RHS CLASS OF 2025

Postsecondary Information



Counseling	Senior Quick Links	Deadlines &	Graduation
Center Info	& Important Dates	Checklists	Information
Pgs. 2-3	Pgs. 4-5	Pgs. 6-8	Pg. 9
<u>College Visits</u>	<u>Testing & Fee</u>	<u>Transcript</u>	<u>Life</u>
<u>& Field Trips</u>	<u>Waivers</u>	<u>Info</u>	<u>Skills</u>
<u>Pgs. 10-11</u>	<u>Pgs. 12-13</u>	<u>Pgs. 14-15</u>	<u>Pgs. 16-17</u>
Career Search	<u>Military</u>	College Search	<u>Arkansas</u>
Info	<u>Info</u>	& General Info	<u>College Info</u>
Pgs. 18-21	<u>Pg. 22</u>	Pgs. 23-37	<u>Pgs. 38-43</u>
<u>Financial Aid</u>	FAFSA & AR	<u>Senior</u>	Click squares
<u>Info</u>	Scholarship Info	<u>Forms</u>	to link to
<u>Pgs. 44-47</u>	Pgs. 48-51	<u>Pgs. 52-54</u>	pages.

STAY CONNECTED

BE SURE TO:

- 1) Join the 2025 Google Classroom.
- 2) Join the Mountie Counseling Center Reminds.
- 3) Join the Scholarship Reminds (parents too).

Mountie Counseling Google Classroom Class of 2025

Use your RPS email

Code: ev5ren4

MOUNTIE COUNSELING CENTER				
LAST NAME	COUNSELOR	REMIND CODE Text code to 81010	EMAIL	
A - CI	Carla Moose	@moose2025	<u>Carla.moose</u> @rpsar.net	
CL-GUT	Jeannie Crader	@crader2025	<u>Jeannie.crader</u> <u>@rpsar.net</u>	
GUY-JI & Newcomers	Crystal Marquez	@cmarquez25	<u>Crystal.marquez</u> @rpsar.net	
JO-NE	Tracy Mitchell	@mitch25	<u>Tracy.mitchell</u> @rpsar.net	
NG-SANC	Shelena Smith	@ssmith2025	<u>Shelena.smith</u> @rpsar.net	
SAND-Z	Amy Raybourn	@raybourn25	<u>Amy.raybourn</u> <u>@rpsar.net</u>	

Ş.	SCHOLARSHIP REMINDS Text class code to 81010				
Ellen	Ellen Matkowski, RHS Scholarship Coordinator – <u>Ellen.matkowski@rpsar.net</u>				
LAST NAME	A – F	G - L	M – R	S – Z	PARENTS
CLASS CODE	@rhssch25af	@rhssch25gl	@rhssch25mr	@rhssch25sz	@rhssch25P

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	SCHOLARSHIP	REGISTRAR	ATTENDANCE
SECRETARY	COORDINATOR		CLERK
ALICEA	ELLEN	WENDY	GABRIELA
BROWN	MATKOWSKI	ATKINSON	HENDRICKS
Alicea.brown@rpsar.net	Ellen.matkowski@rpsar.net	Wendy.atkinson@rpsar.net	Gabriela.hendricks@rpsar.net
 ACT fee waivers SAT fee waivers	i manorar ma	 Transcripts Cords Honor Grads Diplomas 	AttendanceCollege Visits

COUNSELORS				
College & career	A-CI	Carla Moose	Carla.moose@rpsar.net	
advising,	CL-GUT	Jeanníe Crader	Jeannie.crader@rpsar.net	
Common App, recommendation	GUY-JI & Newcomers	Crystal Marquez	Crystal.marquez@rpsar.net	
letters, college	JO-NE	Tracy Mitchell	Tracy.mitchell@rpsar.net	
application fee	NG-SANC	Shelena Smíth	Shelena.smith@rpsar.net	
waivers, etc.	SAND-Z	Amy Raybourn	<u>Amy.raybourn@rpsar.net</u>	

MOUNTIE COUNSELING CENTER OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 am – 4:00 pm MTWF

9:00 am – 4:00 pm Thursdays

SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 am – 2:30 pm MTWF

• • • • • **−** | |

9:00 am - 2:30 pm Thursdays

Please make an appoint by emailing us.

