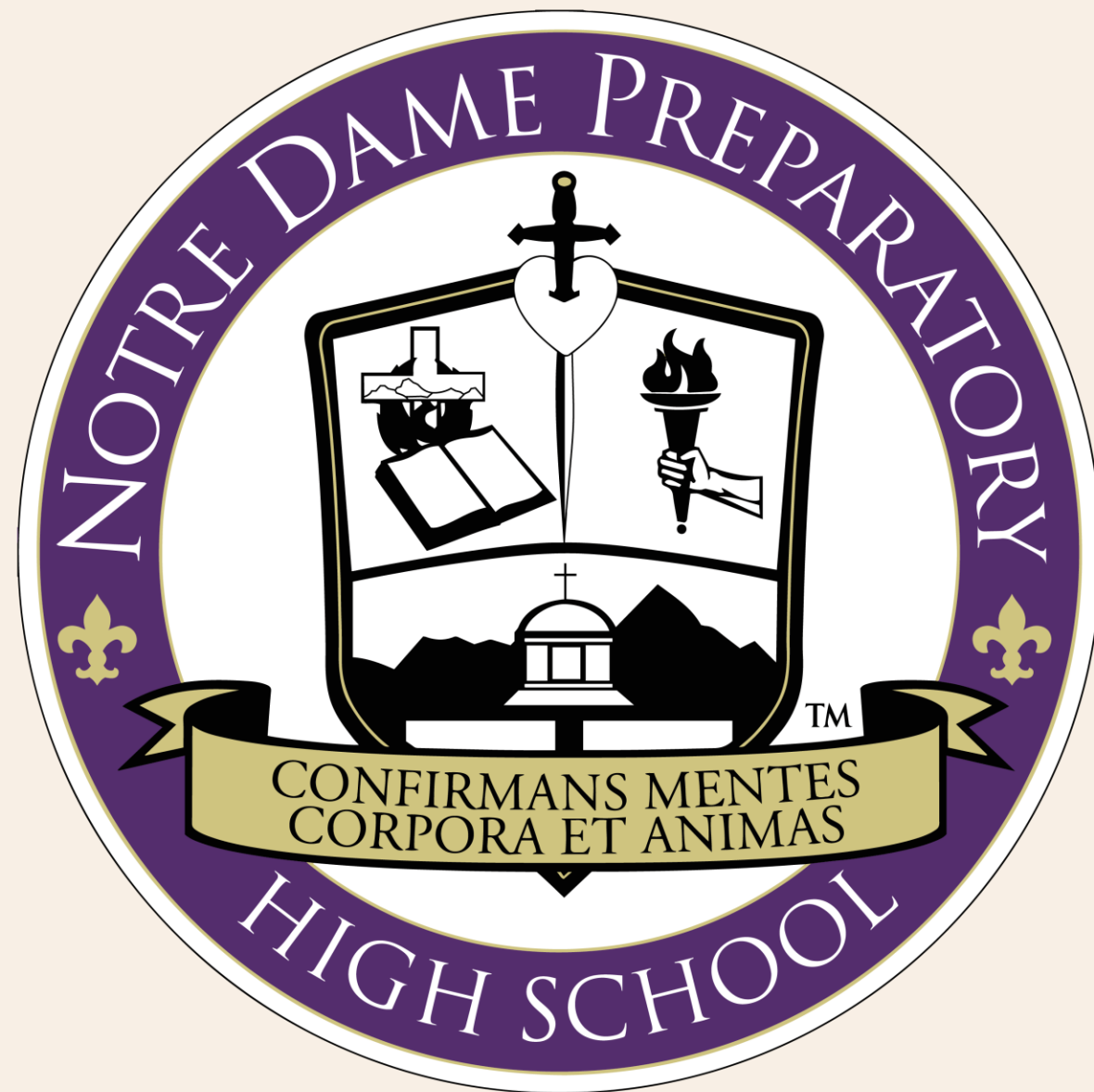




Junior Parent Presentation

Class of 2027

**The
Counseling
Department**

**Lisa
McMorrow**

**Counselor
Last names A-F**

**Deanna
Larson**

**Counselor
Last names G-L**

**Cal
Beneze**

**Counselor
Last names M-R**

**Annie
Clark**

**Counselor
Last names S-Z**

**Katie
Kunitzer**

**Freshman
Counselor**

**Michele
Meyer**

**Freshman
Counselor**

**Jody
Kim**

**Administrative
Assistant**

"Academic fit is not just 'Can my student get in?'
It is also 'If my student goes there, can they hang,
can they fight, and be successful and happy?'"



