

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL**

---

Student Services

**2020-2021**

---

# **COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE**

---



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL**

**STUDENT SERVICES**

---

# **COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE**

---

**1300 West Swallow Road  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526**

**Phone 970.488.7032 • Fax 970.488.7034**

**<http://www.psdschools.org/schools/rockymountain/>**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

DISCOVER – Rocky’s Student Services.....	3
DISCOVER – College Planning Checklist.....	4
DISCOVER – Website Resources .....	5
DISCOVER – Career Testing & Exploration.....	8
DISCOVER – Opportunities .....	9
PREPARE – Admission Criteria.....	10
PREPARE – For Colorado Commission on Higher Education’s Admission Standards .....	11
PREPARE – PSAT Test .....	12
PREPARE – ACT Prep .....	14
PREPARE – SAT Prep.....	15
PREPARE – NCAA Athletics .....	15
SELECT – Career Cruising .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
SELECT – Things To Consider .....	18
SELECT – Campus Visit ✓ List.....	19
SELECT – College Evaluation .....	20
APPLY – Application Steps .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
APPLY – Academic Profile & Resume .....	24
APPLY – Essay .....	26
APPLY – Interviews .....	27
APPLY – Admission Trends .....	27
DECIDE – Where should I go? .....	29
PAY – Financial Aid .....	30
PAY – Scholarships.....	31

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
<b>Student Services</b>					

Rocky's counselors have created this guide to provide you with some basic information about planning for college. Use our College Planning Checklist on the next page in conjunction with this guide to learn how to **discover, prepare, select, apply, decide** and **pay** for college.

It is important to meet with us at least once a year throughout your high school career to discuss your plans after high school and to be certain you are meeting graduation requirements. Below are the names, numbers, and emails of Student Services staff members who can help you.

### **COUNSELORS**

Betsy Flowers	970-488-7026	<a href="mailto:eflowers@psdschools.org">eflowers@psdschools.org</a>
Kelley Madden	970 488-7028	<a href="mailto:kmadden@psdschools.org">kmadden@psdschools.org</a>
Patty Mogorit	970 488-7030	<a href="mailto:pmogorit@psdschools.org">pmogorit@psdschools.org</a>
Kim Murray	970-488-7029	<a href="mailto:kimurray@psdschools.org">kimurray@psdschools.org</a>
Mark Reedy	970 488-7019	<a href="mailto:mreedy@psdschools.org">mreedy@psdschools.org</a>
Justin Tate	970-488-7027	<a href="mailto:jtate@psdschools.org">jtate@psdschools.org</a>
Brooke Wagner	970-488-7025	<a href="mailto:bwagner@psdschools.org">bwagner@psdschools.org</a>
Katarina Boschmann	970-488-7122	

### **COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER COUNSELOR**

Nicole Fassnacht	970 488-7038	<a href="mailto:nwilgenb@psdschools.org">nwilgenb@psdschools.org</a>
------------------	--------------	--

### **WELLNESS CENTER**

Gina DiFelice	970 488-7081	<a href="mailto:ginad@psdschools.org">ginad@psdschools.org</a>
---------------	--------------	--

### **SECRETARY**

Leah Kapral	970 488-7032	<a href="mailto:lkapral@psdschools.org">lkapral@psdschools.org</a>
-------------	--------------	--

### **REGISTRARS**

Debbie Aragon	970 488-7033	<a href="mailto:debraa@psdschools.org">debraa@psdschools.org</a>
Amy McCoy	970 488-7031	<a href="mailto:amccoy@psdschools.org">amccoy@psdschools.org</a>

# College Planning Checklist

FRESHMAN				SOPHOMORE				JUNIOR				SENIOR			
Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
<b>DISCOVER</b>															
<b>PREPARE</b>															
												<b>SELECT</b>			
												<b>APPLY</b>			
												<b>DECIDE</b>			
												<b>PAY</b>			

## [DISCOVER] YOUR INTERESTS, ABILITIES AND VALUES

- ☐ Participate in summer jobs, internships, and special enrichment programs. Volunteer!
- ☐ Complete online career surveys and self-assessments to find suitable majors, careers and colleges.
  - o XELLO: Find the link in your [Clever](#) account
  - o [www.collegeincolorado.org](http://www.collegeincolorado.org) >Click Create an Account >Click Choices Career Planner
- ☐ Shadow someone who has a job that interests you.

## [PREPARE] FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- ☐ Attend the **9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Grade College Planning Night** on **TBD**
- ☐ Attend your **Registration Meeting** with your counselor in late January/February.
- ☐ Work on study & organizational skills, time & stress management, and test & note taking skills.
  - o [www.educationplanner.com](http://www.educationplanner.com)
- ☐ Develop a college prep curriculum with your counselor and teachers and maintain good grades.
- ☐ College Entrance Tests (**Rocky's CEEB Code is 060588**)
  - o Research which test scores are required by the colleges that interest you.
  - o Practice Tests
    - PSAT (for juniors to prep for SAT and qualify as National Merit Scholar)
      - Register before **October 20, 2020**, to take **October 27, 2020** test at Rocky
    - See your counselor for other scheduled practice ACT and SAT tests.
  - o SAT (juniors and seniors)
    - Find out if your college requires the SAT or SAT Subject Tests for admission.
    - All juniors will take the SAT at Rocky on **April 13, 2021**.
    - Prepare and register at [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org) to take an additional SAT in the summer/fall of senior year.
  - o ACT (juniors and seniors)
    - Begin preparing at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
    - Register at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- ☐ College Athletics & NCAA Eligibility
  - o Junior Year
    - Take the ACT or SAT (State or National Test Date)
    - Visit the NCAA Eligibility Center at <http://eligibilitycenter.org> to:
      - Register and confirm that you are taking the approved NCAA classes.
    - Ask the College & Career Center staff to send a transcript to the NCAA in May.
  - o Senior Year
    - Take the ACT or SAT in the fall to improve your scores.
    - Ask the College and Career Center staff to send a transcript to the NCAA in May.

## [SELECT] COLLEGES

- ☐ Visit your counselor and share your plans with the College & Career Center.
- ☐ Visit the College & Career Center to learn about resources.
- ☐ Research online for “good-fit” colleges and review admission requirements.
  - o **Xello**
  - o [www.CollegeinColorado.org](http://www.CollegeinColorado.org), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) & [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com).
- ☐ Visit College Admission Representatives
  - o Visit with them at Rocky.
  - o Call colleges to schedule a campus visit.
  - o Attend the **In-State College Fair Online Series** **October 1<sup>st</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>** (meet with college reps and attend virtual information sessions).
  - o Attend the **Out-Of-State College Fair Online Series** on **September 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>** (meet with college reps and attend virtual information sessions).
  - o
  - o Use college evaluation sheets in College Planning Guide.

