



PVHS INTERNET SITES FOR SENIORS *AND UNDERCLASSMEN PLANNING AHEAD FOR THEIR FUTURE*

ARIZONA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

www.arizona.edu
www.asu.edu
www.nau.edu

University of Arizona
Arizona State University
Northern Arizona University

MARICOPA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGES

www.my.maricopa.edu

Paradise Valley **Scottsdale**
GateWay **Chandler-Gilbert**
Glendale **Estrella Mountain**
Mesa **Rio Salado**
Phoenix College **South Mountain**

OTHER ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

www.awc.cc.az.us
www.centralaz.edu
www.coconino.edu
www.eac.edu
www.pima.edu
www.yavapai.cc.az.us

Arizona Western College
Central Arizona College
Coconino Community College
Eastern Arizona College
Pima Community College
Yavapai Community College

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

www.careeradvantage.org/arizona-schools.html
www.edu-directory.org
www.technical-vocational-schools.com

CAREER PLANNING

www.azcis.intocareers.org
www.assessment.com
www.ade.az.gov/cte/azcrn
www.acinet.org

JOB SITES

www.dice.com (*Focus on technical fields*)
www.monstertrak.com (*Focus on internships, part-time, entry level jobs*)
www.jobweb.com

COLLEGE PLANNING/SEARCH RESOURCES

www.usnews.com
<http://accg.azhighered.gov>
www.Anycollege.com
www.careersandcolleges.com
www.CollegeAnswer.com
www.collegenet.com
www.CSOcollegecenter.org (*Focus on first-generation, low-income, and minority student populations*)
<http://education-portal.com>
www.gocollege.com
www.MyCollegeOptions.org
www.petersons.com

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS (*Majority of colleges and universities accepting applications only online*)

www.act.org/college_search/fset_col_application.html
www.collegeboard.com/apply

COLLEGE TEST REGISTRATION AND PREPARATION (*Great cost-free, practice-test site is Method Test Prep on your Family Connections Account*)

SAT I and SAT II (*Subject Tests required for admission to some universities*)
www.collegeboard.com
www.kaplan.com

ACT
www.actstudent.org
www.princetonreview.com/college

Paradise Valley High School's code for SAT and/or ACT testing is 030287.

FINANCIAL AID (*Information, deadlines, financial aid estimator, etc.*)

www.fafsa.ed.gov (Free Application for Federal Student Aid that you can file in January of your senior year; www.collegegoalsunday.com is a very helpful site or call 1-800-4-Fed-Aid for free assistance)
www.az529.gov
www.collegenet.com
www.ed.gov/studentaid
www.fastweb.com
www.finaid.com
www.findtuition.com (*More...*)

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www.gocollege.com
www.students.gov
[http://studentloan express.com](http://studentloanexpress.com)
www.technical-vocational-schools.com
www.usafunds.org

SHOLARSHIPS (See Family Connections personal account on the PVHS web page, plus...)

www.azcsf.org
www.azfoundation.org
www.CollegeAnswer.com
www.collegenet.com
www.collegescholarships.org
www.ed.gov/students/college/apply/list.jhtml
www.fastaid.com (*Reportedly the largest private sector scholarship database*)
www.findtuition.com
www.freschinfo.com
www.princetonreview.com/college
www.salliemae.com
www.scholarships.com
www.scholarshipexperts.com
www.aflcio.org (*Unions can be a major source of scholarship funds*)
www.hacu.net (*Hispanic focus*)
www.iefaf.org (*Studying abroad focus*)
www.jackierobinson.org (*Minority focus*)
www.jamesbeard.org (*Culinary Arts focus*)
www.latinocollegedollars.org (*Latino scholarship directory*)
<http://nursinglink.com> (*Nursing focus*)
www.thesalliemaeFund.org/smfnew/scholarship_directory/index.html (*Also site for African American scholarship directory*)
www.worldstudio.org (*Minority and economically disadvantaged and Design/Arts focus*)

Check with parent's employer as some provide scholarships for the children of employees. Check with your church; area community service clubs; foreign embassy if you are a citizen of another country.

