

[College Counseling Home / Introduction](#)

- 1) [Getting through High School](#)
 - a) [College Preparation Calendar](#)
 - i) [Your Freshman Year](#)
 - ii) [Your Sophomore Year](#)
 - iii) [Your Junior Year](#)
 - iv) [Your Senior Year](#)
 - b) [Testing \(ACT/SAT\)](#)
 - i) [Improve your Test-taking Skills](#)
 - c) [Reading](#)
 - d) [Activities \(Co-curricular & Extra-Curricular\)](#)
 - e) [Volunteering](#)
 - f) [Boys & Girls State](#)

- 2) [Choosing the School That's Right For You](#)
 - a) [Universities and Colleges in Utah](#)
 - b) [Universities and Colleges Outside Utah](#)
 - c) [Military Service](#)
 - d) [Students with Special Needs](#)
 - i) [Homeschooled Students](#)
 - ii) [Students with Learning Challenges](#)
 - 1) [Colleges for Students with Learning Challenges](#)
 - iii) [Gifted Students](#)
 - 1) [College Honors Program](#)
 - e) [Visiting a College Campus](#)
 - a) [The First Visit](#)
 - b) [The Second Visit](#)

- 3) [The Application Process](#)
 - a) [Essay/Personal Statement](#)
 - b) [Resume](#)
 - c) [Letters of Recommendation](#)
 - d) [Admissions Office and Officers](#)
 - e) [Interview](#)

- 4) [Paying Your Way](#)
 - a) [Scholarships & Grants](#)
 - i) [Five Essential Steps](#)
 - ii) [Where to Look for Scholarships](#)
 - iii) [Special Scholarships](#)
 - iv) [Scholarship List](#)
 - v) [Additional Scholarship Links](#)
 - b) [Financial Aid for Military Service](#)
 - c) [FAFSA](#)
 - i) [For the Boys](#)

5) [Tips for Talking to Your Parents](#)

6) [LDS Perspective on Education](#)

Introduction

[Getting Through High School](#)

[Choosing the School That's Right for You](#)

[The Application Process](#)

[Paying your Way](#)

[Tips for Talking to Parents](#)

[LDS Perspective on Education](#)

How do you eat an elephant? [\(back to top\)](#)

The college application and admissions process may seem like an elephant you have to eat in order to achieve what you want in your life. You may feel completely overwhelmed and inadequate. It may seem intimidating, if not impossible, from where you are right now. Not knowing where to start or what to do may cause you to want to procrastinate or avoid the process altogether. You've probably got more questions than you have answers. You can't cram it all in one sitting, that's for sure! But by cutting the task into bite size pieces and pacing yourself, the task becomes achievable. Let's glean the wisdom from the man who said "yard by yard it may be hard, but inch by inch it's a cinch". It would be wise to cut the college admission process into bite size pieces.

This site is designed to help you as you prepare for college. Included is a [College Preparation Calendar](#) to show what you can do month-to-month during your high school years to keep you anxiously engaged without becoming overwhelmed. Links to [universities, colleges and higher education institutions around the state](#) and the [country](#) will help find the ones that best suit you and your educational and vocational pursuits. Advice on [financial assistance](#) with links to [scholarships](#) (most of which are available during your high school years, will inform you about funds available now) to help you jump start your college savings plan. If you're a [homeschooler](#), a [gifted student](#), or have special [learning challenges](#), we've got you covered too. Find valuable information and links on preparing for and taking [exams](#), writing your application [essay](#) and preparing for your college admissions [interview](#).

As you consider the information and options available, we urge you to not only involve your [family](#) but also invite the Savior into your decision making. He knows you, your talents and the desires of your heart. He wants you to be happy and succeed and has promised that "all victory and glory is brought to pass unto you through your diligence, faithfulness, and prayers of faith" (D&C 103:36).

Our thanks to Kaplan Publishing. We have used many references from their book
"101 Ways to Become the Perfect College Applicant", 2005.

Getting Through High School [\(back to top\)](#)

[College Preparation Calendar](#)

[Testing](#)

[Reading](#)

[Activities](#)

[Volunteering](#)

[Boys & Girls State](#)

Remember the moral of the story of the hare and the tortoise—slow and steady wins the race. Your college selection and preparedness process is not a short distance sprint; it is a long distance race. Like the tortoise, you will need to pace yourself and make steady consistent steps toward your goal. The best thing about this race is that everyone who is willing to ‘go the distance’ (prepare for, participate in, and finish the race), wins!

When you select your subjects for each year through high school, remember that you will need to select subjects that will enable you to meet the requirements of the colleges to which you will apply. As a guide, most of the highly competitive colleges and universities will want to see these on your manuscripts:

- Four years of English
- Four years of Math
- Four years of Science
- Four years of History / Social Studies
- Three years of a single foreign language
- Two years of Fine Arts or Performing Arts
- One year (or more) of Computers

Most competitive colleges want students who not only do well, but also do well in challenging classes. Consider taking honors or advanced placement courses. Honors and AP classes are tougher than your regular classes, but don't let your fear of a lower GPA stop you. The most selective colleges give difficult coursework more weight than the easy classes. Another advantage is that if you score high on AP exams, you can receive college credit for courses in those subjects.

The College Preparation Calendar [\(back to top\)](#)

The following Preparation for College calendar is a suggested timeline and guide to follow throughout your High School years to keep you paced and focused. Procrastinating until your Senior year will bring stress on yourself and undue strain on your family. As the little quote that sat on President Kimball's desk said, “Do It”.

[Your Freshman Year](#)

[Your Sophomore Year](#)

[Your Junior Year](#)

[Your Senior Year](#)

Your Freshman Year: ([back to top](#))

- Make sure you're enrolled in and attending Seminary.
- Remain worthy to hold a current temple recommend and perform baptisms for the dead.
- Young Men, work toward achieving your Duty to God Award and participate in Scouting.
- Young Women, work toward achieving your Young Women Recognition Award.
- Participate in school-sponsored PLAN (ACT preparatory [exam](#)) in September.
- Build strong academic, language, mathematics and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses.
- Learn good study habits and work hard to achieve your best grades.
- Strengthen your vocabulary by increasing your [reading](#).
- Become involved in [activities](#) offered by your school (co-curricular).
- Become involved in outside school [activities](#) (extra curricular).
- Talk to your parents, mentors and teachers to discuss your plans for the next four years.
- Browse through college literature or surf the internet to get an idea of what kinds of schools may be of interest to you.
- Consider taking free online aptitude and personality tests to see the kinds of majors and careers that fit your skills and interest
- Peruse books about matching skills to jobs.
- Check out what high school courses colleges require.
- Find out about any advanced placement courses you may be eligible to take.
- Know NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) requirements if you want to play sports in college.
- Keep an academic portfolio and co-curricular record.
- Start thinking about and researching your career possibilities.
- Begin saving money for college (including applying for [scholarships](#)).

Your Sophomore Year: ([back to top](#))

Concentrate on your academic preparation and continue to develop your basic skills and involvement in co-curricular activities.

Continue to attend Seminary. Remain worthy to hold a current temple recommend and perform baptisms for the dead. Young Men, work toward achieving your Duty to God Award and participate in Scouting. Young Women, work toward achieving your Young Women Recognition Award.

September

- Participate in the school-sponsored PRACTICE [ACT](#) preparatory exam (scored by ACT).
- Enroll in Athletic Association-approved courses if you want to play sports in college.

October

- Participate in the school-sponsored PSAT-NMSQT preparatory [exam](#) (scored by the College Board). The results will not be used for college admission.
- Sign up, if you have not done so already, for the co-curricular [activities](#) that interest you. The level of involvement and accomplishment is most important, not the number of activities.
- Keep a record of your co-curricular involvement, [volunteer](#) work, and employment (all year).

