



Education & Career Student Bulletin

September /
October

2012-2013

Career Center Events

All events are in the career center unless otherwise stated.
Come to counseling to pick up an invitation to attend.

9/5	U of A	1 st hr	(8:30-9:23am)	Mini
9/13	GCU	Warrior/3rd	(10-11:30am)	
9/20	CGCC	4th	(11:15-1:15pm)	
9/24	ASU	2nd/3rd	(9:00-11:00am)	Mini
10/1	Gateway Comm.	5th	(1:00-2:00pm)	
10/22	FIDM	4th hr	(11:15-1:00pm)	
10/26	ASU	5th hr	(1:00--2:00pm)	
10/30	U of A	4th hr	(11:15-1:00pm)	

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- ◆ [**Compare 5 top Scholarship Search Engines**](#)
- ◆ [**Create Great Scholarship Applications**](#)
- ◆ [**Scholarships**](#)

OP SHOP 2012

32nd Annual College Fair

More than 100 employers and representatives from colleges, universities, vocational schools, technical schools, professional associations and military branches will be in attendance to offer information on higher education and jobs.

Monday, October 15

6:00pm - 8:00 pm

Red Mountain High



http://www.mpsaz.org/guidance/op_shop/

Find all the latest updates
on our website at:

www.mpsaz.org/westwood/counseling

-or-



All WHS Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors

PSAT Exam- Wed. October 17th

Where: Westwood's large auditorium

Time: 8:00am start, 11:00 approximate finish

Sign-ups: Aug 25-Sept 14 in the BOOKSTORE

Cost: \$15

Reasons to take the PSAT:

- ◆ Get feedback about important academic skills—you don't have to recall facts, test measures your reasoning and critical thinking skills, reading and writing skills
- ◆ Practice for SAT/ACT exams, gives you a study plan for SAT, research proves actually increases SAT score
- ◆ Start getting ready for college
- ◆ Your scores help us place you into the appropriate college-bound and/or AP courses
- ◆ For juniors it enters you into scholarship competitions

PHOENIX COLLEGE NAACP/BSU HOSTS
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC. ~ DELTA BETA OMEGA CHAPTER
AND PHOENIX AKARAMA FOUNDATION

2012 ANNUAL
HBCU FAIR

WONDERFUL COLLEGES ALL OVER THE WORLD

**THE
HBCU**

OTHER COLLEGES
HAVE NOTHING
ON YOU

I COULD BE CHASING, BUT THEY GOT...

Get Tuned In To Your Next Educational Path!

WED SEPT 26TH



BULLPITT AUDITORIUM 1202 W THOMAS RD PHOENIX 85013

CONTACT DR CAMILLA WESTENBERG 602-285-7365
DR MRS. MARLENE HANNSDERBY 480-759-5875

REGISTER AT AKA-DBO.ORG



Do you need help in your
classes?

Are you studying but just
not getting it?

**Sign up for
tutoring
today in the
counseling
office**

A student tutor will be
assigned to assist you in
studying

**Seniors- Do you need help applying to college?
Are you wondering how to pay for college
You need to attend**

Westwood's own, Yvette Rangel's
Destination College Series



“Applying for College” Thursday, September 6th, Choir Room

“Paying for College” Thursday, September 20th, Choir Room

UPCOMING TESTING DATES

**ACT – Saturday, September 8
8:00 am (sharp)- 12:00 pm**

**SAT – Saturday, October 6
8:00 am (sharp)-12:00 pm**

What is the AIMS Test?

The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards is a mandatory test for all students to pass in order to graduate high school.

AIMS

Testing Dates: THE RETEST IS FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS WHO HAVE NOT YET PASSED ONLY.

October 23, 2012 – 8:00 a.m. AIMS Writing Retest

October 24, 2012 – 8:00 a.m. AIMS Reading Retest

October 25, 2012 – 8:00 a.m. AIMS Math Retest

**Visit the Arizona Department of Education website for downloadable practice AIMS tests!
<http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/aims/sampletests/>

What is the PSAT?

It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT®. As a Junior, it also gives you a chance to enter the National Merit scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures:

- Critical reading skills
- Math problem-solving skills
- Writing skills

Why should I take the PSAT?

- Receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study.
- You can then focus your preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.
- See how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
- Enter the competition for scholarships from NMSC (grade 11).
- Help prepare for the SAT. You can become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.
- Receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to Student Search Service.

How do I sign up?

Sign up for the PSAT in the Westwood Bookstore. The fee for this test is \$15, paid at the time of test registration. The PSAT is free for sophomores. The deadline for registration is September 14.

Testing Date: Wednesday October 17, 2012

PSAT

SAT

What is the SAT?

The SAT is a globally recognized college admission test that lets you show colleges what you know and how well you can apply that knowledge. It tests your knowledge of reading, writing and math — subjects that are taught every day in high school classrooms. Most students take the SAT during their junior or senior year of high school, and almost all colleges and universities use the SAT to make admission decisions.

What does the SAT test?