Junior Year

- **Dual Enrollment**
- **Scoir**
- **MajorClarity & CGN**
- **SAT/ACT**
- **College Search and Selection**
- **College Applications**
- **Letters of Rec/Surveys**
- **Essays**
- **Application Deadlines**
- **College Visits**
- **Scholarships**

Dual Enrollment

2/13

**Registration and
Payment
Deadlines (online)**

2/20

**Full Refund
Deadline**

***Transcripts need to be requested directly from
SCC or UofA**

Checking Emails

Get in the habit now!

- Your university email is the official method of communication for all campus offices.
- Check your email daily to stay informed about:
 - Courses & academic requirements
 - Scholarships, internships, and job opportunities
 - Policy updates, events, and emergency notices
- Read all emails from campus professionals as they contain important or time-sensitive information.
- Students are responsible for knowing and complying with information sent to their university email.
- Not checking email is not an acceptable excuse for missing deadlines or official communications.

What is SCOIR?



An online software platform for college search and the application process

Counselors use this tool to suggest colleges and send necessary documents
(transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.)

Students use this tool for self-discovery, career discovery, search and compare colleges, create a resume, access recommender surveys, and request letters of recommendation

SCOIR

Bookmark and download the app

At this point, all students should be actively using SCOIR

SCOIR tasks for junior year

- Career assessments
- Discover and research colleges
- Sign transcript release forms
- Complete surveys
- Add recommenders to account

Transcripts/Letters of Recommendation

"SCOIR 101" section of College Planning 101 Booklet for more info

MajorClarity

A platform that helps you plan your education and career based on your interests and goals

Aptitude Tests

- Great way for you to learn about career options that match your interests and skills

Career Exploration

- Explore a variety of different careers and gain information on education requirements

Postsecondary Exploration

- You can search for schools that offer programs specific to your interests and career suggestions

College Guidance Network



Designed to help both students and parents with the college application process



Provides useful information from professionals/experts actively in the field of college admissions



Use as a tool for college and career planning



Provides personalized guidance throughout the college application process



Parent and student log in information provided in the "College Guidance Network" section of the College Planning 101 Booklet

SAT/ACT

*Check each college website for their current testing policies

- Two major college entrance exams
- Serves as a predictor of how students will perform academically during their freshman year of college
- Scores can be used for admissions decisions, scholarships and merit awards, or placement in college courses
- Start testing spring of junior year
- Take either one at least twice

SAT vs. ACT

SAT

- Fully digital
- Test Sections: Reading & Writing, Math
 - More time per question, one question per passage
- Adaptive Testing: questions in the second module change based on performance in the first module
- Questions may be more complex and require more reading and problem solving/reasoning
 - More of an aptitude test

ACT

- Digital or pencil/paper
- Test Sections: English, Math, Reading
 - Optional Science
 - Optional Writing
- Questions may be more straightforward and content based
 - "It is what you know"

Which test is best for me?

SAT

- You can solve complex math problems without a calculator, and you are comfortable with math counting for half your score
- You usually perform well in algebra and data analysis
- You want more time per question
- You don't want to be tested in science
- You are strong in reading comprehension
- You excel at problem-solving

ACT

- Math is not your strong suit, but science data is
- You are a strong writer and want to write an essay
- You don't like the idea of evidence-support questions in reading.
- You work well under time constraints

SAT vs. ACT

SAT – collegeboard.org

- Tests offered in March, May, June, August, September, October, November, and December
 - \$68

ACT – act.org

- Tests offered in February, April, June, July, September, October, and December
 - \$68
 - + \$4 Science section
 - + \$25 Writing section

Testing Policy Definitions

Test-Required

- Students must submit ACT or SAT scores for their application to be considered

Test-Preferred

- Colleges recommend submitting scores and may give an advantage to applicants who do, but it is not required