November

- Make sure you are on top of your academic work. If necessary, meet with your teacher for additional help. Take subjects and topics that challenge you.
- Save your best work in academic courses and the arts for your academic portfolio (all year).

December

- Participate in the school-sponsored Practice [ACT](#) preparatory exam. This is an unofficial test and results will not be used for college admission.
- Receive results of the PSAT. Read materials sent with your score report. Consult your [parents](#), mentor and teachers to explore ways to improve on future standardized tests and discuss courses which may be required or beneficial for your post-high school plans.

January

- Keep studying and [reading](#)!
- Find somewhere to [volunteer](#). It's a great way to identify your interests and to develop skills. It will also help you begin your networking skills.

February

- Participate in the school-sponsored Practice [ACT](#) preparatory exam. This is an unofficial test and results will not be used for college admission.
- It is never too early to start [researching colleges and universities](#). Visit your library, browse through literature and guidebooks or surf the Web and check out college and university home pages. Compile an initial list of those that meet your criteria.

March

- Participate in the school-sponsored Practice [ACT](#) preparatory exam. This is an unofficial test and results will not be used for college admission.

April

- Continue to research career options and consider possible college majors that will help you achieve your career goals. A useful book to refer to about matching is "What Color Is Your Parachute?" by Richard N. Bolles.

May

- Plan now for wise use of your summer.
- Consider taking a summer course, participating in a special program (e.g. for prospective engineers or journalists or for those interested in theatre or music) at a local college or community college.
- [Volunteer](#) at a place that interests you to see if you really do enjoy that line of work and have an interest in pursuing it further.

June

- If you don't already have one, consider getting a part-time job.
- If you work, be sure to pay tithing first and then save some of your earnings for college.
- Start your own home filing system for all the information about colleges and careers that interest you. Keep up with the filing of information as you receive it. Keep your files neat and orderly so you know exactly where to go when you need the information. Be sure to have folders for [tests](#) scores and results, [scholarships](#), best examples of your school work, [letters of recommendation](#), work history, etc.

Getting your filing system in place during the summer will make it a snap to maintain when things get busy during the school year.

July

- Consider topics for your college entrance [essays](#). Research websites on the internet to give you examples and get your creative juices flowing. Write the ideas down as they come to you and keep your list in your filing system.
- Practice writing your college essay. Not only will it help when it comes time to write the real one, but it will help you in your day-to-day essay writing at school.
- Continue to expose yourself to experiences in your areas of interest.
- Continue to establish and maintain your home filing system.

August

- Make your summer productive.
- Continue [reading](#) to increase your vocabulary. Look up words you don't know in the dictionary and practice using the word regularly so it becomes part of your vocabulary.

Your Junior Year: ([back to top](#))

Time is ticking away! It's time to get really serious about your pathway to college. Avoid the stress of the masses who will waste their time this year and try to cram it all into their senior year. If you're smart, and we know you are, you'll use this year to hone in on the specifics of your [college selection](#) process. Attend college fairs, [financial aid](#) seminars, apply for [scholarships](#) (every little bit helps), write away to request information from your top college picks, etc. Learn as much as you can about the college application [process](#). If you want to play Division I or II in college, make sure you are meeting NCAA requirements. Be sure to save samples throughout the year of your best work for your academic portfolio.

Continue to attend Seminary. Remain worthy to hold a current temple recommend and perform baptisms for the dead. Young Men, work toward achieving your Duty to God Award and participate in Scouting. Young Women, work toward achieving your Young Women Recognition Award.

September

- Participate in the school-sponsored PRACTICE [ACT](#) preparatory exam (scored by ACT)
- Maintain your co-curricular record (all year).

October

- Participate in the school-sponsored PSAT-NMSQT preparatory [exam](#) (scored by the College Board). The results will not be used for college admission. Junior year PSAT scores may qualify a student for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Achievement and the National Hispanic Scholars Programs. So, even though these scores will not be used for college admission, it is still a good idea to take the PSAT. The more times you take standardized tests, the more familiar you will become with the format and the types of questions asked. If you wish to receive free information from colleges, indicate on the PSAT test answer form that you want to participate in the Student Search.

November

- Junior year grades are extremely important in the college admission process, because they are a measure of how well you do in advanced, upper-level courses. Grades also are used to determine

[scholarships and grants](#) for which you may be eligible. So put in the extra effort and keep those grades up!

- If you will require [financial aid](#), start researching your options for grants, scholarships and work-study programs. Beware of scams! You will never be charged a fee for information of legitimate scholarships and grant programs.

December

- Participate in the school-sponsored Practice [ACT](#) preparatory exam. This is an unofficial test and results will not be used for college admission.
- Receive results of the PSAT. Read materials sent with your score report. Consult your [parents](#), mentor and teachers to explore ways to [improve](#) on future standardized tests and discuss courses which may be required or beneficial for your post-high school plans.
- If you plan to take the ACT, register and pay fees online at www.ACT.org. Many colleges accept the ACT (American College Test) or the SAT Reasoning Test. Some colleges require the ACT or both SAT Reasoning Test and the SAT Subject Tests. When you begin to explore different colleges and universities, double-check to see if they prefer or require the ACT, the SAT Reasoning Test and/or the SAT Subject Tests.

January

- Begin to narrow your preliminary list of colleges to those you would like to investigate further. Surf the Internet to take a virtual tour of the campus and see course descriptions.
- Ask your parents for your Social Security number (required on many college applications). If you were never issued a Social Security number, contact the closest Social Security office as soon as possible to obtain a number.
- Spend time researching sites that offer free SAT and ACT practice [tests](#). Take the free tests. They can be a great way to familiarize yourself further on areas you need to focus your attention and study.

February

- Discuss your preliminary list of colleges with your [parents](#) and mentors. Discuss whether your initial list of colleges meets your needs and interests (academic program, size, location, cost, etc.) and whether you are considering colleges where you are likely to be admitted.
- Participate in the school-sponsored Practice [ACT](#) preparatory exam. This is an unofficial test and results will not be used for college admission.
- Register for the March SAT Reasoning Test if you have completed the math courses covered on the SAT Reasoning Test. If not, plan to take the SAT Reasoning Test in May or June. Prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT by signing up for a prep course, using computer software, or doing the SAT/ACT practice tests available in the counseling office or at bookstores. But don't spend so much time trying to [improve](#) standardized test scores that grades and co-curricular [activity](#) involvement suffer.

March

- Participate in the school-sponsored Practice [ACT](#) preparatory exam. This is an unofficial test and results will not be used for college admission.
- Write, telephone, or use the Internet to request [admission](#) literature and [financial aid](#) information from the colleges on your list. There is no charge and no obligation to obtain general information about admission and financial aid. Review the information thoroughly. Make copies of the application documents to practice on—not only is it good practice, but as you fill it out you will notice if there are documents or requirements you still need to obtain (e.g. Social Security number), and it may prompt you to think of [questions to ask](#) when you attend the campus or a job fair. File the information in your home filing system so it's readily accessible when you need it.

April

- When selecting your senior courses, be sure to continue to challenge yourself academically. Make sure the subjects you choose will fit the [minimum entrance requirements](#) for the colleges you will most likely apply.
- Register for the May/June SAT Reasoning Test and/or the May/June SAT Subject [Tests](#). Not all SAT Subject Tests are given on every test date. Check the calendar carefully to determine when the Subject Tests you want are offered. Register for the June ACT if you want to take that test.
- Continue to evaluate your list of colleges and universities. Eliminate colleges from the original list that no longer interest you and add others as appropriate.
- Look into summer jobs or apply for special summer academic or enrichment programs. Colleges love to see students using their knowledge and developing their skills and interests.

