.FAFSA.gov to fill out your form.
- Save as you go along.
- If you get stuck, seek help. Contact FAFSA or the office of financial aid at the college you plan to attend.
- Sign (enter ID number) and Submit your FAFSA.
- If you have successfully submitted the form, there will be a confirmation page and a confirmation email will be sent to the email you provided.
- Make sure that you put the college codes on your FAFSA so that the information will be sent to each college that you have or will apply to. That way they can get your financial aid package started.

Step 4: Transfer Tax Information

On the FAFSA website, find the IRS DRT (Data Retrieval Tool) link to connect to the IRS website. You must approve your tax information being transferred to your FAFSA form. If you do not use the IRS Retrieval Tool, you may get called for “verification”. You would have to contact the IRS to order a 2021 IRS Transcript and send it to your colleges’ financial aid office before they will compile your financial aid package. Note: If your family mails a paper copy of their tax return, you may update your FAFSA information by mail.

Step 5: Review SAR information

Approximately 3 weeks after you submit your FAFSA, you will receive a SAR (Student Aid Report). Review the information for accuracy. This is the information that your colleges will receive.

Step 6: Check College Status

At the colleges you have applied to, check online or call the financial aid office to confirm that they have received your FAFSA information. Sometimes the college may want additional information. It is good to check your application status weekly.

Step 7: Review Financial Aid Letters

- Once your college has received your SAR, they will send you a Financial Aid Letter. Depending on the college, you may receive this as a paper letter, an email, or on the school website.
- The Financial Aid Letter will help you decide about which college to attend. The letter may include:
 - Grants: Money that does not need to be paid back.
 - Scholarships: Money that does not need to be paid back.
 - Work Study: The opportunity to work to earn money for expenses.
 - Loans: Money that must be paid back after you graduate.
 - Family Contribution: This number is not a bill. This number reflects what you may have to pay for various expenses during your year at the college. Outside of tuition, fees, books, room, and board, your expenses will be dependent on your own needs and lifestyle.

Step 8: Acceptance of Financial Aid

Once you have chosen a college, you will need to respond to the financial aid offer. You may accept all that is being offered, part of what is being offered, or none of what is being offered.

Note: If your financial circumstances change at any time, let the colleges financial aid department know. An example of a change in financial circumstance is that one of your parents loses their job.

Steps to Create an FSA ID

1. Go to **fsaid.ed.gov** or, if you are ready to begin your FAFSA, start at **FAFSA.gov** and click on the *Create an FSA ID* link.
2. Create a username and password, and enter your email address.
3. Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information, and challenge questions and answers.
4. Review your information, and read and accept the terms and conditions.
5. Confirm your e-mail address using the secure code, which will be sent to the e-mail address you entered when you created your FSA ID. You can use your FSA ID immediately to file and sign the FAFSA even if you aren't able to confirm your email with the secure code.

Each student needs an FSA ID. If parent information is required on the FAFSA, one parent will also need an FSA ID to sign the student's FAFSA. Each student and parent must create their FSA ID separately at fsaid.ed.gov.

Tips to Remember When Creating an FSA ID

Be sure to enter your information accurately.

Your information will be verified by the Social Security Administration and making a mistake, especially with your social security number, birthdate, or name, will cause delays.

Keep in mind that an email address can only be associated with one FSA ID.

Students and parents cannot use the same email address.

If you have an email other than your high school email address, use that alternate email. You may even want to create one especially for financial aid and college application purposes.

Your high school email access will likely expire after you graduate. You will need to use your FSA ID for years to come so link it to an email address that you will continue to use.

It is important to have access to your email when creating your FSA ID.

A secure code will be sent to your email that you will need to retrieve when creating your FSA ID. Entering this secure code will confirm your email address, which is very important if you forget your username or password, and it will allow Federal Student Aid to communicate with you electronically.

Your FSA ID can be used immediately to access and sign the FAFSA.

However, you won't be able to use it to update or correct the FAFSA or enter any other FSA websites until it has been verified with the Social Security Administration (one to three days).

Your Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID)

Creating an FSA ID is the first step to completing your FAFSA. An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and serves as your legal signature. Only create an FSA ID using your own personal information and for your own exclusive use.

