

Scholarships



For 17 Years, **Fisher House Foundation** has provided scholarships to help military families, including the Scholarships for Military Children Program, the Heroes' Legacy Scholarship programs, and grants to the National Military Family Association's (NMFA) scholarship program for military spouses. This year Fisher House Foundation is proud to announce their new online scholarship search engine, Scholarships for Service. Visit www.militaryscholar.org to learn more.



Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

ABOUT

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is the nation's oldest and largest provider of need-based scholarships to military children. Founded in 1962 by Gen Martin F. Rockmore USMC (Ret.), the Scholarship Foundation has provided more than 35,000 scholarships valued at nearly \$100,000,000 since that time. Particular attention is paid to children of Marines and Navy Corpsmen who were killed or wounded in combat or have demonstrated financial need.

THE MISSION

Since 1962, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation has been Honoring Marines by Educating Their Children. The Nation's oldest and largest provider of need-based scholarships to military children, the Scholarship Foundation pays particular attention to those students whose parent has been killed or wounded in combat or has demonstrated financial need.

MARINES WE HONOR

Our scholarships honor and memorialize Marines and Navy Corpsmen for their sacrifice and service to our Nation.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

Forty Acres Scholars Program

Beckie and Pete Geren, former Secretary of the Army, have established a unique scholarship through the Forty Acres Scholars program at The University of Texas at Austin, for a child of an active duty military family.

The Forty Acres Scholars Program is a four-year, full ride merit-based scholarship program for entering freshman at The University of Texas at Austin. The program is designed to bring the best and brightest students to The University. Current scholars exemplify this standard, with average two-part SAT scores of 1500, rankings at or near the top of their class, and leadership and extracurricular accomplishments. The scholarship provides opportunities in keeping with these outstanding resumes. It not only provides tuition, living expenses and books, but also includes summer enrichment activities such as service learning, study abroad and an internship.

[Click here for more information](#)



KINGSWOOD OXFORD

HONORING THE PAST. SHAPING THE FUTURE.

Kingswood Oxford is a coeducational, independent day school for strong and motivated students in grades 6-12. Located in West Hartford, CT -- one of Kiplinger's Ten Best Cities in 2010 -- and accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, KO values academic and co-curricular excellence, ethical citizenry, and meaningful relationships with our students and their families. Small classes are taught by exceptional teachers who encourage students to engage both widely and deeply in the liberal arts and sciences. Our graduates are well rounded and prepared remarkably well for the challenges of highly selective colleges and equipped for success in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation

Provides College Scholarships to dependent children and spouses of Navy personnel from the US Navy's Aviation community; Officer and Enlisted, active duty, retired, honorably discharged or deceased. Applicants may be High School Seniors or already enrolled in college. Service member sponsor must have served in Naval Aviation Commands. Most awards are for one year, but the applicant can apply multiple years. We annually award over 45 scholarships – ranging from \$2000-\$10,000. WOASF also administers other aviation scholarships, so one application may enable you to apply for several scholarships. Visit www.wingsoveramerica.us for application information and deadlines.

College Courses Online for Free

Check out the links below

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/07/17/uva-and-11-others-become-latest-plan-moocs#.UAVQXWVhUUM.facebook>

<https://www.coursera.org/>

NBC News | Aired on July 16, 2012

Is college for everyone?

Andrea Mitchell sat down at the Aspen Ideas Festival with the Lumina Foundation's Jamie Merisotis and Miami Dade College President Eduardo Padron to explore whether a college degree is the right choice for all students.

[Click here to view video.](#)

More Financial Aid:



Armed Services Scholarship/ coder camp/non gi bill organization/ full stack web developer/



ARMY



MARINES



NAVY



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD

A. Scholarship – 20% of tuition amount.

B. Eligibility – Any student that is active/former military, spouses, or dependents.

C. Application Procedure – Student must submit a copy of their DD214 or a copy of their orders.

D. Terms and Conditions –Cannot be combined with other scholarships or cash discounts



A variety of scholarships are available to veterans and their spouses and families.

Visit the individual websites for more information on the various scholarships, complete eligibility requirements, and deadlines. Also check with your college or university



to search for other available scholarships.

Academic Top Scholars (ATS) – Accessible to all dependent children, age 24 and under, and all spouses of Active-Duty U.S. military Service Members are eligible to apply for scholarships with [ThanksUSA](#)

AFCEA Educational Fund – www.afcea.org/education/scholarships. Provides \$2,000 to students pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree while employed in the science or technology disciplines directly related to the mission of AFCEA.

Air Force Aid Society General George S. Brown Spouse Tuition Assistance Program (STAP) – Administered by the Air Force Aid Society that provides tuition assistance to the spouses of active-duty U.S. Air Force service members residing overseas. <http://www.worldwidelearn.com/military/Family-education-resources/air-force-assistance/afas/george-brown-stap.html>.

Air Force Aid Society General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program – www.afas.org/Education/ArnoldEdGrant.cfm – Provides \$2,000 grants to selected sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 AGR/Reserve, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired reserve and deceased Air Force members; spouses (stateside) of active duty members and Title 10 AGR/Reservists; and surviving spouses of deceased personnel for their undergraduate studies.

American Legion Auxiliary Department Scholarship – Applicant must be sponsored by an Auxiliary Unit, be the child of an honorably discharged Veteran, be a Florida resident, and attend school in Florida.

American Legion Legacy Scholarship – Available for children or legally adopted children of active duty U.S. military and Guard, and Reserve personnel who were federalized and died on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

American Legion Scholarship – American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship for Non-Traditional Students. Available to current dues paying (for past two years) member of the American Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion who is a student who has had at least one year of college and is in need of financial assistance to pursue an undergraduate degree.

America's Child – Higher Education Assistance – <http://www.americaschild.org/html/founders.htm> – Established to provide college education and welfare assistance to the surviving children of military heroes who have already given their lives in patriotic service to their country fighting our nation's war against terrorism as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and the Philippines, Operation Iraqi Freedom or future conflicts.

AMVETS – Dr. Aurelio M. Caccamo Family Foundation Memorial Scholarship – Awarded to Veterans, including members of the National Guard and Reserves, who are seeking new skills in order to be competitive in the job market.

AMVETS National Scholarship Program – Available to financially assist Veterans who have exhausted government aid, or who might not otherwise have the financial means to continue their education.

AMVETS Scholarships – Annually awards scholarships to Veterans/active military, their sons, daughters or grandchildren. A son, daughter or grandchild of a deceased Veteran is also eligible.

Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Scholarship – Scholarships of \$2,500 each are offered to active-duty and honorably discharged U.S. Military Veterans (to include Reservists and National Guard personnel) of the Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom operations. Candidates must be majoring in certain fields of study – see application for details.

Armed Forces Crossroads Scholarships for Military

Children – www.afcrossroads.com/education/coll_scholar.cfm – Offered to college-bound military children at installations served by a commissary. Open to qualified sons and daughters of U.S. military ID card holders to include active duty members, Reserve and Guard members, and retirees.

Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) Scholarships – www.quad-a.org – For college-level education of members of the AAAA, and the spouses, unmarried siblings, unmarried children and unmarried grandchildren of current and deceased AAAA members.

Army Emergency Relief: Dependent Children Scholarship Program – The MG James Ursano Scholarship program is for dependent children of Service Members on federal active duty, retired, or deceased while in active or retired status.

Army Emergency Relief: Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program – To provide spouses of active duty and retired Service Members and widows(ers) of Service Members who died either on active duty or in a retired status, and residing in the U.S. with need-based financial assistance in pursuing educational goals.

