Senior Information 2020

Compiled by the Saguaro Guidance Team
TO APPLY TO AN IN-STATE UNIVERSITY

1) Application:
Go online directly to the Universities web site:
www.arizona.edu
www.asu.edu
www.nau.edu

Fill out the online application. Submit with the application fee. Use the Self-Report option for classes and grades - it will save you money and your admission status will be sent sooner. If you are applying to an Honors program, be sure to check Honors College requirements and deadlines.

2) Transcript: Go online to www.parchment.com and order an official transcript to be sent to the school(s) you are applying to. If you are considering the Obama Scholarship/ASU Assurance Program, you are required to send your transcript by the application deadline.

3) Test Scores: Go online to www.collegeboard.org (for the SAT) and/or www.actstudent.org (for the ACT) to send your official test scores to the school(s) you are applying to. If you requested to have your scores sent at the time of the test, you do not need to do this again.
TO APPLY TO AN OUT-OF-STATE COLLEGE

You will follow a similar process—fill out an online application using **COMMON APP**, order an official transcript through [Parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com), and send official test scores to the schools. Common App is like one stop shopping for the Out of State college application process.

*For step by step directions on how to navigate Common App click [HERE](http://www.here.com)*

*If your out of state school is not included on Common App, please go directly to the Universities website to apply.*

**IF YOU NEED A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM A COUNSELOR:**

1) Complete a [letter of recommendation form](http://www.letterform.com) and e-mail/drop it off to your counselor.
2) Allow a minimum of at least 3 WEEKS for the letters to be completed. The counseling office is closed over Fall Break and Winter Break, so please plan ahead.

**WATCH COLLEGE AND SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES CAREFULLY! BELOW ARE A FEW DATES TO NOTE.**

1) You may either email or talk with [Ms. Chan](mailto:ms.chan@school.edu) in the college and career center about potential scholarships or other opportunities that may fit with your future goals and plans. Often times scholarships require additional letters of recommendation—be prepared and plan accordingly.
2) **FAFSA**—financial aid forms are available online this year beginning **October 1st**. Many colleges require submission of the FAFSA to qualify for aid or scholarships.
Traditionally the ACT and the SAT were part of the college admissions process and considered in merit-based scholarships—please review college admission requirements for specific details regarding school policies. In addition, due to COVID, the information about SAT and ACT testing is constantly being updated. For the most current information please access the testing websites.

• SAT INFORMATION: CLICK HERE
• ACT INFORMATION: CLICK HERE
• What’s the difference between the two exams? Click HERE
SAT & ACT Test Prep

------Online Resources------
• CollegeBoard SAT practice tests and resources: Click HERE
• ACT practice tests and resources: Click HERE
• Princeton Review Test Prep: SAT help/ACT help
• Kaplan Test Prep: Click HERE

-------Tutoring Resources-------
• Vogel Prep
• Linda Edgar Tutoring
• Scottsdale Education Center
Financial Aid Resources

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form allows you to be considered for federal student aid. In addition, states and colleges use FAFSA information to award their own grants, scholarships, and loans. Opens Oct 1, 2020 and it is recommended that students apply early.
- Overview of Financial Aid Process Video
- How to Fill Out the FAFSA Video
- FAFSA "What to Expect“
- Financial Aid Support
Below are resources for students to explore as they begin researching the cost of college. While it is the student’s responsibility to navigate potential scholarships, the resources below will help start the process. Saguaro is also extremely lucky to have Brandee Chan in the college and career center who can also help students navigate scholarship opportunities.

- **ASU Scholarship Estimator**: ASU awards scholarships to incoming first year students with outstanding academic ability upon admission to ASU in the fall semester. This scholarship estimator can help determine the amount of scholarship money that students may be eligible to receive.

- **Net Price calculator**: Net price calculators are available on a college’s or university’s website and allow prospective students to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account.

- **CSS Profile**: The form, administered and maintained by the College Board, opens the door to nonfederal scholarships and other kinds of institutional aid that can make a big difference when it comes time to pay for college. The CSS Profile offers opportunities for families to describe any unique or extenuating circumstances affecting their ability to pay. Additional details about the CSS profile can be found [HERE](#).

- **AZ529**: The Arizona Family College Savings Plan is a state-sponsored 529 plan designed to provide a parent, grandparent or future student an opportunity to save for educational expenses in a tax-deferred manner. You can open an account today for $25 or less. For more information click [HERE](#).