May

- Attend a college fair to get more information about colleges on your list.
- Get a jump start on summer activities-consider enrolling in an academic course at a local college, pursuing a summer school program, applying for an internship, working, or [volunteering](#).
- If you work, pay your tithing first and save part of your earnings for college.
- Begin [visiting colleges](#). Phone to set up appointments. Interviews are always a good idea. Many colleges will tell you they are optional, but an interview will show interest, enthusiasm and initiative on your part and provide an excellent opportunity to have your questions answered. Do a practice interview with your counselor, teacher, employer, or a senior who has had [college interviews](#). Set up interviews as early as possible-interview times become booked quickly!
- Take the SAT Reasoning Test or the SAT Subject [Tests](#).

June

- After school ends, get on the road to [visit colleges](#). Seeing the college firsthand, taking a tour and talking to students can be the greatest help in deciding whether or not a school is right for you. Although it is ideal to visit colleges during the academic year, going in the summer will be valuable. [Admission offices](#) employ their students to give tours and answer questions from prospective students and their parents.
- Take the SAT Reasoning [Test](#), the SAT Subject Tests and/or the ACT.

July

- [Visit colleges](#), take tours, have interviews and ask questions. Make college visiting a family event. Involve your parents and siblings in every step of your application process. [Choosing the right college](#) is a tough decision; the opinions of your [parents](#) and those who know you best can provide helpful insight into which college is best for you.
- Practice filling out college application forms.
- Practice writing college entrance [essays](#).

August

- Continue to refine your list of potential colleges and universities.
- Begin preparing for the actual [application process](#): draft application [essays](#); collect writing samples; and assemble portfolios or audition tapes. If you are an athlete and plan on playing in college, contact the coaches at the schools to which you are applying and ask about intercollegiate and intramural sports programs and athletic scholarships.
- Complete the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse form if you hope to play Division I or II sports. (This form cannot be mailed until you finish your sixth semester of high school.)

Your Senior Year: ([back to top](#))

Congratulations! This is a big year for you--your last year of High School. You knew it was coming, but now the weight of what that means hits you. After graduation you will be thrust into the 'real' world. You're progressing from youth to young adult. Are you ready to fly on your own? Put on your coat or armor to fight the fiery darts that will be sure to come your way. It's time to put your shoulder to the wheel! Put forth your best effort and finish high school with pride in yourself and your accomplishments.

Continue to attend Seminary. Remain worthy to hold a current temple recommend and perform baptisms for the dead. Young Men, work toward achieving your Duty to God Award and participate in Scouting. Young Women, work toward achieving your Young Women Recognition Award.

September

- Make sure you have all applications required for [college admission](#) and [financial aid](#). Write, phone, or use the Internet to request missing information.
- Continue applying for [scholarships](#).
- Check on application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply. These may vary with each college. It is essential that you meet all deadlines. It's better to submit your application a day early than a day late.
- Review your transcript and co-curricular records with your school counselor/teachers to ensure their accuracy.
- Register for the SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject [Tests](#), or ACT.
- If the colleges require [letters of recommendation](#), ask the appropriate people to write on your behalf. Consider asking your counselors, teachers, mentors, employers, or coaches to write letters of recommendation. Provide those writing the letters of recommendation with the necessary forms, along with any special instructions, a stamped addressed business envelope. Take a photocopy of the letters and file them in your home filing system.
- Be thoughtful! Write thank-you notes to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions.
- Plan [visits to colleges](#) and set up interviews (if you didn't get to them during the summer or if you want to return to a campus for a second time). Read bulletin boards and the college newspaper. Talk with current students and professors.

October

- Attend college fairs to investigate further those colleges to which you will probably apply.
- If applying for early decision or early action, send in your college application now. Also prepare applications for back-up schools. Remember, if you are accepted under the early decision option, you are expected to enroll at that college and to withdraw all other applications. Submit [financial aid](#) information if requested from early decision/action candidates.
- Mail applications in time to reach the colleges by the deadlines. Check with your counselor to make sure your transcript and test scores have been/will be sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- Register for the SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject [Tests](#), or ACT if you have not completed the required tests or if you are not happy with your previous test scores and think you can do better.
- Have official test scores sent by the testing agency to colleges on your list.

November

- Take the SAT Reasoning Test or SAT Subject [Tests](#) if appropriate. Don't forget to have test scores sent to colleges on your list.
- Be sure your first quarter grades are good.
- Continue completing applications to colleges. Make copies of all applications before mailing the applications and file them in your home filing system.

- If you need [financial aid](#), obtain a [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) from your guidance office. Check to see if the colleges to which you are applying require any other financial aid form. Obtain the college's own financial aid forms, if available.
- Keep all records, test score reports and copies of applications for admission and financial aid. Do not throw anything away until at least the end of your first year in college. Having detailed records will save you time and effort should anything be lost or should you decide to apply in the future to other colleges and [scholarship](#) programs.

December

- Have official [test](#) scores sent to colleges on your list if you have not done so.
- Consult your school counselor again to review your final list of colleges. Be sure you have all bases covered. It is a good idea to make copies of everything before you drop those envelopes in the mail. If for some reason your application gets lost, you will have a back-up copy. File your last college application.
- If you applied for early decision, you should have an answer by now. If you are accepted, follow the instructions for admitted students. If the decision is deferred until spring or you are denied, submit applications now to other colleges.

January

- Keep [reading](#) and working in your classes! Grades and courses continue to count throughout the senior year.
- Request that your counselor send the transcript of your first semester grades to the colleges to which you applied.
- [Parents](#) and students, complete your income tax forms as soon as possible. You will need those figures to fill out the [FAFSA](#). Complete and return your FAFSA as quickly as possible after January 1. Check to make sure your colleges or state does not require any other financial aid forms. If they do, consult your guidance counselor or contact the college's financial aid office.

February

- Remember to monitor your applications to be sure that all materials are sent and received on time and that they are complete. Stay on top of things; you can ruin your chances for admission by missing a deadline.
- If you completed a [FAFSA](#), you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within four weeks after submitting the FAFSA. Review the SAR carefully and check for any inaccuracies. If necessary, correct any items on the SAR and return it to the FAFSA processor (if a college transmitted your data directly, notify the college of any change).
- If more than four weeks have passed after sending in your FAFSA and you have not received an acknowledgment, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (319) 337-5665. To identify you, they will need your name, social security number, address, and date of birth exactly as it was written on your FAFSA.
- Complete scholarship applications. You may be eligible for more [scholarships](#) than you think, so apply for as many as you can.

March

- Stay focused, and keep studying—only a couple more months to go!

April

- Do not take rolling admission applications for granted. (Some colleges do not have application deadlines; they admit students on a continuous basis.) These schools may reach their maximum class size quickly—the earlier you apply, the more availability there may be.

- Review your college acceptances and financial aid awards. Be sure to compare financial aid packages in your decision-making process. If you are positive you will not enroll at one or more of the colleges which accepted you, please notify those colleges that you have selected another college. Keeping colleges abreast of your plans might enable those colleges to admit someone else. If you know which college you will attend, send your tuition deposit and follow all other instructions for admitted students. You must decide which offer of admission to accept by May 1 (postmark date).

May

- By May 1, decide on the one college that you will attend. By May 1, send in your tuition deposit to the college you will attend. Notify the other colleges that accepted you that you have selected another college.
- If your first-choice college places you on their waiting list, do not lose all hope. Some students are admitted from the waiting list. Talk with your counselor, and contact the college to let them know you are still very interested. Keep the college updated on your activities.
- Take Advanced Placement examinations, if appropriate, and request that your AP scores be sent to the college you will attend.

