

Post-Secondary Planning and Information Guide



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Important Things to Know

1. Alaska Performance Scholarship-Check PowerSchool to see if you qualify. Must take SAT or ACT and complete the FAFSA to qualify. <https://acpe.alaska.gov/FINANCIAL-AID/AK-Performance-Scholarship>
2. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Must complete the FAFSA using parent's 2022 Tax info. NEVER use a site that charges you a fee. This is a FREE application for Federal aid based on income. Most colleges will require you to complete the FAFSA even if you will not qualify for aid. <https://studentaid.gov/>

Weekly FAFSA workshops online Tuesdays 2:00-3:30 at <https://acpe.alaska.gov/FINANCIAL-AID/The-FAFSA> weekly FAFSA Wednesdays online 3:00-6:00pm at <https://acpe.alaska.gov/FINANCIAL-AID/The-FAFSA>

3. The ACPE Success Center offers education, career training, and financial aid guidance through Zoom, email, phone, and in-person appointments. To schedule an appointment visit youcanbook.me or email ACPESuccessCenter@alaska.gov or call 907-269-7980.
4. Parent Information Post-Secondary Planning Night at Soldotna High School in the library. Call 907-260-7000 for more information.
5. The Common Application – Complete the Common App once, apply to many schools at once. Over 900 colleges use the Common Ap. Must respond in 250-650 words to one of the essay prompts. For more information, visit: <https://www.commonapp.org/>

Below is the full set of Common App essay prompts for 2023-24.

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.

6. The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Program - Choose from hundreds of undergraduate programs outside your home state, and pay no more than 150 percent of that institution's resident tuition rate. <https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wue/>

Suggested Timeline by grade level:

9th-12th **Keep track** of ALL your volunteer hours, activities, involvements, and sports. Include Youth Groups, Student Council, Sports, Drama, Clubs, Dance, 4H, Rodeo, Martial Arts, Jobs, and all activities that show you are a well-rounded person. Many college applications and scholarship applications will want you to report this information.

9th, 10th or 11th FALL: If you are in at least Geometry or higher, **take the PSAT** – At RCA on October 18, 2023 at 7:30am in the auditorium. To sign up, pay Amanda Barber \$20.00.

9th, 10th, or 11th FALL OR SPRING: **Take the SAT and/or the ACT**. Offered at Kenai Peninsula College on Saturdays. Can be taken multiple times to improve scores. To sign up visit: www.act.org and/or www.sat.org

10th SPRING: Explore the option of attending Middle College. Visit: <https://kpbsd.org/departments/assistant-superintendent/instructional-services/secondary-education/college-career/middle-college/>

10th and 11th FALL and SPRING: Start searching for training programs, employment opportunities, and colleges using one of these search tools:

11th and 12th FALL: Attend KPBSD's annual College and Career Fair. October 11, 2023 10:00am-2:00pm at Kenai Central High School.

12th FALL: Apply to training programs, apprenticeships, colleges, or employment opportunities. Attend parent information nights and FAFSA workshops. Complete the FAFSA in December of your senior year.

12th SPRING: Search for scholarships and APPLY, APPLY, APPLY!!! Finalize details at your training program or college including Housing application, final high school transcript, and the financial aid process.

Visit KPBSD's ONE STOP portal and use the scholarship application template to create your scholarship portfolio.

<https://kpbsd.org/departments/assistant-superintendent/instructional-services/secondary-education/counselor-corner-and-onestop/>

Search KPBSD's Scholarship Database

<https://kpbsd.org/OneStop/Scholarships.aspx>

Search on Student Scholarships <https://studentscholarships.org/>

Search on Fastweb <https://www.fastweb.com/>

Western Undergraduate Exchange discounted tuition in 16 states at over 160 institutions. Some colleges have a separate application for WUE, some automatically give you WUE upon acceptance.

