

# SCHOLARSHIPS



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You have the DREAM. We have the resources.

## High School & College Resources

### Year-by-Year CHECKLIST!

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Talk with your counselor and inform them that you want to attend a 4-yr college or university and that you need to schedule college prep courses. Take algebra or geometry and a foreign language in both semesters.
- Maintain A's and B's in all your subjects.
- If needed, form a study group with friends who also plan to go to college.
- Create a Leadership Portfolio. For assistance with your portfolio please contact your counselor or [www.scholarshipsaz.org](http://www.scholarshipsaz.org). Save items such as
  - Copies of report cards
  - Diplomas and certificates
  - Awards and honors
  - A list of all school and community activities
  - A list of offices held
  - A list of your jobs (volunteer or paid)
- Begin visiting colleges or universities; scope out your competition.
- Participate in academic enrichment programs.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Review your ninth and tenth grade schedules with your counselor to make sure you are taking the right college prep classes.
- Maintain A's and B's.
- Continue to form study groups and do your research on prospective schools.
- Update your Leadership Portfolio at the end of each semester.
- Strongly consider taking the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test). The PSAT is a practice exam for the SAT I or ACT and required for several national scholarship programs. Students often take the PSAT in 11<sup>th</sup> grade; however, extra practice during 10<sup>th</sup> grade can only help familiarize you with the exam. Register in October. The fee is \$13\*. Ask your counselor about a fee waiver. Practice using free online resources <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html>.
- Continue to visit local colleges and universities with family and friends.
- Participate in academic enrichment programs and special summer workshops and camps for music, science, engineering, writing, tutoring, filmmaking, theater, language sports, and others.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Check with your counselor to be sure you are taking the right college prep courses needed for a selective 4-yr college or university.

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- Challenge yourself. Maintaining A's and B's is very important in your junior year. College counselors will be paying particular attention to these classes for rigor and performance.
- Register for the PSAT in October.
- Take the PSAT. The results will give you and your counselor an idea of your strengths and the areas you need to improve as you prepare for college admission. The fee is \$13\*. Ask your counselor about a fee waiver. Depending on your score, you may also be eligible for national scholarships. Practice using free online resources <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html>
- If you are taking Advanced Placement subjects, register for the AP exams in spring. Scoring well on these exams will enable you to earn credit for college-level courses. (University of Arizona accepts a score of 4 or 5 on the AP exams and some 3s for special courses. [www.arizona.edu](http://www.arizona.edu). Research your college or university website for specific information.)
- Attend college fairs & presentations by colleges who visit your school & ask questions.
- Create a file on your favorite colleges and obtain information about these schools.
- Visit colleges that interest you. Try to meet with the admissions officer, academic professor in your intended program, student organizations, and athletics. Prepare questions about the school and have a transcript or list of courses you have taken since ninth grade.
- Think about re-taking the SAT I or ACT tests if necessary.
- Update your Leadership Portfolio.
- From May to July be prepared to receive mail from many colleges.

## Over the Summer

- Read the college mail you receive. Return reply cards to schools that interest you. They will send you viewbooks, catalogues and applications.
- Visit your preferred colleges in person if possible.
- Prepare for the SAT I and the ACT by reading books and manuals with the testing tips and sample questions. Attend workshops on how to prepare for these entrance exams if offered at your school or ask a counselor where you can prepare.
- Begin looking for scholarships. If you are not a candidate for them at this time save a copy in a folder and revisit it your senior year. All the money you can get is great.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Check with your counselor to make sure you are taking the right college prep classes.
- Maintain A's and B's and do not get "senioritis" early!
- Update your Leadership Portfolio.
- Visit your preferred schools again.
- Check frequently with your college counselor or career center director for information about scholarships awarded by your school, local companies and community groups.
- In early September, register for the SAT I and the ACT. Register a month or two before the test date.
- By the end of October, make a final list of schools to which you will apply for admission.

\* fees subject to change

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- Make a file for each school and a checklist of the required admission items: transcripts, applications fees, recommendations, essays, test scores, etc.
- Pay special attention to deadlines.
- Apply early if you can.