Army Scholarship Foundation – www.armyscholarshipfoundation.org/scholarships.html – One-year financial scholarships awarded on the basis of academic record and participation in school and community activities

Army Women's Foundation – The [Army Women's Foundation](http://www.armywomensfoundation.org) recognizes the importance of education and the role it plays in personal, professional and economic fulfillment. The Army Women's Foundation Legacy Scholarship Program provides grants to women soldiers, past and present, and their lineal descendants to help them attain their educational goals. The Legacy Scholarship Program offers financial support in four areas: Certificate programs, Community College coursework, Undergraduate Degrees, and Graduate Degrees. Scholarships are awarded only for coursework from accredited institutions. Scholarships are based on merit, academic potential, community service, letters of recommendation, and need. Community College and Certificate Program Legacy Scholarships will be awarded up to \$1,000. College, University, and Graduate Program Legacy Scholarships will be awarded up to \$2,500.

Chief Petty Officer Scholarship Fund – www.cposf.org – For qualified family members of Chief Petty Officers including spouses and children (natural born, adopted or stepchildren).

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation – <http://fallenpatriots.org/> – Providing college scholarships and educational counseling to military children who have lost a parent in combat or accidents. Our vision is that every such child can have a debt-free college education.

Coast Guard Exchange System Scholarship

Program – www.uscg.mil/mwr/hqrec/CGESScholarshipProgram.asp -Scholarships to students who

are dependents of Coast Guard active duty, reserve, and military retired members, current civilian NAF and APF employees, and current Coast Guard Auxiliarists that meet eligibility requirements.

Collects and disburses donations in support of Service Members and their Families in need, including assistance with airfare, special medical attention, college tuition for the children of Service Members and more.

Colonel Christie Marine Corps Scholarship – Monthly stipend given to a former enlisted Marine leaving the Marine Corps to attend a four-year institution. This award recognizes a Marine who has demonstrated exceptional courage and integrity in the face of great obstacles.

Deeb Scholarship – Applicant must be adopted or orphaned (documentation is required) and eligible for financial aid. Selection is based upon financial need and merit.

Dolphin Scholarship Foundation – grants are available, on a competitive basis, to high school or college children/stepchildren (unmarried, under age 24 at time of deadline) of: (1) members or former members of the Submarine Force who have qualified in submarines and have served in the Submarine Force for at least eight years; or of (2) Navy members who have served in submarine support activities (e.g., submarine bases, tenders, and rescue vessels) for a minimum of ten years.

Fallen Warrior Scholarship Fund – Established to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships to U.S. military Family members of our Fallen Warriors in their pursuit of higher education.

Federal Pell Grant Program – U.S. Department of Education – www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html – Provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain postbaccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary education. Grants may be used at any one of approximately 5,400 participating postsecondary institutions.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) – www2.ed.gov/programs/fseog/index.html – Provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate students to promote access to postsecondary education. Students can receive these grants at any one of approximately 4,000 participating postsecondary institutions. Priority is given to those students with “exceptional need” (those with the lowest expected Family contributions, [EFCs], at the institution) and those who are also Federal Pell Grant (see # 84.063, also under topical heading “Federal Student Aid”) recipients.

FFGC Scholarship for High School Students – Applicant must be a resident of Florida, will attend or is attending a Florida school, and must demonstrate financial need. Botany, city planning, ecology, forestry, landscape design, marine biology

Fisher House Foundation Scholarship Programs – www.militaryscholar.org/index.html – Open to sons and daughters of active duty, reserve/guard, or retired military commissary customers.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program – Applicant must be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen who does not owe a repayment or be in default under any state or federal grant, loan, or scholarship program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.

Florida Engineering Foundation Scholarship – Applicant must have minimum 3.5 GPA and minimum 600 math and 500 verbal SAT scores and be enrolled at one of four ABET accredited institutions in Florida.

Florida Student Assistance Grant Program (FSAG) – Applicant must be a U.S. citizen and Florida resident for a minimum of 12 months prior to the start of classes and be enrolled in an eligible undergraduate academic degree program. FAFSA is required.

Florida Work Experience Program – Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen who is a Florida resident with a minimum 2.0 GPA. Program provides student the opportunity to secure work experiences that complement and reinforce their educational programs and career goals. Award amount is based on the number of hours a student worked.

Folds of Honor Foundation – Folds of Honor Foundation (FHF) provides post-secondary educational scholarships to the spouses and children of Service Members disabled or killed as a result of their military service to our great nation. Can be applied to schooling now or held by Folds of Honor on behalf of young children until needed at the time of enrollment. <http://www.foldsofhonor.com/>

Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund – Students are eligible if they are the dependent child of an active duty Service Member who was killed or permanently disabled (100%) rating as the result of an operational mission or training accident, or who is currently certified as POW or MIA.

Heroes' Legacy Scholarships – Open to dependent unmarried children under age 23 of those who have died or have become disabled through their active military service on or after September 11, 2001.

Hope for the Warriors – www.hopeforthewarriors.org- The Spouse/Caregiver Scholarship program identifies, recognizes, and rewards spouses/caregivers for their strength, fidelity, and resolve despite adversity. Scholarships aid in continued education at a reputable, accredited university, college, or trade school for spouses/caregivers as they assume critical roles in the financial well being of their Families.

Horatio Alger Military Veterans

Scholarship – http://www.scholarships4students.com/horatio_alger_military_Veterans_scholarship.htm – Awarded to Veterans who have served under the United States Military Operation in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan or Operation Iraqi Freedom beginning Sept. 11, 2001 or later.

Housing Scholarship – Provides students with an affordable living option. Recipients will live in a home-like setting where they work in cooperative partnership to purchase and prepare meals and assume responsibility for household tasks. Recipients are responsible for their fair share of household expenses such as food and utilities. Each student contributes approximately \$950 per semester.

Huebner Scholarships Competitive scholarships for children and grandchildren of former members of the Division as well as children of active-duty 1st Infantry Division Service Members.

Incentive Scholarship – Applicant must be a minority who has a minimum 3.5 GPA and minimum combined SAT I score of 1100 (composite ACT score of 26). <http://www.che.sc.gov/AccessEquity/ACCESS/GISGuidelines.pdf>

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant -A student who is not eligible for a Pell Grant but whose parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and died as a result of service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001 may be eligible to receive the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant. Enrolled in college at least part-time at the time of the parent's or guardian's death.

JOANNE HOLBROOK PATTON MILITARY SPOUSE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – Administered by the National Military Family Association (NMFA). Fisher House Foundation contributes \$100,000 to the NMFA in order to expand the number of scholarship grants awarded each year

John A. Keller Scholarship http://www.scholarships4students.com/chief_warrant_officer_john_a_keller-cwoa_scholarship.htm. Available to dependents of members in good

standing of the Chief Warrant Officers Association. Additional Information <http://www.cwoauscg.org/scholarship.htm> .

Jose Marti Scholarship Challenge Grant – Applicant must be a Hispanic-American student who is enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours for undergraduate study or nine credit hours for graduate study.

Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association – www.la-fra.org- Helping deserving students reach their educational and professional goals for decades, presenting annual awards of up to \$5,000 to individuals pursuing college and graduate degrees.

Liberty University's Heroes Fund Scholarship -Provides scholarship assistance for qualifying disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, and spouses of veterans killed in action. For more information on this scholarship visit <http://www.liberty.edu/online/heroes-fund-scholarship/> or email luomilitary@liberty.edu.

Marine Corps – Law Enforcement Foundation, Inc. – www.mclef.org – Assistance primarily rendered to children of Marines or Federal law enforcement personnel who were killed on duty or died under extraordinary circumstances while serving our country at home or abroad. These funds enable us to provide these children with scholarships for their higher education. When a child of a United States Marine is afflicted with a physical or mental disability and requires special medical equipment or tutoring, our Foundation may grant financial assistance to that Family if their personal insurance does not cover the complete cost of treatment for this child.