PARENTS







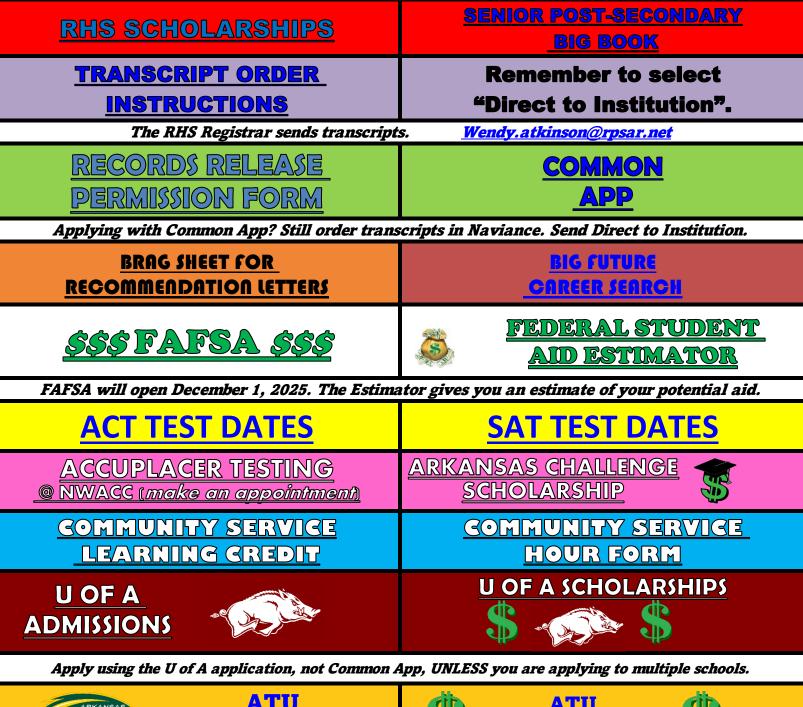




SENIOR QUICK LINKS

JOSTENS - CAP & GOWN ORDERS

Basic Unit (cap, gown, and tassel) is all you need.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Last day for senior yearbook photos
Arkansas Challenge Scholarship opens
<u>Jostens</u> – Cap & gown orders open
Buck Scholarship deadline
Next <u>ACT</u>
Community Scholarship application period, deadline at noon
<u>FAFSA</u> opens
<u>SAT</u> given at RHS
Last <u>ACT</u> of fall semester
End of fall semester
Governor's Distinguished Scholarship deadline
National College Decision Day
GRADUATION!!!!
Arkansas Challenge Scholarship deadline



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



TO DO LIST

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



Fill out the <u>FAFSA</u> when it opens in December.

Take the \underline{ACT} or \underline{SAT} again if needed.

Struggling with those tests? Consider the <u>Accuplacer</u>.

Make a short list of colleges to apply to.

Narrow down your major / career choices.

Start working on college essays.

Request recommendation letters 2 weeks in advance.

Create a resume if you do not have one already.

Make a list of important deadlines.

Complete college applications.

Apply for scholarships.







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

COLLEGE & SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE CHECKLIST

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







Do I know the requirements to keep my scholarship throughout college?

RHS SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITE: RHS homepage > Department > Scholarships

See Ms. Matkowski with questions regarding scholarships.



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

□ We require a 2-week notice to process recommendations, application materials, and scholarship forms, including Naviance and Common App requests.

□ Plan ahead and do not procrastinate.

□ The office is closed for Winter Break, so any transcripts or forms not requested by the deadline below will not be sent. Note that January 1st and January 15th have earlier deadlines due to Winter Break.

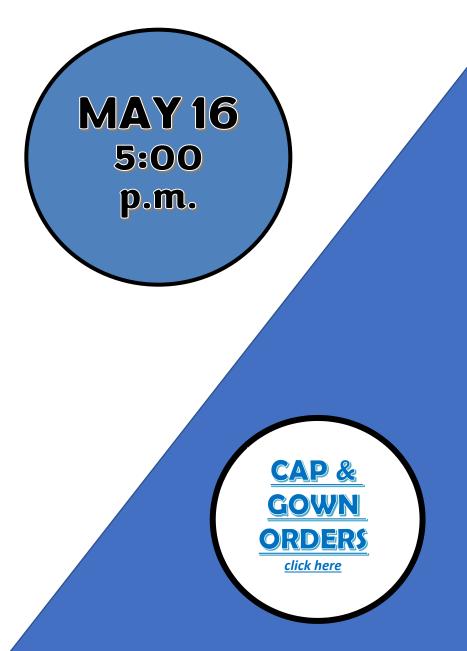
We want to help you, so request on time. Counselors, the Registrar, and the Scholarship Coordinator do NOT work on weekends or school holidays!

YOUR FAILURE TO PLAN IS NOT OUR EMERGENCY.

COLLEGE / SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE	DEADLINE TO REQUEST FORMS FROM OFFICE
November 1	October 15
November 15	November 1
December 1	November 15
December 15	December 2
January 1	December 13
January 15	December 13
February 1	January 17



MOUNTIE GRADUATION



Order your cap and gown online from Josten's. Ordering early will save you \$\$\$\$.

The cost increases as we get closer to graduation.

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

FINANCIAL ISSUES? Talk to your Counselor. We may be able to help.

COLLEGE VISITS

RHS Seniors get 2 college visits senior year. Seniors can decide when to take these, but must follow the process for getting these visits excused.

TO GET SCHOOL BUSINESS FOR COLLEGE VISITS:

Pick up a college visit form in the Counseling Center.

□Fill out the form. At the college, get a college official to sign your form.

Return form to the RHS Attendance office.

DO NOT bring back generic college literature as proof of a college visit. It will not excuse your absence.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Don't miss out on these opportunities! Details will be sent through Remind.



COLLEGE FIELD TRIPS

Mountie Time Oct. 2

Lecture Hall

Learn what NWTI has to offer you!