<https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wue/>

College/Training Center Search Tools:

Collegeboard <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

The Alaska Career Information System (career interest profiler, college search, financial aid search, and more) <https://acpe.alaska.gov/>

Career Exploration and Training Opportunities:

ACPE Success Center - training/financial aid guidance ACPESuccessCenter@alaska.gov

Alaska Career College-www.alaskacareercollege.edu/

Alaska Driving Academy -CDL, Heavy Equipment, www.alaskadrivingacademy.com

Alaska Job Center Network <https://labor.alaska.gov/splash/alexsys/>

Alaska Vocational Technical Center-avtec.edu/

Amundsen Educational Center – Construction Training, Housing, www.aecak.org

Apprenticeship search <https://awib.alaska.gov/apprentice/index.html>

Construction Trades-<https://helmetstohardhats.org/explore-trades/>

Explore the Trades: Plumbing/HVAC/Electrical-explorethetrades.org/

Mapping your Future <https://www.mappingyourfuture.org/index.cfm>

Northern Industrial Training- CDL, heavy equipment www.nitalaska.com/

Nursing Careers-www.registerednursing.org/nursing-careers/

O*Net – Job search, resume builder tools <https://www.onetonline.org/>

RoadTrip Nation Career Exploration- roadtripnation.com/explore/interests





Register at: www.act.org

RCA School code: 020377

The **ACT**® YOUR JOURNEY.
MANY PATHS.

2023/2024
TEST DATES

Handwritten notes: Homer/UAA, Homer/UAA, Homer/KPC, UAA, UAA, UAA

SEP. 9	OCT. 28	DEC. 9
FEB. 10	APR. 13	JUN. 8
	JUL. 13	

Handwritten note: \$60.00

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test date.

NO TIME TO REGISTER?

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE A REMINDER OF REGISTRATION DEADLINES!
ACT.ORG/BTS



FEE WAIVERS

Ask your counselor if you qualify for a fee waiver to take the ACT test for free. Fee waivers cover registration fees for up to 4 national tests, unlimited score reports, and provide free access to The Official ACT® Self-Paced Course, Powered by Kaplan® and Test Information Release (TIR) on eligible test dates.



Register online at act.org/bts

Stand out to colleges. Take the **SAT**.

Register at: www.sat.org

RCA School code: 020377

~~\$~~ 55.00

2023–24 School Year Test Dates

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration
Aug 26, 2023	July 28, 2023	August 15, 2023
* Oct 7, 2023 KPC / Sotti / Homer	Sep 7, 2023 Register	Sep 26, 2023
* Nov 4, 2023 KPC / Sotti / Homer	Oct 5, 2023 Register	Oct 24, 2023
* Dec 2, 2023 Sotti / Niki / Homer	Nov 2, 2023 Register	Nov 21, 2023
Mar 9, 2024 (Digital)**	Feb 23, 2024	February 27, 2024
May 4, 2024 (Digital)**	Apr 19, 2024	April 23, 2024
June 1, 2024 (Digital)**	May 16, 2024	May 21, 2024

*Your registration options will be limited if you aren't taking the SAT for one of its main purposes. Registration for the spring 2024 test dates are subject to change.

College Planning: 9th/10th Grade

There are some steps you can take as a ninth- and a 10th-grader to make sure you're on the right track for college. This list will help you navigate the college planning process.

9TH GRADE

- Create a four-year high school plan.** Think about what you'd like to accomplish in the next four years.
 - Make sure you know which high school courses are required by colleges, and that you're taking the right classes as early as the ninth grade. You can ask your counselor about what those "right" classes are.
 - Get to know the levels of courses offered by your school.
- Start thinking about your life after school,** including the types of jobs that might interest you. Of course, these will change — often — but it's good to start thinking about the possibilities.
 - Identify your interests — likes and dislikes — not just in classes but also in every area. This will help you focus on your goals.
 - Talk to other people, such as your school counselor, teachers, recent college graduates who are working, professionals in the community, etc., about careers you might find interesting.
- Meet with your high school counselor.** Your counselor knows how to help you get the most out of high school. Be sure to take some time during the school year to discuss post-high-school plans with him or her.
- Participate in extracurricular activities.** Academics aren't everything. Explore your interest in a sport, school club, music or drama group, or community volunteer activity.
 - Remember that colleges would rather see real involvement in one activity instead of a loose connection to several.
 - If you're interested in playing sports in college, research the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements. The NCAA requires completion of certain core courses; you can find the specifics at ncaaclearinghouse.net.
- Save for college.** It's not too late to put money aside for college. Every little bit helps! Learning about financial aid early on can also help you down the road.
- Explore summer opportunities.** Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.
- Get familiar with the PSAT-related assessments and SAT[®].** Most four-year colleges consider applicants' scores on college admission test. Download the free Daily Practice for the New SAT app to get a feel for the kinds of questions you might face on test day.
- Take the PSAT[™] 8/9.** If your school offers it, sign up to take the first of the College Board assessments to set a baseline. This test will help you build up your skills to take the SAT in 11th or 12th grade.