Test-Optional

- Students may choose whether to submit scores; scores can help an application but are not required. Students are not penalized for not sending scores

Test-Blind (or Test-Free)

- Colleges will not consider scores at all, even if they are submitted

Test-Optional

- "Test-optional" means the school is allowing the student to decide if they want to submit their standardized test scores
- Will an ACT/SAT score enhance admission?
 - Test-optional institutions place greater emphasis on transcripts, strength of course selection, and other academic factors
- "Should I send my scores?"
 - Yes! If the score supports or enhances the academics in the application (is it within the school's averages?)
- Case-by-case approach
 - A student with a 2.0 GPA and a 1350 SAT: Send scores!

"It doesn't matter where you go to college...what matters is what you do when you get there"



College Selection



Likely

1-2 colleges for which you exceed the upper range of the admissions criteria and are fairly "certain" to be admitted



Match

3-4 colleges for which you fall comfortably within the stated range of admissions criteria, and in which you have a strong interest in attending



Reach

1-2 colleges for which you do not necessarily have the ideal or upper-range academic criteria for admissions, but are close enough to still meet merit consideration

Six Factors in Selective Admission

1. Grades
 - Cumulative GPA
2. Strength of Curriculum
 - Honors/AP Courses
3. Test Scores
 - SAT/ACT
4. Letters of Recommendation
 - Teachers and Counselor
5. Essays
 - Personal Statement/Supplementals
6. Extracurricular Involvement
 - Sports/Clubs/Volunteering

Institutional Need

The elusive "7th" factor in selective admissions

"College admissions is not about the prospective student or parent of the student, it's about the college"

It is not personal! College admissions is a business that we (students, parents, counselors) have no control over

Each college has their own agenda and goals set by university leaders

- This is what drives admissions departments and their decisions

They may like and want you, but don't necessarily *need* you

What is in an Application?

In-State Application Process

1. Application – Common App or College Website
2. NDP official transcript
3. Official ACT/SAT scores (if needed)

Out-of-State Application Process

1. Application – Common App or College Website
2. NDP official transcript
3. Official ACT/SAT scores (if needed)
4. Essay(s)
- 5.. Teacher Recommendations
6. Counselor Recommendation

Common App

commonapp.org

- Universal Application
- Exceptions to Common App
 - Specific college does not use it as an option (some private institutions, the UC and CSU systems)
 - You were advised by a coach or admissions rep to apply a different way

ASU, NAU, & GCU

Requirements for Guaranteed Acceptance

16 Core Competency Classes

- 4 English

- 4 Math

- 3 Lab Science

- 2 Social Science

- 2 World Language (n/a for NAU)

- 1 Fine Art/CTE

No more than two deficiencies (D's or F's) in core classes, and no more than one deficiency in Math or Lab Science

Must also meet one of the following:

- Graduate in the top 25% of your class

- 3.0 GPA in the 16 core competency classes

 - (2.75 for NAU, 2.5 for GCU)

- ACT: 22 or SAT: 1120

 - (ACT: 19 or SAT: 1000 for GCU)

University of Arizona

No Longer Has a Guaranteed Acceptance

Holistic application review
500-word application essay
Early action deadline available

In-State Honors Colleges

ASU Barrett Honors College

- Must apply to ASU first
- Additional application (opens September)
- One essay
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume
- Optional: SAT/ACT, creative supplement,
- First/Priority application deadline: Nov 1

Admitted students with a GPA of 3.75+ will receive an additional letter stating they are eligible for the Honors College

NAU Honors College

- Must be admitted to NAU before applying
- Additional application (opens September)
- Two essays
- Resume
- Optional: SAT/ACT, core GPA

Submit by Nov 15 to be considered for scholarships

UofA Franke Honors College

- Must apply to UofA first
- Additional application
- One essay
- One letter of recommendation
- Resume
- Optional: SAT/ACT, creative supplement,
- First/Priority application deadline: Nov 15

GCU Honors College

- Must be admitted to GCU before applying
- Application is due August 1st going into freshman year at GCU
- Demonstrated passion in community service and leadership
- Automatic acceptance: unweighted, cumulative GPA of 3.8+, ACT: 31, or SAT: 1410
- If not automatically admitted:
 - Additional application, one essay, two letters of recommendation, resume

Letters of Recommendation

3 Step Process

- Ask in-person (ASAP)
- Formally request in SCOIR (beginning in April, before summer break)
- Complete Surveys (once a teacher has confirmed they will write you a letter)

Whom Should I Ask?