## [APPLY] TO COLLEGE

- ☐ Attend your **Senior Meeting** with your counselor during September of your senior year.
- ☐ Attend the **Senior Planning Night/Financial Aid Night** on **TBD** at Rocky.
- ☐ Check **DEADLINES!** Student Services recommends submitting applications by **October 31<sup>st</sup>** (or earlier).
- ☐ **Apply Online**
  - o Use your CAREER CRUISING account or visit college websites for links to online applications.
  - o Tip #1: Organize paperwork by making a folder for each college with to-do list on the front.
  - o Tip #2: Print a copy of your first application so you can use it to fill in information on others.
    - **Create a profile and open an application**
- ☐ **Write Essay**
  - o Find out if the schools you’re applying to require an essay.
  - o Get essay help from College Guide, English teachers, counselor, College and Career Center.
- ☐ **Letters of Recommendation**
  - o Find out if the schools you’re applying to require letters.
    - Complete a **Academic Profile** in College & Career Center.
    - Give your letter writer a copy of your **Academic Profile**.
    - Have your letter writer give a copy of your letter to **Leah Kapral** in Student Services.
    - **THANK** your letter writers.
- ☐ **Submit Application Paperwork** (counselor evaluation, essays, letters of recommendation)
  - o Fill out and give **Transcript Request Form** to **Leah Kapral** with \$3/transcript.
- ☐ **Interview**
  - o Find out if the schools you’re applying to interview
  - o See your counselor and the College & Career Center for interview tips and preparation.

## [DECIDE] WHICH COLLEGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU

- ☐ Consider what’s important: location, cost, academics, activities, size, and program length?
- ☐ Compare financial aid packages and send your non-refundable deposit.

## [PAY] WITH FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FAFSA

- ☐ Begin searching for scholarships (start with the colleges to which you’ve applied)
  - o [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) & [www.wiredscholar.com](http://www.wiredscholar.com)
  - o **Local Scholarship Packet** from the College & Career Center (or your school email)
    - Pick up in mid-January and return in mid-February of your senior year.
- ☐ Attend the **Senior Planning Night/Financial Aid Night** on **TBD** at Rocky Mountain High School.
- ☐ Register for **Colorado Opportunity Fund** at [www.collegeincolorado.org](http://www.collegeincolorado.org) if attending In-State.
- ☐ Checkout the **Western Undergraduate Exchange** (WUE) for lower out-of-state tuition options.
- ☐ FAFSA (Federal Application For Student Aid)
  - Fill out FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) after October 1<sup>st</sup>.

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
<b>Website Resources</b>					

The Internet provides valuable information about college planning, college searches, financial aid, and online applications. Here are some of the websites that Student Services has used and suggests.

### **College Search & Planning**

ACT	<a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>
Career Cruising	<a href="https://public.careercruising.com/en/">https://public.careercruising.com/en/</a>
College Board	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>
College Fairs in Denver	<a href="http://www.collegefairsdenver.org">www.collegefairsdenver.org</a>
College Opportunities Online	<a href="http://www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool/">www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool/</a>
College View	<a href="http://www.collegeview.com">www.collegeview.com</a>
Colleges in Colorado	<a href="http://www.collegeincolorado.org">www.collegeincolorado.org</a>
Common Application	<a href="http://www.commonapp.org">www.commonapp.org</a>
Education Planner	<a href="http://www.educationplanner.com">www.educationplanner.com</a>
Embark	<a href="http://www.embark.com">www.embark.com</a>
Jesuit Colleges and Universities	<a href="http://www.ajcunet.edu">www.ajcunet.edu</a>
My College Guide	<a href="http://www.mycollegeguide.org">www.mycollegeguide.org</a>
NACAC	<a href="http://www.nacacnet.org">www.nacacnet.org</a>
Peterson's Education	<a href="http://www.petersons.com">www.petersons.com</a>
Princeton Review	<a href="http://www.princetonreview.com">www.princetonreview.com</a>
US News Magazine	<a href="http://www.usnews.com/usnews/">www.usnews.com/usnews/</a>
Wired Scholar	<a href="http://www.wiredscholar.com/">www.wiredscholar.com/</a>
XAP	<a href="http://www.xap.com">www.xap.com</a>

### **Diversity Resources (first generation, minority, underrepresented)**

American Indian College Fund	<a href="http://www.collegefund.org">www.collegefund.org</a>
Black Student Fund	<a href="http://www.blackstudentfund.org">www.blackstudentfund.org</a>
Black Excel	<a href="http://www.blackexcel.org">www.blackexcel.org</a>
College Is Possible	<a href="http://www.collegeispossible.org">www.collegeispossible.org</a>
Hispanic Scholarship Fund	<a href="http://www.hsf.net">www.hsf.net</a>
United Negro College Fund	<a href="http://www.uncf.org">www.uncf.org</a>
Ventures Scholar Program	<a href="http://www.venturescholar.org">www.venturescholar.org</a>

### **Financial Aid**

*\* In addition, see pages 28-29 for more Financial Aid information*

Benefits.gov	<a href="http://www.GovBenefits.gov">www.GovBenefits.gov</a>
College in Colorado	<a href="http://www.collegeincolorado.org/">www.collegeincolorado.org/</a>
College Invest	<a href="http://www.collegeinvest.org/">www.collegeinvest.org/</a>
Federal Student Aid	<a href="http://www.studentaid.ed.gov">www.studentaid.ed.gov</a>
Financial Aid Information	<a href="http://www.finaid.org/">www.finaid.org/</a>
Financial Aid-Colorado Opportunity Fund	<a href="http://www.collegeincolorado.org">www.collegeincolorado.org</a>
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	<a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>
Financial Planning	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>
Mapping your Future	<a href="http://www.mappingyourfuture.org">www.mappingyourfuture.org</a>
Natl. Assoc. of Fin. Aid Administrators	<a href="http://www.nasfaa.org">www.nasfaa.org</a>



Nellie Mae  
Sallie Mae

[www.nelliemae.com](http://www.nelliemae.com)  
[www.salliemae.com/](http://www.salliemae.com/)

### **Jobs and Career**

*\* In addition, see Career Planning side of this guide*

Career Cruising  
College in Colorado  
GotAJob  
Health Careers  
Occupational Outlook Handbook/Job search  
Students.gov

<https://public.careercruising.com/en/>  
[www.collegeincolorado.org/](http://www.collegeincolorado.org/)  
[www.gotajob.com/](http://www.gotajob.com/)  
[www.healthmanagementcareers.com](http://www.healthmanagementcareers.com)  
[www.bls.gov/oco/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/)  
[www.students.gov](http://www.students.gov)

### **Student Athletics**

NAIA (Natl. Assoc. of Intercollegiate Athletics)  
NCAA (Natl. Collegiate Athletic Association)

[www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org)  
[www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)

### **Students with Disabilities**

American Assoc. of Univ. Ctrs. On Disabilities  
Association of Higher Education and Disability  
Attention Deficit Disorder Association  
Children/Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Ctr. on Secondary Educ. and Transition  
Learning Disabilities Association of America