HONORS/ENDORSEMENT/TUITION WAIVER FOR THE CLASS OF 2009

Many parents and students have shown interest in the benefits from and requirements of Honors Endorsement/Tuition Waiver for the Class of 2009. The following web site will provide the most up-to-date and factual answers. That site, sponsored by Academic Achievement Division Arizona Department Education, is www.ade.state.az.us/asd/tuitionwaiver. Or, you may contact Shannon Tucker at Shannon.Tucker@azed.gov and 1-602-542-4391. *Visit the site and avoid confusion since requirements can change frequently.*

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AVOID SCAMS (*Warning signs can include*)

Fee is required; money-back guarantees; credit card/bank account information required; offers of exclusive information, any guarantee, etc. To report what you believe to be a scam contact:

Office of the Arizona Attorney General, Consumer Information and Complaints, 1275 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007-2926; 1-602-542-5763 or 1-800-352-8431; **[www.azag.gov/consumer complaint form](http://www.azag.gov/consumer_complaint_form)**

and/or

Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Consumer Protection, 1-877-382-4357, or write the FTC, CRC-240, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20580; **www.ftc.gov** to file a complaint.

APPLY EARLY

The earlier a student applies for college admission the better their opportunities for admission and receiving a scholarship and/or financial aid. There are very rare instances that applying to and being granted entrance to a school commits a student to that school. It simply gives the student choices if accepted to more than one school. If a student is planning on attending college outside the state of Arizona they should also apply to in-state schools. It is called “insurance.”

If you have not, now may not be too late to apply for admission to colleges for 2009-2010; same for scholarships.

PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE ATHLETES

If you want to play Division I, II, or III sports you need to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse (National Collegiate Athletic Association). To avoid any misunderstandings visit **www.ncaaclearinghouse.net** and learn the rules and deadlines. There is a fee to register and you should complete this process at the end of your junior year.

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION

The law requires virtually all male U.S. Citizens (regardless of where they live), and male immigrants residing in the U.S. (permanent resident aliens), to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Therefore, to be in full compliance with the law, a man turning 18 is required to register during the period of time beginning 30 days before, until 30 days after his 18th birthday...a 60-day window. To register for the Selective Service, go to: **www.sss.gov** ...or telephone 1-847-688-6888

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

www.volunteerphoenix.org ... or telephone 1-602-263-9736

TOURING COLLEGE CAMPUSES (Source: AZ Republic)

The glossy brochures and polished Web sites show only one side of a university. It's best to visit to get a real feel for the school.

College tours are so important, in fact, that many students decide while on the tour whether they will even consider applying to the university. "It's the number 1 deciding factor besides finances," said a coordinator for visits at Arizona State University.

Tours offer a quick way for students to decide whether a university's environment is right for them. "Students go on instinct or feel," she said. "The only way to figure that out is to visit."

It's also time to get questions answered about topics such as admission requirements, dorms, academic programs, scholarships and financial aid.

Here are some tips for visiting colleges and universities:

- 1. Call ahead and make an appointment.** Many universities also allow you to book appointments online. College officials recommend taking a tour even if you are already familiar with the campus.
- 2. Allow extra time to find a parking spot and the tour location.** Parking at most college campuses is a scramble, and you don't want to miss the tour because you were hunting for parking. Wear comfortable shoes and sunscreen.
- 3. Set aside a whole day for your visit.** While most tours take about 90 minutes, allow extra time so you can explore the campus on your own.
- 4. If you plan to live on campus, ask for a separate tour of the dorms.** The regular college tour often shows only one dorm. If you're interested in sports, ask to see the sports facilities and recreation center.
- 5. Don't be shy about asking questions.** The tour guides are often students and they're used to answering questions. Don't be afraid to ask the guide for his or her opinion, either. Students often want to know what it's like to live on campus and whether they should bring a computer or a car.
- 6. Ask about student services.** Your tour guide should point these out, but if he or she doesn't, ask what special services are available. These can range from tutoring to help getting to and from class if you have a disability.
- 7. Talk to students on campus.** Ask them what they like and what they don't. This will give you a heads up on any challenges you may face as a student, such as cramped parking or too few academic advisers. *(More...)*

8. **Many colleges also offer virtual tours on their Web sites.** These offer a good overview, but keep in mind they won't give you the whole picture.
9. **Try to visit while classes are taking place.** This will give you a feel for the campus and how you would fit in.
10. **Don't overload yourself with college visits.** Save your efforts for schools that you are seriously considering. Write down what you liked and what you didn't. This will help later when it's time to make the big decision.