NWACC VIP PROGRAM

- Free program available to all future NWACC students.
 Bus transportation provided.
- College orientation & course registration on NWACC's campus with your friends!

SIGN UP IN THE SPRING









More info & sign ups coming soon!

Unsure about your college options? ATU has a program to help! More information to come about this upcoming visit to ATU.

International Students and Scholars

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

RHS CEEB CODE - 042165

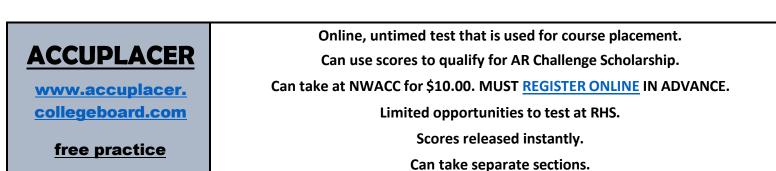
MOST STUDENTS NEED TO TEST MORE THAN ONCE.

You can send scores to 4 colleges for free IF you order them when you register to test.

Use a personal email to register for testing and use the same email every time you register to test.

Dates in green: good for most major universities. Dates in red: too late for most competitive colleges.

	TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE	EARLIEST SCORE REPORT DATE
	September 14, 2024	August 9, 2024	August 25, 2024	September 24, 2024
	October 26, 2024	September 20, 2024	October 7, 2024	November 5, 2024
ACT	December 14, 2024	November 8, 2024	November 22, 2024	December 24, 2024
	February 8, 2025	January 3, 2025	January 20, 2025	February 18, 2025
www.act.org	April 5, 2025	February 28, 2025	March 16, 2025	April 15, 2025
free practice	June 14, 2025	May 9, 2025	May 26, 2025	June 24, 2025
<u></u>	July 12, 2025	June 6, 2025	June 20, 2025	July 22, 2025
			educed lunch / application	-
	TEST DATES	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE	TENTATIVE ONLINE SCORE RELEASE DATE
	August 24, 2024	August 9, 2024	August 13, 2024	September 6, 2024
CAT	October 5, 2024	September 20, 2024	4 September 24, 2024	October 18, 2024
SAT	November 2, 2024	October 18, 2024	October 22, 2024	November 15, 2024
	December 7, 2024	November 22, 2024	November 26, 2024	December 20, 2024
www.college	March 8, 2025	February 21, 2025	February 25, 2025	March 22, 2025
board.org	May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025	April 22, 2025	May 17, 2025
	June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025	May 27, 2025	June 28, 2025
<u>free practice</u>	\$68.00 / Late Registration - \$34.00 / Score Reports - \$14 / Changes - \$29 2 fee waivers for students who receive free or reduced lunch / application waivers available More time per question than the ACT. The SAT is only offered in a digital format. October & December test dates offered at RHS			



FEE WAIVERS

Preparing for college can be expensive!

Students who are enrolled in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (FRL) qualify for fee waivers.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Just because you have qualified in the past does not mean that you are eligible for fee waivers for your senior year. All students must apply for the lunch program for senior year to qualify.

ACT FEE WAIVERS

- Must be a junior or senior to receive a waiver.
- Get a code in the Counseling Center.
- You may get a total of 4 to use while in high school (11th &12th).
- If you enter a code but don't show up to test, the waiver is considered used.

SAT FEE WAIVERS

- Must be a junior or senior to receive a waiver.
- Get a digital code in the Counseling Center.
- You may get a total of 2 to use while in high school (11th &12th).
- If you enter a code but don't show up to test, the waiver is considered used.

COLLEGE APPLICATION FEE WAIVERS

- Students who receive FRL may be eligible for application fee waivers.
- These are a request. Colleges do not have to honor them.
- Your Counselor can help you get application fee waivers.

NCAA FEE WAIVERS

• See Mrs. Crader in the Counseling Center for NCAA Clearinghouse fee waivers.

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 and kept 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.

 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.