Marine Corps League – Scholarship

Program – www.mclfoundation.org/scholarship_program.html – Over three hundred scholarship grants are given annually to applicants. The foundation has started a blocked scholarship fund to build a trust to assist in the funding of its regular scholarship program. Scholarships are applied for and awarded by the Marine Corps League Scholarship Committee using applications and standards developed by that committee.

Marine Science Scholarship – Applicant must demonstrate financial need and academic excellence. Applicant must attend a Northeast Florida institution or reside in the area.

Military Family Scholarships – Visit the site to learn about a variety of scholarships and funding opportunities for military Families.

Military Officers Association of America Scholarships and Grants – Visit the MOAA Scholarships and Grants site for information on a variety of different scholarships, grants and interest-free loans.

Military Order of the Purple Heart Scholarship – Available to the recipient of a Purple Heart; a direct descendant of a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart or of a Veteran killed in action or who died of wounds; or a spouse or widow(er) of a recipient of the Purple Heart.

Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) – : www.military.com/.../military-spouse-career-advancement-accounts-financial-aid.html – Provides up to \$4,000 (over 2 years) of Financial Assistance for military spouses who are pursuing degree programs, licenses or credentials leading to employment in portable career fields.

Military Spouse Fellowship Program for Financial

Counseling – <http://www.bing.com/search?q=Military+Spouse+Fellowship+Program+for+Financial+Counseling&go=&form=QBRE&gs=n&sk> – FINRA Investor Education Foundation's 2010 Military Spouse Fellowship gives spouses the training they need to earn the Accredited Financial Counselor® (AFC®) designation, which gives them marketable job skills and provides them with the knowledge and tools they need to help military Families overcome financial challenges.

National Guard Educational Foundation (NGEF) – NGEF, DRS Technologies Create College Scholarship For Children of Fallen National Guardsmen: The National Guard Educational Foundation (NGEF) created a college scholarship fund for the children of more than 650 National Guardsmen killed in the war on terrorism. DRS Technologies, Inc. of Parsippany, N.J., will provide up to \$6,250 per year to selected students attending a four-year institution or a two-year program at a community college or technical school.

“The DRS Guardian Scholarship Fund is open to any high school or college student who is a son or daughter of a Guardsman killed in an operational or training mission in support of operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom or New Dawn.

www.drsfoundation.net/guard.

National Military Family Association (NMFA) MILITARY SPOUSE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – NMFA Awarded only to military ID-carrying Uniformed Services' spouses (active duty, retiree, Reserve, National Guard, and/or survivor

National Military Family Association Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program – Awarded to spouses of Uniformed Services members (active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees, and survivors) to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school.

Navy League of the United States – Currently, the Navy League Foundation has a total of 25 endowed scholarships. Navy League Councils across the United States provide additional scholarships to students and Sea Cadets in their cities and regions.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Education Programs – NBCC Foundation – The NBCC Foundation Military Scholarship Program is designed to encourage Service Members and Veterans to pursue careers in professional counseling. The program provides financial support to students who enroll, or seek to enroll, in a CACREP accredited counseling program during or after military service, and who commit to serving military personnel.

NTA Florida Undergraduate Scholarship – Applicant must be a permanent resident of Florida who is enrolled in an accredited two- or four-year college or university in the State of Florida and is entering the second year of a two-year school, or junior or senior year of undergraduate study in the fall of the calendar year of application.

Operation Mom <http://www.operationmom.org/scholarship.html#1> – Our Military Kids provides tangible support to the children of deployed and severely injured National Guard and Military Reserve personnel through grants for sports, fine arts and tutoring that nurture and sustain the children during the time a parent is away in service to our country.

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Scholarship – <http://www.bing.com/search?q=Paralyzed+Veterans+of+America+Scholarship&src=E-Address> Paralyzed Veterans' Educational Scholarship Program was established in 1986 to help members and their immediate Families gain post-secondary education from accredited colleges and universities across America. Since the program's inception, the organization has funded \$319,000 in scholarship awards.

Pat Tillman Foundation – Individuals eligible for the Leadership Through Action – Tillman Military Scholars program include Veterans and active Service Members of both pre- and post- 9/11 service; Service Members who wish to start, finish, or further their education; Service Members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserve); Service Members pursuing undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate, two-year, four-year, public, private, vocational, and trade degrees or certifications; and dependents of Service Members (children and spouses).

Ranger Memorial Foundation Scholarship

Fund – www.rangermemorial.com/forms/scholarship_application.pdf. The National Ranger Memorial Foundation, Inc. serves U.S. Army Rangers of all eras through recognition in a granite monument, display of Hall of Fame members, scholarships to deserving individuals, and assisting Ranger Families

Reserve Aid – java.org/content/reserve-aid

– <http://www.reserveaid.org/grant.html> – pollyw@reserve-aid.org – 972-383-8080 – Committed to providing financial support to the Families of Reserve Service Members from all services, who have been called to active duty and are experiencing financial difficulty.

Retired Enlisted Association – The Retired Enlisted Association's (TREA) National Scholarship program. TREA members are proud to be able to offer these scholarships to our Nations high school student. The program is open to any high school student.

Rosewood Family Scholarship – Applicant must be a direct descendant of Rosewood Families affected by the incidents of January 1924. Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application is required for verification. Applicant must not owe a repayment or be in default under any state or federal grant, loan, or scholarship program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made. Tuition and fees up to \$4,000.

Scholarship awards are \$5,000 to be made co-payable to the scholarship recipient's institution for payment of tuition, books and supplies and may be reapplied for up to four years for a maximum of \$20,000. The application process is the same for new applicants and renewals.

Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans and Service Members – The Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans and Service Members (CSDDV) provides scholarships for dependent children or un-remarried spouses of Florida Veterans or Service Members who died as a result of service-connected injuries, diseases, or disabilities sustained while on active duty or who have been certified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs as having service connected 100% permanent and total disabilities. CSDDV also provides funds for dependent children whose parent is classified as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the Armed Forces of the United States or as civilian personnel captured while serving with the consent or authorization of the United States Government during wartime service. CSDDV provides funding for tuition and registration fees at an eligible postsecondary institution or the equivalent at an eligible private postsecondary institution in Florida.

Scholarships for Military Children – The Scholarships for Military Children Program was created to recognize the contributions of military Families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military Family community. If your mother or father is active duty, reserve/guard, or retired military personnel or you are the survivor of a deceased member, and you have a military dependent I.D. card you can apply!

Selby Scholarship – Applicant must be a resident of DeSoto, Manatee, or Sarasota County in Florida, have a minimum 3.0 GPA, and be eligible for financial aid.

Society of the Daughters of the United States Army

(DUSA) – www.dodea.edu/students/dusa.htm – Academic scholarships for college education.

Society of the First Infantry Division – www.1stid.org/foundation/scholarships.cfm – for children of Service Members killed in combat or training accidents while serving in a unit assigned or attached to the 1st Infantry Division and authorized to wear the 1st Infantry Division patch.

Special Operations Warrior Foundation College

Scholarship – www.specialops.org/?page=collegescholarship – the scholarship program process starts in the 10th grade.

Spouse Tuition Assistance Program (STAP) – www.afas.org/Education/STAP.cfm – partial tuition assistance for spouses of Active Duty airmen or officers, who accompany members to overseas locations and will be attending college programs. The focus of the program is on the completion of degree or certificate programs that provide increased occupational opportunities for spouses.