10TH GRADE

Meet with your high school counselor — again.

Be sure to meet with your school counselor to ensure that your course schedule is challenging enough to prepare you for college.

- Check into any prerequisites for advanced-level junior- and senior-year courses.

Take the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT™ 10. Depending on your school, you might have the opportunity to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October or the PSAT 10 in February or March. It provides valuable feedback on your college readiness and a free, personalized plan to help you start getting ready for the SAT — and for college.

Ask if the PSAT/NMSQT is offered to 10th-graders. Although this test is usually given in the 11th grade, it is also often offered in the 10th grade. That's because it provides valuable feedback through the Student Score Report. You can then work on any of your academic weaknesses while there is still plenty of time to make improvements.

Are you interested in attending a U.S. military academy? If so, you should request a precandidate questionnaire.

Along with your family, do some research about how to obtain financial aid. Many students use financial aid to cover college costs. Find out what financial aid is, where it comes from, and how you can apply for it. Read the U.S. Department of Education's *Funding Your Education* (about federal aid programs).

Attend college and career fairs. The fairs often take place in the fall at your school or in your area.

Participate in school activities or volunteer efforts. Extracurricular activities can help you develop time-management skills and enrich your high school experience.

Talk to your counselor about your plans for life after high school. He or she can help you plan your schedule, search for colleges, and navigate the financial aid process. The more your counselor knows about you, the more he or she can help you along the way.

Tour college campuses. If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel time to visit colleges and see what they're like. Even if you have no interest in attending the college you are visiting, it will help you learn what to look for in a college.



College Planning: 11th Grade

Junior year marks a turning point. This is because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear. Here are some things you can do this year to stay on track for college.

FALL

- Start with you:** Make lists of your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.
- Learn about colleges.** Look at their websites and find colleges at bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search. Talk to friends, family members, teachers, and recent grads of your school now in college. List the college features that interest you.
- Resource check:** Visit the counseling office and meet the counselors there. Is there a college night for students and families? When will college representatives visit your school? (Put the dates in your calendar.) Examine catalogs and guides.
- At school, speak to your counselor about taking the PSAT/NMSQT[®],** which is given in October. If you plan to ask for testing accommodations (because of a disability), be sure the College Board has approved your eligibility.
- Make a file to manage your college search, testing, and application data.** If appropriate (for example, if you're interested in drama, music, art, sports, etc.), start to gather material for a portfolio.
- Estimate your financial aid need.** Financial aid can help you afford college. Use the College Board's *Getting Financial Aid* and the financial aid calculator at bigfuture.org to estimate how much aid you might receive.

WINTER

- Sign up to take the SAT[®] in the spring.** You can register online or through your school. SAT fee waivers are available to eligible students. To prepare for the SAT, you can access free, personalized SAT practice tools at satpractice.org, including thousands of interactive questions, video lessons, practice tests, and more.
- Begin a search for financial aid sources.** National sources include the College Board's Scholarship Search and electronic sources. Don't overlook local and state aid sources. (Ask a counselor for help or check your public library.)
- With your family, make an appointment with your counselor** to discuss ways to improve your college-preparation and selection processes.
- Ask a counselor or teacher about taking the SAT Subject Tests[™] in the spring.** You should take them while course material is still fresh in your mind. You can download *The SAT Subject Tests Student Guide*, which offers test-prep advice, from SATSubjectTests.org.
- Explore AP[®].** The Advanced Placement[®] Program helps hundreds of thousands of high school students achieve their college dreams each year. Get the facts at apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap. If you're in AP classes, register for the AP Exams given in May.
- Opt in to the College Board Opportunity Scholarships at cb.org/opportunity.** You can earn scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 by completing individual college planning steps. Complete all six steps and you'll be eligible for the \$40,000 scholarship.