June

- Request that your counselor send your final transcript to the college you will attend. Notify the college of any private [scholarships](#) or grants you will be receiving.
- Know when the payment for tuition, room and board, meal plans, etc., is due. If necessary, ask the financial aid office about a possible payment plan that will allow for you to pay in installments.
- Congratulations, you've made it through high school! Enjoy your graduation and look forward to college.

July

- Look for information in the mail from the college about housing, roommate(s), orientation, course selection, etc. Respond promptly to all requests from the college.

August-September

- Ease the transition into college. Accept the fact that you'll be in charge of your academic and personal life. What you do, when you do it and how things get done will be up to you. You'll have new responsibilities and challenges. Think about budgeting your time and establishing priorities. Take charge of the changes that lie ahead and eliminate or minimize pressures. Go forth with confidence and enthusiasm, willingness to adapt and determination to succeed academically and personally.
- Pack for college. Don't forget to include things that remind you of friends and family. Be prepared for the new opportunities and challenges. Have a great freshman year!

Testing (SAT & ACT) [\(back to top\)](#)

Improving your Test-Taking Skills

If you plan to take the ACT, register and pay fees online at www.ACT.org. Many colleges accept the ACT (American College Test) or the SAT Reasoning Test. Some colleges require the ACT or both SAT Reasoning Test and the SAT Subject Tests. When you begin to explore different colleges and universities, double-check to see if they prefer or require the ACT, the SAT Reasoning Test and/or the SAT Subject Tests.

The SAT is 2/3 critical reading and writing and 1/3 math. The ACT is 1/2 English and reading, and 1/2 math and science. So if you're strong in English, you might want to take the SAT. If you're awesome in math and science, but not so good in English, you might do better on the ACT.

When preparing for these tests, check out these online links to find out more about the tests themselves, test dates, tips, study materials and sample questions:

www.collegeboard.com www.kaptest.com

Remember, grades and quality of your courses are more important than your SAT or ACT scores. Why is this so? It's because colleges view a high class rank and your G.P.A as a strong indicator of your academic potential. The people who hold your college fate in their hands have a method to ranking applications.

Really, really, really, really important: GPA/Class Rank/Coursework

Really, really, really important: [SAT/ACT score](#)

Really, really important: [Essays](#)

Really important: Teacher [Recommendations](#)

Important: Extracurricular [Activities](#)

Improve Your Test-taking Skills [\(back to top\)](#)

Many students complain that they are just not good at taking tests, especially ones that help determine their academic future. Be assured, you can improve your test-taking skills by the following steps:

- Familiarize yourself with the exam to understand the format and directions as well as knowing what kinds of questions will be asked.
- Practice taking exams under test-like conditions. You can find free practice tests at www.kaptest.com to get started, but there are other sites on the internet too.
- Take practice tests again...and again...and again—especially if you are someone who tends to freeze under pressure. What's the old saying, practice makes perfect? Well retaking tests may not ensure you a perfect score, but you'll certainly feel less nervous when it is time for you to take the real test which should enable you to boost your score.
- Develop strategies for taking the ACT/SAT, such as knowing when to guess or how to back solve a math equation.
- Go into the test with confidence and with a prayer in your heart that your mind will be open to receive the inspiration of the things you have diligently studied.

- Don't leave any questions blank. If you're really not sure, take your best guess, who knows, it might be right!

Reading [\(back to top\)](#)

President Benson's said,

"We are admonished to seek "out of the best books words of wisdom." ([D&C 88:118](#).) Surely, such books must first include the scriptures. Next must be the words of prophets, seers, and revelators. Speaking of the President of the Church, the Lord said, "For his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth." ([D&C 21:5](#).)...

"With the abundance of books available today, it is a mark of a truly educated man to know what *not* to read. Of the making of books there is no end. In our reading, we would do well to follow the counsel of John Wesley's mother: "Avoid whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, takes off your relish for spiritual things...increases the authority of the body over the mind."

"The fact that a book or publication is popular does not necessarily make it of value. The fact that an author wrote one good work does not necessarily mean that all his books are worthy of our reading. Many novels and modern publications are corrupters of morals or distorters of truth." (["In His Steps," Ensign, Sep 1988, 2](#))

Make sure, first and foremost, you read daily from the Book of Mormon. The Prophet Joseph Smith said that, "a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book." (*History of the Church*, 4:461.) We testify to you that not only will you get closer to God, your mind will be opened and your understanding will be increased. Studying the Book of Mormon will make you a better student.

In addition to reading the Book of Mormon, make a goal to read for at least 30 minutes a day. Carry a dictionary with you when you read. If you come across vocabulary you don't know, look it up in the dictionary. Keep a list of all the words you look up to refer to for a couple of weeks, then review them periodically to keep them in your mind.

You will most likely be required to read some classic literature in your freshman year of college. Why not get a jump start on it? Some are probably going to be on the syllabus anyway, and some are simply stimulating reads that will help you to develop a more well-rounded knowledge of classic literature. For starters, you could try:

- *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen, 1813
- *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare, c. 1601
- *Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens, c. 1860
- *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith, c. 1776
- *Dubliners*, James Joyce, c. 1914

Reading is also a natural SAT and ACT score booster. It's true! Reading helps you score in two ways: First, the more you read, the more you cultivate your comprehension skills; second, reading builds your vocabulary without you even trying. (KapTest, 2007)

Activities (Co-curricular and Extra-curricular) [\(back to top\)](#)

Colleges don't necessarily want students who belong to every club, but they do want to see that you are passionate about what you love and seek ways to develop that passion.

You don't have to necessarily be a super well-rounded student if you want your top college choice to notice you. Admissions officers are looking to create well-rounded campuses, so don't worry about joining the school newspaper if you'd rather spend your time on the ballroom dance team or advocating for the protection of an endangered species. Choose what you love and do it.

Remember, don't join extra-curricular activities just because they look good on a college application or if you really don't have any interest in them. Not only are you being dishonest with yourself, but the [admissions officer](#) will spot it a mile away when it comes time for your [college interview](#).

Here's a few questions to ask yourself whether you are participating for the right reasons:

- Am I really interested in what the club or activity has to offer?
- Will I enjoy it?
- Am I willing to do at least the minimum amount of work required to qualify for membership? (attend meetings, events, fundraising, etc)
- Would I join it without my friends?
- Would I rather surf the Web, watch TV, or do homework rather than attend a meeting?

If you can't find a club or activity that fits your specific niche, consider starting your own! Not only will it let you express your passion and enjoy yourself, but the [college admissions](#) like to see evidence of an entrepreneurial spirit and you may score some big bonus points.

Volunteering [\(back to top\)](#)

Not only will volunteering enable you to enjoy the "warm fuzzies" that come from helping people, it will also benefit you. It's sure to impress [college admissions](#) officers, especially if you have dedicated a significant amount of time to a cause. It shows the college folk that you can keep a commitment, manage your time, and determine priorities.

It might even lead into a [scholarship](#) or turn into a paying job. Volunteering at different places will also give you an insight into what it's like to work in the "real world" to give you an indication as to whether your choice of career (and study) would be right for you. At the very least, you can participate in volunteering events such as March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon or a 5K run.

