

## COLLEGE PLANNING AND PREPARATION

**ACT and SAT College and Financial Aid Resources.** There are many helpful college planning tools available on both the ACT and SAT websites. [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) has information for both parents and students. [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (follow the links on the bottom left side of the page) includes many resources. Big Future, in particular, has a great deal of information on finding and paying for college.

**CollegeBoard Score Report Policy** Please take time to read the policy regarding the sending of SAT scores to colleges. The following website gives information regarding this new policy: [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/score\\_choice.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/score_choice.html)

### **The Common Application**

The Common Application allows you to use one form to apply for college admission at many public and private institutions. Check out their website to download the application and get a list of member institutions. [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

The **National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)**, founded in 1937, is an organization of more than 13,000 professionals from around the world dedicated to serving students as they make choices about pursuing postsecondary education. This resource has valuable information for students and parents. [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)

### **Western Undergraduate Exchange**

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) allows students in western states to enroll in many 2 and 4 year college programs at reduced tuition levels (150% of in-state tuition). Each college sets their own entrance requirements. To see if a college is involved in the WUE program, check their website or visit with a counselor. [www.wiche.edu/wue](http://www.wiche.edu/wue)

### **Princeton Review Website**

The Princeton Review offers a variety of services for counselors, students, and parents. The college search, student match, expert advise, and APPLY! services are easy to use. There is no fee for the services provided. [www.review.com](http://www.review.com)

### **Schools in the USA**

Another career and college preparation tool available over the internet is [www.schoolsintheUSA.com](http://www.schoolsintheUSA.com)

**Free ACT/SAT prep** is available from the following resources:

[www.Number2.com](http://www.Number2.com)

[www.domesatreview.com](http://www.domesatreview.com)

[www.idahocis.org](http://www.idahocis.org) (you will need to have your own CIS portfolio – see your counselor for help setting this up)

### **Selective Service Registration**

All young men are reminded that you need to register with the Selective Service within 30 days of your 18th Birthday. Go to [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov) to register online.

**NCAA Clearinghouse** If you hope to participate in NCAA Division 1 or 2 athletics in college, you will need to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at the end of your junior year or during your senior year. The guidelines for this process can be found at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). Please note that courses taken through Brigham Young University Independent Study, and Idaho Digital Learning Academy Flex Program do not meet NCAA core course requirements. Before taking any correspondence courses, please check with your counselor. After you have registered, contact the main office to have official transcripts sent.

**2.3 or Take a Knee:** The NCAA will be going to new eligibility standards beginning with athletes recruited for Division 1 sports for the fall of 2016. Go to <http://2point3.ncaa.org/> for more information.

**NAIA Eligibility Center** Students hoping to participate in NAIA intercollegiate athletics, must register on the NAIA website found at <http://www.playnaia.org>. After you have registered, contact the main office so official transcripts can be sent.

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## **FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

**Financial Aid Web-Sites** Many students are interested in finding out information about national scholarships. While the career center and counselors receive much information about these, please be aware that there are many others that we simply don't know about. Looking for scholarships can almost be like a part-time job and you have to be willing to put some time and effort into the search. The institutions you will be attending are your greatest resource for financial aid, however, there are several web-sites that can help your search.

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

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

[www.findtuition.com](http://www.findtuition.com)

[www.getcollegefunds.com](http://www.getcollegefunds.com)

[www.meritaid.com](http://www.meritaid.com)

[www.kaarme.com](http://www.kaarme.com)

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)

[www.zinch.com/scholarships](http://www.zinch.com/scholarships)

[http://www.college-scholarships.com/free\\_scholarship\\_searches.htm](http://www.college-scholarships.com/free_scholarship_searches.htm)

The “finaid” website has a helpful tool for families trying to estimate costs for college. Information about savings, investments, etc. are included. [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

### **Career Information System (CIS)**

The Career Information System (CIS) from the State of Idaho offers information about occupations, education, scholarships, and more. We use CIS extensively here at North Star and now you can access CIS at home. Check with your counselor to get the user name and password. After you access the webpage, go to the “e-cis” logo in the top left corner. If you have any questions after you use CIS, check with your counselor and he will help you out. [www.idahocis.org](http://www.idahocis.org)

### **FastWeb**

This is a vast array of tools to assist students and counselor with scholarship and college information. Check out the website for details! [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

### **CollegeBoard Help for Parents and Students**

While CollegeBoard might be better known for their AP and SAT tests, they also have an extensive website that has a great deal of information regarding college and financial planning. There are specific sites for both parents <http://www.collegeboard.com/parents/> and students <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/index.html?student/>

### **FAFSA Information**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is available online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). This website will walk you through the process of registering for federal financial aid. Be aware of websites that try to charge you for this free service. Students may not actually apply for FAFSA before Jan. 1, but both parent and student are encouraged to apply for a PIN before that date to speed up the process. Paper versions of the FAFSA are no longer being distributed to schools. To request a paper application, please call 1-800-433-3243.

### **CSS Profile**

The CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE is an application distributed by the College Board allowing college students to apply for financial aid. It is primarily designed to give private member institutions of the College Board a closer look into the finances of a student and family. It is much more detailed than the FAFSA. Generally, colleges with early acceptance programs use the CSS PROFILE to make preliminary financial aid decisions because the FAFSA is not available until after January 1. Then after student completes the FAFSA (the official financial aid application) colleges may then make adjustments to their financial aid awards if necessary. For information and to apply, go to <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/prf/index.jsp>

**Financial Aid Information**

This website offers students and parents clear information about the basics of college financial aid. [www.finaidfacts.org](http://www.finaidfacts.org)

**University of Idaho**

Information on student financial aid services, including scholarships, is available at [www.uidaho.edu/finaid](http://www.uidaho.edu/finaid)