SPRING

- Contact your counselor** before leaving school for the summer if you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.
- Develop a list of 15 or 20 colleges that are of interest to you.** You can find many colleges at which you'll be happy and get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and then finding colleges that will meet your goals.
- Stay open to all the possibilities—don't limit your search.** To find the best college for you, you should apply to colleges of varying selectivity. Selective colleges admit a portion of students who apply. Some colleges are highly selective while others are less selective. Make sure to apply to public, private, in-state, and out-of-state schools so that you have plenty of options from which to choose.
- Take the SAT.** The test is typically offered in March, May, and June. Make sure you start preparing for the test several months in advance using the tools available at satpractice.org. And remember, if you're not happy with your scores when you get them, you might want to test again in the fall. Many students take the test a second time as seniors, and they usually do better.
- Start to gather documents for financial aid:** Be sure to keep a copy of your tax returns handy. You'll use these to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on Oct. 1.

SUMMER

- Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center** if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college (ncaaclearinghouse.net).
- Get your FSA ID:** Before you can fill out your FAFSA, you need to get a username and password (also known as an FSA ID).
- Find a full-time or part-time job,** or participate in a summer camp or summer college program.
- Visit colleges.** When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you're there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors, and students. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admission counselors.
- Create a résumé**—a record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and work experiences since you started high school.
- Download applications.** Go to the website of each college's admission office and either complete the application online or request a paper application from colleges to which you'll apply. Check application dates—large universities may have early dates or rolling admission.
- Visit some local colleges**—large, small, public, and private. A visit to a college campus can help you decide if that college is right for you. Make a plan ahead of time to get the most from your visit. Check out the campus checklist at bigfuture.org. Attend college fairs, too.
- Scan local newspapers** to see which civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area award financial aid to graduating seniors. Start a file.

Visit bigfuture.org for more information.



College Planning: 12th Grade

Want to know if you're on track in the college application process? This checklist shows you what you should be doing, and when.

When you complete steps marked with * you may be eligible for College Board Opportunity Scholarships. Learn more at: [cb.org/opportunity](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity).

FALL

- Strengthen Your College List***: Meet with a counselor about your college choices and, if you've not yet done so, download college applications and financial aid forms. Make sure you have a balanced list of academic safety, fit, and reach schools. Plan to visit as many of these colleges as possible.
- Create a master list or calendar that includes:**
 - Tests you'll take and their fees, dates, and registration deadlines
 - College application due dates
 - Required financial aid application forms and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications)
 - Other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)
 - Your high school's application processing deadlines
- Ask a counselor** to help you request a fee waiver if you can't afford application or test fees.
- Improve Your Score***: Many seniors retake the SAT in the fall. Additional coursework and practice with Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy® since your last test could help you boost your performance. Plus you already know what to expect on test day.
- Be sure** to have your SAT scores sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- Complete the FAFSA***: To apply for most financial aid, you'll need to complete the FAFSA. Oct. 1 is the first day you can file the FAFSA.
- Complete the CSS Profile**: CSS Profile™ is an online application used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for their aid dollars.
- Prepare** early decision/early action or rolling admission applications as soon as possible. Nov. 1–15: Colleges may require test scores and applications between these dates for early decision admission.
- Ask a counselor or teacher** for recommendations if you need them. Give each teacher or counselor an outline of your academic record and your extracurricular activities. For each recommendation, provide a stamped, addressed envelope and any college forms required.
- Write first drafts** and ask teachers and others to read them if you're submitting essays. If you're applying for early decision, finish the essays for that application now.
- Apply to College***: Submit your applications to the schools that you want to attend.
- Ask counselors** to send your transcripts to colleges. Give counselors the proper forms at least two weeks before the colleges require them.



WINTER

- Keep photocopies** as you finish, and send your applications and essays.
- Give the correct form** to your counselor if the college wants to see second-semester grades.
- Have your high school send a transcript**—it is sent separately by mail to colleges if you apply online to colleges.