## **University Entrance Exams: ACT & SAT**

Most colleges and universities will accept either the American College Test (ACT) or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores for college entrance. Students should consult college catalogs carefully for specific test requirements. Some colleges require SAT Subject Tests as well as SAT or ACT scores. The following information was provided from the Collegeboard website but material may change without notice so please revisit specific websites to confirm cost.

### **The American College Test (ACT)**

**Test Fee:** \$31.00\* **Late Fee:** \$20.00\*

(Ask your high school counselor if you are eligible for a fee waiver.)

**Writing test is optional. Ask your preferred colleges if required. Fee = \$15.00\* A student taking the Writing Test would pay \$46.00\*. Score Range: 2-12 points**

**Test Purpose:** Measures academic achievement in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. The test contains analytical and problem-solving exercises and is similar to the curriculum most college-bound students have had.

**ACT Composite Score:** 1-36 (average of 4 test scores)

**How much does it cost to take the ACT?** The 2010–2011 basic registration fee is \$33.00\* (above says \$31??), which includes sending score reports to up to four college choices. The basic registration fee for the ACT Plus Writing is \$48.00\* (says \$46 above.)

**How long does the test take?** Just over 4 hours for the ACT without the Writing Test, including administration instructions and breaks. Actual testing time is 2 hours and 55 minutes, broken down as follows:

English: 45 minutes

Math: 60 minutes

Reading: 35 minutes

Science: 35 minutes

The ACT Writing Test adds 30 minutes to the testing time.

**When are the test dates?** In the 50 United States, the ACT is administered on six national test dates: in September, October, December, February, April, and June.

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## How do students benefit from taking the ACT?

The ACT is universally accepted for college admission. The ACT is curriculum-based. The ACT is not an aptitude or an IQ test. Instead, the questions on the ACT are directly related to what students have learned in high school courses in English, mathematics, and science. Because the ACT tests are based on what is taught in the high school curriculum, students are generally more comfortable with the ACT than they are with traditional aptitude tests or tests with narrower content. The ACT is more than a test. The ACT also provides test takers with a unique interest inventory that provides valuable information for career and educational planning and a student profile section that provides a comprehensive profile of a student's work in high school and his or her future plans.

The ACT is a good value. As a private, not-for-profit organization governed by educators, ACT is committed to providing services at the lowest possible cost. Accordingly, the ACT provides a comprehensive package of educational assessment and career planning services for college-bound students at a fee that is lower than the fee for the competing admission test.

**How often can students take the ACT?** A student may take the ACT no more than twelve (12) times total and only once per national test date. Many students take the test twice, once as a junior and again as a senior.

**Does it help to take the ACT more than once?** ACT research shows that of the students who took the ACT more than once:

55% increased their composite score on the retest

22% had no change in their composite score on the retest

23% decreased their composite score on the retest

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 11, 2010	August 6, 2010	August 7 – 20, 2010
October 23, 2010	September 17, 2010	September 18 – October 1, 2010
December 11, 2010	November 5, 2010	November 6 – 19, 2010
February 12, 2011	January 7, 2011	January 8 – 21, 2011
April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011	March 5– 18, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 7 – 20, 2011

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## The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

**Test Fee:** \$45.00\* **Late Fee:** \$23.00\*

(Ask your high school counselor if you are eligible for a fee waiver.)

**Test Purpose:** Measures academic aptitude in verbal and numerical reasoning, plus written expression.

**SAT Reasoning Test Total:** 400-1600 (sum of critical reading and mathematics scores)

**Writing:** 200-800 Writing scores are reported separately.

**When's the Best Time to Take the SAT?** The SAT and other College Board tests are offered several times a year. Most students take the SAT for the first time during the spring of their junior year and a second time during the fall of their senior year.

