



# SENIOR INFO NIGHT

CLASS OF 2023



**Sat, Oct 1** | Cap & Gown Order Deadline

**Wed, Oct 5** | Senior Portraits

**Wed, Oct 5** | FAFSA Workshop

**Tues, Nov 22** | Friendsgiving

**Fri, Feb 3** | Senior Pinning Ceremony

## Year At-a-Glance

**Late Spring** | Thesis Defense

**Mid-April** | Prom

**May 1** | College Decision Day

**Mid-May** | Senior Dinner

**May 18 – 23** | Senior Trip

**Thurs, May 25** | Graduation

NPX contracts with Josten’s for our graduation supplies. Only the “Cap & Gown Unit” for \$32 is required to participate in graduation ceremonies.

This year, our seniors will celebrate Friendsgiving – an opportunity to enjoy good food in community and write meaningful thank you notes to their faculty recommenders (minimum of 2 per student). We’ll share a sign-up with parents for meal contributions after fall break.

At the Pinning Ceremony, graduates will receive a North Phoenix pin on their blazer, signifying their efforts as our Class of 2023. Students will be expected to wear their blazer, white button-up shirt, tie and khakis or the plaid skirt.

Group and individual senior portraits will take place again in our North Phoenix Library. Families will have the opportunity to order various prints. Depending on which semester you’ve enrolled in drama, please note senior drama performances will take place near the end of each semester.

At this moment, spring may seem like an eternity away, but major events and celebrations will include your thesis defense, College Decision Day and graduation ceremonies.

# Role of College Counseling

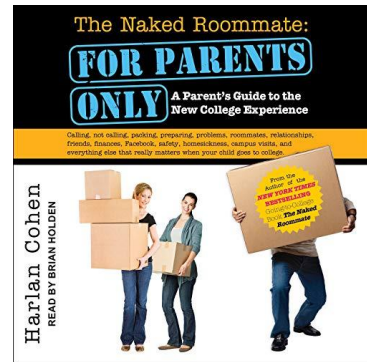
- Individualized **counseling**
- Workshops
  - Application workshops
  - Naviance training
  - FAFSA
- Letters of Recommendation
  - Counselor
  - Coaching for Teachers
- **Application** Management
  - Send transcripts
  - Send school report, profile, LOR
- **Scholarship** Management
- Student Advocacy
  - General: Networking
  - Specific: Direct

College Counseling's mission is exposure, experience and 1:1 support for each student. Our goals this year include: all graduating seniors will apply and be accepted to at least 1 college or university; 4 million dollars in scholarship awards; and 40 virtual or on-campus visits by college admissions representatives. Starting freshman year, we visit Humane Letters classes to engage students in conversations about college preparation plus core values and interests. Juniors benefit, not only from the Great Hearts College Symposium (in April this year), but also monthly college workshops held after-school the first Wednesday of each month.

Our role with seniors is comprised of offering feedback on personal statements and supplemental essays; coordinating two teacher letters of recommendation and/or a counselor evaluation or letter; sending high school transcripts and other required docs for applications, and supporting your student's applications and scholarships via Naviance, our college planning portal. We feel blessed to support your senior's journey this year, as part of the class of 2023 – graduating 50 seniors!

## Role of Parents

- Equip them for **independence**.
- Engage them in **conversation**.
- Let them **write** and **tell** their story.
- **Celebrate** every milestone together!



Parents, while we encourage you to let your senior drive this process, we'd like to highlight the importance of clarity in terms of parent support. What are you, as a parent – as a family, committing to? Financially, emotionally, physically? Are there any conditions to your support? Specific majors? Location? For example, you may have family living in Chicago, but not in New York and maybe there's a conversation to be had with your senior about parameters that are sustainable for your family.

While it's an exciting time, we advise families to let your senior craft the story. Maybe your neighbors and extended family don't need to know the ins and outs of every decision made along the way. Too many cooks in the kitchen can make for a big, confused mess. We also hope that you choose to celebrate every milestone – hang every acceptance letter on the kitchen fridge. Instead of asking kiddo whether SAT scores have been requested for so and so college at 9 PM on a Friday, consider scheduling a weekly coffee check-in – for extra points, maybe select three scholarships every week to apply for together!

Mostly, we ask you to encourage kiddo to breathe – this will all move along so quickly. As a side note, we are ALWAYS open to parents dropping off snacks, candy, or coffee supplies to stock the Senior Commons and help to keep our seniors going strong.