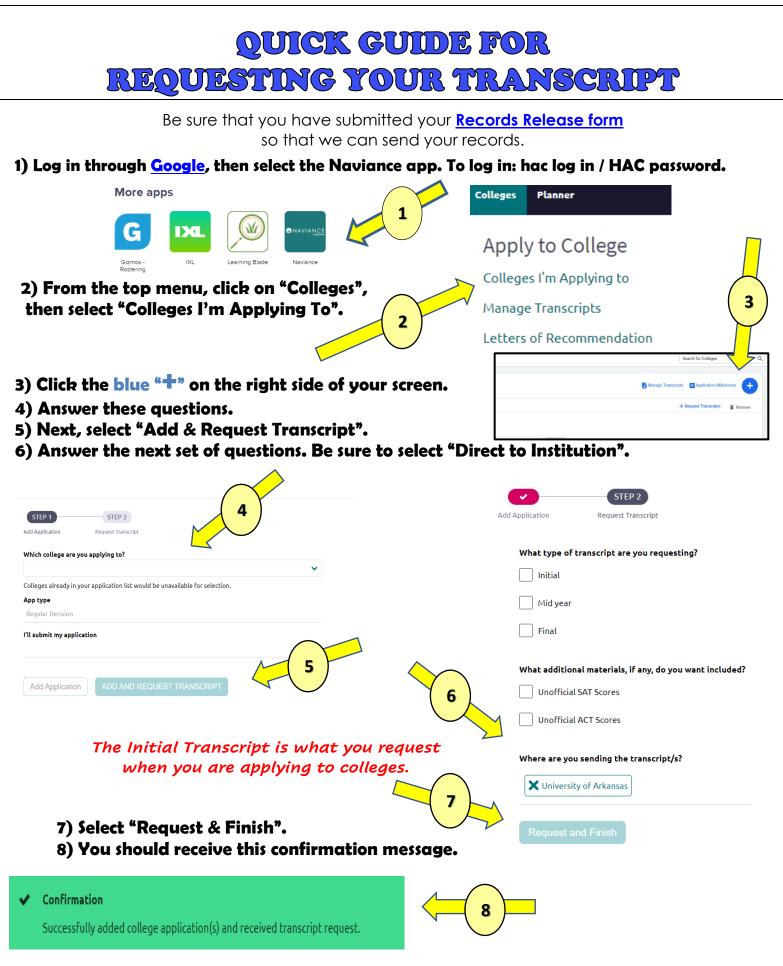
ENGLISH SPANISH MARSHALLESE

- 2. 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.
- Follow this <u>Quick Guide</u> for requesting transcripts through Naviance. All transcripts must be requested in Naviance, even if you apply using the Common App (see below). Login is: Username: HAC login / Password: HAC password
- 4. AA, ECE, & SCC STUDENTS: You will also need to send your <u>NWACC transcript</u> or <u>NWTI</u> <u>transcript</u> 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 <u>Atkinson: wendy.atkinson@rpsar.net</u>

	• Complete your Common App application.
COMMON APP TRANSCRIPT	• Add your recommenders as required by your college.
INFORMATION	• You still follow instructions to request transcript in Naviance.
	• Select "Direct to Institution" NOT Common App in Naviance.



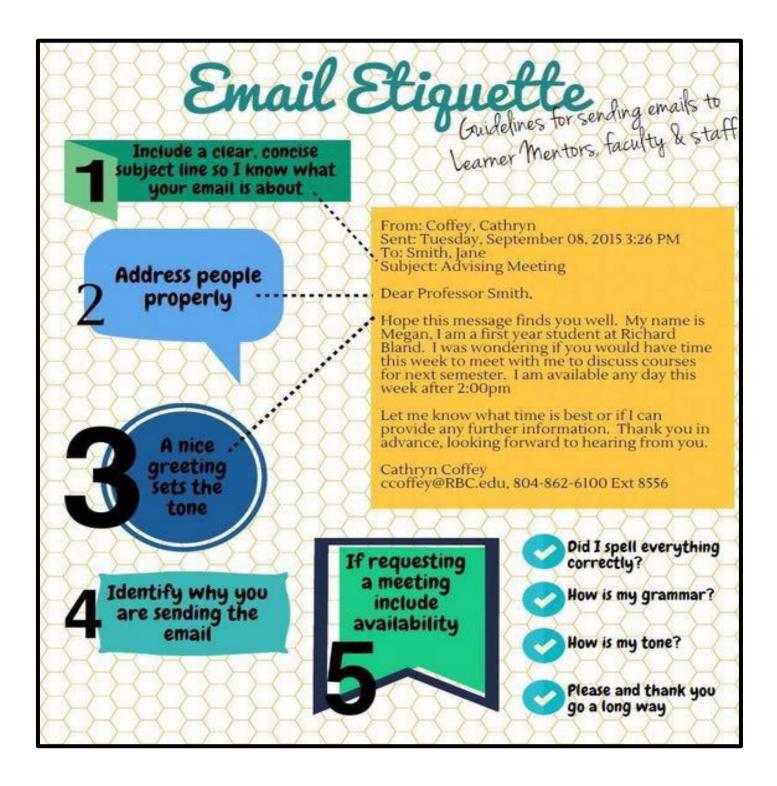
That's it! Repeat steps if applying to multiple colleges.

ADULTING 101 BASIC LIFE SKILLS

DOOLIMENTS		
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: 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: 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! Remember this email address so that you can access accounts later. Your school email goes away after you graduate.



POST HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

Which one is right for you? One is not better than the other.

This should be an individual decision. You can do more than one thing. Ex. Join the military & go to school, or work and attend school part-time. No matter which option you choose, explore careers. What does it take to reach your career goals?

POST-HIGH	EDUCATE	Continue your education (college, trade school, etc.)
SCHOOL	ENLIST	Enlist (join) one of the U.S. Military branches
3 Es	EMPLOY	Enter the workforce after you graduate

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.	particular skill or trade. May be paid or 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!

Not sure if college is for you? Watch the <u>"What is College"</u> video for a brief explanation of different post-secondary education options.