SPRING

- Keep active in school.** If you are waitlisted, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and the time you learned of its decision.
- Visit your final college before accepting.** You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. Notify your counselor of your choice. If you have questions about housing offers, talk to your counselor or call the college.
- Inform every college** of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid by May 1. Colleges cannot require your deposit or your commitment to attend before May 1. Talk to your counselor or adviser if you have questions.
- Send your deposit** to one college only.
- Take any AP® Exams.** Show what you've learned in your AP classes. A successful score could even earn you credit, advanced placement, or both in college.
- Waitlisted by a college?** If you intend to enroll if you are accepted, tell the admission director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you're accepted.
- Work with a counselor** to resolve any admission or financial aid problems.
- Ask your high school** to send a final transcript to your college.
- Review your financial aid awards:** Not all financial aid awards are the same, so it's important to choose the aid package that's best for you and your family. Be sure to note what you have to do to continue receiving financial aid from year to year, and how your aid might change in future years.

Visit bigfuture.org for more information.



College: How to Get There From Here

We know you're ready for college—your academic track record has proven that. Now it's time to apply. Here are some tips on how to get started.

Apply to four or more colleges.

AT LEAST
1
SAFETY

A college you're confident you can get into.

AT LEAST
2
GOOD FITS

Colleges you have a pretty good chance of getting into.

AT LEAST
1
REACH

A college that you have a chance of getting into, but it's a stretch.

Applying to two colleges instead of one makes it **40% MORE LIKELY** that you'll enroll in a four-year college. If you apply to more than two, then your chances of enrolling will be even better.

Never rule out applying to a college because you think it's too expensive.

There are scholarships and financial aid packages available at almost all four-year colleges.

The estimated average grant aid for four-year colleges in 2016-17

PUBLIC COLLEGES
MORE THAN \$4,700

PRIVATE NONPROFIT COLLEGES
MORE THAN \$18,600

Many students receive much more than the average aid.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens October 1.

When looking at colleges, consider the following:

ACADEMIC

What are the average SAT[®] scores and GPA of students admitted to the school? Does it have any prerequisites? Apply to colleges that are a good academic fit—whether they're a safe bet or a little out of reach.

GRADUATION RATE

Do most students graduate in four years? If not, why not?

LOCATION

Do you prefer a big city, suburb, or small town?

MAJORS

Does the college offer a variety of majors that interest you?

SIZE

Do you want a smaller campus with smaller class sizes or a larger school with a wider variety of programs, such as a state university?

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Does the college's library meet your needs? Does the campus use the latest technology? What about lab facilities?

CAMPUS LIFE AND SERVICES

What are the housing options? Are there social activities, cultural events, clubs, or athletics that interest you?

What support services are available on campus to help with social, health, academic, and financial challenges?

Take a college tour.

Set up campus visits. These visits are always free, but if you can't travel, take a virtual tour, or visit a local college. Even if you don't tour your first-choice college, you'll get an idea of what campus life is really like.

College Application Timeline

Want to know if you're on track in the college application process? This timeline shows you what you should be doing, and when.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER—PREPARE

- Sign up for updates at bigfuture.org** and opt in to the College Board Opportunity Scholarships at cb.org/opportunity if you haven't already.
- Talk to your school counselor or adviser** about the college search and application process.
- College requirements:** Make a list of the application, testing, and financial aid requirements for each college.
- Letters of recommendation:** Decide who to ask, and reach out to them early so they have time to write good letters. If you have a résumé or list of accomplishments, be sure to send it to them.
- Application essays:** Look over essays you have already written for inspiration. Share your ideas with parents, teachers, or other trusted adults so they can help you craft the strongest essays possible.
- Register for the SAT:** If you haven't taken it yet, or would like to take it again, it's not too late! Sign up now, and be sure to send score reports to colleges.
- Practice and improve your SAT score:** When you practice for the SAT for 12 hours using Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy and improve your score by 100+ points, you could be eligible for a College Board Opportunity Scholarship. Visit cb.org/opportunity.
- Opt in to Student Search Service[®]:** More than 1,100 colleges use this service and are looking for students like you.
- Complete the FAFSA, which opens October 1:** It's necessary if you're applying for federal and state grants and loans. Funds are limited, so make sure to file by the financial aid priority filing dates. You could also earn a chance at a College Board Opportunity Scholarship.
- Reminder:** Enter the Complete the FAFSA scholarship at cb.org/opportunity.
- Complete the CSS Profile[™], which also opens October 1:** Certain colleges use it to see if you qualify for additional grants and scholarships. (There's a fee for application.)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER—APPLY TO COLLEGES

