

Hello! Please read through the questions and answers at your convenience. The Counseling team will meet with juniors later in the semester to help them understand the college application and scholarship process.

<p>Please talk about scholarships and how to apply for them.</p>	<p>There are a few ways students can apply for scholarships, which is money earned for merit (something that the student excels at). Usually, the most money will come from academic scholarships that awarded directly by the college or university. Typically, university admissions applications are automatically screened to see if the student qualifies for any academic award. The college, will usually notify the student about their admission status first and then follow up a while later with academic scholarships if the student qualified for any. You can visit our scholarship website and check the links for our Arizona schools to see how they award academic scholarships https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28992.</p> <p>Students may also apply for any number of private scholarships. These exist in all kinds of organizations, companies, etc. On the above link, we have provided a small sample of scholarships that we have received information about and listed them chronologically on the website. In addition, there are multiple search engines that students can use to find other scholarship opportunities. We have some listed here: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28913</p> <p>Parents may also work for companies that offer scholarships to their employee’s children. Please check with your HR department to see if this is the case with your employer.</p> <p>Lastly, once a student is admitted to a school, that school’s financial aid office will have additional, school specific scholarships to which admitted students may apply.</p>
<p>What courses are necessary for college admissions?</p>	<p>It will depend on the college, but you can see the Arizona university requirements on our website: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28919</p>
<p>Is ACT or SAT required for admission?</p>	<p>For many schools, the SAT and ACT are optional. If students have strong scores and submit them to “test optional” schools, it may be used to increase their chances of gaining admissions, increasing scholarship money, etc. For other schools, it may be a requirement. Students should check the website of the schools to which they plan to apply to verify if they require a test score. Arizona universities are all test optional.</p>
<p>Admission preparation direction for those who have just enrolled to 11th grade outside US.</p>	<p>Please reach out to your assigned counselor. For a list of counselors, please visit our website: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/1670</p>

<p>How do we set up visiting the different college campuses?</p>	<p>Each college will have a way to set up a college visit when it is convenient for you. If you Google each school which you are interested in, it is usually very easy to locate scheduling a visit.</p>
<p>What are good questions to ask the representatives of the colleges during the campus walkthrough?</p>	<p>The tours will provide you with a wealth of information. Each student will have their own unique needs/questions. As you complete the tour, it will inspire you to see what you still need to know! The best question to ask will be how to get any questions answered that you have along the way. Hopefully, at the very least, you will hopefully get the contact information for people to contact with questions as you go.</p>
<p>Want to check what options we have for admission requirements if avg GPA is below 3.0?</p>	<p>Many universities will re-calculate GPA based on the classes they are looking for. That usually means mostly core classes (and not that many electives where grades are usually higher). So, you may find the GPA on the transcript is not exactly what the college will use.</p> <p>Students can re-take classes to improve their GPA, but they would need to complete any repeated classes prior to the start of senior year. However, this is really only helpful if there are one or two grades that are very low and can be replaced with high grades (As). You have to make sure the student is ready to do well.</p> <p>For students that have a GPA below the guaranteed admission threshold (3.0 at our state university), students will still be considered if their GPA is between 2.5-3.0. What can help a student's chances of gaining admission is a high ACT or SAT test score. Even when these exams are optional, as they are at all of our state universities, they can use higher scores to offset a low GAP.</p> <p>If a student does not gain admission, they could start at community college and after one year of full-time attendance, can transfer to a university using their college grades instead of their high school transcript. College admissions reps may have additional advice they can provide. Here is a link to our website that includes the admission reps assigned to OC: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/1699</p>
<p>Interested in the NAU honors dorms. (refer to new NAU rep)</p>	<p>Please reach out to our new NAU rep (or any college rep) for highly specific questions like this. You can see the admissions reps assigned to OC on our website: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/1699</p>
<p>What is the best place to go to understand college requirements,</p>	<p>The best place will be each individual college's website as they each will have their own process, costs and timelines. You can also reach out to each college admission rep for schools you are</p>