Information on campus tours:

ASU Tempe campus: 480-727-7013

ASU Downtown campus: 602-496-4372.

ASU Polytechnic campus: 480-727-1359

ASU West campus: 602-543-5314; or visit: www.asu.edu/visit for ASU campuses

NAU campus: toll free 888-628-2968; or visit: www.nau.edu

U of A Tucson campus: 520-621-3237; or visit www.admissions.arizona.edu/visit

TIPS FOR WRITING COLLEGE ENTRANCE ESSAYS (Source: AZ Republic)

The toughest part of the college application is often the dreaded essay. And it's not only one essay.

Depending on where you apply and the number of colleges, you may end up writing several. For years, students who applied only to in-state universities got a reprieve and didn't have to write an essay. However, recently as part of a revamp of admission procedures, the University of Arizona began requiring a personal statement of at least 500 words.

To ease the stress of essay writing, three experts give you the 10 best tips. Here are their tips:

1. **Start early.** The worst thing you can do is start writing the day before the essay is due. Good essays take thought and planning. The spring semester of your junior year isn't too early to start thinking about essays.
2. **Have a game plan.** Once you finalize where you are going to apply to college, make a list of the essays you have to write. This will help you organize your time.
3. **Jot down ideas.** Before you begin writing the essay, write down ideas you want to include. Then go back, fill in the blanks and organize. If you try to write in chronological order with an introduction, body and conclusion right away, it's much more difficult.
4. **Avoid tragedy.** It may be tempting to write about a divorce or death to illustrate how you have grown as a person. But if you are in the anger or grieving stages, it's too soon, and your growth has yet to happen.

- 5. Tell a story.** When an essay says “tell me about” or “describe an event,” it means tell a story. Your story needs to be lively and entertaining, Phillips said. Think about how you tell a story to friends over lunch. Use sights, sounds, smells to transport the reader to the experience.
- 6. Focus on the intro.** College admissions officers may spend one to two minutes reading each essay, so your essay has to make them want to read on. Don’t start your essay with, “I worked long hours to train for gymnastics competition.” Instead say, “Every morning I awoke at 5 a.m. to sweat tears and blood as I trained on the uneven bars hoping to win the state gymnastics tournament.”
- 7. Avoid a list of accomplishments.** Admissions officers are not interested in all the “wins” you have compiled during high school. They are curious how you evolved through these experiences, whether it is music, sports or leadership activities.
- 8. Ask for help.** Have someone proofread your essay for grammar and spelling. Ask them to point out weak areas and places that can be improved.
- 9. Make every word count.** College-admission officers read thousands of essays. Be clear and concise. You will stand out.
- 10. Just begin.** The most important part is to start the essay. You can always go back later and make changes.

Sample essay questions:

There are three basic types of essay questions, according to the College Board, and colleges often change their questions every year. Here’s advice for tackling each one.

- 1. Tell us about yourself.** This is a chance to reveal your personality and commitment. The danger with this question is it’s too open-ended. You need to focus. Find one or two things that will reveal your best qualities.
- 2. Why us?** This question is more focused than the first one. It should be clear to you why you chose the school because you probably went through some kind of evaluation. Just make sure you know your subject well.
- 3. The “creative” question.** Some examples of this question include, “Do you believe there’s a generation gap? Describe the differences between your generation and others.” Another example is, “Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.” Determine your focus. Use common sense when deciding how creative to get. Being creative to the point of wacky is a risk you may not want to take.

COLLEGE AND CAREER OFFICE (*Extension of Guidance Center*)

Abraham Lincoln also said, "I will prepare and some day my chance will come." We're here to help you prepare for that day successfully! The office is located in the Media Center and open every day school is in session from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students and parents are encouraged to call or visit and discuss colleges, careers, scholarships and financial aid opportunities. We have many resources for universities and colleges (four-year, two-year, vocational and technical), careers, scholarships and financial aid. You can call Clif Forrest at 602-449-7051 or email him at cforrest@pvschools.net.

A Better Education Leads To a Better Life!

The Foundation for Public Education supporting PVUSD (1-602-346-8373 and www.tfpe.org) provides a portion of the funding for the Paradise Valley High School College and Career Center.



It's Your Future Trojans, Go For It!!