The SAT doesn't test logic or abstract reasoning. It tests the skills you're learning in school: reading, writing and math. Your knowledge and skills in these subjects are important for success in college and throughout your life.

- The **critical reading** section includes reading passages and sentence completions.
- The **writing** section includes a short essay and multiple-choice questions on identifying errors and improving grammar and usage.
- The **mathematics** section includes questions on arithmetic operations, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability

How do I register?

Sign up on the College Board website: <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register> . Under the “Students” tab, click “College Board Tests” in the blue box. Follow registration instructions.

Where do I take the test?

The SAT will be held at Mountain View High School or Dobson High. Student may choose at the time of registration.

What does the test cost?

The test costs \$49 if paid by the registration deadline. Late registration is an additional \$26.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
October 6, 2012	September 7, 2012	September 21, 2012
November 3, 2012	October 4, 2012	October 19, 2012
December 1, 2012	November 1, 2012	November 16, 2012
January 26, 2013	December 28, 2012	January 11, 2013
March 9, 2013	February 8, 2013	February 22, 2013
May 4, 2013	April 5, 2013	April 19, 2013
June 1, 2013	May 2, 2013	May 17, 2013

ACT

What is the ACT?

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject areas in: English, Math, Reading, and Science.

Who can take the ACT?

People of all ages and grade levels may test, including Freshman and Sophomore students.

What is the difference between the ACT and SAT?

The ACT is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities. The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test. The SAT has only 3 components. The SAT has a correction for guessing. That is, they take off for wrong answers. The ACT is scored based on the number of correct answers with no penalty for guessing. The ACT also has an Interest Inventory that allows students to evaluate their interests in various career options.

How do I register?

Sign up on the official ACT website: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/index.html>.

Where do I take the test?

The ACT will be held at Mountain View or Dobson High. Student may choose at time of registration.

What does the test cost?

The test costs \$34 without the Writing portion, or \$49.50 with the Writing test. Late Registration is an additional \$21.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 8, 2012	August 17, 2012	August 18-24, 2012
October 27, 2012	September 21, 2012	September 22– Oct 5, 2012
December 8, 2012	November 2, 2012	November 3-16 2012
February 9, 2013	January 11, 2013	January 12-18, 2013
April 13, 2013	March 8, 2013	March 9-22, 2013
June 8, 2013	May 3, 2013	May 4-17, 2013

ACT VS SAT...What's the Difference?

	ACT	SAT
Length	3 hours, 25 minutes (with Writing Test)	3 hours, 45 minutes
Structure	4 Sections (English, Math, Reading, Science) plus an optional Writing Test.	10 Sections (3 Critical Reading, 3 Math, 3 Writing, and 1 Experimental, which is not scored.)
Score	Composite of 1-36 based on average scores from the 4 test sections; 4 scores of 1-36 for each test; Optional Writing test score of 0-12 (not included in overall score.)	Total score range of 600-2400 based on adding scores from 3 subjects; 3 scores of 200-800 for each subject; Score of 0-12 for the essay.
Wrong Answer Penalty	No penalty for wrong answers.	1/4 of a point is subtracted from your raw score for each wrong answer (except for Math Grid-ins.)
Sending Score History	You decide which scores are sent out.	You decide which scores are sent out, however, some colleges require applicants to submit all scores. Check with the college admissions office.
Essay	Optional Final Section; 30 minutes; Not included in composite score; Topic of importance to high schools students.	First section of the test; 25 minutes; Factored into overall score; More abstract topic.

**Westwood IB Parent Group
Sponsors-**

**PRACTICE PSAT/SAT
DIAGNOSTIC
TEST &
FOLLOW UP REVIEW**

*Saturday, September 22, 2012
8am- Noon*

*\$10- see Ms. Bradshaw in the front
office for details*

Looking for Some Extra Practice?

Try these FREE online resources :

SAT

<http://www.proprofs.com/sat/exams/practice-tests.shtml>
<http://www.4tests.com/exams/examdetail.asp?eid=6>

ACT

<http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/index.html>
<http://www.4tests.com/exams/examdetail.asp?>

Military updates

REGISTRATION FOR THE SELECTIVE SERVICE- - IT'S THE LAW!

Draft registration is mandatory for ALL males who turn 18 years of age.

Male Students should complete registration forms within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

Registration forms are available at your local Post Office or online at www.sss.gov

ASVAB

(The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)

The ASVAB is a group of 10 subtests that measures your ability in separate career areas and is an indication of your academic ability to help determine what careers could be best for you. Whether or not you plan on going to college, you should be aware of jobs in trades, what skills & training they require, and how much they pay. This test does not commit you to the Armed Forces. The test will be given on:

Thursday, November 1, 2012

8:00 am to 11:00 am in the large auditorium.

This test is limited to **juniors and seniors.**

Sign up in the Counseling Office!