Based on your interests, consider these places to volunteer:

Area of Interest:

Consider:

Law

Legal firm, courthouse

Computers

Technology store, computer repair shop

Writing

Bookstore, library, newspaper

Fashion

Your favorite clothing store, fabric store

Science/Engineering

Pharmaceutical company, medical lab

Biology/Ecology

Zoo, aquarium, wildlife reserve, state park

Art

Museum, gallery

Medicine/Health Services

Hospital, doctor's office, public health outreach program

Sports
Music

Athletic office of a local college, recreation center, camp
Music store, recording studio, music magazine

Boys State & Girls State [\(back to top\)](#)

If you have a burning desire to learn more about the intricacies of how government works on a local and state level and if you believe your high school principal would select you based on your potential leadership qualities, perhaps you should consider attending Boys State or Girls State. Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for students between their junior and senior years of high school. They are usually held on a State college campus with girls and boys attending separate programs.

While attending the program, participants are first divided into subgroups and are given city names. The citizens of each of these cities then elect mock municipal officials and representative to the mock state legislature. If enough citizens are present, then a county level is added to the program between city and state. The participants also elect state officials, such as governor, lieutenant governor, and other state-level officials that their real State has. The legislature then meets to organize, elect leaders, and to pass bills, in a way that is similar to how their actual legislature operates. Some States hold mock trials, the participants volunteering as lawyers, accused, and juries, and others are able to form bands and choirs from the talent pools they have amongst themselves.

If you'd like to learn more, go to www.boysandgirlsstate.org

Choosing the School That's Right for You [\(back to top\)](#)

[Universities & Colleges in Utah](#)

[Universities & Colleges Outside Utah](#)

[Military Service](#)

[Students with Special Needs](#)

[Visiting a College Campus](#)

To go to college, or to not go to college—that is the question! Some students' future plans may not include a university or college education. Your education will not stop just because you obtain your high school diploma. Education is a never-ending and ongoing process. There are literally thousands of technical and vocational training schools whose purpose is to provide direct, practical training (as opposed from learning mainly from books) around the country that you could attend, e.g. beauty schools, flying schools, health service schools, art/music schools, and mechanical technical schools. Many of these require you have only your high school diploma to be able to attend their school. Your chosen field or course of study may take anywhere from a few weeks to a several years to complete. Perhaps your future plan involves service in the [armed forces](#). Continue learning about what you love and what will teach you skills that will enable you to provide for your family down the track. There's an old saying, "if you can get paid to do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life."

If you have decided that attending a college or university is the right route for you, before you go too far down the day-dreaming lane of wishing your college admission into existence, you have to face one hard reality – your grades and what that means for your school selection. If your grades aren't up to par, some of your favorite colleges may be out of your reach. On the other hand, you can be thankful that you don't have to waste your time considering and dreaming about ones that were never really contenders and spend your time searching out the best of the ones that are. An excellent website to aid you in your search for the college that may be just right for you is: www.princetonreview.com. Check the chart below to find out where your grades fall on the academic food chain.

	Most Competitive	Highly Competitive	Very Competitive	Competitive	Less Competitive	Not Competitive
Grade Average	A+ / A	A- / B+	B+ / B	B / B-	B- / C	C
Combined SAT score*	1350 – 1600	1200 – 1350	1100 - 1200	900 – 1100	Below 900	--
SAT Subject Tests Required	Usually 3	Usually 3	1-3 tests strongly recommended	May be required	Not required	Not required
Typical Academic Requirements						
English	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
Math	4 years	3 years	3 years	3 years	2 – 3 years	2 – 3 years
History	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
Science	3 – 4 years	3 – 4 years	3 years	2 – 3 years	2 – 3 years	2 – 3 years
Foreign Language	4 years	3-4 years	3 – 4 years	3 years	2 years	--

* Score ranges reflect SAT scoring scales from pre-March 2005 test administrations.

You'll spend a lot of time on a college campus over the next few years. Living and studying in an environment in which you feel comfortable (physically, emotionally, religiously, intellectually, etc.) will be invaluable in helping you make the most of the experience and afford you the best opportunity for success. Knowing the answers to these questions will narrow your search considerably and allow you to channel your time and effort on pursuing the real contenders even further.

If you close your eyes and picture yourself in your perfect college environment, what would it look like?

- What kind of campus do you see? Do you imagine a campus in the middle of a bustling town or city, the suburbs, or at a more remote location? Is it one that's conducive to walking between dorms and classrooms? Is it located where the weather avoids the extremes or do you like the change of seasons?
- What kind of classrooms do you see? Do you visualize large lecture halls with the professor at the front? Smaller, more intimate class sizes with lots of discussion? A medium size class more like you had in High School?
- What kind of dorm life do you see? Do you see yourself looking out your dorm window down to a grassy quad? Do you see yourself living in a high rise in the middle of the city? Perhaps your ideal dorm life would be one which is located off campus?

Some other questions to consider when deciding which school is right for you:

- Do you want to go to a private college or a large state-run university or something in between?
- Do you want to attend a two-year or four-year college?
- Would you prefer a school that stresses academics or one which has its emphasis in the liberal arts?
- How important is it for you to be surrounded by people of the same interests and beliefs?
- Do you want to take part in campus life? Are athletics and extracurricular activities important to you?
- Do you have special needs and requirements? Does the school offer services to support those needs?
- How are you going to pay for it?

Make sure you and your [parents](#) talk thoroughly about what you all envision for your college years, including talking about [finances](#). This will set the standard for your expectations (financial assistance, on or off campus housing, distance from home, etc) and really help your search. It would be awful to put in months of your own searching only to find that your parents' opinions (and finances) are dramatically different from yours.

You know the saying "don't put all your eggs in one basket"? Well, it's true. If you convince yourself that you will only be happy at one college, you're more likely to be extremely disappointed if you don't get in. If you put all your time and effort into that one application, you may have to scramble to come up with other colleges to attend, and might end up missing some of their application deadlines. The more colleges you apply to, the better the chance that you will be accepted into one (or more) of them.

When compiling your list of colleges, sort them into three groups:

- Dream colleges – there's a chance you can get in, but you're not 100% sure
- Realistic colleges – you meet the colleges requirement and have an excellent chance of being accepted.
- Safety colleges – you meet or exceed the college's requirements, so they're almost a sure bet.

Once you've got your lists:

- Check the colleges out in a college directory to see if they match your academic criteria and that you are close to matching theirs.

- Take virtual campus tours via their official websites. Learn about the majors they offer and the requirements. View pictures, learn about the faculty and student services and see if it really could be a place you'd like to pursue further.
- You can download valuable information from one of the big college search engines such as www.collegeboard.com or www.fastweb.com where you'll find lots of statistics along with college prep, career, and financial aid information.
- After you've checked the 'official' sites, get the 'unofficial' scoop by searching sites such as www.campusdirt.com, www.collegeconfidential.com, www.studentsreview.com, and www.teenlink.com.

To find the U.S. News list of Best Ranked Schools for 2010, click here:

<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges>. Among the other lists on this website are those schools offering the best Business and Engineering programs, the highest acceptance rates (our own Weber State University and Utah State University had 100% and 97.5% placement rates respectively in Fall 2008), the best undergrad teaching schools, and the best schools for students who fall a little short of the best grades.

Universities and Colleges in Utah [\(back to top\)](#)

If you want the convenience of being close to home and family for the holidays (and whenever else your mouth waters for your Mom's home cooking or you need a little help doing your laundry), consider attending one of the great universities or colleges found right here in Utah.