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

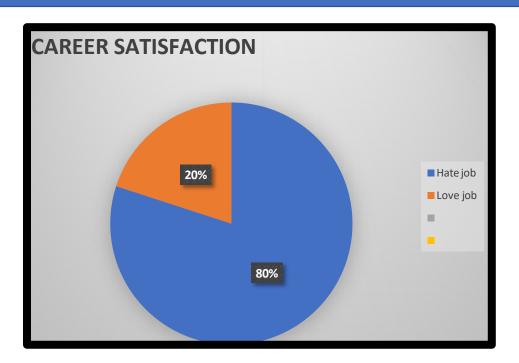
Don't be a part of the 80% of adults who hate their job!

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

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 2024
- 25 Best Jobs That Don't Require a College Degree
- <u>18 Good Careers That Don't Require College Degrees</u>

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







MILITARY INFORMATION







What is the <u>ASVAB</u> ?	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			
ARMY	Soldiers	Travel the country / world Away from fami		
NAVY	Sailors	Protect your country May be dangerow		
AIR FORCE	Airmen	Financial benefits Very hard work		
MARINES	Marines	Job Security Freedom is limit		
COAST GUARD	Coast Guardsmen	Fulfilling, respected work Must take ord		
SPACE FORCE	Guardians	Free college education Can be stressful w		
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	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



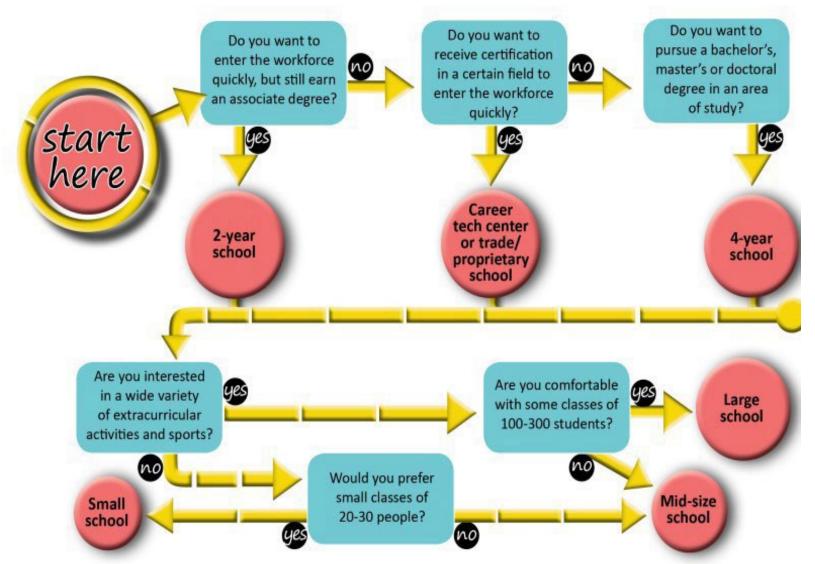




CHOOSING A COLLEGE

Choosing a college can feel overwhelming, but there are tools and people who can help!

- □ What type of college are you interested in?
- □ Take visits when possible.
- □ Attend free events that the college puts on for prospective students.
- □ Make a list of pros and cons of each campus.
- □ Can you afford to attend there?



FIND YOUR COLLEGE

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:

<u>REACH SCHOOLS</u>: 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

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.





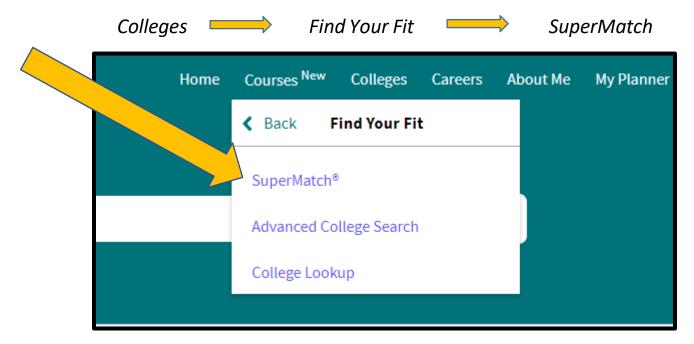


Naviance College SuperMatch

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 Google, then select:



Select Fit Criteria

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

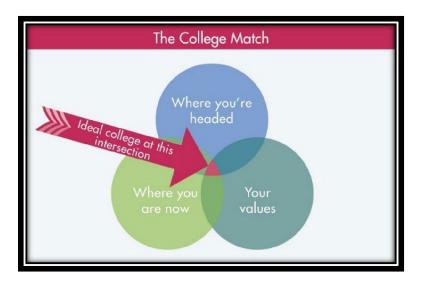
SuperMatch College Search About SuperMatch 😧					
HI Choose Fit Criteria Location Academics	Admission Student Life Diversity	Institution Characteristics Cost	Athletics Resources		
Vour Fit Criteria			Saved Searches Choose one	Save Search Start Over	
2 selected criteria To refine your results, use the arrows to move your criteria into the "Must Have" and "Nice to Have" boxes.	Must Hav X Location [38] X Campus Surrounding		Nice to Ha A <i>Nice to Have</i> is any that's important to isn't an absolute mu	thing you, but	
Your Results Your results include 1234 institut	Your Results Your results include 1234 institutions that addemic match ⁹ and also match all the criteria selected above.				
	ore I Academic Match I	Highlights 🛩	Cost 🗸	what to show 🛩	
Florida State University Tallahassee, FL, Small City 4 year, Public	100% Match [*] Average You GPA 4.3 4.3 •	No Highlights Available	Tuition & Fees \$4,640 <i>In State (FL)</i> \$19,084 <i>Out of State</i>	Custon pu see here—Choose a ry above	