Tailhook Education Foundation – www.tailhook.org/Foundation2.htm – must be a high school graduate and the natural, step, or adopted son, daughter or grandchild of a current or former Naval Aviator, Naval Flight Officer, or Naval Aircrewman. Also eligible are individuals or children of individuals who are serving or have served on board a U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier in ship's company or the air wing.

Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH Grant) – www.teach-ats.ed.gov/ – TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling and A TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) so that you may receive one or more TEACH Grants to pay for your education.

That Others May Live Scholarships – www.thatothersmaylive.org/ – scholarships, Family counseling, and aid to surviving children of United States Air Force (USAF) Rescue Heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice during a Rescue mission, training, or other Personnel Recovery (PR) collateral mission.

The Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) – studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/AcademicGrants.jsp?tab=funding – The Academic Competitiveness Grant was made available for the first time for the 2006-2007 school year for first-year college students who graduated from high school after January 1, 2006, and for second-year college students who graduated from high school after January 1, 2005.

The AFCEA War Veterans Scholarships are offered to active-duty and honorably discharged U.S. military Veterans (to include Reservists and National Guard personnel) of the Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) or Iraqi Freedom Operations. Candidates must be currently enrolled and attending either a two-year or four-year accredited college or university in the United States. Candidates must be majoring in the following or related fields: electrical, aerospace, systems or computer engineering, computer engineering technology, computer information systems, information systems management, computer science, physics, mathematics, or science or mathematics education.

The Women's Army Corps Veterans Association Scholarship Established to recognize relatives of Army Service Women. This scholarship is based upon academic achievement and leadership as expressed through co-curricular activities and community involvement. www.armywomen.org/pdf/scholarship.pdf –

The Fund for Veterans Education – To help meet the cost associated with higher education for Veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces who served in Afghanistan or Iraq since September 11, 2001 and who are now enrolled in college or vocational-technical school.

The Graduate Incentive Scholarship (GIS) Program will provide forgivable loans to "historically underrepresented" students in master's, first professional, and doctoral programs at public higher education institutions where such programs are offered. The GIS program is implemented annually at the following institutions: Clemson University, University of South Carolina, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, College of Charleston, The Citadel, Winthrop University, S. C. State University, and Francis Marion University

ThanksUSA Scholarships – Academic Top Scholars (ATS) – Accessible to all dependent children, age 24 and under, and all spouses of Active-Duty U.S. military Service Members are eligible to apply for scholarships with: <http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&source=hp&biw=1259&bih=839&q=thanksusa+scholarship+program&aq=0&aql=g3&aql=&oq=THANKSUSA> –

The National Science & Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant – studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/SmartGrants.jsp?tab=funding – The National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant, also known as the National Smart Grant is available during the third and fourth years of undergraduate study (or fifth year of a five-year program) to at least half-time students who are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant and who are majoring in physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, technology, engineering or a critical foreign language; or non-major single liberal arts programs. The student must also maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 in course work required for the major. The National SMART Grant award is in addition to the student's Pell Grant award.

The organization's primary goal is to assist its members and their Families in improving the quality of their life experiences. This goal is met through a wide variety of activities, including support of programs designed to provide education and training for Veterans with a spinal cord injury as well as their immediate Families.

Tillman Military

Scholarships – <https://Veterans.tamu.edu/Scholarships.../scholarships/tillman.aspx> – To support educational opportunities for Veteran and active Service Members and their dependents (children and spouses). Intended to cover direct study-related expenses such as tuition, fees, and books, as well as other needs such as room and board and child care.

Troops to Teachers – Enriches the quality of American education by helping to place mature, motivated, experienced, and dedicated personnel in our nation's classrooms. TTT provides financial assistance, counseling, and employment referral through a network of state TTT Placement Assistance Offices.

Undergraduate Scholarship Program – CIA – <https://www.cia.gov/careers/student-opportunities/undergraduate-scholarship-program.html> -If you are a high school senior planning to enroll in a 4-or 5-year college program, or you are a college freshman or sophomore enrolled in a 4-or 5-year college program, who is looking for career experience in a dynamic environment, apply to the CIA's Undergraduate Scholar Program and contribute to the work of the nation before you graduate.

VA Mortgage Center Scholarship – An ongoing scholarship offer for students with military affiliation, ROTC, and children of military members.

Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement

Program – http://gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Yellow_ribbon.htm – This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. The institution can contribute up to 50% of those expenses and VA will match the same amount as the institution.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Scholarship Programs – The Veterans of Foreign Wars has several scholarship programs across the nation. Visit the site to learn more or contact your local VFW.

VFW Military Scholarships – The VFW's Military Scholarship program provides 25 \$3,000 scholarships annually to VFW members who are currently serving in uniform or have been discharged within the 36 months before the December 31 deadline.

Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation – www.wingsoveramerica.us/ – To provide college scholarships to dependent children and spouses of all US Navy – officer and enlisted – active duty, retired or deceased who served within Naval Air Forces. Recipients are selected on the basis of scholastic merit and community service.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Florida Department of Education

Eligibility Requirements for Children & Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans & Service Members (CSDDV).

Veteran or Service Member:

CSDDV provides scholarships for Florida resident dependent children and un-remarried spouses of Florida Veterans and Service Members whose official military and residency status have been certified by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs.

Scholarship Funding for Children and Spouses:

CSDDV provides funding for tuition and registration fees at an eligible Florida public postsecondary institution or an equivalent amount at an eligible Florida private postsecondary institution.

Visit: FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org for more information.

Fort Bragg and Local Scholarships

Army Emergencie Relief –

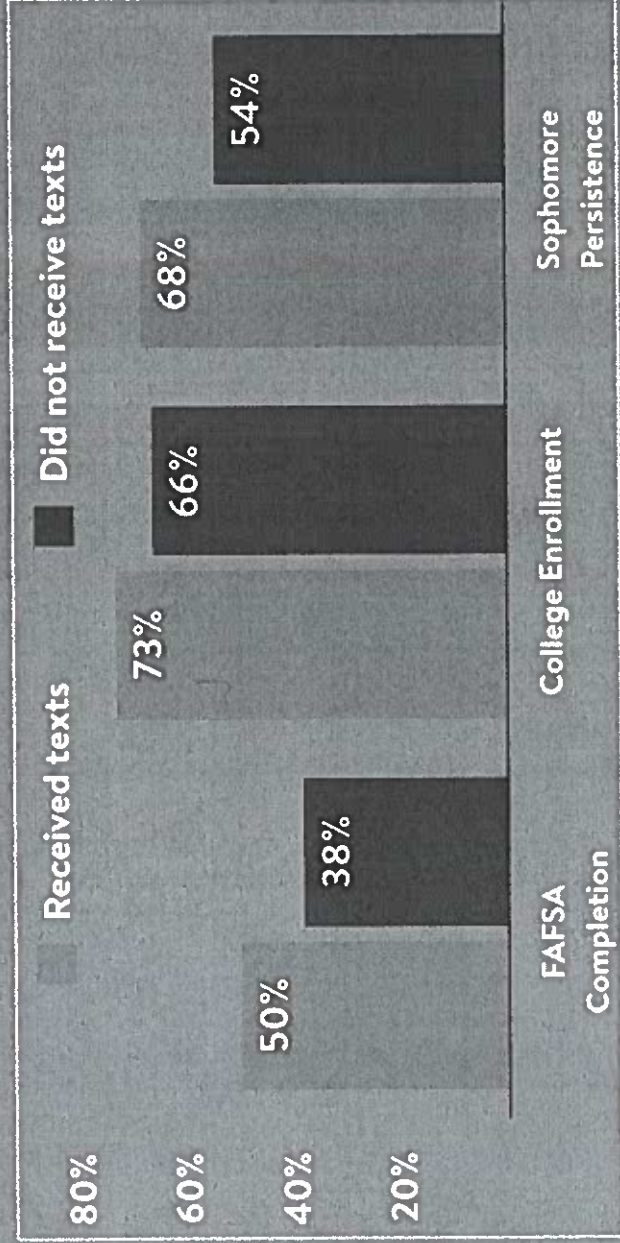
1. <https://bragg.armymwr.com/programs/aer>
2. Go to “what can AER Do”
3. Call representative

UP NEXT

the FREE college support tool
announced by the First Lady



Who is it for? High school & college students & grads, plus parents & counselors
What does it do? Gives them free personalized support on all things college
Does it work? See the results for yourself:



TEXT "COLLEGE" TO 44044 TO SIGN UP.