**Should you take an SAT Subject Test?** The SAT Subject Tests offer you an additional opportunity to show colleges what you know and what you know you can do. Many colleges use the SAT Subject Tests for admission, course placement, and to advise students about course selection. Some colleges specify the SAT Subject Tests that they require for admission or placement; others allow applicants to choose which tests to take.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
October 9, 2010	September 10, 2010	September 24, 2010
November 6, 2010	October 8, 2010	October 22, 2010
December 4, 2010	November 5, 2010	November 20, 2010
January 24, 2011	December 20, 2010	January 6, 2011
March 12, 2011	February 9, 2011	February 25, 2011
April 30, 2011	March 30, 2011	April 15, 2011

**Source:** Phoenix Union High School District Resource Guide.

**Note:** Dates may change without notice.

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## 6 Common Myths about College

### MYTH#1

***“You have to be rich to attend a private university.”***

Wrong! Seventy percent of the students attending private colleges receive need-based financial aid. In fact some students can qualify and attend a private university at little or no cost. Private institutions tend to have more funds available to students than public institutions.

### MYTH #2

***“Students should know exactly what they want to study before they apply to college.”***

Not necessarily. You may have to make a career decision earlier if you plan to attend a specialized college of engineering, music, etc. But most colleges and universities encourage you to take a broad range of subjects to help you decide on a field of study. At most schools you will not need to declare a major until the end of your sophomore year or beginning of junior year.

### MYTH #3

***“You must find the ‘perfect’ college.”***

The perfect college probably does not exist. The best way to select the right school for you is to research three or four colleges that meet your criteria, and then visit each one.

### MYTH #4

***“Applying for financial aid may hurt your chances for admission.”***

Not true! Selective colleges do not let a family's financial ability enter into the admission decision.

### MYTH #5

***“Admissions officers consider only grades and test scores when considering an applicant.”***

Selective colleges are also interested in the rigor of the subjects taken, the competitiveness of the school, and upward or downward trends in grades. Your application essay, as well as extracurricular and leadership activities, talent and personal character are also very important. A word of caution: quality over quantity is what most colleges look for.

### MYTH #6

***“People say that because I have no social security number I will never be able to attend college!”***

No one can ever deny you access to a college education. There are public and private scholarships available to help you fund your schooling if your academics are strong.

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## **Preparing for College 101**

Planning for college should begin as early as the eighth grade because that is when you need to decide whether or not you are going to follow a college preparatory track. A college preparatory track should include as a minimum:

- 4 years of English and Literature
- 3-4 years of Math (including advanced algebra and trigonometry)
- 2-3 years of Foreign Language
- 2-4 years of Laboratory Science
- 2 years of History and Social Science
- 3 years of Electives

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16 year-long academic subjects

This schedule demands that you take at least 4 college preparatory classes in every year of high school, still leaving room for you to take additional electives in music, art, yearbook, etc.

If you are interested in engineering, math, science or computers, take all the math and science you can. If your strengths are history, writing, literature or the arts, take extra classes in these subjects. It is always a good idea to take extra foreign language courses. Your school counselor will help you plan your schedule according to your strengths and interests.

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## Private Colleges to Consider

These institutions have historically been known to support education for all students regardless of immigration status. Some students can qualify and attend a private university at little or no cost. Private institutions tend to have more funds available to students than public institutions.

Bryn Mawr College

<http://www.brynmawr.edu>

Dartmouth College

<http://www.dartmouth.edu>

Fresno Pacific University

<http://www.fresno.edu>

Harvard University

<http://www.harvard.edu>

Mount St. Mary's College

<http://www.msmary.edu>

North Western College

<http://www.nwc.edu>

Princeton

<http://www.princeton.edu>

Stanford University

<http://www.stanford.edu>

YALE

<http://www.yale.edu>

Claremont McKenna College

<http://www.claremontmckenna.edu>

Denver University

<http://www.du.edu>

George Mason University

<http://www.gmu.edu>

Mills College

<http://www.mills.edu>

National Hispanic University

<http://www.nhu.edu>

Occidental College

<http://www.oxy.edu>

Santa Clara University

<http://www.scu.edu>

University of Puget Sound

<http://www.pugetsound.edu>

Find a full list of private colleges in the U.S. organized by state [HERE](#).

**Note:** Institutional policies always change. Please contact minority or outreach counselors individually for more information.

**Note:** Some colleges or university staff may be unaware of the law or may interpret the law incorrectly. If you feel that you have been discriminated against because of your status, contact the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) at 213-629-2512 or [www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org).

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