

Senior Packet

2017-2018



Preparing for College: Senior Checklist



Fall Checklist

August/September

- Register for the SAT and/or ACT if you haven't taken them or you want to try for a better score.
- Explore college applications and know the different pieces of information you will need to apply.
- Visit your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
- Get to know colleges of interest: meet reps when on campus, visit, research online, etc.-make a list
- Narrow down schools of choice. Know when deadlines are for applying, financial aid, scholarships, etc.
- Create your FAFSA ID: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>

October

- October 1st –fill out your FAFSA for financial aid: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
- Be aware of early application deadlines. Some colleges will have deadlines as early as this month.
- Check with college advisors for application fee waivers, if this is a hardship.
- Finalize your college essay.
- Request personal recommendation letters. Provide the person writing the letter with a completed letter request form, a stamped, addressed envelope, and the appropriate college forms.
- Research possible scholarship opportunities. You should *never* pay for scholarship information.

November

- Finalize and submit any early decision or early action applications.
- **ALL** Transcript requests must be done through your Parchment account.
- Make sure testing companies have sent your scores to your schools of choice.

December

- Organize regular decision applications and financial aid forms-usually due in January and/or February.
- Register for the January SAT (If needed). It is the last one colleges will be able to consider for a senior.

Spring Checklist

January

- Many colleges will have application deadlines as early as January 1. Keep of deadlines
- If necessary, register for the February ACT (some colleges might consider it).
- All transcript requests are done through your Parchment account. Send 1st semester senior transcripts

Feb/March/April

- Keep working hard. Colleges will want to see your second semester transcript. No Senioritis!
- Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your final choices, especially if you haven't already.

May

- May 1 is the date when the college you plan to attend requires a commitment and deposit. When you've made your college decision, notify your counselor and the colleges. If you've been offered financial aid, accept the offer and follow the instructions given. Also notify schools you will not attend of your decision.
- Any final transcript requests must be done through Parchment and prior to June 26th.
- If you are "wait listed" by a college you really want to attend, visit, call and write the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.

College Application Facts

When should I start applying?

Most students begin the application process in the fall of their senior year.

Early Application Decisions: If you are sure about which college you want to attend, early decision or early action might be the best choice for you. If you're not sure, keep in mind that some early application plans require you to commit early.

How do I begin?

- Begin collecting the materials you need.
- Create a folder for each college you are applying to. At the front of each folder, write the deadline and create a checklist of what you'll need for the application-ex letter of recommendation, fees, essay, transcripts, etc.

How many colleges should I apply to?

5-8 colleges. They should be colleges you'd be happy to attend-even if they're a stretch.

Should I use an online or paper application?

Most colleges prefer online. Applying online can also be more convenient for you — it's easier to enter information and correct mistakes. Whichever method you choose, be sure to request ALL transcripts through your Parchment account.

Should I send addition material?

It's best if you can express everything about your qualifications and qualities in the materials requested. Colleges spend a great deal of time creating their applications to make sure they get all the information they need about each applicant.

Some arts programs may require portfolios or videos of performances. Check with the college to find out the best way to submit examples of your work.

Should I apply to colleges if my test scores/grades are below recommended ranges?

Yes. The admission scores and grades that colleges show on their websites are averages or ranges — not cutoffs. Remember that colleges consider many factors to get a more complete picture of you. For example, they look at the types of classes you take, your activities, recommendation letters, your essay and your overall character. Admission test scores and grades are just two parts of that complete picture.

Should I bother applying to colleges I don't think I can afford?

Absolutely. You don't know if you can afford a college until after you apply and find out how much financial aid that college will offer you. Fill out the FAFSA to qualify for the most aid. *****Even if the financial aid package the college offers is not enough, you have options. Many colleges are willing to work with students they have chosen for admission to ensure that those students can afford to attend.*****

Common Application

What is the Common Application?

The Common Application (www.commonapp.org) is a standardized application used by more than 450 colleges. Instead of filling out eight different applications, you can simply fill out one and submit it to each college.

Be aware that you may need to submit additional or separate documents to some colleges. You also still need to pay individual application fees for each college.

To view which schools accept the Common Application go to:

<http://www.commapp.org/commonapp/memberrequirements.aspx>

For help completing the application go to:

<http://www.commapp.org/commonapp/schoolsformsfaq.aspx>

*You will be asked to enter your guidance counselor's information.