Universities:

Brigham Young University – Provo <http://www.byu.edu>
 Southern Utah University – Cedar City <http://www.suu.edu/>
 University of Utah – Salt Lake City <http://utah.edu>
 Utah State University – Logan <http://usu.edu>
 Utah Valley University – Orem <http://uvu.edu>
 Weber State University – Ogden <http://weber.edu>

Colleges & other Higher Education Institutions:

College of Eastern Utah – Price <http://ceu.edu>
 Dixie State College – St George <http://dixie.edu>
 Eagle Gate College – Salt Lake City <http://eaglegatecollege.edu>
 LDS Business College – Salt Lake City <http://ldsbc.edu>
 Salt Lake Community College – Salt Lake City <http://slcc.edu>
 Snow College – Ephraim <http://snow.edu>
 Utah College of Applied Technology - various locations around UT <http://ucats.org>
 Westminster College – Salt Lake City <http://westminstercollege.edu>

Universities and Colleges Outside Utah [\(back to top\)](#)

If you'd prefer to spread your wings and fly a little further away from your nest to pursue your education, this list provides the links for the ivy league and other popular and top-ranked schools around the country, outside of Utah:

Universities:

Brigham Young University – Rexburg, ID <http://byui.edu>
Brigham Young University – Laie, HI <http://byuh.edu>
Brown University - Providence, RI <http://brown.edu>
Carnegie Mellon University – Pittsburg, PA <http://cmu.edu>
Columbia University - New York, NY <http://columbia.edu>
Duke University - Durham, NC <http://duke.edu>
Georgetown University – Washington, DC <http://georgetown.edu>
Idaho State University – Pocatello, ID <http://isu.edu>
Harvard University -Cambridge, MA <http://harvard.edu>
New York University – New York, NY <http://nyu.edu>
Northwestern University – Evanston, IL <http://northwestern.edu>
Princeton University - Princeton, NJ <http://princeton.edu>
Rice University – Houston, TX <http://rice.edu>
Southern Virginia University – Buena Vista, VA <http://svu.edu>
Stanford University – Stanford, CA <http://stanford.edu>
University of California Berkeley – Berkeley, CA <http://berkeley.edu>
University of California Los Angeles – Los Angeles, CA <http://ucla.edu>
University of Chicago – Chicago, IL <http://uchicago.edu>
University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, MI <http://umich.edu>
University of Notre Dame – Notre Dame, IN <http://nd.edu>
University of Pennsylvania – Philadelphia, PA <http://upen.edu>
Vanderbilt University – Nashville, TN <http://vanderbilt.edu>
Yale University – New Haven, CT <http://yale.edu>

Colleges & Higher Education Institutions:

Amherst College - Amherst, MA <http://amherst.edu>
California Institute of Technology – Pasadena, CA <http://caltech.edu>
Dartmouth College – Hanover, NH <http://dartmouth.edu>
Georgia Institute of Technology – Atlanta, GA <http://gatech.edu>
Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Cambridge, MA <http://web.mit.edu>
The Juilliard School – New York, NY <http://juilliard.edu>
United States Military Academy – West Point, NY <http://usma.edu>
United States Naval Academy – Annapolis, MD <http://usna.edu>
Williams College - Williamstown, MA <http://williams.edu>

Military Service [\(back to top\)](#)

If you're considering service to Uncle Sam in the military, take a look at these official sites. You could also stop in to the many military recruitment offices and speak to a recruitment specialist. Giving a commitment to the armed forces will qualify you to receive [financial aid](#).

Air Force <http://af.mil>

Army <http://army.mil>

Marine Corps <http://marines.mil>

Navy <http://navy.mil>

Coast Guard <http://uscg.mil>

National Guard <http://ng.mil>

Colleges for Students with Special Needs [\(back to top\)](#)

[Home Schooled Students](#)

[Students with Learning Challenges](#)

[Gifted Students](#)

[College Honors Program](#)

Home Schooled Students [\(back to top\)](#)

Each college evaluates home-schooled applicants differently. Some colleges admit many home schoolers. Others have yet to admit one. Either way, you need to take extra admissions steps.

Learn College Preparation Course Material

There are certain “gatekeeper” courses that college admissions officers expect all applicants to have completed. Just like traditional students, home-schooled students need to take these college preparatory classes or, otherwise, learn the course material.

Stay on Top of Dates and Deadlines

Without regular announcements from your high school, it's up to you to keep track of critical dates and deadlines relating to things like college admission, [ACT or SAT](#) registration deadlines, or AP Exams.

Get Recommendations

Many college applicants ask for [letters of recommendation](#) from a teacher. This presents a challenge for you, since your teacher may be your parent. Some colleges do allow parents to write recommendations, but college admissions officers may consider these recommendations biased. You may want to ask at least one unrelated adult who knows you well to write a letter.

In order to build relationships with trusted adults, you need to get involved. A recommendation could come from a coach of a sports team, a leader of a club, or an employer—as long as the person has known you for a significant period of time and can speak about your character and abilities.

Watch for Home-Schooler Friendly Colleges

Some colleges are friendlier towards home-schooled applicants than others. Several colleges evaluate home-schooled applicants using typical application requirements, such as admission test scores and personal [essays](#). Other colleges require more application materials, such as several SAT Subject Tests

Before you select colleges, you may want to check to see if they have a home-school admissions policy, or if they've admitted home schoolers in the past. An easy way to learn this information is to call [admissions offices](#) directly and ask. You want to be sure your application will be reviewed, before applying to colleges.

You can also find application requirements for home-schooled students using this link for [College Search](#) from the collegeboard.com website.

Go on a [College Interview](#)

College interviews allow you to present your application directly to admissions officers. By meeting face to face, an admissions officer can get a more accurate impression of you. If administered by the college, interviews can be conducted during a campus visit.

Each Home Schooler's Situation Is Different

For example, some students are associated with a particular home-based school program and others work with their local public school. The above tips speak generally about the college admissions process for most home-schooled students. If you have any questions, contact your local high school's guidance office or call the [admissions office](#) of the school to which you're applying.

Students with Learning Challenges [\(back to top\)](#)

Students with dyslexia, learning disabilities (LD) or attention deficit hyper-activity disorder (ADHD) approach the transition from high school to college with an array of learning strengths and needs. They need to understand their own abilities and guide their own transition planning by looking at various postsecondary options. If college is the path chosen, investigating postsecondary programs to find the right match is a crucial step. Students need to become experts on how to engineer their academic success, a process that requires experiences that build self-insight, self-advocacy, and resourcefulness.

When to Begin College Planning

Transition plans should be grounded in the student's goals and vision for life as an adult, career interests, extracurricular and community activities, and the skills the student needs to progress toward his or her goals. Planning should include preparation for proficiency tests and other assessments needed for postsecondary academic work (e.g., [SATs](#)), as well as the development of self- determination and self-advocacy skills.

During the last 2 years of high school, diagnostic testing should be conducted to further define the LD or ADHD. Colleges require documentation of a disability (i.e., results of tests indicating the presence of a disability) in order to provide support services. Students entering Post secondary programs will need to present current assessment data in order to receive accommodations at college.

Even for students who have struggled academically in high school, postsecondary education may very well be a possibility. Students who wonder whether college is a realistic option can explore summer pre-college courses for high school students who have completed their junior or senior year. Alternatively, students can take a college course the summer before they enroll to get to know the campus, learn how to use the library, and sharpen their study strategies and time management skills.

Understanding Strengths, Learning Needs and the Support Needed [\(back to top\)](#)

Students must understand their strengths and learning needs not only to be successful in coursework, but also to identify the accommodations they will require. For example, will they need academic support services such as math labs, writing workshops, reading courses, computer labs, tutoring, or counseling? Will they want to take courses to improve social skills, study skills, learning strategies, communications skills, or assertiveness?

Understanding and using technology can be another key to success. Computers and related technologies are expanding opportunities and increasing instructional access for numerous individuals with LD and ADHD. Students should consider both instructional technology (e.g., computers, tape recorders, or videos used as a means of instruction) and assistive technology (technology used by individuals to compensate for specific disabilities).

