

# Welcome to Teton High School College Information Night

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# Preparing for College - 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades

- Earn the best grades you can. Your first semester grades during your freshman year are the beginning of your GPA. Grades really do matter for college admissions and scholarships.
- Get help when you need it. If something is not working for you in school, talk to someone (teacher, parent, counselor etc).
- Do not underestimate the value of reading! People who read more know more. This will pay off when taking timed tests, such as college admission tests.
- Take challenging courses. Colleges look at grades and also take notice of the rigor of your courses and want to see that you challenged yourself in high school.
- Be involved in your school and community. Find something you like doing and dive into it.

- Begin a list of activities, accomplishments, honors, and employment which later develop into a resume.
- Think about career ideas and the education needed. Pay attention to careers adults have that interest you and ask questions.
- Begin looking at college admission requirements by looking at college websites.
- When traveling, try to visit college campuses to begin developing opinions of likes and dislikes, such as size, location, majors, cost, activities, etc.
- Talk to your high school counselor.
- Take the PSAT (practice test for the SAT) in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The State of Idaho pays for 10<sup>th</sup> graders to take the PSAT during the school day in October.
- The summer before 11<sup>th</sup> grade is a great time to study for the ACT and/or SAT.

# Preparing for College - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Sign up to take the PSAT in October. This is the practice test for the SAT and also the test that allows you to gain entry into the National Merit Competition.
- Take the SAT in April, paid for by the State of Idaho, and given during the school day to 11<sup>th</sup> graders at Teton High School.
- Plan to also take the ACT during 11<sup>th</sup> grade or at least by June after 11<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Take the most rigorous classes you can and continue to get the best grades you can!
- Continue to be involved in your school and community.
- Begin formulating a list of colleges you are interested in and pay attention to their admission requirements by visiting college websites.
- Continue to visit college campuses to begin refining your likes and dislikes, such as size, location, majors, cost, activities etc.

- Sign up when college representatives visit Teton High School to learn more about their school and ask questions.
- Continue your list of activities, accomplishments, honors, and employment for your senior year resume.
- Begin thinking of two teachers who know you well, and may be able to write you a letter of recommendation in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Continue thinking about careers you may be interested in and consider job shadowing someone in a career you are interested in.
- Pay attention to college admission requirements when selecting courses for 12<sup>th</sup> grade. College websites make it very easy to find their admission requirements.
- Talk to your high school counselor.
- If planning to retake the ACT and/or SAT in the fall of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, make an effort to study during the summer.

# Preparing for College - 12<sup>th</sup> grade

- Consider taking a full and rigorous schedule, earning the best grades you can.
- Be aware of college admission deadlines which can occur as early as the end of October and beginning of November.
- Retake the ACT and/or SAT in the fall if you are striving for a higher score.
- Meet with your school counselor for post high school planning, guidance, assistance completing required forms, and to ask questions.
- Continue attending college presentations when they visit Teton High School.
- Visit your top choice colleges in the fall if you have not done so yet.
- Complete college applications in the fall, paying close attention to directions and deadlines.
- Apply for scholarships following directions and deadlines carefully.

- Create a resume of your accomplishments, activities and employment.
- Ask two teachers, who know you well, to write a letter of recommendation for you, giving them at least a two week notice and a copy of your resume. Remember to write a thank you to anyone who writes you a letter of recommendation.
- Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) after October 1, 2016.  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov/](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/)
- Attend Financial Aid Night at Teton High School in November ( date TBA).
- Selective and high tier schools will expect you to keep a rigorous schedule both semesters of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Make your final school choice by May 1 (National College Enrollment Deposit Day).
- Upon graduation request to have your final transcript (including dual credit college transcripts) sent to the college you will be attending.

# Great College Search and Planning Websites

[bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)

[idahocis.org](http://idahocis.org)

[princetonreview.com](http://princetonreview.com)



# College Admission Definitions



- Regular Decision - Submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.
- Rolling Admission - Colleges review applications as they are submitted and make a decision throughout the admission period.
- Early Action (EA) - Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance to the college's regular response date.
- Early Decision (ED) - Students make a commitment to a first-choice college where, if admitted, they will definitely enroll. The application and decision deadline occur early. This is a binding commitment.
- Restrictive Early Action (REA) - Students apply to the college of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED, EA, or REA to other colleges. If offered enrollment, they may have until May 1 to confirm.