To create an FSA ID, go to <http://studentaid.gov/fsa-id> . Complete this form to keep track of important information related to your FSA ID. **This information should be kept confidential and stored in a secure location.**

Student Information

Email Address: _____

Username: _____

Password: _____

Answer to Challenge Questions (answers are case sensitive):

Challenge Question Answer 1: _____

Challenge Question Answer 2: _____

Challenge Question Answer 3: _____

Challenge Question Answer 4: _____

Significant Date Answer (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Parent Information (if appropriate)

Email Address: _____

Username: _____

Password: _____

Answer to Challenge Questions (answers are case sensitive):

Challenge Question Answer 1: _____

Challenge Question Answer 2: _____

Challenge Question Answer 3: _____

Challenge Question Answer 4: _____

Significant Date Answer (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

College Savings

The Importance of Saving

Most families use a combination of resources to pay for college, including scholarships, grants, loans, other types of financial aid, and saving money ahead of time. There are many different ways that families can set money aside for college. The important thing to remember is that no matter how you choose to save and how much you can afford to save, any amount (big or small) can make a difference.

Ways to Save for College

To help families save for future college expenses, Washington offers the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program – a prepaid tuition program. GET guarantees that if families buy a full year of in-state college tuition today, they will be able to get a full year of tuition in the future, no matter how much the cost changes over time. Families do not have to buy a full year of tuition in order to benefit from GET, and can save small amounts over time, as their budgets allow. GET works best for families with young children, so there is time for their savings to grow. If your family already has a GET account, and you would like to learn more about how to use GET when it's time for college, visit <http://wastate529.wa.gov> .

College Application Process

1. Request transcript by Schoolinks
2. Applications needing letters of recommendation: if your application requires letters of recommendation, you need to allow two weeks for your counselor/teacher to complete them. Please allow additional time before Winter break. **Remember, a January 1st deadline is really a December 15th deadline!!**
3. Before sending in your application:
 - Fill out the actual application (paper or online)
 - Make copies of the finished application
 - See the career specialist for “School Official” information
 - Double-check to make sure you’ve included all the necessary forms required with the application (transcripts, essays, letters, fees, etc.)
 - Submit your application before the deadline (or mail it early)
 - Write down the date you submitted online or mailed the application so you can verify the date in the event of “lost” or “not received” applications.

Here is a link to the Big Future website that explains the application process and provides a college application checklist at the bottom of the page: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/quick-guide-the-anatomy-of-the-college-application>

College Deadlines Explained

There are typically three types of college application timelines:

1. **Regular Admissions** - You apply by the college's deadline, hear from them on their release date, and make your decision and notify colleges by May 1st (known as the universal candidate reply date) about whether or not you will attend.
2. **Priority Admissions** - You apply before the Regular Admissions date so you can find out earlier whether you are accepted.
3. **Rolling Admissions** - You apply and usually receive an admissions decision within two to six weeks from the time you submit your application. Most community colleges and technical schools use this timeline. There are a few 4-year universities that use this timeline. Always check with the college you are applying to by calling the admissions office or looking on their Admissions web page.
4. **Early Application** - There are two types of early plans – one nonbinding and the other binding.
 - **Early Action (EA):** This is a **nonbinding** plan that requires you to submit your application early in the fall, typically by November 1st. Always check with the college website to make sure you have the correct date. The college lets you know whether or not you're accepted by early January, but you have the right to wait until May 1 before making your decision. This gives you time to compare your various college offers before making a final decision. An EA application doesn't commit you to enrolling if accepted.
 - **Early Decision (ED):** This is considered **binding**, so it is essential that you be certain about wanting to enroll at that college. As with early action, you submit your application in early fall. Sometime between mid-December and early January, the college notifies you whether you have been admitted, deferred to the pool of regular applicants for spring decision, or denied admission to the college. By applying under the ED, you make a commitment to attend that college if you are accepted. This commitment is taken very seriously. Going back on your agreement after being offered ED admission could result in other colleges refusing to admit you.

Should you apply early?

For students who have found their "ideal" college and feel confident in their grades, college essay and application, applying early allows them to bypass the regular spring notification deadline and can reduce the time spent waiting for a decision. Students who have already completed their college search can accelerate the admissions calendar by applying under one of the early plans, if offered by your college or university. If your grades, essays and applications are not where you want them to be or you have not double checked everything and revised your essays sending in your application early could hurt you. Make sure you know for sure that it is a college you want to go to.