Assistive technology is most effective if it accentuates an individual's strengths and minimizes areas of need. Selecting appropriate technology for an individual should take into account the individual's learning profile, the tasks and functions to be performed, the specific technology, and the contexts of use (Raskin, 1998). For example, word processors with text-to-speech, outlining, word prediction, and speech recognition capabilities offer assistive capabilities depending on a person's specific disabilities. Technology is like any other tool: The challenge is to find the technology applications that work best for the individual and learn how to use them. This takes an investment of time and money, but the payoff can be increased productivity and creativity (Malouf, 2000).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) bars discrimination against students with disabilities in the college application process. Once admitted, students may request reasonable accommodations to allow them to participate in courses, exams, and other activities. Most colleges and universities have a disability support services office to assist in providing accommodations.

Identifying the Desirable Characteristics of a College [\(back to top\)](#)

Once the student's strengths, learning needs, and level of support needed have been delineated, it is time to look at the characteristics of colleges that might be a good match for the student. Consider various types of colleges: two-year colleges, public community colleges, private junior colleges, four-year colleges and universities, as well as graduate and professional schools. Students with LD and/or ADHD can succeed in all types of schools, including the most prestigious.

Students must determine the characteristics of colleges that will make them happy and support their success. For example, how big is their high school? Will they feel more comfortable in a larger or a smaller college? Will they be happier in an urban or a rural area? Can they meet the academic requirements? Should they find a college that doesn't impose rigid prerequisites? Should they consider enrolling part-time rather than taking a full course load? What are their academic and extra-curricular interests?

In looking at colleges, students may also want to consider whether progressive attitudes toward instruction prevail. Colleges that are using instructional techniques and electronic technology in a flexible way can increase students' success. For example, if courses are web-based so lecture notes or videos of presentations are available online and can be viewed multiple times, then students have natural supports built into a course.

Finding and Comparing Colleges [\(back to top\)](#)

Like all students preparing to choose a college, students with LD or ADHD must identify colleges that appear to have the desired qualities and select a few candidate colleges for further investigation. They need to visit colleges, see the right people on campus, and be prepared to ask the right questions.

Students with disabilities must also look at other factors. They should investigate the support services offered by candidate colleges, discuss them with college staff (e.g., personnel in the Office of Disability Support Services), and verify that the services advertised by the college will actually be available to the student. For example, is tutoring available? Will extended time be allowed for taking tests? Is someone available to help with taking notes or preparing written work? Will college policies allow extended time to complete a course of study so that fewer classes may be taken over a longer period of time?

Furthermore, students with LD or ADHD must decide whether and to whom to disclose the presence of the disability. To obtain support services, students must self-disclose their disabilities to the Office of Disability Support Services. That office will notify professors of the necessary accommodations. Students are not required to give faculty information about a disability, but to obtain the best course work accommodations, they must be able to explain their needs to instructors. Therefore, students will want to investigate specific classes before they register for them. Some strategies for becoming informed about classes are listed below:

- Participate in orientation programs. These programs provide opportunities to become familiar with campus life and to ask questions of continuing students and advisors about classes, faculty, resources, and services.
- Don't procrastinate. Do not wait until the last minute to begin gathering information about courses and professors. Most Offices for Disability Support Services will allow students with disabilities to register a few days before other students.
- Talk to other students. Other students are an excellent source of information about classes and professors.
- Audit classes. It is possible to observe a class for a limited period of time to determine whether this is the right class. Students who audit a course are not responsible for exams or assignments.
- Check the Internet. Most colleges and universities offer an increasing amount of information, including the course syllabus (outline of the course), objectives, textbook, readings, and assignments.
- Meet the professor. Professors have scheduled office hours to answer questions about the course. Getting the textbooks and reading list ahead of time also allows students an opportunity to get a head start on the course.

For many individuals with LD and ADHD, the transition to adulthood will be a time of positive self-discovery, but it will take trial and error. Goals and successes can sometimes be elusive, and the hidden nature of LD and ADHD can pose special challenges. Careful preparation for the transition to college can help.

Information above from: http://www.ucp.org/ucp_channel.doc.cfm/1/12/69/69-69/4509

Colleges with Programs for Learning Challenged Students [\(back to top\)](#)

Almost all colleges and universities provide some level of services and/or accommodations for learning disabled students, as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The colleges and universities listed below go a step further...they offer programs, some quite comprehensive, designed to support students with learning disabilities.

By clicking on the names of the colleges and universities below, you will be taken to the pages of their websites which detail their learning disabilities programs and, in most cases, list the names of and contact information for, staff able to answer your questions.

Abilene Christian University
Adelphi University
Albion College
Alfred University
American International College
American University
Anderson University
Andrew College
Augsburg College
Baylor University
Barry University
Beacon College
Boston University
California State University Fullerton
Centenary College
Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Community College of Allegheny County
College of Charleston
College of Mount St. Joseph
College of St. Catherine
Colorado School of Mines
Columbia College- Chicago
Creighton University
Curry College
De Paul University
Diablo Valley College
East Carolina University
Eastern New Mexico University- Roswell
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Finlandia University
Gannon University
Hofstra University
Iona College
Iowa State University
Johnson State College
Kent State University
Landmark College
La Roche College
Lee University
Limestone College
Long Island University/C.W. Post Campus
Loras College
Louisburg College
Lynn University
Manhattanville College
Marist College
Marshall University
Marymount Manhattan College
Menlo College
Mercyhurst College
Meredith College
Messiah College
Missouri State University
Mitchell College
Morningside College
Muskingum College

New York Institute of Technology
Nicholls State University
Northeastern University
Notre Dame College
Pacific University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rocky Mountain College
Roosevelt University
St. Ambrose University
St. Mary's University of Minnesota
St. Michael's College
Santa Monica College
Schreiner University
Southeast Missouri State University
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Southern Oregon University
Southern Vermont College
State University of New York College at Oneonta
Texas State University-San Marcos
Texas Tech University
University of Akron
University of Arizona
University of Connecticut
University of Denver
University of Indianapolis
University of Iowa
University of Memphis
University of Minnesota at Duluth
University of the Ozarks
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
University of Wisconsin- Whitewater
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Ursuline College
Villanova University
Waldorf College
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Westminster College
Xavier University

Colleges with Programs for Learning Challenged Students section cited: http://college-scholarships.com/learning_disabilities.htm

Gifted Students ([back to top](#))

[College Honors Program](#)

If you're in a program or school for gifted and talented students, your basic college planning is similar as for other students. For example, you, too, need to take admissions tests. However, certain characteristics that make you unique may have an impact on your college planning. Here are some general tips:

Supplement Your High School Curriculum

Look for a range of academic options, such as Advanced Placement Program® courses, acceleration, or distance learning. Consider trying out a class at a local college during the year or over the summer.

Consider Talent Search Programs in Junior High

For example, some Talent Search Programs use SAT scores to identify academically talented students. Most students take the SAT in junior or senior year of high school. Talent Search Programs provide educational opportunities for mathematically and/or verbally talented seventh and eighth graders.

Explore All of Your Talents

Don't miss opportunities by focusing too early on one academic area. Explore all of your talents and interests. And keep in mind, just because you excel in a subject that doesn't mean it should become your primary focus.

Find Colleges That Meet Your Needs

For example, many gifted students become deeply invested in exploring ideas to their limits. If this is true for you, you'll want to look for colleges with strong academic support and stimulating courses that integrate disciplines.

Manage Expectations

You may feel like you have to get into the most competitive colleges. And while competitive colleges may be the right place for you, don't let selectivity be the only factor. Don't let outside pressures get in the way of making the best decisions for you.