[www.aucd.org](http://www.aucd.org)  
[www.ahead.org](http://www.ahead.org)  
[www.add.org](http://www.add.org)  
[www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org)  
[www.ncld.org](http://www.ncld.org)  
[www.ncset.org](http://www.ncset.org)  
[www.ldanatl.org](http://www.ldanatl.org)

### **Volunteer and Community Service Opportunities (including international)**

*\* In addition, see Career Planning side of this guide.*

AmeriCorps  
Cross-Cultural Solutions  
Fort Collins Volunteer Opportunities  
Global Routes Programs for Teens  
PeaceCorps  
Special Olympics  
Youth for Understanding

[www.americorps.org/](http://www.americorps.org/)  
[www.crossculturalsolutions.org/](http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org/)  
[www.firstcall-vc.org](http://www.firstcall-vc.org)  
[www.globalroutes.org/](http://www.globalroutes.org/)  
[www.peacecorp.gov/](http://www.peacecorp.gov/)  
[www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)  
[www.yfu.org/.](http://www.yfu.org/)

DISCOVER	PREPARE	SELECT	APPLY	DECIDE	PAY
Career Testing & Exploration					

You don't need to know exactly what college or career path is best for you. However, it is important to figure out who you are and what your goals are before making any decisions about your life after Rocky. These websites will help you learn more about your interests, abilities, and values.

### Xello

Find the link in your [Clever](#) account

### [www.CollegeinColorado.org](http://www.CollegeinColorado.org)

[CollegeinColorado.org](http://CollegeinColorado.org) provides information and tools designed to help with all steps of the college application process including Choices Planner. Choices Planner allows you to explore thousands of careers and colleges. To access Choices Planner go to [www.CollegeinColorado.org](http://www.CollegeinColorado.org). Click on Create an Account and put in your information. Then go to Choices career Planner under the PLAN heading.

### [www.bls.gov/k12](http://www.bls.gov/k12)

This site has extensive information about career options and the outlook for jobs over the next 10 years.

### **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)**

The ASVAB is a group of ten tests that measure one's ability in seven separate career areas and provides an indication of one's academic and occupational aptitudes. The test is administered and scored free of cost by a representative of a branch of the military, however no military obligation is incurred through the test. While all students interested in the military will take the ASVAB, the test is open to **any student** regardless of your interest in the military. The test provides valuable information regarding career skills and interests. Contact a local military recruiter for more information.

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
<b>Opportunities</b>					

### **Summer Jobs**

A summer job is a great way to learn valuable skills while making money for college. Turn this book over and check out the "Career Planning Guide" for more information on finding summer jobs. In addition, you can contact the PaCE office here at Rocky for job postings.

### **Internships**

An internship can provide you with valuable career and on-the-job experience. You will have the opportunity to practice your communication skills and develop a network of relationships with people outside of Rocky. Internships are usually done during the summer. For more information contact the College and Career Center or the PaCE office.

### **Special Enrichment Programs**

These programs enable you to further your career interests. They are commonly divided into three categories; specialty, college prep, and academic programs. Specialty programs allow you to experience non-academic programs like photography, creative writing, or theatre. College prep programs are focused on helping you navigate the college application process and college interviews. Academic enrichment programs offer an opportunity to study in specialized fields like science, math, art, or the humanities. For more information on programs for you, stop by and visit the College and Career Center or your counselor.

### **Volunteer & Community Service Opportunities**

Serving your community is a great way to further develop your interests while helping others. Colleges typically look for applicants who have a passion about something and have spent considerable time volunteering within Rocky as well as the Fort Collins community. It's important to find opportunities that truly interest you as opposed to doing something to put on your resume, scholarship and college application. For opportunities here at Rocky, check out the many clubs and activities that are offered. For community opportunities visit the volunteer section on the FirstCall website at [www.firstcall-vc.org](http://www.firstcall-vc.org).

### **Job Shadowing**

Shadowing is a great opportunity to "try-on" a job. Setup a time to spend a morning, afternoon, evening, lunch, dinner, etc. with someone who is working in a job that you think sounds interesting. Ask lots of questions, like "Do you like your job?", "Where did you go to school?", or "What does a typical day like?". Remember, there is no such thing as a bad job shadow experience. If you finish and didn't like the job, that's one more career to cross off the list. You'll get the opportunity to shadow during Critical Skills, however many students shadow many times throughout their high school experience. Check with your parents, friend, family and counselor if you are looking for someone to shadow.

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
	<b>Admission Criteria</b>				

To assist you in choosing classes and planning for college, we have outlined college admission criteria. Additional information will be provided at our college nights, college fairs, and in our College and Career Center. Your counselor can also provide information about specific community colleges, trade schools, colleges and universities, and other career options. Please remember, admission requirements are unique at each college and university and are subject to change. You can find this information by using college websites, college view books, Career Cruising, your counselor and [Ms. Fassnacht](#) in the College and Career Center.

	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>Liberal/Selective</b>	<b>Selective</b>	<b>Most Selective</b>
<b>Colleges or Universities</b>	Adams State Co. Mesa Fort Lewis Metro State Montana State Western State	U of Northern CO CO Christian UCCS CU Denver	CU CSU Colorado College School of Mines Boston College Regis U of Michigan U of Arizona	Stanford Harvard U of N. Carolina U of Chicago U of Cal, Berkeley
<b>CREDITS</b>				
Academic	140	150	180	200
English	40	40	40	40
Math	40	40	40	40
Science	30	30	30-40	40
Social Studies	30	30	30-40	30-40
Foreign Language	20	20-30	20-30	30-40
Class Rank	Top 50%	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 5%
GPA	2.5+	3.0+	3.5+	4.0+
ACT	18+	22+	24+	30+
SAT	850 + (critical reading/math)	950 + (critical reading/math)	1100 + (critical reading/math)	1310 + (critical reading/math)
SAT Subject Test	No	No	Sometimes	Yes
AP Classes	No	Recommended	Recommended	Required

DISCOVER	PREPARE	SELECT	APPLY	DECIDE	PAY
	<b>CCHE Admission Standards</b>				

**Did you know Colorado colleges expect you to take an extra year of math and science beyond what Rocky requires for a diploma?**

This Pre-Collegiate Curriculum is a combination of courses, primarily in the areas of English, mathematics, biological and physical sciences, and social sciences that you must plan to complete as preparation for entering one of Colorado's four-year public colleges or universities listed below. Community colleges will continue to be open admissions and if you apply to these institutions you are not subject to these standards. For more information, visit the Colorado Commission on Higher Education's website and click on "Admissions Standards":

<http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/Academics/Admissions/coursecompletion.html>

Academic Area	Credits Required Pre-Collegiate Curriculum	Credits Required To graduate from Rocky
English	40	40
Mathematics (Algebra 1 or higher)	40	30
Biological/Natural Sciences (20 credits of lab)	30	30
Fine and Applied Arts		10
Social Sciences (at least 10 credits of US or World History)	30	25 <sup>4</sup>
Additional Academic Electives (English, math, science, music or art)	20	See graduation requirements
Foreign Language	10 <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>5</sup>
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>240</b>

<sup>1</sup> (5) speech credits, (20) language arts credits, and (10) US Literature and Humanities credits.