- Work on your applications:** Some have deadlines as early as November.
- Send your SAT and AP[®] scores:** This ensures that colleges have the most complete set of your information to review for admission, as well as scholarship awards, course placement, or selection to a specific program or major.
- Consider college application services:** Application systems like the Coalition Application, Common Application, and Universal College Application let you complete one application online and submit it to several colleges.
- Apply to college:** Submit your applications to colleges you're interested in attending, and you could earn a chance at a College Board Opportunity Scholarship. Visit cb.org/opportunity.
- Send transcripts:** Ask for your transcripts to be sent to your chosen colleges.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY—EXPLORE FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS

- Compare award letters:** After examining the financial aid packages you're offered, you'll see that schools may be more affordable than you thought.
- Search for scholarships:** Scholarships provide money for college that you don't need to repay. And they're not just for academic superstars.

MARCH/APRIL—DECIDE!

- Get information:** Dig a little deeper to help you make the best choice. Ask questions. Create a list of any questions you still have about the colleges you're considering.
- Review acceptance letters:** Go over all offers of admission, consider the pros and cons of each school, and pick the college that's the best fit for you.

Visit bigfuture.org for more information.



FILE THE FAFSA QUICK GUIDE

800-441-2962

OPTION #4

START UP TO A YEAR IN ADVANCE

File as soon as possible after October 1st.
Know your school(s) deadlines — they may be sooner than you think.

the ACPE
Success
Center

1 TO START — DETERMINE YOUR DEPENDENCY STATUS (VISIT [STUDENTAID.GOV](https://studentaid.gov))

2 CREATE AN FSA ID @ [STUDENTAID.GOV](https://studentaid.gov) (YOUR FAFSA LOGIN & DIGITAL SIGNATURE)

Every student (and for dependent students, one parent) needs to create an FSA ID. Each FSA ID needs to be linked to its own email address. A parent can use the same FSA ID for multiple children.

- Provide an email address (each FSA ID requires a unique email address) and create your username and password. (Note: the password must be a minimum of 8 characters that include an uppercase, lowercase, special character, & number)
- Enter personal information (address, phone number, SSN, date of birth)
- Complete the four challenge questions and answers
- Check your email &/or mobile phone; copy/paste the verification code sent to you to confirm your email &/or mobile phone

3 GATHER YOUR DOCUMENTS

FOR BOTH THE STUDENT & PARENT OR SPOUSE (IF APPLICABLE):

- Social security numbers
- Prior-prior year's (PPY) tax info (IRS Form 1040 and Schedules for Form 1040), and corresponding W-2's
- Prior-prior year's (PPY) untaxed income records (social security, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), child support received, interest income, or veterans benefits records)
- Information on cash, savings and checking account balances, investments (stocks, bonds, 529 college savings plans for all children), and real estate
- FSA ID

FOR THE STUDENT ONLY:

- Driver's license or state issued ID (if available)
- Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen)

4 COMPLETE THE FAFSA @ [STUDENTAID.GOV](https://studentaid.gov)

- Follow the prompts to complete your FAFSA
- Use FSA ID(s) to sign and submit the FAFSA electronically (or print, sign, and mail your signature page)
- Print and save your confirmation page; also emailed directly to the student
- Save copies of all documents you used to complete the FAFSA

Pro Tip

WHAT IS PRIOR-PRIOR YEAR (PPY)?

Prior-Prior Year (PPY) is tax information from two years ago.

For example, a high school senior planning to enroll in college or career training in Fall 2021 will file their FAFSA using tax information from 2019.