BETTER
MAKE ROOM

Here's what you need to know about

UP NEXT

1) The First Lady wants to help students get to and through college.

As a first-generation college student at Princeton University, Mrs. Obama knew how tough it could be navigating the college application process and entering a new culture really different than her own. Inspired by her own experience, she wanted to give high school and college students the resources to thrive in their education and in the world. So, she announced Reach Higher and Better Make Room, college access and awareness initiatives designed to help more students get to and through college.

2) Why? Because college is a game-changer.

On average, by the time of retirement, a college graduate earns \$1 million more than a high school graduate. But even more importantly, the First Lady said it herself: "College was probably the most impactful thing that I have done in my life other than being the First Lady and having kids and marrying Barack Obama [...]. College did everything for me. It built my confidence. It taught me that I could leave home and be successful [...] It taught me how to open up, how to try new things that are scary, how to buck expectations and beat the odds."

3) So, Better Make Room launched Up Next.

Up Next is a new tool that gives high school seniors, college students, college graduates, and their parents and school counselors across the country FREE personalized support on all things college - college search and application, federal student aid, even student loan repayment - all through texting. Students simply text "COLLEGE" to 44044 to sign up.

4) It's free.

Up Next is completely free. Students only pay for messages they receive if they are on a cellular plan that charges per message costs.

5) It works.

Research has shown that text-based campaigns can significantly increase students' college enrollment and persistence. Students receiving texts with information and reminders about necessary steps toward college are more likely to complete the FAFSA, enroll in college immediately after high school, and persist in college after freshman year.

6) It's easy, fun, and cutting-edge.

When you text in, Up Next will ask simple questions that help tailor the text messages for you. Up Next will then guide students (and their parents and school counselors) through all the steps for enrolling in and completing college, sending reminders, information, and encouragement. And once students are signed up, there are zero implementation costs or requirements for schools or communities. Plus, you're joining the First Lady's team -- which means you may get fun images, cool links, or even the occasional GIF of her dancing.

Find out more about Up Next at bettermakerroom.org/up-next.





US College Admissions Guide

Introduction

Applying to college can be complex, especially when considering how much the admissions process has changed since parents applied. There's a lot to consider when researching schools, visiting campuses, and evaluating admission requirements at various institutions. Some questions you might have:



- **What is the Common Application and how do I use it?**
- **What is Early Decision and how do I know if I should apply early or in the regular round?**
- **Which standardized tests (ACT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests) do I need to take?**

These are just a few of the questions you might have, but don't worry! Much of the complexity can be surmounted with the proper organization, research, planning, and guidance. The experts at IvyWise have written this guide to provide you with basic information that will help you find and apply to colleges where you will be successful and thrive.

Finding the Best Fit Schools for You

There are thousands of colleges and universities in the US and perhaps the most important part of the admissions process is finding those that are the best fits for you. The myth that you must attend a highly ranked college in order to receive an excellent education is far from true! A school's ranking often depends on many factors that have little to do with the classroom experience. For example, student selectivity, academic reputation, and alumni giving account for

nearly half of a school's US News & World Report ranking. We encourage our students to create their own rankings based on the academic, social, and financial factors that are important to them.



There are many such factors to consider when creating your college list. Think about the school's location and size, the specific programs of study, the accessibility to professors, the number of clubs and sports that interest you, and social offerings. What else do you think is essential to your college experience? We've put together a few questions on the next page to get you started in creating a unique list of criteria through which you can evaluate potential schools.

Here is a brief questionnaire to help you get started:

Which areas of the US are you considering?

Northeast **Southeast** **Midwest** **West**
Mid-Atlantic **Northwest** **Southwest** **All**

Which types of location are you considering?

Rural **Urban** **Suburban** **All**

How often do you plan to return home?

_____x per month _____x per year

What size school will suit you best?

Small (Under 3,000 undergraduates) **Medium (3,000-7,000 undergraduates)**
Large (Over 7,000 undergraduates) **All**

Are any of the following campus cultural issues important considerations for you?

Religion **Socioeconomics** **Race** **Other:_____**

Would you prefer a general or specialized curriculum?

Do you plan to declare a major immediately? What do you want to study?

Liberal Arts **Engineering** **Sciences** **Business** **Other:**

Will you be seeking financial aid?

What extracurricular activities and amenities (dorms, dining options, gymnasium, etc.) are important to you?

Building A Balanced College List

One of the most important pieces of the application process is formulating a balanced college list. Your college list is the barometer for the rest of your college preparation going forward, so it's important to start refining your priorities, evaluating where your profile falls relative to other applicants, and working towards finalizing the list of colleges to which you will apply.

Ideally, your balanced college list should include a total of no more than 10-15 best-fit likely, target, and reach colleges. Any more than that, and the quality of the applications and essays will suffer, thus reducing your chances of admission.

- **“Likely” schools** = student's academic profile is significantly stronger than the middle 50 percent of students who are typically admitted.
- **“Target” schools** = student's academic profile is similar to that middle 50 percent.
- **“Reach” schools** = student's academic profile is not as strong as the middle 50 percent.

Information used to determine likely, reach, and target schools, like median GPA, test scores, admission rates, and more, can be found on the school's admissions website. If you're not able to easily locate it, call the admissions office and ask for the specific data you need.

Consult With Your College Counselor

Once you start to build your list, meet with your high school college counselor or independent educational consultant to evaluate and narrow down your list of schools. Keep in mind that colleges will evaluate your profile in relation to your peers at your high school, so your counselor can likely provide some insight here. A candid discussion about your course load, grades and class rank, extracurricular activities, and goals, will allow your counselor to honestly assess your college list and perhaps also allow him or her to suggest some additional schools that might be a good fit. College counselors often visit colleges, communicate with admissions reps, and participate in professional events and conferences. This makes them a great resource for feedback on your college list and suggestions for other colleges to consider. College counselors are there to help you, so take advantage of the opportunity to get expert guidance on your college list.

Research, research, research!

We can't stress the importance of research enough. Start with a list of all the colleges that you think are interesting, but you'll need to dig deeper to find out if these schools will truly fulfill your individual needs. Learn everything you can about the schools that have piqued your interest, and even look for other, lesser-known schools that may also meet your personal, academic, and financial needs. Research courses, majors, minors, professors, activities, and other factors that are important to you on the school's website. Interested in engineering? Learn everything you can about the courses you might take, professors you might study with, and what extracurriculars or clubs are available to engineering students.