<sup>2</sup> Many colleges require more than 10 credits of Foreign Language.

<sup>3</sup> Your choice of Arts/World Languages.

<sup>4</sup> (5) Government credits, (10) US History, (10) Social Studies.

<sup>5</sup> World Language or World Culture.

These colleges and universities expect you to complete this curriculum:

Adams State University  
Colorado Mesa University  
Colorado School of Mines  
Colorado State University  
Colorado State University at Pueblo  
Fort Lewis College  
Metropolitan State College of Denver  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs  
University of Colorado at Denver  
University of Northern Colorado  
Western State Colorado University

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
	<b>PSAT Test</b>				

## PSAT Test

The PSAT measures critical reading, math reasoning, and writing skills. The PSAT is a great practice test for the SAT and measures knowledge and skills developed through years of study in a wide range of courses as well as through experiences outside the classroom. It is slightly shorter and easier than the SAT, so it is a good introduction to college entrance tests. A detailed score report will be generated by College Board, and counselors will review the test results with students.

The junior year is the only year that students are eligible to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program, so juniors who tend to score in the 90% and above on standardized testing should take the PSAT. Sophomores in the top 10% of their class should take it as well. The fee for **2020** is **\$20.00**. Pay at the fee window by **October 20<sup>th</sup>** to register. The test will be given on **Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020** at RMHS. You should bring your ID, three pencils, a calculator, and snacks. You can contact **Patty Mogorit**, counselor at Rocky Mountain High School for more information. In addition, you can contact the PSAT/NMSQT office at [psat@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:psat@info.collegeboard.org) if you have questions, comments, or suggestions about test registration, administration, or score reports.

DISCOVER	PREPARE	SELECT	APPLY	DECIDE	PAY
	<b>SAT Prep</b>				

Most colleges and universities will accept either the SAT or ACT. Check the colleges' admissions websites to see which tests they require. Students may want to take both tests. Schools generally accept the highest score on either test. Visit your counselor and these websites for test preparation help: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), [www.review.com](http://www.review.com), [www.number2.com/](http://www.number2.com/), <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>

The **SAT Reasoning Test** is offered seven times each year. **SAT Subject Tests** (check to see if the college you are applying to requires them) are generally offered on the same dates but you cannot take the SAT Reasoning Test and Subject Tests on the same day. For more information on these tests and to register visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). **Rocky's SAT code is 060588.**

SAT Date	Registration Deadline Basic Fee \$52.00 (\$68.00 with Essay)	Late Registration Deadline Basic Fee + Late Fee (\$30.00) = \$98.00 Mail/phone
September 26	August 26	September 15
October 3	September 4	September 22
November 7	October 7	October 27
December 5	November 5	November 24
March 13 (No subject tests)	February 12	March 2
May 8	April 8	April 27
June 5	May 6	May 26

If you qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch, you qualify for a fee waiver for the ACT and SAT. See your counselor/Ms. Kapral for details. Fee waivers do NOT cover late fees.

S A T				
IF you don't know the answer... GUESS				
Section	Time	Question Types	Content Tested	Scoring
<b>Critical Reading (3 sections)</b>	70 minutes (2) 25-minute (1) 20-minute	67 Questions multiple-choice 19 sentence completions 48 reading comprehension	Reading comprehension, sentence completions, paragraph-length critical reading	200 to 800
<b>Math (3 sections)</b>	70 minutes (2) 25-minute (1) 20-minute	54 Questions 44 multiple-choice 10 grid-in questions	Number/operations, algebra/functions, geometry, statistics, probability, data analysis	200 to 800
<b>Writing (2 sections)</b>	60 minutes (1) 35-minute (1) 25-minute	49 Questions multiple-choice 18 ID sentence errors 25 improving sentences 6 improving paragraphs	Identifying sentence errors, improving sentences, improving paragraphs, student-written essay	200 to 800
<b>Experimental</b>	25 minutes	Same as reading/math	See above	Unscored

(You do NOT need to register online for the required Junior SAT on **Tuesday, April 13, 2021**. This test is required for all Juniors by the state of Colorado and is provided to students for free.)

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
	<b>ACT Prep</b>				

Most colleges and universities will accept either the ACT or SAT. Check the colleges' admissions websites to see which tests they require. Students may want to take both tests. Schools generally accept the highest score on either test. Visit your counselor and these websites for test preparation help: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), [www.review.com](http://www.review.com), [www.number2.com/](http://www.number2.com/),

The **ACT** is offered five times each year. Every ACT includes sections on English, Reading, Math, and Science; in addition, students can also take the optional Writing Test. ACT (without writing) is **\$55.00** ACT (plus writing) is **\$70.00**. Late registration fee **\$35.00**. Please check to see if the colleges you are applying to require this test. **Rocky's ACT code is 060588**. For more information on this test and to register, visit [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 12, 2020		
October 10, 2020 October 17, 2020 October 24, 2020 October 25, 2020	September 25	October 2
December 12, 2020	November 6	November 7-20
February 6, 2021	January 8	January 9-15
April 17, 2021	March 12	March 13-26
June 12, 2021	May 7	May 8-21
July 17, 2021	June 18	June 19-25

If you qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch, you qualify for a fee waiver for the ACT and SAT. See **your counselor/ Ms. Fassnacht** for details. Fee waivers do NOT cover late fees.

<b>ACT</b>				
<b>IF you don't know the answer... GUESS</b>				
Section	Time	Question Types	Content Tested	Scoring
<b>English</b>	45 minutes	75 Questions multiple-choice	Grammar, usage, mechanics, rhetorical skills	1 to 36
<b>Math</b>	60 minutes	60 Questions multiple-choice	Pre-algebra, intermediate algebra, geometry, trigonometry	1 to 36
<b>Reading</b>	35 minutes	40 Questions multiple-choice	Critical reading	1 to 36
<b>Science Reasoning</b>	35 minutes	40 Questions Passage based multiple-choice	Not science, but critical reasoning, data	1 to 36



			interpretation, scientific method	
<b>Optional Essay</b>	30 minutes	1 Question Student Written Essay	Writing proficiency	2 to 12

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
	<b>NCAA Athletics</b>				

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you want to participate in Division I or II athletics you must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. Registration must be done online at the NCAA website: <http://eligibilitycenter.org>. The NCAA charges \$90.00 for this service.