THE EIGHT ASVAB TEST AREAS:

- **General Science**
A 25-item test measuring knowledge of life science, earth and space science, and physical science
- **Arithmetic Reasoning**
A 30-item test measuring ability to solve basic arithmetic word problems
- **Word Knowledge**
A 35-item test measuring ability to understand the meaning of words through synonyms
- **Paragraph Comprehension**
A 15-item test measuring ability to obtain information from written material
- **Mathematics Knowledge**
A 25-item test measuring knowledge of mathematical concepts and applications
- **Electronics Information**
A 20-item test measuring knowledge of electrical current, circuits, devices, and electronic systems
- **Auto and Shop Information**
A 25-item test measuring knowledge of automotive maintenance and repair, and wood and metal shop practices
- **Mechanical Comprehension**
A 25-item test measuring knowledge of the principles of mechanical devices, structural support, and properties of ma-

Military Recruiters and Visits

Army – Every Tuesday

Christopher C. McNear office: 480 969-8151

cell: 1 877-569-9618

Christopher.mcnear@usarec.army.mil

Marines – Every Thursday

Nicholas Arteaga office: 480 835-8907

cell: 602 820-1580

Nicholas.arteaqa@marines.usmc.mil

Air Force – 1st Wed. of every month

Damian Washington office: 480 833-0695

damian.washington@us.af.mil

Navy – by appointment

Jose Barraza office: 480 632-1016 cell: 480 291-2252

Jose.a.barraza@navy.mil

National Guard – by appointment

Kevin Blake office: 602 629-4561 cell: 928 380-6123

Kevin.p.blake@us.army.mil



Get your Associate's Degree first at a Maricopa Community College

then... →

Complete your Bachelor's Degree at ASU!

Student benefits:

- Guaranteed admission to ASU degree programs when all MAPP requirements are met.
- Eligibility for the ASU Tuition Commitment for Arizona residents which provides predictable limits on tuition increases during enrollment at ASU.
- Scholarships available for meritorious students who complete an associate's degree.
- Transfer advising and other pre-enrollment services on-site at the Maricopa Community Colleges.

maricopa.edu/alliance

Start the MAPP program at any of the ten Maricopa Community Colleges conveniently located throughout the valley.
Chandler-Gilbert | Estrella Mountain | GateWay | Glendale | Mesa | Paradise Valley | Phoenix | Rio Salado | Scottsdale | South Mountain

The Maricopa Community Colleges are EEO/AA Institutions.

THE ACE PROGRAM

MCC is Looking for sophomores who want to earn college credit while in high school....for FREE! The ACE program from Mesa Community College is currently recruiting high school sophomores (2.0 grade point average or above) who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- first generation to attend college
- single parent household
- is working a job while attending high school
- low socioeconomic status

These students can earn 24 college credits at MCC attending classes for FREE on Saturdays and over summer while in high school. The ACE Program will be presenting to sophomore students during English classes in October.

MEID: Setting Up an Online Student Account Through www.My.Maricopa.Edu

Step 1: Go to my.maricopa.edu. Click "First Time Users Start Here."

Step 2: On the left side of the screen, click "Forgot your MEID?" Fill in Maricopa Enterprise ID Lookup. Click Next. You should see a confirmation screen, write down your MEID and keep it in a safe place for future reference!

Step 3: On the left side of the screen, click "forgot your password?" Fill in MEID and zip code. Click Next.

Step 4: Answer your challenge questions. Click Next, or if no challenge question exists, click on the hyperlink word "here."

Set Your Password:

Password must contain 8 characters, at least one uppercase, and one number.

Retype password. Pick two questions and type their answers. Click "Submit." Keep your password in a safe place!

Step 5: Go back to my.maricopa.edu. Click "Login." Enter your MEID and password. Click "Sign In."

Step 6: Click "Student Center" to get started.

Getting Help: Call the Helpdesk @ 1-888-994-4433. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

8 Strategies for Starting Your College Application Process

By [PETER VAN BUSKIRK](#)

Getting started in the college application process can be a daunting task. While the paperwork itself will require careful management, the creative energy that must be given to developing key messages and application themes—and crafting them into compelling personal statements—can be all-consuming.

Over the course of the summer, I will devote this space to providing guidance regarding application preparations. The following are strategies for starting the process. In the coming weeks, I will focus on tips and strategies for refining your presentation.

1. Be purposeful in your searching: It's June and you are early enough in the selection process that your list of colleges may still be growing. This is not a problem as long as you are purposeful in your deliberations. Make sure the add-ons make sense and fit your needs well. Adding colleges—especially "reach" schools—on a whim ("I'll never know if I don't try...") is not a good idea. You don't increase your odds of admission simply by increasing the volume of "tries." Moreover, the addition of such schools will detract you from giving the quality attention to the applications that, in the final analysis, make the most sense for you.

2. Work toward a short list: While your college list might be in flux at the moment, you need to establish September 1 as the point at which you will have narrowed it down to the schools about which you care the most. And how many colleges would that be? Try eight or fewer. Keep in mind your ability to gain admission rests, in part, on your ability to demonstrate to the institution that you "get it"—that you see the synergy that exists between your talents and needs and its culture and offerings. With each application beyond eight, your ability to do a good job in making the case with each school diminishes greatly.