## Role of the Student

**FALL**

- Update **College List** in Naviance
  - Indicate application type and method
- Complete **in-state applications** & request transcripts
- Create an **application tracker** or calendar
  - Application deadlines and requirements
  - Required financial aid application forms
- **Write** personal statement and supplemental essays

Students – it’s our goal to have weekly check-ins with you to discuss where you are in the application process. As we mentioned at Bootcamp, an Excel spreadsheet with application deadlines, requirements plus pros and cons, will help guide your process and keep you on track. It’s your responsibility to stay on top of deadlines and plan ahead. For many of you, this fall is all about maintaining a strong GPA for your January applications and searching for external, private scholarships. A handful of you are already on draft two or three of your personal statement and starting a list of required supplemental essays. We ask every senior to write a personal statement, not only to capture their journey, but to have a well-written essay ready to submit for honors college or scholarship applications with slight tweaking based on the max word count.

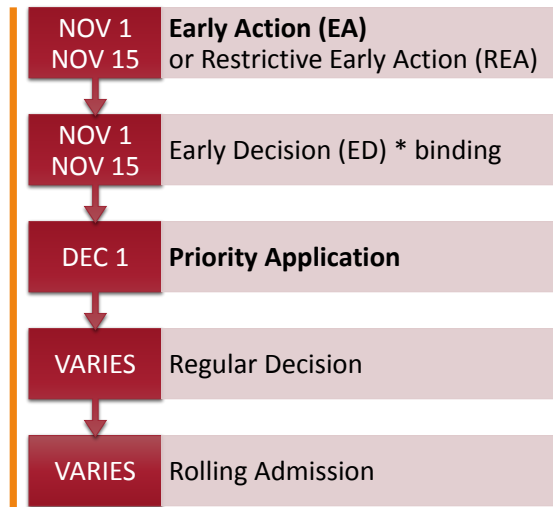
## Role of the Student

**SPRING**

- Stay active in school and **maintain a solid GPA**
- Review and compare **financial aid packages**
- **Visit** your final college before accepting
- Inform every school of your acceptance/rejection by May 1 | **Decision Day**
- Send your deposit to one school only
- Say **“thank you”**

College admissions decisions are contingent on your successful completion of senior classes. By May 1<sup>st</sup>, we ask families to inform schools of your final decision. All the while, we advise you to express gratitude – to your family, to teachers, to your fan club – and truly mean it.

## Application Types



There are a variety of application types housed in your Naviance account. Early Action applications are non-binding with no admissions advantage. You may apply to multiple schools and your application deadlines are ordinarily in early or mid-November. Restrictive Early Action stipulates that students NOT apply to any other private college or university. You may, however, apply to other schools using the Regular Decision option. An Early Decision application is a binding agreement with the school that you will attend regardless of the financial aid package offered. Typically, an ED application does offer an admissions advantage.

Priority applications allow students to apply early and receive your admissions decision early as well, similar to Early Action. Regular decision is not binding and you may apply to multiple schools, with varying deadlines. Finally, rolling admissions is usually first come, first served and typical for large public universities.

## Application Timeline

	3.2 – 4.0 GPA	2.5 – 3.2 GPA	UNDER 2.5 GPA
Apply to in-state schools	<b>August</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>January</b>
Apply to Honors Colleges	<b>September</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>January</b>
CommonApp or apply to out-of-state schools	<b>October</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>January</b>

Based on your GPA, we will be advising you to apply using the timeframes listed here. If your GPA is under 2.5, we recommend that you put in the extra effort this fall to maintain a strong GPA. In January and February, you'll complete your college applications using your latest transcript that will also reflect fall semester grades from senior year.

**At least 2 – 3 per list**

**REACH** 30% and under  
*highly selective*

**PROBABLE** 35-65%  
*selective*

**SAFETY** 70% and up  
*less selective*

**Why?**

Applying to a wide range of schools will ensure that you set ambitious goals

**AND** give yourself back-up options where you know you can be happy and successful

## Application Targets

We encourage our seniors to apply to six to ten schools so that you aren't prematurely closing any doors. This also allows you to negotiate with schools, based on the award packages that you've been offered. Maybe Alabama has offered a full-ride, but NAU has thus far only offered a partial tuition scholarship. You now can respectfully have conversations with their Financial Aid office to discuss options.

You might liken the college application process to a game of darts. In-state schools are considered safety schools 3.0 ABOR GPA – they're more akin to walking up to the dart board and inserting your dart – good odds. More selective schools, like the University of Washington, are similar to a real, live game of darts – you've done the work, sharpened your dart and even taken some practice shots. Highly selective schools, like the ivy leagues, regardless of how close you're standing to the dartboard and how much you've prepared, someone may be holding the board and it's moving and maybe you're blindfolded. If you miss it, there's no judgement! Ultimately, we want you to explore your options mindfully.