To be certified by the Eligibility Center, you must:

- **Graduate from High School:** You should apply for certification in your junior year if you are considering participating in athletics as a freshman. The Eligibility Center will issue a preliminary certification report through their online portal when you have all your materials submitted. Be sure your official transcripts are submitted (as soon as possible after completing Junior year and after graduation).
- **Complete Core Course Requirements:** If you are considering participating in NCAA-regulated sports in college, you should discuss with your counselor regularly, and make informed decisions about your high school choices. To be eligible, each student must complete specific, NCAA-approved core courses (as listed on the chart below). Be sure to plan your high school classes to meet requirements and check the approved course list before registering each year for your classes. To access a list of all NCAA-approved Rocky Mountain High School courses, go to: <https://web1.ncaa.org/hsportal/exec/hsAction>. In the box for the 6-digit CEEB/ACT code, enter: 060588. All approved courses are listed here
- **Earn a Minimum Core Grade Point Average:** Earn a minimum required GPA average on a 4.00 scale in an **APPROVED CORE CURRICULUM** of at least 16 academic courses (Division I), which were successfully completed during grades 9 through 12. Only courses that satisfy the NCAA definition of a core course can be used to calculate your NCAA GPA. No special values are allowed for "+" or "-" grades. The chart below shows what your core courses must include, be sure to check the NCAA website to confirm that the classes you choose will fulfill these requirements.

<u><b>Division I</b> (16 Core Courses)</u>
4 years of English
3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab)
1 year of additional English, math, or science
2 years of social science
4 years of additional core courses (from any of the above or from foreign language)

<u><b>Division II</b> (16 Core-Courses 2013 &amp; after)</u>
3 years English
2 years mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
2 years natural/physical science (1 year of lab)
3 years additional English, math or science
2 years social science
4 years additional courses (from any of the above or from foreign language)

**Earn a Minimum ACT or SAT Score: Division II:** minimum SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.

**Division I:** The minimum grade-point average in the 16 core courses and required ACT or SAT score vary according to the eligibility index below. Any special ACT/SAT testing sessions for students with handicapping conditions must receive approval through the NCAA Clearinghouse **prior to taking the special testing.**

Core GPA	ACT Sum	SAT	Core GPA	ACT Sum	SAT
2.525	67	810	2.250	77	920
2.500	68	820	2.225	78	930
2.475	69	830	2.200	79	940
2.450	70	840	2.175	80	950
2.425	70	850	2.150	81	960
2.400	71	860	2.125	82	970
2.375	72	870	2.100	83	980
2.350	73	880	2.075	84	990
2.325	74	890	2.050	85	1000
2.300	75	900	2.025	86	1010
2.275	76	910	2.000	86	1020

Please see [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) for full details.

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
	<b>Athletic Interest Letter</b>				

If you are interested in competing in athletics in college it is important in your junior and senior year to communicate with coaches about your athletic interests. The following is a sample letter to a college coach highlighting an athlete's strengths, skills and interest in a particular sport. Please remember that there are many rules and regulations surrounding NCAA athletics. Visit the Eligibility Center at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) for more information.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Coach (insert last name),

My name is Joe Athlete and I am currently a (junior or senior) at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins, Colorado. I am presently looking for colleges where I can continue to be a student athlete. I was nominated for the McDonald's All American Team, as well as All-State in Colorado. I earned All Conference Honors both junior and senior year.

I am very interested in learning more about (insert college name) and about your basketball program. I have enclosed a DVD of our (insert game date) game against Fort Collins High School, so that you can get a better understanding of me as a player. My jersey is #15. I hope this film shows you that I am capable of playing any guard positions.

Please feel free to contact me at 970 - \_\_\_\_\_ or Coach \_\_\_\_\_ at 970-\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope to speak to you very soon.

Sincerely,

*Joe Athlete*

Joe Athlete

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
		<b>Xello</b>			

We are pleased to introduce **Xello**, a web-based service designed especially for students and parents. **Freshman** will be introduced to **Xello** in their Lobo 101 class and in registration meetings. **Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors** learn more about **Xello** in various classes and in their registration meetings.

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
		<b>Things To Consider</b>			

## **SELECT a College: What criteria matter most to me?**

It can be overwhelming looking at all the post-secondary options out there. Each person will have different priorities about their criteria for choosing the best fit for college. Below is an outline to help organize your thoughts so you can SELECT your best fit college.

**Selectivity**—How do you compare to students who are admitted? Have you taken the right courses? Are you interested in being challenged by students who score higher than you or would you like to be on a campus where most students didn't do as well as you? You may gauge a school's academic toughness by looking at its "Freshman Profile," through which you can see the average scores on the SAT or ACT as well as the average range in GPA's of the incoming freshman class.

**Enrollment**—Would you feel more comfortable swimming in a small pond or joining the masses in the ocean? Are small classes and more individual instruction a desirable factor; would you accept some large classes, in exchange for the wide variety of activities, culture, and social life that a major university offers? Would you like an even balance between the sexes or would you like to live on a campus where your gender dominates? Is racial and ethnic diversity important? How about geographic diversity? Some colleges get more than 90% of their students from their own state. Again, check out the "Freshman Profile."

**Location**—Do you see college as an opportunity to flee the nest and live independently or would you be more comfortable being closer to home? Can you handle major climate changes - cold in the winter and hot in the summer? Do you want to be in a big city or a small town? Are the activities of a community important to you (recreation options, shopping, cultural activities, etc.)

**Extra-Curricular**—Want to live on campus or would you not mind if most students commute from home each day? Consider the quality of dorm life. Are special interest groups, activities, athletics and sororities/fraternities available if these are important to you?

**Curriculum**—This may be especially important if you want to pursue a rare major. Many colleges don't require students to select a major until their second or third year. If you find this is your current thinking, you should investigate the values of a liberal arts education at a college or university. Experiment with different classes your freshman year and find your interests. Keep in mind opportunities for study abroad, performance, or research if these are important to you.

**Tuition & Costs**—How much you pay certainly will be important, but at this stage it should not be an overriding concern. Find the colleges that fit you best, and compare their financial aid offers. Two points to remember: most students don't pay the published tuition cost and many colleges offer sizable tuition discounts to lure students they really want. As you compare your final costs (spring of senior year) include fees, books, room/board, transportation, and personal expenses. The availability of renewable financial aid and part-time jobs may affect your bottom line.

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
		<b>Campus Visit ✓ List</b>			

### Some things you might want to do while on campus:

- ☐ Meet with an admission counselor and verify admission requirements.
- ☐ Take a campus tour. See inside a dorm room.
- ☐ Attend a class to get an idea of typical size, teaching style and academic atmosphere.
- ☐ Meet with faculty in the academic area of interest to you. Ask about academic requirements and offerings as well as the placement record of graduates in the field you wish to study.
- ☐ Meet with a financial aid representative and ask about financial aid opportunities and scholarships.
- ☐ Determine actual college costs.
- ☐ Talk with students and faculty.

**Senior Thought...**  
There's going to be some sort  
of rejection in all this.

### Some questions you might ask your campus guide:

- ☐ How large are your classes? What is the largest class you've had?
- ☐ Do professors or graduate assistants teach your classes? How would you describe the relationships between professor and students?
- ☐ How adequate is the library? Do I have to bring a computer?
- ☐ What is housing like and where is the best place to live?
- ☐ What is the Greek system like? How big are athletics? Are there many clubs and activities?
- ☐ How competitive is the student body? What emphasis is placed on academics?
- ☐ What are weekends like? Do many students leave campus?
- ☐ Is this a diverse campus? What are the issues on campus?
- ☐ Is tutoring available? Can I get help writing papers?
- ☐ What do you like most about your experience and education here?
- ☐ If you could change one thing about being a student here, what would it be?