3. Visit college campuses: One of the biggest mistakes highly qualified students make as they apply for admission is the decision to put off the campus visit until after the admission decision has been made. The best way for you to know what you are getting into—and for the college to have confidence in your level of interest—is to visit the college's campus.

4. Research application requirements for colleges of interest: As your short list begins to materialize, develop a spreadsheet on which you can track the test requirements, essay topics, and submission deadlines. If you anticipate using the Common Application, go to www.commonapp.org to become familiar with the submission requirements. You won't be able to download the 2012-2013 application components until August, but you can at least familiarize yourself with essay prompts and supplemental forms that might be required at some colleges.

5. Develop a résumé: Résumé writing is a good reflective exercise. While you don't need to worry about creating a professional résumé, compiling the activities, experiences, and accomplishments of your recent past will give you a better sense of what you have to offer a college. You can then draw from this in presenting your application and share it with the people who will write letters of recommendation for you.

6. Identify key messages you want to convey in your application: As you apply to colleges, you want to make sure they know who you are and what they will get if they admit you. Selective colleges are very deliberate as they choose students with an eye toward assembling communities that include talents, interests, and perspectives that range the spectrum. What do you have to offer? Leadership? Cultural sensitivity? Inventive curiosity? Compassion for the less fortunate? Begin thinking now about how you will convey key messages regarding your potential "gifts" as you apply for admission.

7. Talk with teachers now about letters of recommendations: Your teachers and your college adviser are positioned well to help you tell your story when you apply for admission. First, however, they must know it! Give them the courtesy of time to develop a letter for you and make sure they have the information they need to augment the presentation you will be making with your application.

8. Investigate financial aid options: If you know that you will need financial assistance in order to attend college, now is the time to begin exploring your options. Investigate sources of independent scholarships and make arrangements to speak with financial aid officers at colleges to which you will apply. Ask the latter if they can give you an estimate of your Expected Family Contribution. The more you know about actual costs at the front end of the process, the easier it will be to identify and target schools that are likely to admit you and give you the assistance you will need.

Article printed from; <http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/the-college-admissions-insider/2011/06/27/8-strategies-for-starting-your-college-application-process>

The Westwood
Counseling Office
is Here for You!

Who is my counselor?

The counselors are assigned by the student's last name.

Ms. Cicero	A-B
Mr. Hoerber	C-E
Mr. Miholich	F-G
Ms. Ruiz	H-L
Ms. Rangel	M-O
Mr. Fletcher	P-Scr
Ms. Little	Sea-Z

When can I make an appointment?

The counselors are available by appointment Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Why is my counselor and important person to get to know?

Your counselor and the Counseling Program will teach you to/support you with:

- reach your graduation goal- know requirements, learn to read your transcript;
- remove barriers getting in the way of academic success;
- set career and college action plans;
- set goals and analyze results;
- research careers and explore colleges;
- to research and find money for university, Jr. College and Tech schools;
- to select a college aligned with career goals;
- personal issues and provide personal support through agencies;
- encourage you when the going gets tough!



**SUNDAY October 14, 2012
11:00AM TO 3:00PM**

PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER
West Hall 1-2, 100 N. Third St., Phoenix, AZ 85004
(800) 282-4842

The fair is a free program to the public that allow students to interact with college representatives from a wide range of post secondary institutions to discuss:

- course offerings,
- admission and financial aid requirements,
- college life in general
- and other pertinent to the college selection process.

Go on line to check out what colleges will be there! www.nacac.com

College Essay Writing Tips

A great application essay will present a vivid, personal, and compelling view of you to the admissions staff. It will round out the rest of your application and help you stand out from the other applicants. The essay is one of the only parts of your application over which you have complete control, so take the time to do a good job on it. Check out these tips.

Dos

Keep Your Focus Narrow and Personal

Your essay must prove a single point or thesis. The reader must be able to find your main idea and follow it from beginning to end. Try having someone read just your introduction to see what he thinks your essay is about.

Essays that try to be too comprehensive end up sounding watered-down. Remember, it's not about telling the committee what you've done—they can pick that up from your list of activities—instead, it's about showing them who you are.

Prove It

Develop your main idea with vivid and specific facts, events, quotations, examples, and reasons. There's a big difference between simply stating a point of view and letting an idea unfold in the details:

- **Okay:** "I like to be surrounded by people with a variety of backgrounds and interests"
- **Better:** "During that night, I sang the theme song from Casablanca with a baseball coach who thinks he's Bogie, discussed Marxism with a little old lady, and heard more than I ever wanted to know about some woman's gall bladder operation."

Be Specific

Avoid clichéd, generic, and predictable writing by using vivid and specific details.

- **Okay:** "I want to help people. I have gotten so much out of life through the love and guidance of my family, I feel that many individuals have not been as fortunate; therefore, I would like to expand the lives of others."
- **Better:** "My Mom and Dad stood on plenty of sidelines 'til their shoes filled with water or their fingers turned white, or somebody's golden retriever signed his name on their coats in mud. I think that kind of commitment is what I'd like to bring to working with fourth-graders."