Login

DON'T FORGET YOUR LOGIN INFO —

STUDENT FSA ID

VERIFIED EMAIL: _____

USERNAME: _____

PASSWORD: _____

PARENT FSA ID (IF DEPENDENT STUDENT)

VERIFIED EMAIL: _____

USERNAME: _____

PASSWORD: _____

5 REVIEW YOUR STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR)

You should receive your SAR via e-mail in 3–10 business days. If you did not provide a valid email address, you will receive it by mail within 3 weeks of filing.

- Locate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) in the upper right corner of your SAR
- Review your SAR for accuracy
- Make corrections or supply additional information (if applicable) to your processed FAFSA according to the update process described in this folder
- If you update your FAFSA with changes/additional information, notify the Financial Aid office at the school(s)
- If you have special circumstances (such as changes in your family's financial situation), contact your school's Financial Aid office
- If applicable, provide your school with the necessary documentation of your special circumstances

6 REVIEW YOUR AWARD LETTERS

Shortly after you receive your SAR, school(s) listed on your FAFSA will send an award letter; many award letters are now issued via email. Award letters provide a financial aid "award package," explaining any financial aid available to the student if they attend that institution. Awards might include a combination of grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans.

- Compare award letters from different schools using the Award Letter Comparison Tool: www.finaid.org/calculators
- Act on each award letter - notify the school if you accept all or part of the award package, or decline it
- Know your response deadline(s): _____
- Register for an Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP) account at Acpe.alaska.gov/ASAP to track your eligibility status for the Alaska Education Grant, and, if you are a recent high school graduate, the Alaska Performance Scholarship

Your initial financial aid award letters may not reference these programs, even if you do qualify. Be sure to check your eligibility/award status regularly for updates and any required actions you may need to take, such as accepting your award, to ensure the timely availability of your funding through your school's Financial Aid office.

Pro Tip UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE) —

You can update your FAFSA information 2–3 business days after you submit your FAFSA. For example, if you made a mistake or need to add schools you did not originally list on your FAFSA, simply log back on and submit your corrections. For tax information, if you selected the "will file" option on your FAFSA, you must update your financial information after you file. Notify school(s) if you update your FAFSA.

Pro Tip VERIFY YOUR INFORMATION (IF REQUESTED) —

Schools are asked to verify the information reported on the FAFSA for approximately 30% of all applicants. It is important to provide any requested information timely, to ensure you can receive financial aid. Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to reduce the likelihood of being selected for verification.

- If selected, submit the requested information by the verification deadline: _____
- Keep copies of all documents used to complete your FAFSA in case you're selected for verification

IMPORTANT ".GOV" WEBSITES:

STUDENTAID.GOV/FSA-ID – to create an FSA ID

STUDENTAID.GOV – to complete the FAFSA

APS.ALASKA.GOV – learn about the AK Performance Scholarship

ACPE.ALASKA.GOV – info on resources available to Alaska students

ACPE.ALASKA.GOV/FAFSA – discover a FAFSA completion event in your area



the
Success
Center



FAFSA
time
alaska

NEED ADDITIONAL HELP?
CONTACT THE ACPE SUCCESS CENTER AT:
ACPE.ALASKA.GOV/SUCCESSCENTER
800-441-2962 OPTION# 4
OR IN JUNEAU 907-465-2962



WUE

The Western Undergraduate Exchange

ATTEND COLLEGE IN THE WEST FOR LESS

What is WUE?

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) is a tuition-savings program that makes attending out-of-state colleges and universities more affordable for students. Through WUE, you receive a reduced tuition rate, giving you more education options for your money. **Virtually all undergraduate degrees are available.**



160+
INSTITUTIONS



\$11,294
AVERAGE SAVINGS
PER STUDENT

How does WUE work?

Participating two- and four-year public colleges and universities across the Western U.S. agree to charge out-of-state students no more than 150 percent of the institution's in-state tuition. Tuition savings may vary depending on the college or major.

The bottom line: You save big with WUE and almost always pay less than out-of-state tuition.

How do I get started?

Check your eligibility by home state/territory, college and major through our online **WUE Savings Finder**. Visit wuesavingsfinder.wiche.edu or use the QR code.



Meet the college's WUE admissions requirements and deadlines.

Apply directly to the college(s) of your choice.

Contact the college - it's the best source of information about how you can save money through WUE.