### Some questions you might ask college representatives:

- ☐ What high school courses are required for admissions? GPA? Test scores? High school rank? Are there different requirements for the major I want (Engineering, Art, Business, etc.)?
- ☐ Will high school activities be considered?
- ☐ Should I submit an essay and/or letters of recommendation? What weight is placed on these?
- ☐ Is there an early decision or early action plan?
- ☐ On what basis are students accepted? What is the percentage of applicants accepted?
- ☐ What special or unique programs are offered? Do you encourage study abroad?
- ☐ Is housing guaranteed for freshmen? Is it available all four years?
- ☐ What is the surrounding community like? Is it supportive of the college?

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
		<b>College Evaluation</b>			

We want you to collect information from campus visits, college handbooks, school websites, your counselor, and the College and Career Center. While collecting this information and when it is fresh in your mind, it is important to take a few minutes to compare your impressions of the colleges by ranking certain characteristics.

College:					
	1 Poor	2	3	4	5 Excellent
<b>ACADEMICS</b>					
Program and atmosphere					
Student-faculty ratio					
Accessibility of faculty outside of class					
Faculty teaching reputation					
Opportunities for independent study					
Opportunities for international study					
Opportunities for internships					
Opportunities to see visiting artists, performers & lecturers					
<b>ADVISING &amp; COUNSELING</b>					
Academic advising program					
Career counseling program					
Personal counseling program					
<b>CAMPUS</b>					
Setting and architecture					
Facilities (classrooms, labs, practice rooms)					
Computer availability and Internet access					
Library as a place to study and do research					
Cultural facilities (theaters, galleries, concert halls)					
Recreational facilities (gyms, tracks, pools, etc.)					
Student health facilities					
Location of campus and surrounding town or city					
Size of student population					
Opportunities for part-time work					
Opportunities to participate in clubs, sports and activities					
Residence halls or other types of college housing (special houses, fraternities, sororities, etc.)					
Opportunities for entertainment and social life (movies, concerts, dances, coffee houses, etc.)					
Food					
Other factors of importance to you					

DISCOVER	PREPARE	SELECT	APPLY	DECIDE	PAY
			Application Steps		

## Finding an Application

Most colleges have their applications online and encourage you to apply by visiting their website. You can contact the college if you have questions about the application. The College and Career Center at Rocky also has many other resources.

# STEP 1

College:					
	1 Poor	2	3	4	5 Excellent
<b>ACADEMICS</b>					
Program and atmosphere					
Student-faculty ratio					
Accessibility of faculty outside of class					
Faculty teaching reputation					
Opportunities for independent study					
Opportunities for international study					
Opportunities for internships					
Opportunities to see visiting artists, performers & lecturers					
<b>ADVISING &amp; COUNSELING</b>					
Academic advising program					
Career counseling program					
Personal counseling program					
<b>CAMPUS</b>					
Setting and architecture					
Facilities (classrooms, labs, practice rooms)					
Computer availability and Internet access					
Library as a place to study and do research					
Cultural facilities (theaters, galleries, concert halls)					
Recreational facilities (gyms, tracks, pools, etc.)					
Student health facilities					
Location of campus and surrounding town or city					
Size of student population					
Opportunities for part-time work					
Opportunities to participate in clubs, sports and activities					
Residence halls or other types of college housing (special houses, fraternities, sororities, etc.)					
Opportunities for entertainment and social life (movies, concerts, dances, coffee houses, etc.)					
Food					
Other factors of importance to you					

## Deadline Dates and Admission Policies

We encourage students to apply to 3-5 different colleges. An application fee of \$30.00 - \$75.00 is usually required for each application which is not refundable even if your application is rejected. Fee waivers are available at some colleges. See your counselor for more information.

## STEP 2

Seniors should watch deadline dates specified by each college. Rocky's counselors recommend applying by October 31<sup>st</sup>. However, in most instances, college applications should be sent as soon as possible and certainly prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>. On occasion, deadline dates for applying are no more than a guideline and a college may actually cut off accepting applications earlier than its final date if it fills its classes before then, or it may continue to accept applications beyond that date if it still has room for more students.

## Completing the Application

Colleges are not alike and application forms may vary significantly. However, there are some institutions, listed on [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org), which will accept the Common Application. This application can be sent to multiple schools, thus saving you time and energy. Please review the college's website to see if they use the Common Application. Colleges and universities typically collect the following information:

## STEP 3

- 1. Application:** This serves the purpose of identifying the student to the college (name, address, high school, etc.), as well as obtaining the student's personality and strengths.
- 2. SAT or ACT Scores:** These scores are typically on your transcript. If not, or if the college wants the scores directly from the agency, then students should send these to the colleges by requesting the release of their scores on the ACT/SAT registration form. Contact [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org) and/or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) to register.
- 3. Essay:** Some colleges may require an essay. You can find more information on writing essay under the APPLY heading of this book.
- 4. Letters of Recommendation:** Some colleges request that counselors, classroom teachers, coaches, etc., assess an applicant's ability, in which case they inform applicants of this on the application or by supplying them with recommendation forms. If a college does not ask for these, students need not feel obliged to send them. Keep in mind that letters of recommendation can strengthen your application. You should create a **Resume** and pick-up an **Academic Profile** and give both to your counselor and other letter writers with a copy of your transcript. Give your letter writers at least three weeks to write the letter. Ask them to give a COPY to [Leah Kapral](#) in Student Services and THANK them. Recommendations from others (community leaders, influential friends, etc.,) are of less value to admissions officers and should be sent only after the student has conferred with their school counselor.
- 5. Transcript:** Transcripts show courses taken and grades earned from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. They also contain the student's rank in class and scores on standardized tests (SAT's or ACT's). The transcript must be sent to the college from Student Services. Please fill out the **Transcript Request Form** in the Student Services office and submit it to [Mrs.Kapral](#) with the fee of **\$3.00**.



## Submitting the Application

# STEP 4

If you apply online your application will automatically be sent to the college. You can often pay your application fee online too. Whether you complete an online or paper application, you must still request a transcript from [Mrs. Kapral](#) in Student Services. Please complete a **Transcript Request Form** at least three weeks prior to the college's application deadline. The cost for processing is **\$3.00** per transcript. Student Services will mail your transcript and any other required documents to the college. Be sure to make copies for your records. (Make copies of financial aid applications as well.)

Many colleges have a variety of application options for you to choose among. Application plans may vary from college to college, so read each college's brochures carefully for the exact rules and deadlines.

**Regular Admission:** Send in your application by the college's deadline. On certain dates, the college will tell you whether you have been admitted.