DON'TS

Don't Tell Them What You Think They Want to Hear

Most admissions officers read plenty of essays about the charms of their university, the evils of terrorism, and the personal commitment involved in being a doctor. Bring something new to the table, not just what you think they want to hear.

Don't Write a Resume

Don't include information that is found elsewhere in the application. Your essay will end up sounding like an autobiography, travelogue, or laundry list. Yawn.

- "During my junior year, I played first singles on the tennis team, served on the student council, maintained a B+ average, traveled to France, and worked at a cheese factory."

Don't Use 50 Words When Five Will Do

Eliminate unnecessary words.

- **Okay:** "Over the years it has been pointed out to me by my parents, friends, and teachers—and I have even noticed this about myself, as well—that I am not the neatest person in the world."
- **Better:** "I'm a slob."

Don't Forget to Proofread

Typos and spelling or grammatical errors can be interpreted as carelessness or just bad writing. Don't rely on your computer's spell check. It can miss spelling errors like the ones below.

- "After I graduate *form* high school, I plan to work for a nonprofit organization during the summer."
- "From that day on, Daniel was my **best fried.**"

Academic and financial fit – what does it really mean?

from August 18, 2010, in [College Search](#), by Lee Bierer

Students will frequently visit a college campus and come home saying “it just felt right.” It can be challenging to get them to understand exactly what gave them such a positive vibe, but their intuitive sense shouldn’t be ignored.

Feeling comfortable on a college campus is a key fit factor, but finding an academic fit as well as a financial fit is just as important.

To determine an academic fit, students need to:

- Research the online course catalog to see if the college under consideration meets their needs academically. They need to look at a few different majors to see if there is sufficient depth and breadth in the departments to keep them engaged for four years. A major like Women’s Studies may have only two or three professors. What happens if they don’t like the teaching style of one, or if another one leaves?
- Find out about the availability and quality of internship and research opportunities. Many universities pride themselves on their cutting-edge research. When are students likely to be able to take advantage of these opportunities? Are they reserved for graduate students?
- Understand their own learning style. Answer these questions: Would you like to be invited to a professor’s house for dinner? Do you thrive in a discussion-based environment, or are you fine being anonymous in a lecture hall?
- Examine special programs like an honors college, which is a great way to have all the advantages of a large school within a smaller environment.
- Explore the support services available such as a writing center or tutoring. These services can play a key role in a student’s academic confidence.
- Check out the Career Center. How many companies come to campus to recruit new hires? How many students are employed within six months of graduation, and how many go on to graduate school? Those numbers tell you a lot about how well students are prepared for life post-graduation.

When determining whether the college is a good financial fit, break the colleges into several groupings:

- **By cost:** Public in-state; public out-of-state and private. Total the tuition, room, board and books as well as student fees.
- **By reach, target and safety:** Recognize that students most likely will not receive merit-based aid at their dream school, but they have a much better chance of sizable aid awards at their safety schools.
- **By financial aid history:** Research the Princeton Review Best 373 Colleges, 2011 edition, for information on each college’s percentage of freshmen receiving need-based aid and non-need-based scholarship and grants.

For more information, visit www.collegeadmissionsstrategies.com.

Read more: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/08/17/1626852/academic-and-financial-fit-what.html#ixzz0wvKVRUXr>

Compare 5 Top Scholarship Search Engines

By [SCHOLARSHIP AMERICA](#)

January 20, 2011

There are so many free scholarship search engines available to students online—you'll get about 7 million results by Googling "scholarship search"—that it can be difficult to know which websites to use. It's a good idea to set up profiles on multiple sites so you catch as many opportunities as possible.

Which sites you choose is up to you, but in case you need some help with your decision making, I've looked at three key elements of several free search engines: how often their data is updated, whether they keep your information private, and what's unique about each of them.

1. [CollegeBoard.com](#): The College Board was founded in 1900 and currently helps 7 million students annually prepare for higher education. The College Board began publishing their book of scholarships in 1997 and since then has made the information available online. Their scholarship database contains more than 2,300 scholarship opportunities, totaling nearly \$3 billion.

Timely? Yes. Staff perform a mass update of all scholarships annually; changes, corrections, additions, and deletions are also handled monthly.

Private? Absolutely. College Board only uses your information to help you and to improve its services. They [do not rent or sell your information](#). Period.

Unique? Yes, for a couple reasons. College Board's database and printed handbook are broadly relevant—you won't find scholarships here that are intended for use at just one institution. And because of The College Board's role as the organization behind the SAT, AP exams, etc., they have rigorous standards for the scholarships they include in their database, including only those scholarships with a documented history from a well-established sponsor.

[Explore 7 prestigious [undergrad scholarships](#).]

2. [CollegeNet.com](#): CollegeNET is a technology company that builds web-based tools for event and academic scheduling, prospect and admissions management, tuition processing, and alumni development for colleges and universities. CollegeNET also operates a scholarship search engine and social network where students create topics, participate in discussions, and vote on scholarship winners.