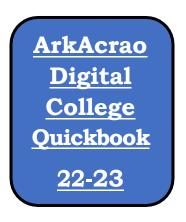
COLLEGE SEARCH TOOLS

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

ARKANSAS COLLEGE SEARCH TOOLS

- <u>Comprehensive List of Arkansas Colleges</u>
- <u>Degree Directory (see which colleges have your degree)</u>
- <u>Career Watch College & University List</u>
- <u>AR Department of Higher Education College List</u>
- Arkansas Colleges Cost Comparison
- Arkansas Community College Comparison
- Arkansas Trade School Comparison





The <u>College Quickbook</u> is a great resource for anyone exploring Arkansas colleges & universities.

NATIONAL SEARCH TOOLS

<u>BIGFUTURE</u> - The College Board's free college planning tool. Find colleges by test scores, location, majors, support services, diversity, etc.

<u>CAPPEX</u> - 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.

WHAT ARE COLLEGES EVALUATING APPLICANTS ON?

- 1) What the student does
 - Transcript & possibly test scores
 - Resume
 - Involvement & activities
- 2) What the student says
 - Sector State
 Sector State
 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 <u>Spanish</u> & <u>Marshallese</u> 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.

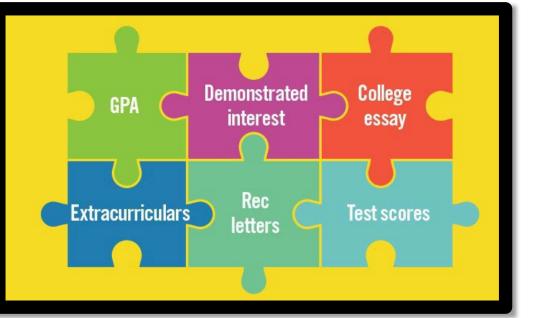
They are meant to be confidential.

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.





TEST OPTIONS FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

TEST OPTIONAL

A "test-optional" policy means the college allows all applicants to decide for themselves whether to submit test scores. Applicants are told, in essence, "If you think your scores are an accurate representation of your ability, feel free to submit them."

TEST PREFERRED

Some colleges make it clear that they prefer applicants to include test scores. Others may not explicitly state that, but they admit more students who submitted test scores. If over 50% of admitted students submit test scores, the college likely prefers to receive test scores.

TEST BLIND

Whether or not a student decides to send their test scores, they won't be considered as part of the application evaluation process.

TEST FLEXIBLE

Colleges or universities allow students to choose which type of test (or tests) they'd like to submit with their application. Some examples would be AP test scores or IB test scores.

SO, SHOULD I TEST?

YES! Colleges need test scores for scholarships and for course placement. Plus, many formerly test optional schools are now requiring test scores for admission.

FAIR TEST LIST OF TEST OPTIONAL COLLEGES

COMMON APP & NAVIANCE

APPLYING FOR COLLEGE USING THE COMMON APP?

- □ Look to see if your college requires supplemental materials.
- \Box Complete your application.
- □ Complete the FERPA waiver. Waive your rights to see recommendations.
- \Box Remember to give a 2-week notice for all transcripts and recommendations.
 - ✓ Add teachers and your Counselor as a Recommender if needed. Teachers and Counselors will complete recommendations in Common App.
 - ✓ Log into Naviance and request your transcripts. Be sure to select "Direct to Institution" for delivery, NOT Common App. Failure to do this will delay your transcript delivery.

COMMON APP ESSAY PROMPTS

Below is the full set of essay prompts for 2024–2025.

- 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 <u>optional community disruption question</u> within the Writing section. Over the next year, we'll consult with our member, counselor, and student advisory committees to ensure we gather diverse perspectives and make informed decisions.

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.

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

<u>Do:</u>

- 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).
 - \circ 1 person who is great at grammar
 - \circ 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 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.

Because vou nave applying as a transfer student. Be applying as a transfer student. Be applying as a transfer student. Be applying as a transfer student.

Because you have earned a college degree, you will to be a serie to you have earned a college degree, student, be superiored a college of the to your college.

Vou are applying as an incoming rout have completed. Be sure Iou are applying as an incoming resonance completed be some completed be an incoming resonance completed be applying as a new part of the he number of nours you have completed. Be sure 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 \$95 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 your Counselor.

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 ELIGIBITY 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

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.

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!

QUESTIONS TO ASK ON A COLLEGE VISIT

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
- Dec. 1 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

<u>Apply online</u> now for Fall of 2025

- 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





Be sure that you apply for <u>Freshmen</u> <u>Scholarships.</u>

NWACC



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

SIGN UP FOR THE NWACC VIP PROGRAM THIS SPRING!

<u>NWACC</u> 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.
- <u>FAFSA</u> 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:
 <u>Admissions info</u>

Be sure to apply for <u>NWACC Scholarships</u>.