**Early Decision:** This is a plan to use only if you have a clear first choice college. You will apply and receive notification of admittance early. You make a commitment to attend the college if you are accepted. You may only apply using early decision to one school. Please speak with your counselor about this option.

**Early Action:** This plan has an early application deadline and early notification of admittance from the college. You will not have to commit in advance to attend the college if you are accepted.

**Rolling Admission:** This is the same as regular admission, except that the college makes its admissions decisions as applications are received.

**Waitlist:** A college does not initially offer or deny admission, but extends to an applicant the possibility of admission in the future.

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
			<b>Academic Profile/ Resume</b>		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

An **Academic Profile or Resume** helps your counselors, teachers, and other individuals in preparing a letter of recommendation for your college applications, scholarships, or employment. There is an option to complete the College Portfolio in Career Cruising, or you can complete this paper version.

You may also request an unofficial transcript from Student Services to give to your recommenders.

### Goals and/or Career Interests


### College/University you plan on applying to or are interested in

College/University	College/University

### Possible College Majors and Minors

Major	Minor

### Teachers, Staff, Coaches who know you well

Name	How does he/she know you?

**What do you consider your strengths as a person? Provide an example of a situation that demonstrates your strength.**


**List an accomplishment you are most proud of and tell us why.**


**How have you demonstrated leadership potential?**


**What would you want to be sure that a college admissions office know about you?**


**Please share any other information that would be helpful in writing a letter (obstacles overcome, bad freshman year, family struggles, etc.). Please indicate what information the writer should highlight for this letter of recommendation.**


<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
			<b>Essay</b>		

The purpose of the essay/personal statement is to present yourself in a way that reaches beyond grades, recommendations, and test scores. It allows an insight into who you are. Essays are typically one page in length. Not all colleges require an essay, but many highly recommend it. Please check with the college you are applying to for more information about essays.

### **The Essay Should...**

- Address a talent, a passion, a memorable event or person, a goal, or a personal accomplishment.
- Be sincere, honest, straightforward, clear, and specific. Remember to proofread.
- Discuss something of personal importance; use your own voice and style.

### **The Essay Should Not...**

- Describe anything phony, offbeat, in bad taste, be pretentious or arrogant, deal with a questionable topic, or be outrageous.
- State anything described in other parts of the application.

### **What Do Colleges Look For?**

The admissions staff will evaluate your application essay (typed) on:

- Your ability to use standard written English.
- Content, substance, and depth of insight, reflecting your ability to think about yourself and to convey your true feelings or opinions about a topic.
- Creativity and originality. "It is at this level," according to a dean of admissions, "that students can position themselves as unique - as individuals who would bring a freshness of vision and viewpoint to the college that will enhance the quality of its academic and social life."

### **Writing Tips**

1. Plan your essays during the summer before your senior year or early in your senior year.
2. Be sure you understand the college's topics, directions, and deadlines.
3. Before you start your essay, jot down your aspirations, experiences, successes, academic history and unique qualities. To focus your essay, develop a one-sentence theme using these ideas.
4. Think about the form you might use to convey your information. Straight prose is fine and creativity is valued.
5. Now write a draft. Set the draft aside for 24 hours, and then read it to spot clichés, vagueness, dullness, grammatical errors, and misspellings. Is it focused on your theme, or does it ramble? Is it confusing or boring? Does the introduction "grab" the reader?
6. Rewrite your essay and repeat step 5 as often as necessary to sharpen your essay.
7. Ask someone whom you respect to read your essay and give you his or her candid impression. ("How do I come across as a person? What parts confuse you? Where do I need more details? What parts did you like best?") Often, your English teachers and counselors are great resources.
8. Polish the essay by checking again for spelling and grammatical errors, awkward phrasing, and unnecessary words. Read your essay out loud to locate the rough spots.
9. Type your essay, unless the college requires a handwritten version, and proofread it.
10. Mail your essay on time and relax.

<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>SELECT</b>	<b>APPLY</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>	<b>PAY</b>
			<b>Interviews</b>		

Some colleges require an interview, though many do not. If the college requires or recommends one, see if you can schedule it during your campus visit. During the interview you will probably be asked about your academic background, interests, hobbies, goals, and why you are interested in the college.

### **Interview Tips (Talk to your counselor about additional strategies and practice interviews.)**

- Be on time and call ahead if you will be late.
- Prepare a list of questions you have about the college or program.
- View the interview as a conversation in which you are interviewing the college also.
- Be concise and use specific examples.
- Relax and enjoy the experience.

### **Questions to ask in an Interview**

- Does the college have academic programs that fit my interest?
- What is unique about the college?
- What is the school's procedure for credit for Advanced Placement high school courses?
- How does the advising system work?
- What extracurricular activities are there on campus? What are the facilities like?
- What kind of campus jobs can I get?
- How many students apply each year? How many are accepted?
- What are the average GPA and average ACT Assessment or SAT I score(s) for those accepted?
- As a freshman, will I be taught by professors or teaching assistants?
- When is it necessary to declare a major?
- Does this college offer study abroad, cooperative programs, or academic honors programs?
- What percentage of students receive financial aid based on need?
- What percentage of students receive scholarships based on academic ability?
- What technology is available, and what are any associated fees?
- How well equipped are the libraries and laboratories?
- Are internships available? How effective is the job placement service of the school?
- What is the average class size in my area of interest?
- How many students graduate in four years in my area of interest?
- What is the student body like? Age? Sex? Race? Geographic origin?
- What percentage of students live in dormitories? Off-campus housing?
- What are the security precautions taken on campus and in the dorms?
- Is the surrounding community safe?
- Are there problems with drug and alcohol abuse on campus?

DISCOVER	PREPARE	SELECT	APPLY	DECIDE	PAY
			Admission Trends		

Colleges and universities may vary in regards to how they make their admissions decisions. Highly selective schools will place the most weight on grades and tests scores, while some private schools or specialty schools may be interested in a personal interview or an art portfolio. While schools may vary, most schools indicate that their admissions decisions are influenced by the following factors in this order of importance:

- ❖ Grades in College Preparatory Courses
- ❖ Admission Test Scores
- ❖ Grades in All Subjects
- ❖ Class Rank
- ❖ Counselor Recommendation
- ❖ Teacher Recommendation
- ❖ Essay/Writing Sample
- ❖ Interview
- ❖ Work/Extracurricular
- ❖ Ability to Pay (often not considered at all)

**Senior Thought...**  
College admission isn't  
a judgment on my life.

**Senior Thought...**  
Successful college admission  
is about ending up with a  
choice...and being happy a  
year from now.

Remember, colleges look for academic rigor in a student's high school schedule and look very favorably upon honors and AP courses. They prefer to see a student willing to take risks with AP courses, even if these courses result in a somewhat lower GPA. When deciding whether or not an AP course is appropriate for you, talk with your teachers, think about your time commitments, and consider taking an AP course or two in an area of interest and strength.

DISCOVER	PREPARE	SELECT	APPLY	DECIDE	PAY
				Where should I go?	