Keep It Manageable

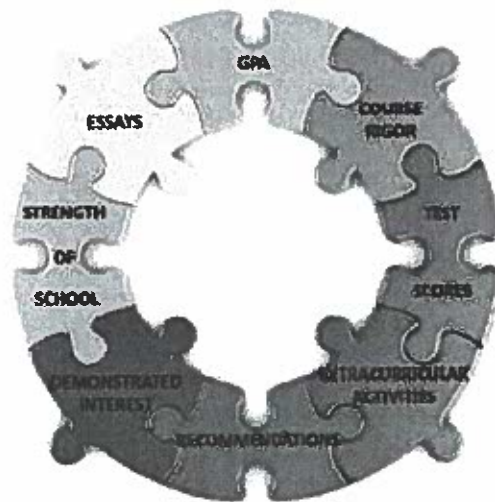
With over 4,000 colleges and universities in the US, the options available to students can sometimes be overwhelming. Couple that with single-digit admission rates at some of the country's top-tier universities, and many students may feel that in order to get into a great school they will need to explore every college available, sometimes applying to upwards of 40 or 50 schools. This is not a smart application strategy, as applying to a large number of colleges diminishes the quality of each application. Not to mention that without time to thoroughly research dozens of colleges, it's unlikely that every school will be a great fit.

What are admissions committees looking for?

When selecting a freshmen class, colleges are not looking for well-rounded students, they are looking for well-rounded student bodies made up of specialists. While an applicant's academic record is extremely important in the college admissions process, many schools will also consider an applicant's personal record. Who you are as a student and a person can be just as important as your academic success.

A successful college application will give the application reader a sense of who the applicant is, beyond the facts and figures. You are responsible for conveying the best and most accurate representation of yourself to the admissions committees at your targeted schools.

Here's what admissions offices consider when evaluating applications:



Admissions officers evaluate college applications on what IvyWise Founder and CEO Dr. Kat Cohen calls "Hard Factors" and "Soft Factors." Most schools will base the majority of their admissions decisions on a student's "hard factors," which are part of a student's academic record and include the high school transcript (course work, grades, GPA, and class rank) and standardized test scores. However, colleges will further evaluate applicants based on the student's personal record, or "soft factors," which are manifested in letters of recommendation, essays, extracurricular activities, and interviews. This is known as "holistic review," meaning the university looks beyond just academic qualifications in order to assess the applicant as a whole and determine how this student will contribute to the campus community outside of work in the classroom.

Hard Factors

Course Rigor - Colleges want to see you're taking challenging, advanced courses that match your interests. For example, if you're applying to an engineering program colleges will want to see that you are taking a higher number of science and math-related courses with increasing difficulty each year.

Grades - Your grades and GPA are the most important factor that colleges will consider when evaluating your application. Colleges want to see an upward grade trend, meaning that your grades improve year after year as you take more challenging courses. This shows you'll be able to handle a college course load.

Test Scores - Many schools will require either the ACT or the SAT, and sometimes a specified number of SAT Subject Tests. Most colleges will take the highest score achieved in each section of a test, even if they occurred on different test dates. However, these policies vary by school so it is important to research the policies at each school on your college list.

Soft Factors

Activities - Admissions officers want to see what you're doing in your free time and how you're impacting your community. Schools will look at your extracurricular activities, your level of involvement, and how those activities relate to your interests or intended course of study. Colleges will also want to see how you spend your summers, whether it's furthering your interests through a summer internship, job, volunteer opportunity, academic program, or some other summer activity where you're learning and/or making an impact.

Essays – College admissions committees want to know something about you that they cannot otherwise learn from the rest of your application. You should avoid writing an essay that lists or reiterates activities or information that can be learned from other areas of the application. A good essay can make an applicant come alive to an application reader, and transform a candidate from a series of numbers and statistics to a living, breathing human being. Essays can include the personal statement, as well as additional supplemental essays specific to different colleges. Read more about the Common Application essay and supplements below.

Demonstrated Interest - Colleges want to admit qualified students who are a good-fit for the institution and are excited about the possibility of attending. Colleges will look to see if applicants know the institution well, have visited, maintained contact with the admissions office, and completed compelling supplemental essays. This all factors into demonstrated interest.

Letters of Recommendation – Most colleges will require you to submit two letters of recommendation; one letter from your school guidance counselor, and the second from a teacher or other adult who knows you well. This adds additional context to your application, giving the admissions committee another view of what you can contribute to the campus community if admitted.

Interviews – If a school on your list offers interviews, then you should make every effort to schedule one. The interview is an excellent opportunity for you to express your interest in a school and communicate who you are as a student and your academic goals. This is also a great opportunity for you to ask questions and learn more about the school.

Additional Components – If you have an interest in music or the arts, it often makes sense to include an audition tape or portfolio. Some schools require that a specific form accompany the artistic submission. Each school has different requirements, so it's a good idea to make a checklist including the specific application materials required or recommended at each school on your college list.

The Common Application

The Common Application is an online application that over 600 colleges and universities utilize. The Common Application includes a main essay that requires applicants to address one of five prompts in 650 words or less. In addition to the main Common Application essay, each school may require their own supplement, which can include additional essays or short-response questions. Here are the prompts for the 2017-18 Common Application:

- 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.
- 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?
- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
- Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- 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?
- 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.

In addition to these required Common Application essays, some universities have a separate supplement with additional essay questions. Here are some sample essay questions from 2016-17 applications:

Yale University:

- Why does Yale appeal to you? (100 words or less)
- Short Takes: Please respond in just a few words (no more than 200 characters) to each of the questions below:
 1. Who or what is a source of inspiration for you?
 2. If you could live for a day as another person, past or present, who would it be? Why?
 3. You are teaching a Yale course. What is it called?
 4. Most Yale freshmen live in suites of four to six students. What would you contribute to the dynamic of your suite?
- Please choose two of the following topics and respond to each in 200 words or fewer.
 1. What is a community to which you belong? Reflect on the footprint that you have left. (You may define community and footprint in any way you like.)
 2. Reflect on a time in the last few years when you felt genuine excitement learning about something.
 3. Write about something that you love to do.

University of Pennsylvania:

How will you explore your intellectual and academic interests at the University of Pennsylvania? Please answer this question given the specific undergraduate school to which you are applying. (400-650 words)

Stanford University:

- Short Answer: Briefly respond to the following inquiries so we can get to know you better. Do not feel compelled to use complete sentences.
 1. Name your favorite books, authors, films, and/or artists. (50 word limit)
 2. What newspapers, magazines, and/or websites do you enjoy? (50 word limit)
 3. What is the most significant challenge that society faces today? (50 word limit)
 4. How did you spend your last two summers? (50 word limit)
 5. What were your favorite events (e.g., performances, exhibits, competitions, conferences, etc.) in recent years? (50 word limit)
 6. What historical moment or event do you wish you could have witnessed? (50 word limit)
 7. What five words best describe you?
- Short Essays
 1. Stanford students possess an intellectual vitality. Reflect on an idea or experience that has been important to your intellectual development. (100 to 250 words)
 2. Virtually all of Stanford's undergraduates live on campus. Write a note to your future roommate that reveals something about you or that will help your roommate -- and us -- know you better. (100 to 250 words)
 3. What matters to you, and why? (100 to 250 words)

When to Apply

There are many different deadlines and parameters when it comes time to submit your college application. Each school varies in the type(s) of admission it offers and each student should decide when to apply based on their individual needs and goals. To find out what admissions options a college offers, check the school's website or speak with an admissions officer at the institution. You will want to consider the following options:

Early Decision (ED) – Early Decision is a good choice for students who have selected a definite top-choice college and are able to submit a compelling application early in the process. Students may only apply to one school ED (although you may often simultaneously apply to another school Early Action, with the exception of schools that are Single-Choice Early Action, as well as to schools with regular and rolling admissions policies) and the application is binding, meaning the student must attend if admitted. If a student is accepted under ED, he or she must withdraw all applications to other schools.