Timely? Yes. CollegeNET.com updates its data monthly through its license agreement with data aggregator Wintergreen Orchard House.

Private? Yes. [CollegeNET.com's privacy policy](#) states, "We do not rent or sell personal information to third parties." However, if you are awarded a scholarship, you can opt in to their Scholarship Election System and share your data with the school that you designate.

Unique? Yes. In addition to the scholarship search, CollegeNET.com hosts an online community that invites students to create topics in an open forum, share their comments, and vote online to determine who is leading the most interesting conversation. By the end of the voting cycle every Wednesday, the student with the most votes wins between \$3,000-\$5,000 in scholarship money. This social networking scholarship is open to all students and is not based on traditional factors like GPA, age, or income level; you are not required to write essays, and the scholarship process is voted upon by your peers, rather than a panel of judges.

[Learn 5 ways you can [create more scholarships](#).]

3. [Fastweb](#): Fastweb, which has helped 50 million students find money since the site was founded 15 years ago, was the first online scholarship matching service and the first free national scholarship matching service. Fastweb's site indicates they currently have roughly 1.5 million scholarships worth \$3.4 billion in their database.

Timely? Definitely. According to Fastweb, they update their database daily—which would make them the timeliest of the five mentioned in this post. To assist in their process, Fastweb expires scholarships from their database after 11 months, forcing them to update the information before it can be relisted.

Private? Yes, unless you expressly agree (opt in) to allow your information to be shared with third parties. [Fastweb's privacy policy](#) states that they do not share any information that can be tied to you without your permission.

Unique? Sure. Fastweb compiles their scholarship data in-house, and when new scholarships are added they send an E-mail notification to every student who matches the award.

[Read the 4 do's and 1 don't for [finding scholarships](#).]

4. [Scholarships.com](#): Founded in 1999, Scholarships.com now claims to be the largest free and independent scholarship search and financial aid information resource on the Internet, with more than 2.7 million scholarships worth a total of \$19 billion in their database.

Timely? Yes. Vice President Kevin Ladd says their database is updated daily. "We encourage scholarship providers to not only submit their scholarship to be included in our database, but also to update them." They also have a staff to review new and edited listings, and "every few months or so" they review all scholarships for changes, errors, or inconsistencies.

Private? You bet. Users supply only the information they choose and are offered opportunities to opt out of receiving anything they don't want—even at the time of registration. (See [Scholarships.com's privacy policy](#).)

Unique? Maybe. Ladd and the folks at Scholarships.com feel their database and user experience is superior to all others out there and that their resources and the effort they put into making sure the information they have is useful is unmatched.

[Read about [11 sexy scholarships](#).]

5. [ScholarshipMonkey.com](#): ScholarshipMonkey.com claims their database provides students access to more than 1 million undergraduate, graduate, and professional scholarship awards worth in excess of \$3 billion from greater than 4,000 sources. Like the other search engines in this article, they are committed to providing their service free of charge.

Timely? Perhaps. ScholarshipMonkey.com states that "the scholarship database is continuously updated by the company's Scholarship Team to ensure you are receiving the most relevant and useful information." Unlike the other search engine sites, ScholarshipMonkey.com did not provide specific timing for their updates.

Private? No, unless you opt out from receiving information from third parties via E-mail or snail mail. (See [ScholarshipMonkey.com's privacy policy](#).)

Unique? Your scholarship search will be led by a talking monkey (er, chimp). 'Nuff said.

Janine Fugate joined Scholarship America in 2002. She is an alumna of the [College of Saint Benedict](#), Saint Joseph, Minn., and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Affairs at the [Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs](#) at the University of Minnesota. Fugate is the recipient of numerous scholarships at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Create Great Scholarship Applications With These 6 Answers

By [SCHOLARSHIP AMERICA](#)

August 23, 2012

Applying for [college scholarships](#) may feel a bit like playing the lottery. You fill out your application, send it off, and cross your fingers in hopes of a congratulatory letter and a check (the regular kind, not the oversized novelty version). But there are more differences than just the size of the check: On one hand, applying for scholarships is a lot more work than buying a lottery ticket. On the other, that extra work means plenty of opportunity to boost your chances of winning. If you're prepared to answer these six types of questions, you'll be ready to quickly and thoroughly fill out almost any scholarship application.

1. Academic performance/grade point average: While it's true that [grades aren't everything](#), there's still a whole lot of scholarship money out there designated for high achievers in the classroom. To make sure you don't miss out, be prepared to list your GPA on a four-point scale (if your school uses a different scale or weights AP or IB classes, your counselor can help you recalculate everything), and have your [ACT or SAT scores](#) handy. Even if you don't think your academic numbers are eye popping, don't hesitate to call out excellent performance in your chosen fields—a prospective [engineering major](#) should make a big deal out of straight A's in high school math!

[Learn about [scholarships in STEM fields](#).]

2. High school activities: As important as your scholastic performance may be, scholarship providers also want to see what you do outside the classroom. Listing a wide array of [extracurricular activities](#) will help your general applications stand out, and some of them may also give you an edge when it comes to specific athletic- or activity-based scholarships from your community or your college. Whether you dabbled in a club, sport, or after-school activity for a semester or you lettered in it for four years, make your extracurricular achievements known.