When deciding on which college you want to attend, reexamine the selection criteria like, academic rigor, geography, size, major, etc.. In addition, do not choose a college or university for the following reasons:

1. Your boyfriend or girlfriend is going there.
2. Your friends are going there.
3. The tuition is low.
4. Because of its party-hearty reputation.
5. The college brochure or university guidebook showed all these fun students sitting under trees.
6. A computer college matching program said this was your best choice. (Although these can be very helpful in narrowing your choices, you need to make the final decision.)
7. You visited just that campus and didn't want to look elsewhere.
8. It's located in your city or state and you didn't consider other locations, even though you could have.
9. It's the one college you and your parents have heard of.
10. You know you'll be accepted there.
11. Because of its prestige.
12. It has the academic program you're looking for, so the campus atmosphere doesn't really matter.
13. You look good in their school's colors.

Chart your course to see which college or university best fits your financial resources. Your total in Funds Available should be at least the same amount as your total for Expenses. If not, you have a funding gap, meaning that you have more expenses than funds available and will need to take out a loan or seek other sources of funds.

Expenses	College 1	College 2	College 3	College 4
Tuition and fees	\$	\$	\$	\$
Books and supplies	\$	\$	\$	\$
Room and board	\$	\$	\$	\$
Transportation	\$	\$	\$	\$
Miscellaneous	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
Funds Available				
Student and parent contributions	\$	\$	\$	\$
Grants	\$	\$	\$	\$
Scholarships	\$	\$	\$	\$
Work-study	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Funding gap</b>				

DISCOVER	PREPARE	SELECT	APPLY	DECIDE	PAY
					Financial Aid

Although financial aid may seem complicated and difficult, your counselors and the financial aid officers at colleges and related programs are there to help you. Don't hesitate to contact them.

***What questions do I ask colleges and financial aid advisors?***

- What kind of financial assistance does the college offer?
- What forms are needed? When are financial aid applications due?
- What costs are taken into account by the financial aid office?
- Are there any payment options available?
- When will I be notified about the amount of assistance we can expect?
- What is the average student loan debt of the college's graduates?
- Is there a restriction on the length of time for financial assistance?
- What impact do scholarships from outside sources have on financial aid?
- Is there a commitment for financial assistance beyond the first year?
- How and when do we apply for financial assistance after the first year?

***How do I apply for financial aid?***

- All students should file a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** form (**FAFSA**) as soon as possible after October 1<sup>st</sup> of senior year.
- Filing is done online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

***How do I get more information on financial aid?***

Request a free copy of "Funding Education Beyond High School" by writing to:

Federal Student Aid Information Center

P.O. Box 84

Washington D.C. 20044

800-4-FED-AID

Internet Address:

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/FYE/index.html>

The U.S. Department of Education also has a toll-free number to answer questions about federal student aid programs **800.433.3243**. If you are deaf or hearing impaired, you may call toll-free **800.730.8913**.

***What is the formula for determining financial aid eligibility?***

Eligibility for federal student aid funds is determined according to rules authorized by Congress. Family size, income, assets and number of family members enrolled in postsecondary education are among the factors taken into account.

***With program costs so high, as well as the rising cost of living in general, shouldn't I just look for the less expensive alternative?***

Not necessarily. Expensive programs often have more financial aid to help families bridge the gap between the costs and what they can afford to pay. Match your interests with colleges' academic programs first, and then see if you can find a way to pay for your first choice.

Financial assistance is offered in several types from the federal government, state government, private sources, and from the colleges themselves.

**Scholarships and grants** are gifts of money. Often they are based upon need. Sometimes, they are awarded for academic excellence or special achievements.

**Loans** are a significant part of most aid packages. They must be repaid, but most often not until after you graduate.

**Work-study** is a part-time job on campus. For example, you might work in the library or as a food-service worker.

**THE COLORADO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND**

In May of 2004, Governor Owens established a new way to provide state tax dollars to higher education at the undergraduate level. The state no longer appropriates money to the institutions, but provides direct funding to undergraduate students through the College Opportunity Fund (COF). COF will be available to eligible undergraduate students who apply, are admitted and enrolled at a state or participating private institution of higher education beginning in the 2005-06 academic year. **For more information and to sign up visit this website:** [cof.college-assist.org/](http://cof.college-assist.org/)



DISCOVER	PREPARE	SELECT	APPLY	DECIDE	PAY
					Scholarships

### ***Where can I find scholarships?***

- Talk with the financial aid department at the college you are applying to. Ask about first generation scholarships (if neither parent has a bachelor's degree).
- Use websites such as: [wiredscholar.com](http://wiredscholar.com), [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com), [finaid.org](http://finaid.org), [salliemae.com](http://salliemae.com), [hispanicfund.org](http://hispanicfund.org), [danielsfund.org](http://danielsfund.org), [www.cesda.org](http://www.cesda.org), [CollegeinColorado.org](http://CollegeinColorado.org), [zinch.com](http://zinch.com)
- Check with your employer and your parents' employers.
- Ask any clubs or organizations in which you are involved (Boy Scouts, 4-H, etc.).

### ***What about "local" scholarships?***

In January, a local scholarship packet will be available for all RMHS seniors in the College and Career Center. It is referred to as the Local Scholarship Packet because local businesses and agencies sponsor the awards, but many of those scholarships can be used at any institution around the country. Approximately 30 different scholarships are offered to students in the Fort Collins area through a single application. Once completed, the packet is returned to Student Services by mid-February, and then handled by scholarship committees as specified by the scholarship donor.

### ***What is the Boettcher Scholarship program?***

The Boettcher Foundation Scholarships are offered "to keep the best and brightest in Colorado by awarding a four-year scholarship to any college or university in the state." Scholarships pay tuition, fees, books, and a stipend for room and board.

Applicants must meet these requirements to be considered:

- Rank in the top 5% of the graduating class
- Score at least a composite 1200 on the SAT (Math + Verbal) or 27 on the ACT
- Be a U.S. and Colorado citizen domiciled in Colorado during the junior and senior years of high school

Selection is based on:

- Superior Scholastic Ability
- Evidence of Potential Leadership
- Service to Community and School
- Outstanding Character

**Senior Thought...**  
College admission isn't  
a judgment on my parents  
or my upbringing.

Application materials must be turned in online by **mid-October**.

### ***What is the WUE Scholarship?***

WUE is the Western Undergraduate Exchange. Through WUE, students in western states may enroll in many two-year and four-year college programs at a reduced tuition level: 150 percent of the institution's regular resident tuition. WUE tuition is considerably less than nonresident tuition. Some institutions award WUE as a merit-based scholarship and often require a separate scholarship application. Please check your institution's requirements. For more information visit: <http://wue.wiche.edu/> or contact:

Student Exchange Programs  
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education  
P.O. Box 97520  
Boulder, CO 80301-9752  
(303) 541-0270/email [info-sep@wiche.edu](mailto:info-sep@wiche.edu)