- **SCHOLARSHIP DATABASES**:
  - Raise Me
  - Going Merry
  - Cappex
  - Fastweb
  - Scholarships.com
  - Student.scholarship.org
  - Good call
• United States Air Force Academy – www.usafa.af.mil
• United States Naval Academy – www.usna.edu
• Merchant Marine Academy – www.usmma.edu
• United States Military Academy – www.usma.edu
• United States Coast Guard Academy – https://www.uscga.edu/aboutcga/ (may need to cut and paste this link to search)
THE FIVE MILITARY ACADEMIES RANK AMONG THE MOST SELECTIVE COLLEGES IN THE COUNTRY.

All the academies offer four years of college education leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree. Graduates receive regular commissions and must serve on active duty for at least 5 years. Students are evaluated on academic, extracurricular and physical fitness criteria. Each academy has its own specific requirements; however the general rules listed are a safe guide to follow. If you are interested in applying to any academy, go online for further information. If you are interested in applying for any military academy, you must start the process during your junior year.

• ACADEMICS:
  • English, 4 years with emphasis on writing
  • Math, 4 years including Algebra I through Trigonometry
  • Science, 4 years including Chemistry and Physics
  • Social Studies, World History and European History
  • Keyboarding, Computer Science, highly recommended
  • Foreign Language, minimum of 2 years, highly recommended

• PHYSICAL FITNESS:
  • Strenuous physical fitness test is required

• QUALIFICATIONS:
  • Students must meet the academic course requirements listed above.
  • Rank in the upper fourth of their graduating class.
  • SAT/ACT test score minimum – see academy websites.

*All military academies utilize a NOMINATION procedure wherein a student must apply through and be nominated by their State’s Federal Representatives and/or Congressperson. The Coast Guard Academy does not use the nomination procedure. Rather, it has competitive admissions just like any other college.
Arizona Senators & Congressmen

Senators
Kyrsten Sinema
Senior Senator for Arizona
Since Jan 3, 2019 (next election in 2024)
Democrat
@SenatorSinema Official Website 202-224-4521

Martha McSally
Junior Senator for Arizona
Since Jan 3, 2019 (next election in 2020)
Republican
@SenMcSallyAZ Official Website 202-224-2235

Congressional Representative – 6th District
David Schweikert
Representative for Arizona's 6th congressional district
Since Jan 3, 2013 (next election in 2020)
Republican
@RepDavid Official Website 202-225-2190

If you live out of Saguaro boundaries, your Congressional Representative may be different, as they are based on your address. Please confirm your Representative before contacting. You can use this site to determine who your Representative is.
https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/AZ#representatives
Information for Athletes

STUDENT ATHLETES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING THAT THEY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETICS.

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT STUDENTS FOLLOW THE 4-YEAR OUT-OF-STATE UNIVERSITY ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS.

ALL INFORMATION FOR DIVISION 1 OR DIVISION 2 REQUIREMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE NCAA WEBSITE.

FOR A HIGH SCHOOL TIMELINE FROM NCAA CLICK HERE.
What Are the Requirements For Graduation?

- In order to graduate, the 22 credits must be distributed in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>CREDITS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL STUDIES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINE ARTS OR CAREER TECH</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*ELECTIVES</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total: 22 credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For In State Colleges: 2 years of a consecutive language
For Out of State Colleges: 3 years of a consecutive language

Students also need to pass the Civics test to meet graduation requirements.
Each year the counselors provide students with a copy of their transcripts for review.

A copy of your unofficial transcript can be obtained via Parchment.com. To get a copy of your transcript using Parchment-click HERE

To download a copy of the Saguaro credit checklist as shown on the right, click HERE
Sample Transcript

On the right is a sample transcript. Click here for a download of the sample.
Strategies for Grade Improvement

Utilize the teacher’s office hours to get extra help and communicate about topics or skills that you are struggling with and need additional support to master.

Explore **Apps** that help with time management and organization skills that will be necessary for college success. Stay organized and aware of due dates—generate a reasonable schedule to get things done. A sample organizer is included [HERE](#).

Practice good note-taking skills and ask questions when you need clarity. For more information on note-taking strategies, click [HERE](#).

Set up a study group via Zoom or another format with a group of academically like-minded peers.