Name: Christy Wells

Email: Cwells@ncsaz.org

College Visits

Top 10 Questions to Ask College Representatives

1. Is this school a good fit for me? What are the advantages this college can offer me?
2. What makes the difference between a student who applies and a student who is accepted?
3. What is the acceptance and retention rate?
4. What scholarships/financial aid are available to me?
5. What deadlines do I need to keep in mind?
6. What type of academic support is available on campus?
7. What can you tell me about my major? Class sizes?
8. When do I have to declare a major?
9. What type of housing is available? Are there requirements about living on campus?
10. What types of activities and sports programs does your college offer?

What to Do While Visiting a College/University

- Take a guided tour of the campus
- Explore further the library, student union, dorm rooms athletic facilities of interest
- Eat in the dining hall
- Visit with faculty from your majors of interest
- Sit in on a class
- Check out the surrounding area-hang out spots, restaurants, etc.
- Connect with current students and ask them what they like and don't like about the school

Application Checklist

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Get the Application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Make note of regular application deadline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Make note of early application deadline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Take admissions test, if required |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Take other recommended tests (SAT/ACT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Send test scores to college |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request letters of recommendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Send thank-you notes to recommendation writers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Draft admissions essay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Proofread and revise essay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Interview at college campus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Complete application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pay application fee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Confirm receipt of application materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request HS transcripts be sent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tell Mrs. Wells you applied!!! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Make note of priority financial aid deadline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Make note of regular financial aid deadline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Submit FAFSA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Receive decision letter from admissions office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Receive financial aid award letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Meet deadline to accept admission and send deposit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Accept financial aid offer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Notify other colleges you won't be attending |

College _____

The College Admissions Process

Dos and Don'ts

1. **DO NOT** ask your parent to do all the work for you!
2. **Do NOT** miss deadlines
3. **DO NOT** enroll in a college you haven't visited
4. **DO NOT** choose a college with only a handful of majors if you have no idea what you want to do as a career
5. **DO** treat the college admissions advisors with respect
6. **DO** take the SAT/ACT even if your college does not require it
7. **DO** ask me for help!!!

Common Misconceptions

1. I shouldn't apply if we can't afford the school
2. I shouldn't apply if I don't fit the admissions criteria
3. I should choose the most prestigious school I get in to
4. I shouldn't send my SAT/ACT scores until after I take them
5. Community college is cheaper than going to a university
6. Community college looks bad on a transcript/diploma
7. We can't ask the college for more money

In-State Universities

Arizona State University:

Admission Requirements

- *Top 25% of graduating class
- OR
- *Cumulative GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale in 16 core courses
- OR
- *1040 on the SAT Reasoning
- OR
- *22 on the ACT
- AND
- *Complete all 16 core courses with a 2.0 GPA in each subject area

Northern Arizona University:

Assured Admission Requirements

- *Cumulative GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale in 16 core courses.
- AND
- *Complete all 16 core courses with a 2.0 GPA in each subject area

Delegated Admission Requirements

- *2.5 GPA in the 16 core courses
- *No more than 1 deficiency in any two subject areas, unless it's a combination of math and science, in which case you would be denied.

University of Arizona:

Assured Admission Requirements

- *Top 25% of graduating class
- *No deficiencies in the 16 core courses

Delegated Admission Requirements

- *Everyone below top 25% of graduating class
- *Complete all 16 core courses with a 2.0 GPA in each subject

Having a deficiency is defined as either not completing a required course, or receiving less than a 2.0 GPA in a subject area. Having more than 2 full deficiencies (4 semester courses) or having both deficiencies in a combination of math or science will result in denial of acceptance

Average cost for AZ universities:

Tuition- \$8,800-\$9,800 per year depending on campus and major
Books and Supplies- \$1,200
Room and Board- \$6,000-\$12,000

Grand Canyon University

- *3.0 GPA or Composite score of 19 on ACT/ 1380 on SAT or 920 on SAT CR+M

Arizona Christian University

- *2.5 GPA
- *950 on SAT (CR+M) or 20 on ACT

Do's and Don'ts of Recommendation Requests!

DO begin early. Most recommenders need at least two weeks, to write recommendations, maybe longer. Ask them as far in advance of an application deadline as you can to be sure your recommendation gets prepared in a timely manner.