- One junior year core teacher (Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language, English)
- One other teacher (any course, any teacher, any year)

How Do I Ask?

- Speak to the teacher in-person before the end of the school year
- Formally request in SCOIR
- Fill out Surveys in SCOIR Teacher and Counselor. Parent survey on NDP website.
- Follow up with teachers Send thank you notes

Essays

*Optional does
not *actually* mean
optional

- A chance for colleges get to know you better outside of your grades and accomplishments
 - Your personality, goals, values, and/or worldview – what makes you, *you*!
- Personal Statement
 - Voice! (Show, don't tell)
- Supplementals
 - Specific for each college, make it personal

Application Deadlines

- **Early Decision (ED)**
- **Restrictive Early Action (REA)**
- **Early Action (EA)**
- **Regular Decision (RD)**
- **Rolling**
- **Priority Deadlines**



College Visits

NDP College Rep Visits

- Sign up in SCOIR
- Only for NDP Students

College Campus Visits

- If possible, visit when classes are in session
- Two excused absences are allotted for college-related visits to juniors and seniors
 - Must complete college visit attendance form for excused absence (found on NDP website)
- Check college websites for information about campus tours (in-person or virtual), dates, times, and registration
- Go with lots of questions ready
 - See Campus Visit Checklist in "College Planning 101" booklet

Affording College

Every family will pay something for college, and understanding that price tag is vital for a successful college plan

NDP has partnered with Monica Felton, college planning expert and NDP parent, to help families understand the true cost of college

Please watch her video "*Saving on the Cost of College*" under the Counseling section of NDP's website for valuable information

Types of Aid



Grants



Loans



Work Study



Scholarships

Financial Aid

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- FAFSA forms can be completed starting October 1, 2026
 - <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

CSS Profile (College Scholarship Service)

- Online application through College Board to determine eligibility for non-federal financial aid
 - \$25+ Application fee
 - Some colleges require a CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA

Scholarships

Merit Scholarships

- Based on academic achievement

Need-Based Scholarships

- Based on financial need

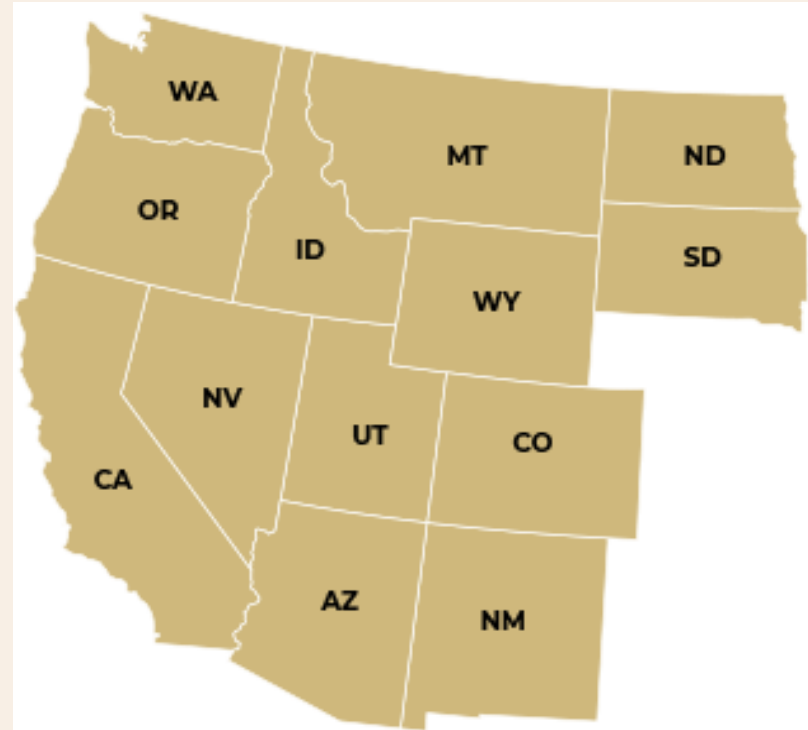
Athletic Scholarships

- Offered to student athletes based on athletic talent

Individual Scholarships

- Given by educational institutions or private donors
- Based on academic achievement, leadership qualities, community service work, special talents, etc.