Consider getting a tutor for subjects that you find particularly challenging. A list of tutors is available on the Saguaro guidance web page.
Naviance and Career Exploration

- **What is Naviance?**
  Naviance is an online portfolio system adopted by SUSD for students to complete their Educational Career Action Plan (ECAP). Students can enter the courses they are taking in Naviance under “Course Planner”; take a career inventory at “Career Interest Profiler”; and investigate colleges in “College Search”. This information along with other Naviance activities will be utilized to guide course selections, college advisement and applications, as well as planning for careers/majors beyond high school.

- **For all grade level Naviance programming Click HERE to explore.**

- **How Do Students Access Naviance?**
  1. Enter the following URL into the address bar of your web browser: [http://student.naviance.com/Saguhs](http://student.naviance.com/Saguhs) (Chrome is the preferred browser).
  2. Students will need to reset their Naviance passwords. Directions on how to do so by clicking on the link below: [How to reset Naviance Passwords](#)
  3. Enter Student ID in “username” field.
  4. Enter student created password into the “Password” field. If you've forgotten your password, [click here](#) for instructions to reset your password.
  5. Click on the “Login” button.
**Glossary of College Terms**

- **Accuplacer**
  A placement test used by the community college to determine the student’s skill set in reading, English language skills, and math. For information about Scottsdale Community College’s Accuplacer click [HERE](#).

- **ACT**
  A standardized college admission test. It features four main sections: English, math, reading and science — and an optional essay section. For more information click [HERE](#).

- **Admission Tests**
  Also known as college entrance exams, these are tests designed to measure students’ skills and help colleges evaluate how ready students are for college-level work. The ACT and the College Board’s SAT are two common standardized admission tests used in the United States. Please review college admission requirements to determine if SAT or ACT scores are required for admission.

- **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery/ASVAB:**
  A multiple-choice test that helps students identify which Army career (Military Occupational Specialties) would be best suited for their skill set. For more information click [HERE](#).

- **Common Application**
  A standard application form accepted by colleges that are members of the Common Application association designed to streamline the application process for students. Students can fill out this application once and submit it to one or several of the nearly 700 colleges that accept it. For more information click [HERE](#).
• **Deferred Admission**
  Permission from a college that has accepted you to postpone enrolling in the college. The postponement is usually for up to one year.

• **Early Action (EA)**
  An option to submit your applications before the regular deadlines. When you apply early action, you get admission decisions from colleges earlier than usual. Early action plans are not binding, which means that you do not have to enroll in a college if you are accepted early action. Some colleges have an early action option called EA II, which has a later application deadline than their regular EA plan. Learn more about [applying early](#).

• **Early Decision (ED)**
  An option to submit an application to your first-choice college before the regular deadline. When you apply early decision, you get an admission decision earlier than usual. Early decision plans are binding. You agree to enroll in the college immediately if you are admitted and offered a financial aid package that meets your needs. Some colleges have an early decision option called ED II, which has a later application deadline than their regular ED plan. Learn more about [applying early](#).

• **Federal Student Aid/FASFA**
  The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the form you need to fill out to get any financial aid from the federal government to help pay for college. A video detailing how to fill out the FASFA can be found [HERE](#).

• **Financial Aid**
  Financial aid is money to help pay for college or career school. Grants, work-study programs, loans, and scholarships help make college or career school affordable. For an overview of financial aid [click HERE](#).

• **Grade Point Average (GPA)**
  A number that shows overall academic performance. It’s computed by assigning a point value to each grade you earn. See also Weighted Grade Point Average.
• **Priority Date or Deadline**
  The date by which your application — whether it’s for college admission, student housing or financial aid — must be received to be given the strongest consideration.

• **Rolling Admission**
  An admission policy of considering each application as soon as all required information (such as high school records and test scores) has been received, rather than setting an application deadline and reviewing applications in a batch. Colleges that use a rolling admission policy usually notify applicants of admission decisions quickly.

• **Transcript**
  The official record of your course work at a school or college. Your high school transcript is usually required for college admission and for some financial aid packages.

• **SAT**
  The College Board’s standardized college admission test. It features three main sections: math, reading and writing, which includes a written essay. For more information click [HERE](#).

• **SAT Subject Tests**
  Hour-long, content-based college admission tests that allow students to showcase achievement in specific subject areas like English, history, math, science and languages. Some colleges use Subject Tests to place students into the appropriate courses, admission decisions, and potentially earning additional college credit. For more information, click [HERE](#).