College Application Tips

- Apply to a “safe” school, a “realistic” school and a “reach school”
 - Safe school – a school you know you will get into
 - Realistic school – the school you want to go to but may be a little unsure of
 - Reach school – a school that you want to go to but know that it is competitive and may be tough to get into. You never know, you might be the person they are looking for!
- Apply before the deadline!
- Know your chosen college’s preferences and requirements
 - Review the college website. You can set up a campus visit on most college websites.
 - If you are visiting, set up an appointment with an admissions counselor.
 - If offered, take the time to sit in a class while you are visiting the campus.
- Talk with your counselor at Cheney High School for more information about the college.
- Make sure to complete every part of the application.
- School/ counselor reports need to be downloaded and given to your counselor in a timely manner for completion and signatures.
- Know your deadlines: visit the college website for the latest information
- Some colleges have scholarship deadlines as early as November. Check for early enrollment deadlines.
- Enclose the correct fee payment
- Note any nonrefundable deposits (May 1st is usually the final date for refund, if offered).
- Complete your application as thoroughly as possible.
- Make sure to sell yourself in your essays! What makes you stand out? What makes you, you? Why should a college choose you?
- Colleges are moving to a comprehensive review for admissions. Here is what they look at (not in any particular order):
 - Transcript (the classes you took; did you challenge yourself?)
 - GPA
 - Personal Essay
 - ACT/SAT scores
 - Extracurricular activities/ volunteer experiences
- Make your personal essay matter! Edit and rewrite often. Have another person read and edit your essay.
- Request your transcripts in a timely manner.
- Request final transcripts in June.
- Compare your packages
 - Tuition costs
 - Financial aid package
 - Scholarships
 - Loans

Letters of Recommendation

Everyone wants a good letter of recommendation whether it is for a college application, a job, or maybe an apprenticeship opportunity. In order to increase your chances of getting a great letter it is important to do a few things. Remember, the best letters come from people who know you well. That may mean your teachers, a counselor, employer, coach, or administrator. Here are some helpful tips.

1. Ask the person for permission to use them as a reference.
2. Give them at least two weeks' notice before you need the letter of recommendation.
3. Provide them all the necessary forms. We recommend the CHS Personal Data form and a copy of your transcript.
4. Make sure you provide an updated, thorough "Personal Data Form" to everyone you are asking to write a letter of recommendation. See the Personal Data Form on the next two pages or go to the CHS Counseling website. Make copies or save the completed form for future use.
5. Once you receive the letter, be sure to make copies or get a PDF version online that you can save.
6. Write a follow-up thank you note.

Letters of recommendation require a great deal of effort. People are giving their time and energy to help you. Demonstrate your gratitude by making their task as easy as possible.

Personal Data Form

Student Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Special Instructions to Writer of Letter of Recommendation:

College or Scholarship Name: _____

Qualifications/Selection Criteria: _____

DEADLINE (ready for pick-up by): _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ Class Rank: _____ in a class of _____

SAT Scores: CR _____ M _____ W _____

ACT Scores: E _____ M _____ R _____ S _____ Composite _____

Describe your college plans (including intended college and college major):

Describe your future career plans:

List advanced courses that you have completed or in which you are currently enrolled (i.e. AP courses, Honors courses, Math, Science, etc.):

List clubs, activities, sports, student government participation (please indicate grade levels/offices held):

List any awards and/or honors you have received:

Campus Visit Questions

- What makes this college unique?
- What types of activities are offered on campus?
- What are the college's strongest programs?
- What kinds of resources are available to me on campus?
- What's the largest class size that I would be in as a freshman?
- Are professors available and easy to talk to? Do they teach most of the freshman classes?
- What supports are in place to help freshman be successful?
- Are there intramural sports available?
- Are there volunteer activities offered?
- What are the leadership opportunities?
- What kind of support is there for me if I'm struggling in a class?
- What is the social life on campus like?
- How much time do students typically spend on homework?
- How widely used are teaching assistants on your campus?
- What is the average class size of upper division courses?
- What opportunities are there for undergraduate research?
- How many students participate in undergraduate research?
- Is there a culminating senior year experience?
- Do you have an honors college?
- Do you have a learning community or other freshman experiences?
- What is your average financial aid package?
- What is the typical breakdown of loans versus grants/ scholarships?
- What percentage of financial need does the school typically meet?
- What percentage of students receive college scholarships/grants?
- What is the average college debt that students leave with?
- What work-study opportunities are there?
- What is your four-year graduation rate?
- What is your five-year graduation rate?
- What does it take to graduate in four years?
- What percentage of freshman return for sophomore year?
- What type of tutoring programs do you have?