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)



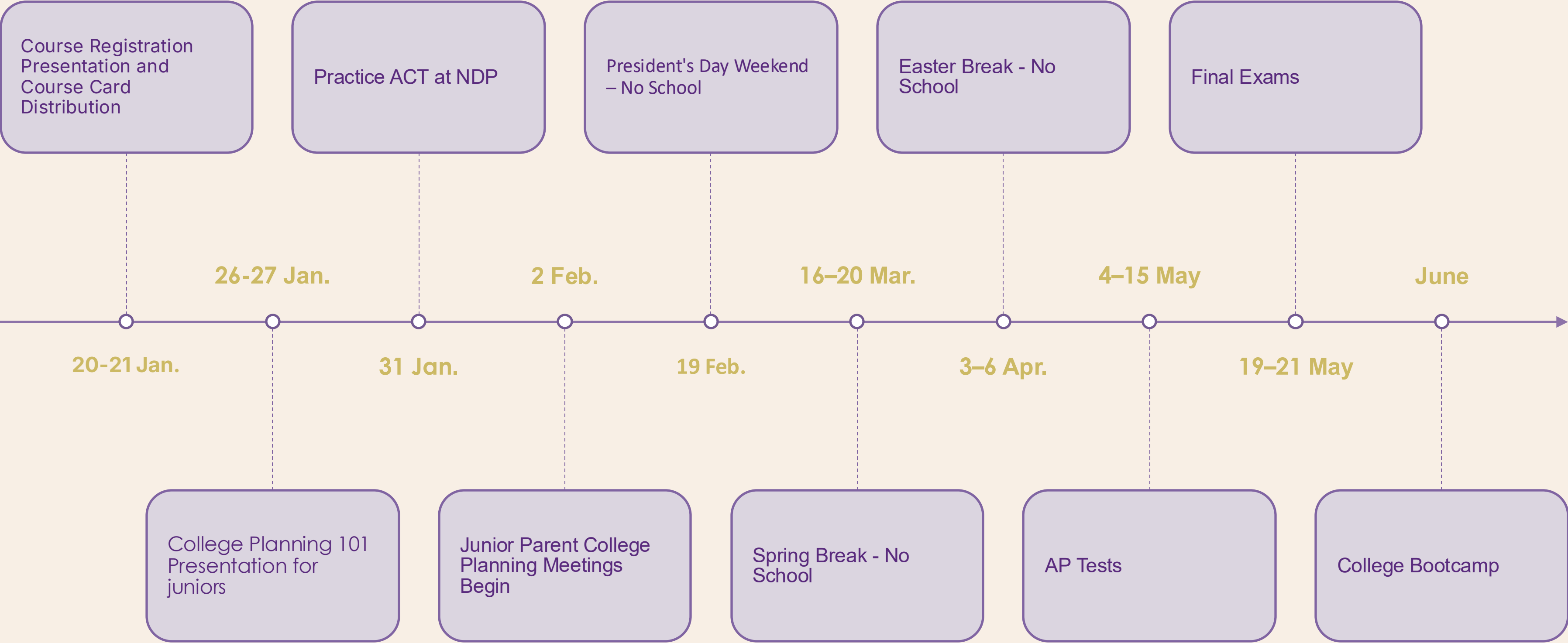
- An agreement between 16 states and over 170 public colleges and universities to provide steep nonresident tuition savings for Western students
- WUE is 150% of in-state tuition (sometimes even less)
- \$12,517 average savings per student (2024-25)
- WUE is not automatically guaranteed – students still need to apply and qualify
- You cannot establish in-state residency while on WUE

Reminders

**Junior Parent College
Planning Meetings will begin
February 2nd and go through
the first week of April**

**You can access and review
your PSAT scores from the
October 29th test on
psat.org/myscore**

Upcoming Events



Questions?

As always, feel free to reach out to your child's individual counselor for additional help/support!