3. Community activities: Just like your school activities, [community service](#) can also make a difference on scholarship applications. Plenty of local scholarship providers—such as the Elks, Rotary International, and Dollars for Scholars—actually require a certain amount of volunteer work, and there are scholarships across the country specifically for students who volunteer with churches, community centers, or on their own. Even if community service isn't a necessity on an application, it's a great way to let scholarship providers know that you care about your world—and you're willing to work to make it better.

4. Financial need: We often divide the world of scholarships into two types: need-based and merit-based. This division isn't always black and white, though, and it's crucial for students of all ages and income levels to know their financial need information. Fortunately, it's simple to keep this info current: As long as you fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) each year you plan to apply for scholarships, you'll have everything you need at your fingertips. In addition, you'll learn about any federal loans, grants, and work-study opportunities for which you qualify. (For good resources on this topic, check out the new [StudentAid.gov](#) website).

5. Personal letter/essay: Grades and activities can make your application stand out, but a personal letter or essay is your best chance to tell scholarship providers exactly who you are, how you see the world, and why they should help you pay for college. This post has plenty of advice on [avoiding scholarship essay errors](#); I'd also recommend starting work on your essay about twice as early as you think you need to, and finding a friend, teacher, or mentor to read it and give you feedback before you submit it. (Try reading it out loud to yourself, too; that's one of my favorite ways of making sure my writing sounds natural.) You don't need to be the next Kurt Vonnegut to write a great application essay, either—as long as you write from your heart, take your time, and find a trusted editor, you'll be in good shape.

6. Letters of recommendation: Last but not least, don't forget about [letters of recommendation](#). Just like with essays, the most important thing to remember is to start this process early, because the coaches, teachers, mentors, and employers that you'll be asking for recommendations are busy, and you want to make sure they've got time on their calendar to write you a quality, thoughtful recommendation. As good as your application may be, a great recommendation adds another trusted voice to your own, so don't leave this step until the last minute.

Once you're prepared in these six areas, you'll be ready to take on most applications, and you won't even need luck to play the scholarship lottery.

Matt Konrad has been with Scholarship America since 2005. He is an alumnus of the [University of Minnesota](#) and a former scholarship recipient.

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by The College Board

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\$1 billion

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What grade are you in?