9 Reasons to Consider a Community College:

1. **Close** – If you need or want to stay close to home, this is one way to go.
2. **Prepares you** – Students going from a 2-year school to a 4-year school feel prepared for the higher level of classes.
3. **Easy transfer** – Transferring from a community college to a 4-year university is easy. Always talk to your advisor to make sure your credits transfer to the university you want to go to.
4. **Helps you Plan** – 2-year colleges help you identify areas of career interest and help you identify goals.
5. **Job opportunities** – because of their close ties to the community, they can offer experiences and job opportunities both before and after graduation.
6. **Great teachers** – Faculty are known to be excellent teachers and offer continuous assistance to those who need it.
7. **Applies to your job** – If you are applying for an apprenticeship at a local company, many require you to take classes at a community college or technical school.
8. **Get done quicker** – If you don't want to spend three or four years doing a lot of reading, writing and continuous courses, this is the way to go.
9. **Inexpensive** – Annual tuition and fees are about ½ the cost of a 4-year school.

CHS Career Center

College and Career Specialist:

Cathy Sleeth

csleeth@cheneysd.org

The Cheney High School Career Center provides a variety of resources for college and career readiness. The Career Center is a place where students can come to obtain information on 2- and 4- year colleges, apprenticeships, the military, testing and test preparation, financial aid and scholarships, career exploration and college and major descriptions.

In collaboration with your counselors, we continue to work on building a comprehensive college and career going culture for all students. All students are welcome to call or email the career specialist or your counselor with any questions or to set up an appointment.

The career specialist provides all students with:

- Connecting students with the appropriate admissions counselors or military recruiters
- College information nights for students and parents
- Financial Aid information and application assistance
- Campus visits from college admissions and financial aid professionals

Your counselors provide all students with:

- 1 on 1, group, and classroom career guidance
- Helping with the High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP)
- Help with applying to jobs, apprenticeships, and colleges
- Helping students find a pathway to the career that matches their strengths and interests
- The college admission process
- College admissions test preparation and registration

Schoolinks:

A Career Information System, researches and distributes information about Washington careers, colleges and training programs. There are many components to schoolinks that are helpful for seniors. Each senior has a portfolio already developed. Schoolinks can be accessed anywhere you have Internet capabilities. Listed below are some of the main components of Schoolinks.

Schoolinks: **User ID:** Student email **Password:** Student's birth date (mmddyyyy)

Schoolinks Electronic Portfolio:

This is a place for students to store, retrieve and update information gathered during career and educational exploration. The portfolio is a convenient method of storing: career research and career assessments, educational plans, assessment records, work and community experience, school involvement, resumes, and cover letters.

Test Prep:

Start practicing for your test a month before your test date:

- SAT/PSAT <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org> or www.khanacademy.com
- ACT <https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/2022/ACT-Test-Prep-Practice-test-User-Guide.pdf>
- ASVAB <https://study.com/asvab/asvab-practice-tests.html>
- AP practice tests <https://www.appracticeexams.com>

Resources:

- www.khanacademy.com
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- <http://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- <http://www.fastweb.com/>
- <http://www.thewashboard.org/login.aspx>
- <http://www.wiche.edu/wue>
- <http://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants>

Come into the career center or check out our website for information on:

- Scholarship search & applications
- College search & applications
- College speakers & visitations
- Apprenticeship programs
- Military information
- Job opportunities

Seniors be sure to check our counseling center website. All scholarship information and important senior information is located on this website!

Students and Parents be sure to sign-up for the 2023 Google Classroom for College and Career information.:

- College Virtual Events
- Scholarships
- SAT/ACT Testing
- Deadlines
- Much more!!!!

Class Code: oofwn3i

Useful College and Career Information Websites

Website	Resource Description	Helps with
COMPREHENSIVE HELP		
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/	Parent, student, and educator resource designed to assist in all areas of college exploration	Financing college information, student self-exploration, college and career comparisons, college searches, college decisions making support, plan making, essay and testing tips
http://march2success.com	Free resource covering financial aid info, scholarships, test prep, college processes, and athletic recruiting info.	Create a free account. Full SAT and ACT practice tests, quizzes, flashcards, and tips. College prep course to help identify strengths and weaknesses. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) practice tests. Scholarship, financial aid, admission process info, and guide to athletic recruiting.
khanacademy.org	College Admissions, entrepreneurship, career profiles, and personal finance	Provides information regarding the college-going processes.
https://www.cappex.com	Parent, student, and educator resource designed to assist in all areas of college exploration	Create a free account and search colleges, compare colleges, and to use their GPA/SAT/ACT tool to determine likelihood of acceptance into different colleges. Also search for scholarships you may be eligible for.
SCHOLARSHIPS		
fastweb.com	Create a free account for scholarship identification	Assists students in finding scholarships available to them based on their personal information.
thewashboard.org	Create a free account for scholarship identification	WA state scholarship finder. Assists students in finding scholarships available to them based on their personal information.
https://www.cappex.com/scholarships/	Create a free account for scholarship identification	Assists students in finding scholarships available to them based on their personal information. Oversharing is