DON'T wait until the last minute to ask for a recommendation. Teachers and administrators are busy people. In addition to their regular work, they are probably getting requests for recommendations from many other students.

DO ask the right person for a recommendation. A recommender should be someone who knows you well and can give an honest and candid opinion of your academic abilities and your personal character. Many schools are specific and require your recommendations to come from a guidance counselor and possibly a teacher of a certain subject. Other people you might consider asking are employers, coaches or activity leaders.

DON'T ask family members or friends for recommendations. While they might know a lot about you, their recommendations might seem biased and won't hold as much weight with admissions counselors.

DO ask personally for a recommendation. This shows how important the recommendation is to you and gives you a chance to answer questions and clarify doubts the recommender might have.

DON'T ask too many people for recommendations. Remember, it's quality, not quantity, that admissions officials are looking for.

DO provide your recommenders with all the information they need. Remind them that their direct connection to you – a class, activity, job, etc. – is what you'd like them to write about. Provide them with any recommendation forms that come from the college to which you are applying. Also, make sure they are clear about any deadlines.

DON'T forget to include stamped, addressed envelopes. It's a good idea to overestimate the cost of postage, just in case the recommender attaches any additional sheets to the letter or recommendation form.

DO check in with your recommender. Don't check in too often, though. You don't want to become a pest.



Recommendation Letter Request Form for _____

Name:

Date:

Grade:

Where is recommendation going and when is it due?

Why are you applying for this particular college/award?

What are 3 qualities that you like best about yourself?

What do you feel are your strongest accomplishments in the following areas?

Academics:

Extracurricular Activities/Athletics:

Leadership:

Volunteerism:

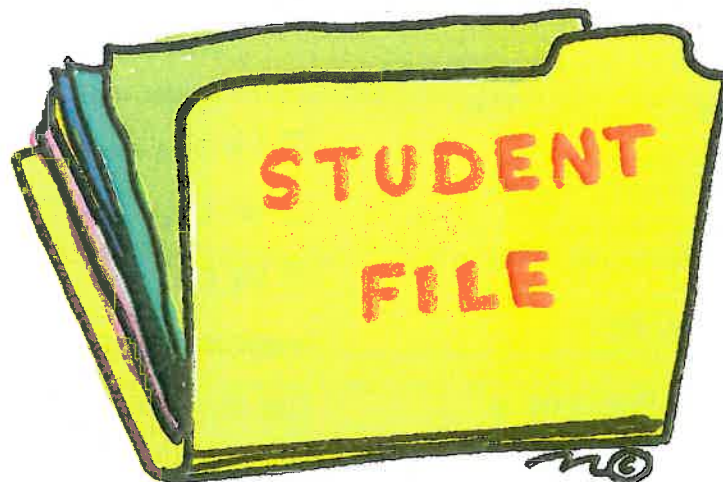
What are your career goals?

Is there anything else you'd like me to know about you?

Transcript Requests

www.parchment.com

1. Use your unique access code to log in given by Mrs. Wells (Click Have a registration code? At the bottom of the pg...don't input your information, we've already done it for you!)
2. Complete the rest of the registration process (choosing a password, confirming grad date, etc.)
3. Click "Order Your Transcript"
4. Select the destination you're requesting it to be sent to. You can choose to send it to an organization (colleges, NCAA, Common App, etc.) or to send it to yourself.
5. Finalize request or add any other organization you wish to send it to and hit submit.
6. This is a FREE service-There should be \$0 for Order Total. If it shows there is a fee, that means the organization you are requesting it to be sent to doesn't accept electronic transcripts and Parchment is trying to charge you.
DO NOT finalize request if this happens. Cancel the order and see Mrs. Dennis in the Guidance Office to mail your transcript for free.



Student's Full Name

Street Address

City, State Zip Code

(h) 555-000-0000/(c) 555-000-0000

Email Address

EDUCATION

Full name of high school, city, state

2009-2013

GPA, Rank, PSAT, SAT, ACT: ONLY if you want to showcase them

LEADERSHIP

- Specific Activities where leadership is demonstrated 10, 11, 12
- Activities may come from clubs, work, community service 11, 12
- Leadership activity may have been a one time event 11
- Use action verbs to describe activities 9, 10, 11
Organized . . . ; Designed and planned . . . ; Elected . . .