Questions? Visit wue.wiche.edu.
Or contact us at info-sap@wiche.edu
or 303.541.0267.

WUE is a program of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

WICHE
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Participating colleges and universities

As of July 2023

Residents of the WICHE region may apply, which include the 15 U.S. states below, as well as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

* denotes a 2-year college

ALASKA

University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Alaska Southeast

ARIZONA

Arizona State University/Downtown
Arizona State University/Polytechnic
Arizona State University/West
Arizona Western College *
Central Arizona College *
Chandler-Gilbert Community College *
Cochise College *
Coconino Community College *
Eastern Arizona College *
Estrella Mountain Community College *
GateWay Community College *
Glendale Community College *
Mesa Community College *
Mohave Community College *
Northern Arizona University
Northland Pioneer College *
Paradise Valley Community College *
Phoenix College *
Pima Community College *
Rio Salado College *
Scottsdale Community College *
South Mountain Community College *
University of Arizona
University of Arizona Sierra Vista
Yavapai College *

CALIFORNIA

Cal Poly Humboldt
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Bakersfield
California State University, Channel Islands
California State University, Chico
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, East Bay
California State University, Maritime Academy
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Sacramento
California State University, San Bernardino
California State University, San Marcos
California State University, Stanislaus
College of the Siskiyous *
Lake Tahoe Community College *
Lassen Community College *
Sonoma State University
University of California, Merced

COLORADO

Adams State University
Aims Community College *
Arapahoe Community College *
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado Mountain College *
Colorado Northwestern Community College *
Colorado State University
Colorado State University-Pueblo
Community College of Aurora *
Community College of Denver *
Fort Lewis College

Front Range Community College *
Lamar Community College *
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Morgan Community College *
Northeastern Junior College *
Otero College *
Pikes Peak State College
Pueblo Community College *
Red Rocks Community College *
Trinidad State College *
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
University of Colorado Denver
University of Northern Colorado
Western Colorado University

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Northern Marianas College *

GUAM

University of Guam

HAWAII

University of Hawai'i at Hilo
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
University of Hawai'i Maui College
University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu

IDAHO

Boise State University
College of Eastern Idaho *
College of Southern Idaho *
Idaho State University
Lewis-Clark State College
North Idaho College *
University of Idaho

MONTANA

Dawson Community College *
Flathead Valley Community College *
Great Falls College Montana State University *
Helena College University of Montana *
Highlands College of Montana Tech *
Miles Community College *
Montana State University, Billings
Montana State University, Bozeman
Montana State University, Northern
Montana Technological University
University of Montana
University of Montana, Western

NEVADA

College of Southern Nevada *
Great Basin College *
Nevada State University
Truckee Meadows Community College *
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Nevada, Reno
Western Nevada College *

NEW MEXICO

Eastern New Mexico University
Eastern New Mexico University - Roswell *
New Mexico Highlands University
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
New Mexico Junior College *
New Mexico Military Institute *

New Mexico State University
New Mexico State University-Alamogordo *
Northern New Mexico College
Santa Fe Community College *
University of New Mexico
Western New Mexico University

NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck State College *
Dakota College at Bottineau *
Dickinson State University
Lake Region State College *
Mayville State University
Minot State University
North Dakota State College of Science *
North Dakota State University
University of North Dakota
Valley City State University
Williston State College *

OREGON

Eastern Oregon University
Oregon Institute of Technology
Oregon State University
Portland State University
Southern Oregon University
Western Oregon University

SOUTH DAKOTA

Black Hills State University
Dakota State University
Northern State University
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
South Dakota State University
University of South Dakota

UTAH

Salt Lake Community College *
Snow College *
Southern Utah University
University of Utah
Utah State University
Utah State University Eastern *
Utah Tech University
Utah Valley University
Weber State University

WASHINGTON

Central Washington University
Eastern Washington University
Evergreen State College
Washington State University
Washington State University Everett
Washington State University Tri-Cities
Washington State University Vancouver
Western Washington University

WYOMING

Casper College *
Central Wyoming College *
Eastern Wyoming College *
Gillette College *
Laramie County Community College *
Northwest College *
Sheridan College *
University of Wyoming
Western Wyoming Community College *

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