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	LEAP
 Select program(s) you want to apply for 	PROGRAM
✓ Schedule an appointment with <u>Shay Lastra</u>	
✓ Complete the <u>application for enrollment</u> (\$10 application	
✓ Submit transcripts	EDUCATIONAL
✓ Submit <u>ACT</u> or <u>Accuplacer</u> scores	ACHIEVEMENT
✓ Submit your <u>FAFSA</u>	PROGRAM
✓ Look at <u>NWTI's Financial Aid Overview</u>	TROGRAM
 ✓ Apply for <u>NWTI scholarships</u> ✓ Complete engeling ent 	
✓ Complete enrollment	
ACT SCORES REQUIRED FOR ADMISSIONS ENGLISH: 10 MATH: 16 ACCUPLACER SCORES REQUIRED FOR ADMISSIONS READING COMPREHENSION: 224	DIPLOMA PROGRAMS Allied Health (6 programs) ✓ CNA ✓ CNA ✓ Practical Nursing ✓ Surgical Technology ✓ and more Automotive Service Electronics

Northwest Technical Institute

rethink education



TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

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

<u>Finaid</u> 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 needbased (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 Cappex Niche Unigo Sallie Mae
- Fastweb College Board Big Future Peterson's Going Merry General Info

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 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.

<u>SUBSIZED</u> – Financial need, Govt pays part of interest. <u>UNSUBSIDIZED</u> – No financial need, you pay all interest. Get more information about loans here.

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 <u>Scholarships.com</u>, <u>Fastweb</u>, <u>Cappex</u>, <u>Niche</u>, <u>Peterson's</u>, <u>Unigo</u>, & <u>Finaid</u> can help you find \$\$!

HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE BOOK / SPANISH VERSION

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?

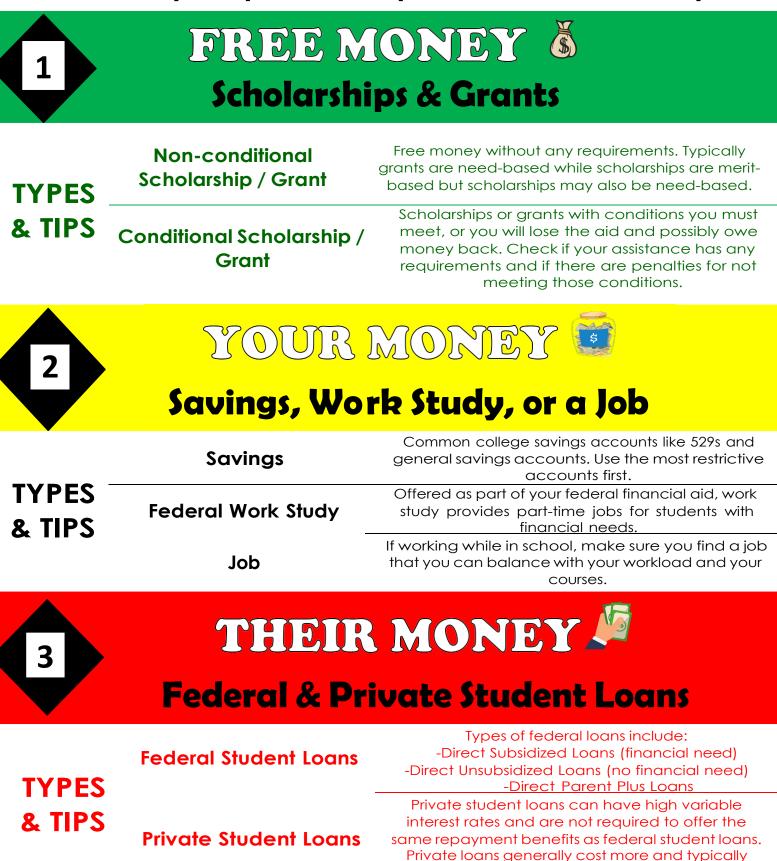
COLLEGE COST COMPARISON

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			
	Es	timated Direct Co	sts
Tuition and Fees			
Housing			
Meal Plan			
Books			
Other			
Total Estimated Direct Costs			
Salar Strand Stranger	Est	imated 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			8 1000 1000 1000
Total Estimated Financial Aid			
	Estima	ted Out-of-Pocke	t Cost
Total Estimated Direct Costs			
subtract Estimated Financial Aid			
Total Out-of-Pocket Cost			