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Category 1 (insert name-group related activities, i.e.: Band)

- Name of event/activity 4hrs/wk-20 wks 9, 10, 11, 12
Action verbs to describe – phrases only
- Activities may have been in school or outside of school 2hrs/wk-32wks 10, 11, 12
- Use action verbs to describe activities 20 hours 10
Participated in . . . ;
- Use categories if you have multiple years/events in an activity

Athletics (example of second category)

- List most recent and work backwards
- Same procedure as done with category 1 activity 10, 11
- Categories not necessary if activities come from a variety of areas 11, 12
- Academic resumes may be multiple pages – it's the primary way
Colleges get to know you!!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Same procedure as above 9, 10, 11, 12

TALENTS/AWARDS

- List, brief description if necessary, most recent first 11, 12
- May come from school, work, community service, hobbies, church, etc. 12

WORK/INTERNSHIPS

- Include only if applicable
- May include summer, part-time
- Any paid work – office, retail, babysitting, pet-sitting, lawn services, etc.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- This category can be combined with Work/Internships if everything is in the summer
- May include mission trips, camps, travel, taking care of siblings

OPTIONAL CATEGORY TITLE

- Use only if you want to highlight some special skills/events Examples might include . . .
- Computer languages; Specialized computer software capabilities – Java
- Multiple foreign languages; Special hobby – design web pages, photography
- Musical instruments; Graphic design capabilities – InDesign, Flash

SAT and ACT Test Dates

2017-2018 SAT TEST DATES

Register at: www.collegeboard.org

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Deadline</u>
08/26/2017	07/28/2017	08/08/2017
10/07/2017	09/08/2017	09/19/2017
11/04/2017	10/05/2017	10/17/2017
12/02/2017	11/02/2017	11/14/2017
03/10/2018	02/09/2018	02/20/2018
05/05/2018	04/06/2018	04/17/2018
06/02/2018	05/03/2018	05/15/2018

2017-2018 ACT TEST DATES

Register at: www.actstudent.org

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Deadline</u>
09/09/2017	08/04/2017	08/18/2017
10/28/2016	09/22/2017	10/06/2017
12/09/2017	11/03/2017	11/17/2017
02/10/2018	01/12/2018	01/19/2018
04/14/2018	03/09/2018	03/23/2018
06/09/2018	05/04/2018	05/18/2018
07/14/2018	06/15/2018	06/22/2018

****NCS will be proctoring the official ACT for ALL Juniors on April 3rd. No registration or payment is needed, further communication regarding this will go home in spring!**

AZCIS

Career Information System

Can help you answer . . .

What should I study?

Which occupation pays the most?

How do I get a Job?

How can I get money for school?

Where should I go to school?

CIS has . . .

- Information on occupations, education, and financial aid
- Self-assessments to help you decide your direction
- A portfolio and course planner to save information and store results
- Job search hints and a resume creator
- ...*plus much more!*



NCS is licensed

to use CIS.

To log on, go to:

www.azcis.intocareers.org

Use the username

and password

below to get in.

Username: nwcs

Password: 2viewazcis

College/Career/Scholarship Resources

AzCIS

Log onto NCS account (username: nwcs password: 2viewazcis)

*Create a personal portal titled "My Education Career Action Plan"

*Sort through colleges and degrees

*Scholarship Sort

*Free career interest assessments

*Free test prep

... And much more!!!

Go to <http://www.azcis.intocareers.org/>



Fast web

*Log in to keep track of scholarships

*Receive email updates and alerts

*Search for colleges

*Career planning

*Financial aid information

Other great resources:

www.scholarships.com

www.campustours.com

www.christianconnector.com

www.collegemajors101.com

www.peterson.com

www.cappex.com

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/>

Big Future

*Free tool through Collegeboard

*Keeps track of your information

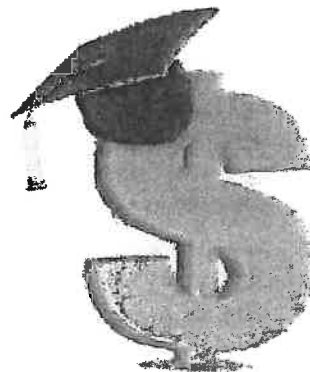
*Tracks what you should be doing this year