application process, and associated costs?	interested in. You can find a list of our reps on website: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28919
What is the deadline to submit applications to be enrolled as a 2024/2025 freshman?	<p>Applications in Arizona are usually rolling admissions which means you can apply at any time and the university will respond once they make a decision,. However, the earlier you apply, the better opportunities students will have to choose their dorms, classes, etc.</p> <p>For out of state universities, they will each have their own deadlines, so please check individual college websites to verify information about each school.</p>
How do you know if you should include ACT/SAT scores or AP exam scores on college applications?	For our Arizona schools, ACT/SAT or AP scores can never hurt their admissions, so they can always be included there without any fear of a negative consequence. The schools will only use these tests if it can help in some way.
Would love to hear more about scholarships and a breakdown of the cost to attend the freshman year with the dorms and the food package.	<p>Each school will have a cost of attendance estimator. It is usually tied to their information about scholarships. Please check each individual schools website for their information. You can find links to each on our scholarship page: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28992</p>
Can you talk about financial aid?	<p>Financial aid consists of two parts. 1. Scholarships, 2. Grants.</p> <p>Each college will have unique scholarships that they have and will automatically screen applications for academic scholarship awards. You can find a link to each AZ school’s scholarships on our website: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28992. There are also search engines. You can find a list of some on our website here: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28913. Remember, scholarships are awarded to students that excel in some area so they are typically merit based.</p> <p>Grants (that do not have to be paid back) can be obtained for financially qualified students based on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA. FAFSA opens each October 1st and will use parent’s tax return information to determine financial need. O’Connor will have a FAFSA night in October for parents of seniors where you can complete your application with assistance from college professionals.</p>
When can you start to apply? How to schedule a tour of the campus.	Each school will have their own schedule, but typically many colleges applications open in summer. To schedule tours, please visit the college website. Each college will have a way to schedule visits on their site.

<p>Should juniors take the SAT?</p>	<p>This would depend on what their goals are, what their ACT score is (this is the state exam we give to all juniors) The test will be April 4—scores are usually available later in semester. Many schools (including all Arizona public colleges/universities) are test optional. Test scores can assist students in gaining admission or increasing scholarship amounts, but cannot hurt a student if their score is low. There are universities that do require test scores. If a student is applying to a school that requires a score, they usually publish the average score their students earn on their website somewhere. If a student is looking to attend somewhere that requires a higher score than what they earned on the ACT, they may want to consider taking the SAT to see if they are better matched to that test. For schools that require test scores, they will take EITHER test—the ACT or the SAT. We have not come across a school yet that only takes one or the other. As always, please check with the individual school you are interested in to find out their specific requirements.</p>
<p>Where should we start to look into scholarships and grants? We would like some information on applying for federal, state or private possibilities.</p>	<p>Please view our website that has options for all financial aid—scholarships and federal money that can be earned when applying with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at the bottom of the page. FAFSA will open up in December of 2023 for the class of 2024 planning to attend college or any other post-secondary school that requires tuition. Private scholarships will all have different timelines and requirements. We have a list of some scholarship search engines. Some good ones are the district list (the first link), College Depot (Phoenix Library), and Going Merry. https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28913</p>
<p>What is the college application deadline date?</p>	<p>This will vary for each college. Please check individual college websites for their application deadlines. In Arizona, our schools are rolling admissions which means as students apply, they will respond as soon as a decision is made. However, the sooner you apply, the sooner you will have access to dorm selection, classes, etc.</p>
<p>Do colleges give money to promote teaching major?</p>	<p>Please reach out to individual schools to find out more about this. Many are looking to increase students in teaching programs. Rio Salado and ASU both have outreach to increase enrollment. There have been programs that the state has instituted such as loan forgiveness when teachers work in certain school districts for a certain number of years and there are even housing/loan programs that help educators qualify for down payment assistance, lower interest rates, etc. You can locate our college reps on our website: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/1699. We recently received</p>

	information from NAU about a program that will cover tuition for anyone going into the teaching profession.
What are the requirements for scholarship in state schools? Are SAT scores needed for college admission?	Please visit our scholarship website. Each state school will have a link to their scholarship page: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28992 Many schools are test (SAT/ACT) optional including all 3 Arizona state universities. Please check each universities website for information about admission requirements https://nau.edu/coe/arizona-teachers-academy/
What requirements are needed for NAU? Do they accept the Rio Salado dual class credits?	All Arizona universities accept Rio Salado credits. Most universities nation-wide accept these credits and Rio Salado is a nationally accredited college. For NAU admission requirements, please see NAU's website: https://nau.edu/admission/freshman-admission-requirements/
Scholarship requirements, what they wanna see (grades vs. volunteering vs. leadership opportunities)	There are different types of scholarships. When students initially apply to a college, their application will automatically screened for academic scholarships. You can see how each of our Arizona schools award these scholarships by going to our scholarship website and clicking on the link for the school's scholarships you would like to view: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28992 For other types of scholarships, there all kinds of ways students may qualify as they award money for all different reasons. Each private scholarship will have their own criteria, application requirements and deadlines. You can search for these types of scholarships by using scholarship search engines. We have list of some on our website: https://www.dvusd.org/Page/28913
Are there scholarships based on ACT and/or SAT scores?	Many times high SAT/ACT scores will increase academic scholarship offers directly from the colleges.