8th or lower 9th 10th 11th 12th H.S. grad

Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP BULLETIN

Many of these scholarships have websites where they have posted the applications. Printed copies can also be found in the Counseling hallway and the Career Center.

~~~~~SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE SOON~~~~~

Arizona Milk Producers/Fiesta Bowl Scholarships

Grade: 12

Deadline: August 24- November 2, 2012

Website: <http://www.dairycouncilofaz.org/enter-to-win-a-scholarship/>

Win a \$12,000, \$10,000, or \$8,000 scholarship! One of the photos must include a visible dairy product. Scholarship nominees must be Arizona residents eligible for the 2013 term or be currently enrolled with a minimum of 12 credit hours at any Arizona university. See official sweepstakes Facebook page for full rules, details and drawing dates. Employees and family members of Arizona Milk Producers or United Dairymen of Arizona are not eligible. Date for the first drawing will be Friday, August 24th and the last drawing will be on Friday, November 2nd. Entries may also be submitted to "Scholarship Entry" P.O. Box 3010, Tempe, AZ 85280.

Arizona Dream Scholars Program

Grade: 12

Deadline: Due to Counseling by Aug. 31; POSTMARKED by Friday, September 14, 2012

Mailed application

Website: <http://www.azdreambuilder.org/dream-scholarship>

Dream Scholars receive a \$4,000 scholarship (\$1000 each year for up to four years) to help complete an undergraduate degree. Seniors enrolled as a full time student at an Arizona high school, have a 2.5 or better GPA, and have personally demonstrated a commitment through school and community leadership. No residency or citizenship requirement. Complete paper application, including essay and 2 letters of recommendation.

Quest Bridge

Grade: 12

Deadline: September 28, 2012

ONLINE application – must create account; Base Application is due 9/28; College Match is due 10/15

Website: www.questbridge.org

FULL FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP TO LEADING COLLEGES. National College Match is designed for high school seniors who have shown outstanding academic ability despite facing economic challenges. Most College Match finalists have come from households earning less than \$60,000 annually (for a typical family of four), and over 75% are in the top 5% of their high school class. Students who are not U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents may apply.

FLINN Scholarship**Grade: 12****Deadline: October 19, 2012**Website: www.flinnscholars.org

High-achieving Arizona high school seniors are encouraged to apply for the 2012 Flinn Scholarship, a four-year award to an Arizona public university valued at more than \$54,000. In addition to covering virtually all expenses, the package includes study-travel opportunities abroad, faculty mentorship, invitations to cultural and academic events, and other benefits. **Inform your counselor immediately if applying.**

Coca Cola Scholarship**Grade: 12****Deadline: October 31st, 2012****ONLINE Application**Apply at: <https://www.coca-colascholars.org/>

Provide scholarship programs and enrichment opportunities in support of exceptional young peoples' thirst for knowledge and their desire to make a difference in the world. HS Senior, US citizen, US Nationals; US Permanent Residents, have a 3.0 GPA at the end of their junior year. Fifty students will be chosen for National Scholar - \$20,000. Two hundred students will be chosen for Regional Scholar - \$10,000.

Horatio Alger Association**Grade: 12****Deadline: October 25, 2012****ONLINE Application**Website: https://www.horatioalger.org/scholarships/program_arizona.cfm

The scholarship program provides financial assistance to students who have critical financial need (\$50,000 or less adjusted gross income per family is preferred) and have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity. Applicants must intend to pursue a bachelor's degree at an accredited institution, be a U.S. citizen (or in the process of obtaining citizenship), have a minimum GPA of 2.0, and be involved in co-curricular and community service activities. Students must submit an online application plus mail other requirements as outlined at this website.

Ron Brown Scholarship Program**Grade: 12****Deadline: November 1, 2012****ONLINE Application****Website:**http://www.ronbrown.org/Libraries/NewsletterPDFs/2012_Scholarship_Application_1.sflb.as hx

The Ron Brown Scholar Program seeks to identify African-American high school seniors who will make significant contributions to society. Applicants must excel academically,

exhibit exceptional leadership potential, participate in community service activities and demonstrate financial need. The applicant must be a US citizen or hold a permanent resident visa card. Ten Ron Brown Scholars and will receive \$10,000 annually for four years. For any accredited four-year college or university. Ron Brown Scholarships are not limited to any specific field or career objective and may be used to pursue any academic discipline. **TWO DEADLINES: November 1st** - application will be considered for the Ron Brown Scholar Program AND forwarded to a select and limited number of additional scholarship providers. **January 9th** - final postmarked deadline in order to be considered for only the Ron Brown Scholar Program ONLY.

Voice of Democracy

Grade: 9-12

Deadline: November 1, 2012

Website: <http://www.vfw.org>

Students compete by writing and recording a broadcast script on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is "*Is our Constitution Relevant?*" Contestant's entry must be 3-5 minute essay recorded on a CD or standard cassette tape, and written essay. Complete online form and the add signature and submission to local VFW Post.

The Arizona School Counselor's Association Student Scholarship

Grade: 12

Deadline: November 1, 2012

Must be mailed.

<http://www.azsca.org/>

Write an essay not to exceed 500 words using either prompt: (1) Arizona continues to rank 50th in the US for student funding. How would you go about advocating for the educational system in this state to increase its funding? **or** (2) Describe how your Educational Career Action Plan (ECAP) has better prepared you for your post-secondary plan as opposed to a graduate of 2012 who was not required to complete an ECAP. \$1000 scholarship.

U of A Baird Foundation Scholarship

Grade: 12

Deadline: October 5TH due to counseling

Website: <https://www.honors.arizona.edu/secure/baird1.asp>

One student will be selected from each high school. The selection committee will consider students who have consistently and effectively displayed the characteristics that define a leader. Requires 3.5 GPA; valid AZ resident; leadership experience; enrolling to U of A; one essay; 4 short answer questions; 3 letters of recommendation. Please pick up this application in the Counseling. Online application must be completed by 10/19/12. Requires additional MAILED packet postmarked BY 10/19/12.

Prudential Spirit of Community Award

Grade: 9-12

Deadline: November 6, 2012

ONLINE Application

<http://spirit.prudential.com/view/page/soc>

If you have made a difference by volunteering in your community over the past year, you could win \$1,000 and a fabulous trip to Washington D.C. This is a competition and two students will be selected to go onto the state level. ONLINE app.

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)

Grade: 11 & 12

Deadline: November 25, 2012

ONLINE Application

<http://www.thefire.org/takeaction/students/essaycontest>

First place winner - \$10,000; Second place winner - \$5000; Third place x 3 - \$1,000; Runners Up x4 \$500

Watch 2 videos and write an 800-1000 word essay explaining why it is important for colleges to protect student expression. ONLINE application.

RHMC- Ronald McDonald House Charities

Grade: 12

Deadline: December 20, 2012

ONLINE Application

Website: <http://rmhc.org/what-we-do/rmhc-u-s-scholarships/>

Applicant must be legal U.S. residents. Applicants may only apply for **1 program**: RMHC/ASIA, RMHC/African American Future Achievers, RMHC/HACER (Hispanic American Commitment to Educational Resources), RMHC Scholars

Dorrance Scholarship Programs

Grade: 12

Applications Open: 10/1/12; Ends: 2/22/13

ONLINE Application

Website: www.dorrancescholarship.org

Total scholarship is approximately \$65,000. Must attend ASU, NAU or U of A and live on campus for freshman year. Requires 3.0 gpa and combined SAT score of 1040 or ACT score of 22. Must be first generation to attend college and have financial need; demonstrated leadership and volunteer service required.