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

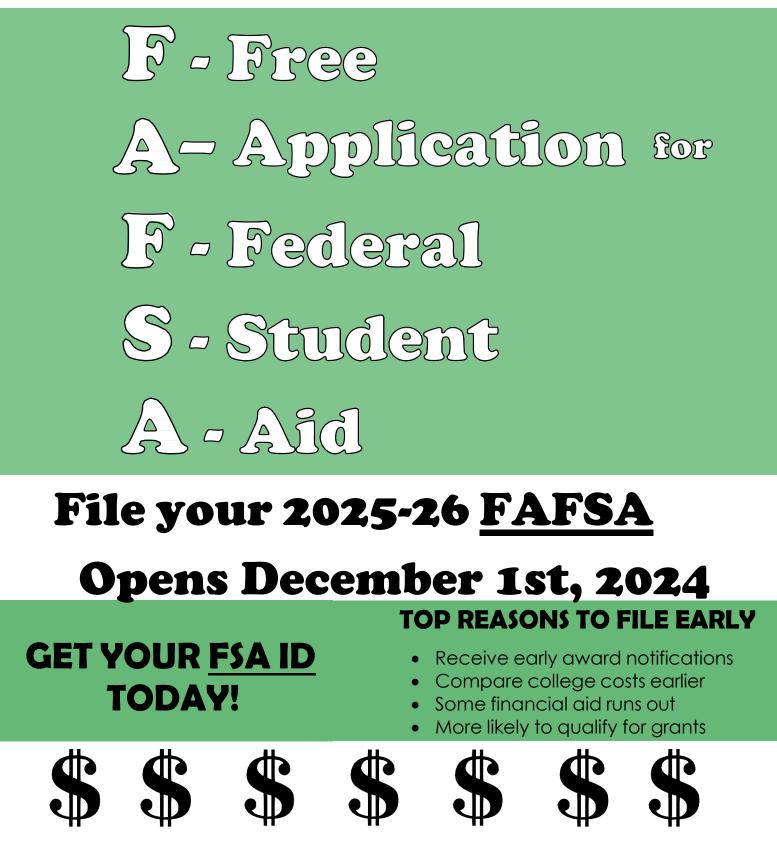
When considering options to pay for school, remember: Free money 1st, your money 2nd, and their money 3rd.



require a credit check.



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



\$ FINANCIAL AID OVERVIEW **\$**

FOUR TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

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 needbased (based on financial need).

Scholarships do not have to be paid back. Apply for: university, state, local, then national.

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.**

\$\$ FAFSA \$\$

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Opens December 1. File as soon after that date as you can!

Filing the FAFSA is the most important thing to do to receive financial aid.

Filing the FAFSA is free.

Required for many scholarships.

- Be sure you are working on the 2025-2026 FAFSA.
- \checkmark You and your parent / guardian will need to create an FSA ID.
- ✓ Use your 2023 tax return.
- ✓ <u>List up to 20 colleges</u> on your FAFSA.

FAFSA Help: <u>https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/help</u>

FAFSA Contact: <u>https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact</u>

Phone: 1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4 FED AID) Website: <u>https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa</u> Chat & Email features available

FEDERAL STUDENT AID ESTIMATOR:

https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/

• This tool can help students find out how much federal student aid they may be eligible for.

 \circ To apply for financial aid, complete the FAFSA.

GRANTS ically gift aid and do not have t

Grants are typically gift aid and do not have to be repaid. Usually, grants are need-based. The main differences between a grant and a scholarship are where the funds come from, eligibility criteria, and the application process.

An example of a well-known grant is the Pell Grant.



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

<u>SUBSIZED</u> – Financial need, Govt pays part of interest <u>UNSUBSIDIZED</u> – No financial need, you pay all interest

FINANCIAL AID OVERVIEW



Do **NOT** start your FAFSA before it opens on **December 1**st. You will be filling out the wrong year's FAFSA!

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday: 8 a.m.–9 p.m. Eastern time (ET) Tuesday–Wednesday: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. ET Thursday–Friday: 8 a.m.–6 p.m. ET Saturday–Sunday: Closed Closed on all federal holidays.



LINKS

- ✓ <u>Student Aid Estimator to determine</u> <u>early eligibility</u> (not the actual FAFSA)
- ✓ <u>How to Create an FSA ID</u> (video)
- ✓ <u>Is my parent a financial contributor?</u>
- ✓ <u>Am I an independent student?</u>
- ✓ What if my parents are undocumented? (video)
- ✓ <u>Eligibility for Non-U.S. Citizens</u>
- ✓ NASFAA's Tip Sheet for Undocumented Students



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 your FAFSA. Worth \$14,000.

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.

*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 re	quested:
Email address:				Cell number:	
Recommendation for: □ College a	pplication	🗆 Schola	arship application	□ Job application	Other
LOR delivery method: 🗆 Upload	🗆 Email	🗆 Mail	(these are prefer	red methods)	□ Pick up (<i>will be sealed</i>)
Submit recommendation to:	_Common A	Арр	Coalition App	Other	
Date needed / deadline:		I underst	tand that my recor	nmendation is confic	lential. Initial here:
ACT Score: Composite	Superso	ore	Are you	testing again?	
GPA: Colleges	I am applyir	ng to:			
College major / future career:					
Reason for interest in this major /	career:				
Family data / history that is relevan					
Academic strengths:					
Honors received:					
Personal strengths:					
Community involvement:					
Work experience:					
Interests and hobbies:					
High S	chool Activi	ties (indica		itions held if applicat	ble):
Most meaningful / fun activity and	wny:				
Does your transcript reflect your at	oilities? Why	y/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 inpu	t:	

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

ID: _____

DOB:

RECORDS RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

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GRADUATION YEAR:

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
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