*Career sort

*College sort

*Scholarship sort

Go to www.collegeboard.org/bigfuture



Scholly

*App to download on the Ipad

*Only 99 cents

*Searches for scholarships that fit you personally

*Provides website, deadline, qualifications

*Search for "Scholly" in the App store



Top 10 Scholarship Search Sites

#1-www.petersons.com

#2-www.unigo.com

#3-www.fastweb.com

#4-www.cappex.com

#5-www.chegg.com

#6-www.collegeboard.org

#7-www.niche.com

#8-www.scholarships.com

#9-www.collegenet.com

#10-www.scholarshipmonkey.com



FINANCIAL AID

SCHOLARSHIPS

- This is FREE money!!!
- Obtaining scholarships is based on what you have done to earn it
- The largest portion of money will come directly from the college through academic success or a talent in extracurriculars such as sports or fine arts.
- Some scholarships have a financial need component to it, but not all
- You should be applying for outside scholarships now as a junior!
- Merit scholarships coming directly from the college will be automatically offered once you have applied in senior year
- Many colleges have extra scholarships you can apply for
- Do NOT have your parents applying for you! You need to do it yourself!

GRANTS

- More FREE money!!!
- Eligibility determined by the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Every school will be different in how generous they are with grant money
- The earlier you fill out the FAFSA in spring of your SENIOR year, the better chance you have of getting more money
- This money is not guaranteed every year, you must reapply through FAFSA

LOANS

- This is money you have to pay back
- Also determined by the FAFSA
- Students typically qualify for a small portion to be taken out in their name, the rest will need to be under their parent/guardian's name



Information Needed to Complete FAFSA

Info you should know:

- Citizenship and state residency
- Education history
- Major course of study (what you want to major in)
- Expected course workload
- Interest in student loans and work study
- List of schools you are interested in attending

Info you will need from your parents:

- Marital status
- Income taxes and deductions
- Spouse's income
- Household assets
- Dependency status
- Level of education
- Age
- State residency

The biggest mistake made on the FAFSA is leaving a field blank.

DO NOT leave anything blank!

This could potentially cause you to lose out on more \$\$\$\$



Easy Steps in the FAFSA Process

1. Create your FAFSA ID: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

2. Go to fafsa.gov

Remember, the FAFSA is FREE

3. Log in using your FSA ID

- **If you completed a FAFSA last year:** Click “Login” and enter your FSA ID. If you haven’t transitioned your PIN to an FSA ID.
- **If this is your first time completing the FAFSA:** Click “Start a new FAFSA” and enter your FSA ID. You will be able to use your FSA ID to sign and submit your new FAFSA right away.
- **If you are a parent:** Click “login” and “Enter the student’s information”.

4. Choose which FAFSA you’d like to complete

- **Students will be able to submit a FAFSA® earlier.** Students will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as **Oct. 1, 2016**, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The FAFSA became available January 1 as in previous years.)
- **Students will use earlier income information.** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.

5. Enter your personal information*

Name, date of birth, etc. If you have completed the FAFSA in the past, a lot of your personal information will be pre-populated to save you time. Make sure you enter your personal information exactly as it appears on official government documents. (That’s right, no nicknames.)

6. Enter your financial information*

All of it. You should use income records for the tax year prior to the academic year for which you are applying. For example, if you are filling out the 2017–18 FAFSA, you will need to use 2015 tax information.

7. Choose up to 10 schools

You can add up to 10 schools to your FAFSA at a time. Two-thirds of freshmen FAFSA applicants list only one college on their applications. Don’t make this mistake! Make sure you add any school you plan to attend, even if you haven’t applied or been accepted yet. We will send the necessary information over to the schools you listed so they can calculate the amount of financial aid you are eligible to receive

8. Sign the document with your FSA ID*

Your FSA ID serves as your electronic signature, or e-signature. You’ll use it to electronically sign and submit your FAFSA. If you’re considered a dependent student, at least one of your parents or your legal guardian will need an FSA ID as well. You will use your FSA ID to renew/correct your FAFSA each school year, so keep it in a safe place. If you have siblings, your parent can use the same FSA ID to sign FAFSAs for all children.

HELPFUL VERSES FOR SENIOR YEAR!!!

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Philippines 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 6:25-27

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

Matthew 6:34

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.