		usually better than under sharing because you never know what you would qualify for!
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search	Scholarship Search	Helps you find scholarships available to you.
http://www.wiche.edu/wue	WUE: Western Undergraduate Exchange	Information on how to become eligible for the WUE scholarship, which is for students who want to attend college in a state other than WA. See the participating states and schools. Apply early for this one, very competitive.
https://wsac.wa.gov/college-bound	College Bound Scholarship	For students who signed-up and qualified in middle school. Income-eligibly based. See your counselor to see if you qualify.
SAT AND ACT PREP		
http://march2success.com	Free SAT, ACT and ASVAB prep	Full SAT and ACT practice tests, quizzes, flashcards, and tips. College prep course to help identify strengths and weaknesses. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) practice tests.
khanacademy.org	Free SAT prep	Full-length practice tests and instant feedback on progress.
collegeboard.org	SAT registration site. PSAT information.	SAT test dates, registration, and practice information. PSAT information and practice.
https://study.com/academy/goal/test-prep/	Free ACT prep	Practice ACT information and other study tools.
act.org	ACT registration, test dates, and prep	ACT registration, test dates, free study guide, free college and career navigation profile.
ADMISSIONS		
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/quick-guide-the-anatomy-of-the-college-application	How Applications work	Gives you a list of what you can expect to accomplish in completing a college application.
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-application-checklist	Application Checklist	Gives you a list of what you need to complete for your application. Could be used for each college you apply to.

http://www.exploringcollegeoptions.org/	Shares dates of workshops for students and parents interested in Ivy League schools and their requirements.	Understanding IVY League school expectations.
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays/8-tips-for-crafting-your-best-college-essay	Essay help	Helps you develop a college application essay.
STUDY TOOLS		
khanacademy.org	Free study tool	Covers math, science, computing, history, grammar, econ, and financing.
http://college-scholarships.com/gpa-calculator/	GPA Calculator	Allows students to calculate their GPA
http://march2success.com	Free Test prep and math and writing enhancement.	Full SAT and ACT practice tests, quizzes, flashcards, and tips. College prep course to help identify strengths and weaknesses. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) practice tests.
FAFSA		
https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account	Create your NEEDED FAFSA ID Here	Create a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), You MUST create an "FSAID" on the site in order to file a FAFSA (this can take a couple of days to process). Be sure to keep your FSAID information and to use your (student's) personal email when making an FSAID.
fafsa.gov	File your FAFSA	Need to complete to qualify for College Bound Scholarship and to be eligible for subsidized and unsubsidized student loans. Filing a FAFSA can pair some students up with free money in scholarships or grants. Schools base their award package amounts (money for students) off the FAFSA information.

https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa	WASFA: Washington Application for State Financial Aid	For students who are ineligible for the FAFSA due to immigration status. Students who meet individual program, income, or residency requirements for the State Need Grant, the College Bound Scholarship, State Work Study, or Passport Scholarship should complete the free WASFA.
APPRENTICESHIPS		
www.lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/apprenticeship/become-an-apprentice	WA State apprenticeship information	Shares what an apprenticeship looks like.
http://careerbridge.wa.gov/Page.aspx?cid=188	Find a program suitable for you	Explore the different apprenticeship options.
MILITARY		
https://www.goarmy.com/rotc/high-school-students.html	ARMY	Comprehensive information on their branch and how to become a part of their branch.
https://www.marines.com/	MARINES	Comprehensive information on their branch and how to become a part of their branch.
https://www.navy.com/	NAVY	Comprehensive information on their branch and how to become a part of their branch.
https://www.airforce.com	AIR FORCE	Comprehensive information on their branch and how to become a part of their branch.
https://www.gocoastguard.com/	COAST GUARD	Comprehensive information on their branch and how to become a part of their branch.
https://www.nationalguard.com/	NATIONAL GUARD	Comprehensive information on their branch and how to become a part of their branch.
https://mil.wa.gov/national-guard	WA STATE NATIONAL GUARD	Comprehensive information on their branch and how to become a part of their branch.
Athletics		

http://www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center	NAIA	Eligibility center for students looking to play sports at schools in the NAIA league. Must create an account to register. Does have a fee. Do this at the beginning of junior year. Registering with the eligibility center is necessary for coaches to contact you.
https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/	NCAA	Eligibility center for Division I, II, and III athletics. Must create an account to register. Does have a fee. Do this at the beginning of junior year. Registering with the eligibility center is necessary for coaches to contact you.