## Admissions Decisions

### Accepted / Denied

#### Deferred

- Call to action
- Opportunity to submit fall semester grades, new test scores, demonstrated interest, letters of recommendation, appeals

#### Waitlisted



## College Fit

### Qualification

#### Academic

- Rigor of Coursework
- Grades in College Prep Classes
- Standardized Test Scores

#### Personal/Social/Emotional

- Impactful Engagement
- Ownership of Activities

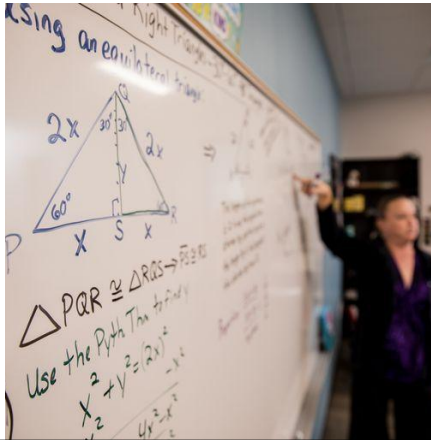
### Institutional Fit

- Perspective
- Interests
- Experience
- Demographics

**go where  
you're  
celebrated,  
not where  
you're  
tolerated**

Once you've received your acceptance letters, you'll need to make a final decision rooted in your mind, heart and your gut. Consider financial and heart-related factors, like student body size, distance from home, academic program, extracurricular activities, diversity, and student life. Tour the campus, if you can, or check out youtube videos that show a day in the life to determine whether the school feels like home.

# Financial Aid



**Net Price Calculators** (reality check)

**FAFSA** | Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Opens October 1
- Wed, Oct 5 | FAFSA Workshop at NPX

**CSS** | Supplementary Financial Aid Profile\*

**COA** | Cost of Attendance

**EFC** | Expected Family Contribution

- Families receive a SAR (Student Aid Report) with the amount your family may “reasonably” be expected to contribute

**COA – EFC = Financial Need**

We highly encourage families to do a Google search for net price calculator and the name of each college or school you’re applying to. The calculators take into account tuition, fees, living expenses and more to create a realistic idea of cost. No matter your family’s income or your college application timeline, plan to complete the FAFSA in October. This free application for federal student aid may offer your family access to need-based scholarships plus federal or private loans. The application will initiate a SAR or student aid report that details what your family may be “reasonably” expected to contribute. Select schools may also require families to create a CSS Profile in addition to completing the FAFSA.

# Scholarships

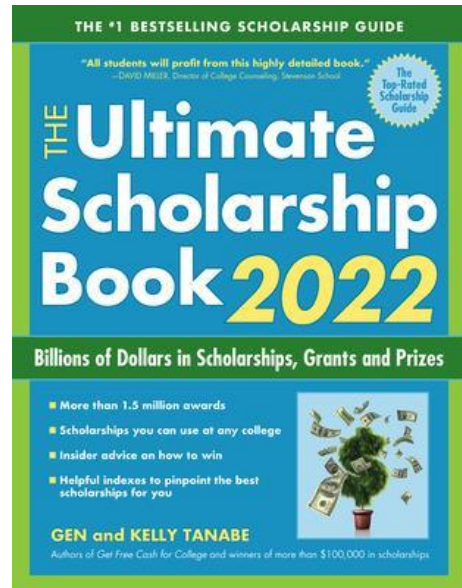
**Institutional** | merit-based, need-based or application-based

**External** | private scholarships

Be proactive and set a goal to **apply for “x number”** per week

**Create a profile** and filter:

- [scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)
- [fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)



As you receive college acceptance letters, you may also be notified of merit-based scholarship awards. Once you are accepted to a school, you can begin applying for institution-specific scholarships. Search the college website or ask the Financial Aid office for opportunities. External or private scholarships require you to be proactive! Set a goal to apply to “x number” of scholarships every week and stick to it. Websites, like [scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com) or [fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com), enable you to create a profile and filter based on a variety of fields, such as your area of interest or personal information. If you’d prefer to do your research offline, check out the 2022 Ultimate Scholarship Book.



**embrace the  
journey, not  
just the  
destination**

**College Counseling**  
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Ms. Sheila Conner | Ms. Tier Martin

Please reference our College Counseling webpage for resources, college-related events and the campus visit calendar of admissions representatives. As needed, we can schedule a parent meeting after school or in the evening once a week. Whether your student's next steps after graduation will take place at a community college or medical school, we're in this journey with you and here to support your process.