Applying ED is also a good way for students to show demonstrated interest, and admission rates tend to be higher in the early application round compared to the regular decision round. ED applications must be submitted in their entirety, usually on November 1 or November 15. Early Decision applicants are usually notified of their decision in December and can be either accepted, denied, or deferred to the regular decision round.

Some schools additionally offer an ED2 option for students who know that a particular college is their top-choice, but are not ready to apply by November. For ED 2, the same rules apply, but the deadline and notification dates are later than the ED I dates. ED 2 applications are usually due Jan. 1 - Feb. 15, and students are typically notified in March.

Early Action (EA) – Unlike, ED, EA is not binding, meaning that if you're accepted to your target school, you may continue to apply to other schools simultaneously. Given this, EA is a good decision for students who have decided that they definitely want to apply to a particular school or schools and who are ready to submit their applications in November. Students who apply Early Action will hear in December if they have been accepted, denied, or deferred to the regular decision round. Like with ED, applying EA is a good way to show demonstrated interest, and EA admission rates tend to be higher than those in the regular round.

Regular Decision (RD) – Regular Decision means that applications and supporting documents must be submitted by a set date in your senior year. The dates vary from November 30 through March 15, but most selective schools' regular decision applications are due January 1 or 15, or February 1. The college then takes action on all the applications and notifies all students of its admissions decisions at the same time. Notification dates are in the spring of senior year, usually around April 1. If accepted, you must notify the college by May 1 of your intent to accept or decline their offer of admission.

Rolling Admission – Colleges that use rolling admission assess and act on an application as soon as the application file is submitted in its entirety. Usually, the college will notify the applicant of an admission decision within weeks of receiving the completed application. The deadline for this type of admission is usually May 1, and these schools will generally continue to accept students until they reach their capacity enrollment; therefore, it is best to send in your application as early as possible.

Visit

At IvyWise, we advise our students to visit campuses in-person, whenever possible. Visiting in-person, ideally while classes are in session, will allow you to talk with current students and professors, see dorms, dining halls, and other campus facilities in use, and gain an overall impression of the school's atmosphere and community.

In addition, many applications have some version of a "why do you want to attend this college?" essay. Firsthand impressions of a school will allow you to best answer this question, and prove your interest to the admissions committees at the schools on your college list. Some colleges also track interest, so by signing up for the tour and information session, scheduling an interview and following-up with a thank-you note, schools will have a record of you on file before you even apply. Some additional things to do when visiting a college campus:

- **See if you can spend the night in a representative dorm.** This is another way to get a feel for the campus life and assess whether or not a campus is a good fit for you.
- **Visit local restaurants and places of interest.** Depending on the location, the surrounding community can be just as important as the campus itself. Research local hot spots and add them to your itinerary.
- **Reach out to current students.** If you have a friend who attends the college you're visiting, see if they'd be available to meet you while you're on campus. They can give you an inside look at the campus and point you in the direction of activities or sites that might interest you. There are also a number of online tools that can help you connect with current students to learn more about a college should you not personally know anyone already in attendance.
- **Try to meet the application reader for your area.** This is a good way to establish a relationship with a contact within the admissions office who can serve as a resource during the process. Readers are not always on campus, so at least try to get a name and contact information.

Standardized Testing and Advanced Courses

SAT/ACT

The SAT and ACT are standardized college entrance exams that a majority of US colleges and universities require students to take as part of the admissions process. Taking both tests isn't necessary, however, and you should choose to take one or the other.

The **SAT** consists of four multiple-choice sections that are split up among testing Reading, Math, and Writing skills, and an optional essay. The Reading and Writing Skills sections combine to give one score for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and the Math sections are combined to give one score for Math. The SAT is a three-hour exam without the essay and three hours and fifty minutes with the essay.

The **ACT** is made up of four multiple-choice sections on English, Math, Reading, and Science, and an optional essay. The ACT takes three and a half hours to complete without the essay, and four hours and ten minutes with the essay.

How are the tests scored?

The SAT is scored out of 1600, with 800 points coming from Math sections and 800 points coming from Evidence-based Reading and Writing sections. The essay, which is optional, has three scores, reading, analysis, and writing, which range from 2-8 points. The essay score does not impact the overall score.

Each section on the ACT is scored out of 36. These scores are then averaged for an overall composite score that is also out of 36. Students who choose to write the essay will receive an essay score out of 36 and four domain scores, which are a subsection of the subject-level writing score, and one average score of the English, reading, and writing sections on the 1-36 scale, called the ELA score. The writing score does not impact the overall composite score.

How do colleges see my test scores?

When registering for the ACT or SAT, students can select up to four colleges to send score reports to for that administration of the exam. After that, students must request scores be released to other colleges to which they're applying, often for a fee.

Which test should I take?

Every four-year university in that accepts the SAT also accepts the ACT, and vice-versa. Students should take the test that best suits their abilities. Contrary to popular belief, colleges do not value one test more than another. At IvyWise, we advise students to take a diagnostic of both the ACT and SAT to determine which test is the better fit. IvyWise offers free diagnostic tests to students interested in [tutoring and test prep](#).

When and where can I take the tests?

The SAT and ACT are administered several times each year. Testing takes place in predetermined local test centers under proctored and timed conditions. Students can register to take the SAT and ACT online at www.sat.collegeboard.org or www.actstudent.org respectively. Both tests are still paper-based, with some centers offering a computer-based exam. Scores are typically returned within 3-4 weeks.

Students should begin testing by the spring of junior at the latest, however, testing can extend into senior year should students need time to raise their scores. Generally, students applying in the early round should have all their testing done by October of senior year, and students applying in the regular round should have all their testing done by December of senior year.

How can I prepare for the tests?

The SAT and ACT are designed to test students on topics they will have learned in school by the end of 11th grade. Nevertheless, there are many test-taking strategies that can be applied to both exams, and there are numerous test preparation books available for students to study these from. These books also provide students with practice questions and tests that will help them become familiar with the tests in advance. Some students also work with SAT and ACT tutors to get direct guidance in preparing for the tests.

SAT Subject Tests

SAT Subject Tests test knowledge in one of 20 specific subject areas. Similar to the SAT, these one-hour exams are scored out of a possible 800. You should read each college's application materials carefully to determine its individual requirements: some schools require certain subjects, others require a certain number of tests in subjects of your choosing, while at other schools the tests are optional. SAT Subject Tests can be taken throughout your time in high school, but the experts at IvyWise suggest that the best time to take a subject test is right after you have completed your coursework in that subject. SAT Subject Tests are given on most SAT test dates, and students can take up to three Subject Tests in one sitting. Students can register for SAT Subject Tests online at:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests>

AP (Advanced Placement) Exams

The AP (Advanced Placement) program offers high-school students the opportunity to take college-level classes (or study independently) to prepare for an exam in any of 36 subject areas. These exams, held in May of each year, are scored on a scale of one through five, with many colleges offering comparable credit for scores of three or higher. While AP exams are not required for college admissions, they are an increasingly competitive factor in representing academic dedication and intellectual challenge. For more information on AP exams, visit:

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.

IB (International Baccalaureate)

Comparable to AP coursework, the International Baccalaureate offers students college-level study in multiple subjects. At the completion of the program, which is spread over two years, written examinations are completed, with each subject scored on a one to seven point scale. Many colleges grant class credit for certain scores on IB subjects, usually for scores of a six or seven, or will waive the requirement of lower-level core courses. For more information on the IB program, visit www.ibo.org.

Test-Optional/Flexible Admissions

Over the past few years, more colleges have announced test-optional or test-flexible policies. Notable colleges that have opted to go test-optional include Wake Forest University, Bryn Mawr College, Wesleyan University, and American University, among others. Right now, there are over 850 colleges and universities in the US that are test-optional, test-flexible, or otherwise deemphasize test scores in the admissions process. A survey of college admissions officers has found that the most important factor in admission decisions is grades – colleges know that how a student performs day-in and day-out in the classroom is much more important than how he or she does on one day on one three-hour test.

