

PARTNERS IN BUILDING A COLLEGE GOING CULTURE

Arizona College Application Campaign (AzCAC)

November 2014

Arizona College Application Campaign

The goal of the *Arizona College Application Campaign* is to ensure every high school senior completes at least one application. A special focus is placed on students who would be the first of their families to attend, low-income students, and students who may not have otherwise considered applying.

- High school host sites set a goal that 100% of their seniors complete at least one application to a postsecondary institution by the end of November.
- Host sites help students complete preparatory steps in the application process, including selecting a college, examining admission criteria, and gathering necessary information.
- Host sites set aside time and space during the school day with computer and Internet access.
- School staff, institutional representatives, and trained volunteers help students complete at least one application.
- Data from web-based Exit Survey provides information to counselors/schools so they can target specific follow-up groups of students.
- Host sites celebrate their students' successes and guide students toward the next step in the process, including completing the FAFSA in February.

Nearly 93% of high school students say they plan to go to college. Yet, just over one quarter (26%) of Arizonans over the age of 25 have obtained a bachelor's degree. For many reasons, by senior year many students believe they are unprepared or unable to achieve the college dream. The *Arizona College Application Campaign* encourages students to take a significant step toward college by providing assistance and creating enthusiasm during the application process.

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Steps to Completing an Admission Application

- Identify career path and educational requirements
- Identify postsecondary institutions that offer education for your career
- Identify elements required for application (i.e. deadlines, fees, essays, resume, letter of recommendation, etc.)
- Complete and bring with you the College Application Preparation Worksheet
- Obtain a copy of your high school transcripts
- Begin to prepare essays, personal statements and resumes
- Make sure to have your complete home address and social security number with you when completing an application.

I applied! What are the next steps?

- Submit your application fee (or fee waiver form)
- If required, ask your high school to send your official transcript to the institution
- Submit any additional documentation required by the institution
- Send all test scores (SAT, ACT, AP, IB)

Wait! There's more!

It's never too early to start thinking about paying for postsecondary education! During the senior year students should review the cost of attendance for the institutions where they applied. Additionally, students need to identify potential scholarships and sources of financial aid. Starting in January, seniors should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To access the greatest amount of financial aid, the FAFSA should be completed prior to March 1. Visit the following websites to get started:

Resources for students/parents:

- studentaid.ed.gov
- fafsa.ed.gov
- collegegoalsunday.com
- fastweb.com

Resources for counselors/teachers:

- financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov
- studentaid.ed.gov/resources

Arizona is home to three college access resource centers. These free resource centers can provide assistance with the college planning and financial aid processes. Visit their websites for additional information.

- College Depot (Phoenix area) - phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot
- Regional College Access Center in Tucson - metedu.org/rcac
- Northern Arizona College Access Resource Center - nacrc.net

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