# The Common Application

The Common Application is used for admissions by nearly 700 colleges and universities. The application allows schools to evaluate students holistically. Using the Common Application is helpful to students who are applying to several schools that participate in The Common Application, as it may allow the student to submit only one application. As of fall of 2016, the only colleges in Idaho using The Common Application are The College of Idaho, University of Idaho, and Northwest Nazarene University; in Utah, Westminster College; and in Montana, Carroll College and the University of Great Falls. To see a listing of participating colleges and universities go to:

[www.commonapp.org/](http://www.commonapp.org/)



# Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

If you are a resident of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming you may be eligible for a reduced tuition rate at more than 150 participating schools in the West. Search the WUE database to see which schools participate, each school's criteria for qualifying and which programs (majors) they have available at the WUE rate.

[www.wiche.edu/wue](http://www.wiche.edu/wue)



# Websites to Sign Up for the ACT and SAT

[sat.collegeboard.org/register](https://sat.collegeboard.org/register)

[actstudent.org/regist/](https://actstudent.org/regist/)

\*Note: It is the student's responsibility to sign up for any of the national test dates for the ACT and/or SAT. The only exception to this is the free, state paid, and school day administered SAT in April of the student's 11<sup>th</sup> grade year. THS counselors will register students at school for this state paid and school day administered SAT.

## Website for Practicing for the SAT

[khanacademy.org/sat](https://khanacademy.org/sat)

- \*Four full length tests
- \*Thousands of sample questions
- \*Diagnostic quizzes providing every student with targeted practice exercises



# SAT Subject Tests

- SAT Subject Tests are college admission exams on specific subjects.
- Some colleges require or recommend you take SAT Subject Tests.
- There are 20 Subject Tests in five general areas: English, history, languages, mathematics and science.

[collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests](http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests)



# College Athletics

- If you plan to participate in NCAA Division I or Division II athletics you will need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

[ncaaeligibilitycenter.org](http://ncaaeligibilitycenter.org)

- If you plan to participate in Division III athletics you will need to contact the college or university for eligibility requirements.

- If you plan to participate in NAIA athletics you will need to register with the NAIA Eligibility Center.

[playnaia.org](http://playnaia.org)



# Scholarships

## Teton High School Scholarship Bulletin

The Teton High School Bulletin can be accessed via a link on the THS homepage and as hard copies outside the counselor's offices. The bulletin lists scholarships the THS Counselors are aware of, are generally outside scholarships (meaning they are not college specific), and are by no means a comprehensive list of all scholarships that may be available to students.

[thswebpages.org](http://thswebpages.org)

## Idaho Scholarship Websites

Idaho Community Foundation

[idcomfdn.org/scholarships](http://idcomfdn.org/scholarships)

Idaho Career Information Systems

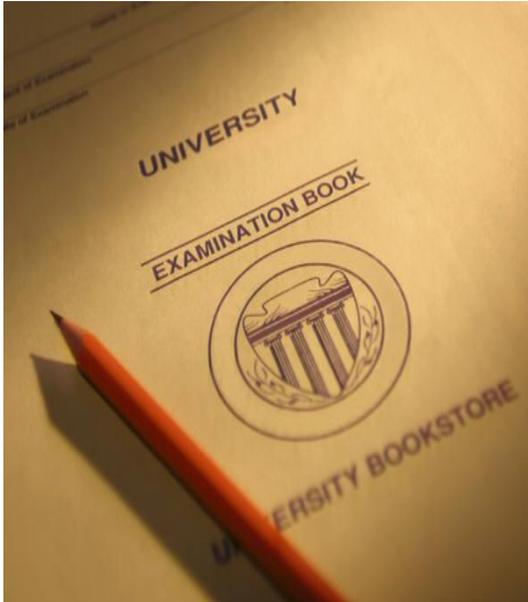
[idahocis.org](http://idahocis.org)

Idaho State Board of Education Scholarships

[boardofed.idaho.gov/scholarship/scholarship\\_jump.asp](http://boardofed.idaho.gov/scholarship/scholarship_jump.asp)



# Other Reputable Scholarship Websites



[fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)  
[scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)  
[meritaid.com](http://meritaid.com)  
[discovercolleges.com](http://discovercolleges.com)  
[collegetoolkit.com](http://collegetoolkit.com)  
[unigo.com/scholarships](http://unigo.com/scholarships)  
[highfivescholarships.com](http://highfivescholarships.com)

## General rule of thumb for seniors searching for scholarships...

Check the websites of the schools you are applying to, or call their financial aid office or admissions office, and inquire about scholarships they may have available for incoming freshman.