Should I consider a test-optional college?

If a student is struggling with the SAT or ACT, but is otherwise a great student, then yes, he or she should consider test-optional colleges and universities. For some students, standardized tests just are not a strength – and that's okay! Most students can make gains, sometimes really significant gains, with test preparation, but if a student is still not seeing improvements or the results he or she needs, it's time to look for alternatives.

It's important to know that while SAT scores alone won't get you in or keep you out, students with low scores will have a much harder time getting into their target and reach colleges if a list isn't adjusted to include test-optional schools. This is where proper college planning is most important – knowing how to craft a college list based on a student's applicant profile and that student's needs. College opportunities can actually be expanded, not limited, when considering test-optional institutions.

Additional Resources for Applicants

Researching schools, building a balanced college list, evaluating application options, and preparing for standardized tests and advanced coursework is just the start of the college admissions process. Check out these additional resources below, including information about IvyWise's [counseling](#), [tutoring](#), and [research services](#), that can help guide you through the college admissions process moving forward.

College Board

College Board offers a college search engine, information on majors, and details on taking the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, as well as AP Exams.

Fiske Guide to Colleges

Profiles on more than 310 colleges and universities focusing on the academic climates and the social and extracurricular scenes.

College Navigator

Managed by the US Department of Education and the National Center for Education Statistics, College Navigator provides information on thousands of colleges and universities in the US, including tuition and enrollment.

US News & World Report

While we advise families not to put too much stock into rankings, the data itself used to create the rankings is important to consider. US News & World Report has a great aggregate of school information and data, including admission rates, tuition, and student body statistics.

YouVisit Virtual Tours

Online or virtual campus tours are a great way to “visit” a college if you’re unable to actually travel to the school. Virtual tours should not be used a substitute for actually visiting a campus if you’re able, but can be a good way to get an initial look at a college before determining if it’s a good fit.

Coursera and edX

There are a number of free online courses from some of the country’s most elite universities accessible to students. These free courses are a great way for students to explore an area of interest or learn more about a specific topic they’re just becoming acquainted with.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

For families seeking financial aid to pay for college, the FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid. Families should learn more about the FAFSA, college costs, and estimated contribution when preparing for the admissions process.

IvyWise Blog and Newsletter

The IvyWise blog and newsletter have a plethora of information on the admissions process, tips for applications, essays, college prep, and more. There are dozens of articles with information specific to students no matter where they are in the admissions process.

IvyWise Social Media

In addition to providing college admissions news and information on our blog and website, we also bring families admissions news, updates, and more over our various social media channels. Be sure to follow IvyWise and Dr. Kat on:

Facebook

Twitter (IvyWise)

Twitter (Dr. Kat)

Instagram (IvyWise)

Instagram (Dr. Kat)

Want to learn more about applying college?
Contact us today.

About IvyWise

Founded in 1998, IvyWise has worked with students in more than 40 countries and is comprised of an expert team, headed by Dr. Kat Cohen, with more than 150 years of experience providing unparalleled admissions counseling, tutoring, and research tailored to students' educational needs.

The IvyWise Difference means you benefit from our team-based approach. Beginning with your dedicated client relations associate scheduling virtual, on-vacation, and international appointments, to tracking your notes, practice tests, and school lists through our proprietary myIvyWise web portal (the hub of our communications and workflow), you are guided through every step of the admissions process. We offer customized programs and counselors with specialized backgrounds to best match your student's goals. The IvyWise methodology empowers students to identify and utilize their strengths and interests to make an impact in their communities, developing academic tools for lifelong success. **The results speak for themselves with more than 91% of our students gaining admission to one or more of their top three choice schools in 2017.**

Admissions Counseling

Our counselors are recent directors of admissions from highly selective colleges who work with students to identify their best fit schools both academically and socially, while also inspiring and guiding them through the application process step-by-step.

Tutoring

Our tutors are distinguished as master level in standardized tests and all academic subject areas, as well as in their ability to teach effectively and efficiently. Students will receive customized curricula taught at the appropriate pace with consideration for personality fit and scheduling.

Research

Our research team provides students with in-depth research to give them an edge when preparing for interviews, applications, campus visits, and essay writing, customized to match each student's interests and goals.

IvyWise Counselors

IvyWise counselors collectively have over 150 years of admissions experience and have held just about every position within university admissions offices as well as guidance roles at the country's top independent schools.



IvyWise's Premier College Counselors are some of the most experienced independent counselors in the country, with at least 12, and up to 20, years of admissions experience at the most selective institutions in the US. Our Master College Counselors have at least eight years of admissions experience, and our Principal Counselors have at least three years of experience in admissions with selective universities.

IvyWise Tutors

IvyWise tutors are the best of the best. Our tutors are often graduates of Ivy League schools with advanced degrees and extensive experience. Our tutors have excelled academically and aced all of their standardized tests. Beyond this, at IvyWise we care about how we connect with our families, so our tutors are more than just academically gifted. They are approachable and exceptional at connecting with students. Your student will be excited about learning and will remain engaged throughout the tutoring experience. To learn more about our team of expert counselors and tutors, read their biographies and watch their videos at IvyWise.com/about-ivywise/the-ivywise-team.

Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families

Fact Sheet

Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families Program Overview

Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families allows eligible students to connect anonymously to an expert tutor online at any time for personalized help with homework, studying, test prep, proofreading and more. One-to-one academic tutoring and on-demand homework help is available at no cost to grades K-12 students and service members in active duty Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps families through funding from the U.S. Department of Defense. Active duty and Reserve Coast Guard service members and their families are also eligible to use Tutor.com/military at no cost through funding from Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA). Eligible students can create an account and log in at www.tutor.com/military.

Free Around-the-Clock Help

Access to Tutor.com for Military Families is free 24 hours a day, seven days a week—no appointment needed. Students worldwide can access the online service using any internet-enabled device, including smart phones.

40+ Subjects, All Skill Levels

Math: Elementary, Mid-Level, Algebra I and II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, AP level

English: Essay Writing, Grammar, Literature, Research Papers, Creative Writing, AP level

Science: Elementary, Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, AP level

Social Studies: U.S. History, World History, AP level

World Languages: Spanish, French, German

Eligible adult students also have access to tutoring in college-level Economics, Finance and Accounting, plus Nursing subjects, including Pathophysiology and Pharmacology.

Expert, Background-checked Tutors

Every Tutor.com tutor is a carefully screened expert. Our team of more than 3,000 tutors includes certified teachers, college professors and other professionals. We actively recruit military spouses, and many of our tutors are affiliated with the U.S. military, such as retirees and Veterans.

Safe, Secure, Anonymous

Our commitment to student safety includes a rigorous tutor screening, background-check and mentoring process plus ongoing session reviews. Students and tutors work together anonymously; webcams and telephones are not used, and no personal information is exchanged during tutoring sessions.

Eligibility

The DoD and CGMA decided which military-connected students are allowed to use Tutor.com at no cost. Visit www.tutor.com/military/eligibility for complete program eligibility details.

More information

Email militarysupport@tutor.com. Connect with us on social media: [facebook.com/TutordotcomforMilitary](https://www.facebook.com/TutordotcomforMilitary), twitter.com/tutordotcom and blog.tutor.com.

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The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

Students go to www.tutor.com/military and click on their service to get a tutor.

Students work one-to-one with a tutor in a secure, online classroom, which features an interactive whiteboard, file sharing and instant messaging.