Get Ready for Competition

Many gifted students are not as challenged academically by their peers in high school as they will be by their peers in college. They arrive unprepared for the competition from other gifted students. Stay focused on your own studies and skills; don't get distracted by other students' accomplishments.

College Honors Programs [\(back to top\)](#)

If you are a gifted student, chances are you have already taken advanced placement courses during your high school years. You already have a good idea of what it takes mentally and physically to be able to succeed with the rigors of choosing additional coursework with their accompanying hefty study schedules. If you thrive on being challenged, are self-motivated and need a more intense learning experience than is offered in a traditional classroom, you should seriously consider exploring and enrolling in Honors classes in college or university.

In order to be able to succeed in any Honors subject, you will need to be goal-oriented, inquisitive, committed, hard-working and have a strong foundation in English. You will be required to research and read in depth very challenging works with a high level of comprehension. Your critical thinking and writing skills will enable you to organize and write about complex ideas. Even subjects such as science and mathematics will require you to draw on your great reading, thinking and writing skills. Coursework usually involves individual research and writing assignments, group presentations, and working closely with school faculty and other members of the community.

There are a thousand or so colleges and universities around the country who offer Honors Programs to their students. We suggest you check out [BYU's honors program](#) as an example of what to expect in an Honors program. It would also be worth looking through the [BYU's Great Works List](#) displaying the Program reading list for Literature, Art, Music, Theatre, Film, and Science and Technology.

Visiting a College Campus [\(back to top\)](#)

The First Visit

The Second Visit

You've done the research on your favorite campuses. Now you need to see firsthand what each college is like. Ideally, a visit should occur in May of your junior year or in late August/early September of your senior year. Many colleges have begun classes during that time, while most high schools have not. Try to schedule your visit while school is in session. Avoid visiting a college during exam weeks, or on weekends.

The First Visit [\(back to top\)](#)

See if you can schedule an informational interview with an [admissions officer](#) the same day you're touring the campus. And, if they offer appointments, visit the Financial Aid office too. Plan to dress 'business casual' clothing on your college visit. Guys should wear the equivalent of khakis and a golf shirt, and girls should wear nice trousers or a skirt with a conservative top. Remember to wear comfortable shoes since you will be walking most of the day!

Instead of going to the campus alone, make it a [family](#) event. Don't just walk around campus yourself, schedule a campus tour—a student guide will not only show you the physical campus, but he'll show you the personality of the campus so you can picture yourself learning and living there. You can turn an average tour into an amazing, informative one by just asking questions.

Don't be shy—ask your guide the scoop on:

- the best place to study (it might not be the library)
- where they hold institute
- the nicest dorms
- the coolest on-campus jobs
- the tastiest cafeteria food
- where the students hang out on campus
- athletic games and events
- upcoming concerts
- bus routes
- upcoming concerts and devotionals

The Second Visit [\(back to top\)](#)

On your first visit, you found a college that seemed to be a really good fit. It would be worth another visit to answer the questions that you've thought of since being home. You probably don't need the guided tour this time. Consider doing these things on your second visit:

- Sit in on a class of a subject that interests you
- Talk to a professor after class
- Grab a bite to eat in the student union, and check out a college newspaper

- Talk to some students. Ask them what they like and don't like about the college.
- Ask them what they like to do for fun when school's out.
- Sit in a quad and people watch
- Browse in the college bookstore
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus
- Check out a dorm you didn't get to see the first time around
- Spend the night in a dorm if the college allows
- Imagine yourself as a student
- Talk to people that are involved with your extracurricular activities – coaches, club advisors, theater directors, and orchestra/band leaders, etc

If all the major factors between your top choices are on par, consider some of these less common comparison factors to help you make a decision:

- What kind of financial aid package are they offering?
- Are there interesting internships available through the college?
- What kind of career placement does the college offer?
- Is there a study-abroad program?
- Does the campus have adequate security?
- Which college had the best resident halls?

The Application Process [\(back to top\)](#)

[Essay/Personal Statement](#)

[Resume](#)

[Letters of Recommendation](#)

[Admissions Office and Officers](#)

[Interview](#)

Everyone in the know says the same thing—it's better to start early. By doing so, you'll be less likely to make mistakes on your application or forget to send requested material, you'll have time to turn your [personal statement \(essay\)](#) into a literary wonder, and you'll be less stressed and more able to enjoy your senior year. Refer to the [College Preparation Calendar](#) as a guide for when to write your first [essay](#) drafts, request [letters of recommendation](#), check up on your official high school transcripts, etc.

Chances are you've already requested lots of information from lots of different colleges as you worked through [choosing the college](#) that's right for you. You may even have their admissions packet with the forms you need to fill out and their list of required supplemental documents. If you haven't got information or applications for the colleges you want to apply for, contact the [admissions office](#) directly by phone, email or letter. Better yet, check out their website. Most colleges offer downloadable applications. If you do this, make sure you have ALL the

documents and forms you need. If you've got questions, the admissions office of the college will be happy to help.

Remember! Make copies of everything you send in to the colleges. This will prove invaluable if your application 'gets lost' or when you want to apply for [scholarships](#). You should be able to produce a copy and avoid having to rewrite everything again.

Writing your College Essay / Personal Statement [\(back to top\)](#)

You will have to write a strong personal statement to get into college, as well as any supplemental essays each individual college requires.

- Start thinking about topics for your essays preferably in the summer between your junior and senior years (or earlier).
- Consider your family heritage, your community service or [volunteering](#) experience, a study abroad or work-exchange programs, events that changed your life.
- Reflect on what makes you unique: what you do and why and how you do it?
- Carry a small notepad with you to jot down sudden inspirational thoughts that come to you
- [Read](#). Sometimes an inspiring book can motivate an excellent essay.
- Go through old photos to jot memories of meaningful events.
- Applying for [grants and scholarships](#) is an excellent way to 'practice' writing essays to prepare you for writing 'the big ones'.

The college admissions officers aren't looking for another Shakespeare, they want to hear from the REAL you. Show them your unique qualities and accomplishments.

To write an excellent essay:

1. Write it yourself. It's okay to have other people make comments or suggestions, but make sure it is your original work and thoughts.
2. Use your own voice. Grammar is important, but admissions officers don't expect your essay to sound professional until after you graduate from their college.
3. Think on a smaller scale. Narrow down your statement from talking about how to achieve world peace down to something about how you diplomatically stopped your little brother from throwing water balloons at your dates.
4. Be an individual. Don't write what you think they want to hear.
5. Make it personal. Reveal some kind of personal growth, deeply held value, or unique interest by focusing on a particular event in your life. You can write about when you came to a particular realization, a lesson you learned, a relationship that changed your life, or on any topic that demonstrates insight and growth.

There is no such thing as a perfect personal statement or essay, but be aware to avoid these common traps:

1. Don't write a boring first sentence. College admissions officers pour through thousands of essays, and they'll be more likely to read past the first sentence if it grabs their attention.
2. Don't focus on others. Colleges want to learn about YOU.
3. Don't use clichés.
4. Don't get weird in order to seem creative.
5. Don't use flowery, artificial language--It implies you're trying too hard.
6. Don't procrastinate. Waiting until the last minute is a sure way of sabotaging a powerful essay.

7. Don't whine.
8. Don't restate your resume. You are not your accomplishments—they do not define you. You are so much more than that. Tell them who you are.
9. Don't be repetitive. Communicate your points once and well.
10. Don't plagiarize. The admission staff know the websites and books. You will most likely get caught and your application rejected.

To check out some sample college admission essays, personal statements and get your own creative juices flowing, click on this link: <http://www.college-admission-essay.com/essays.html>

Resume [\(back to top\)](#)

You should include a page devoted to your awesome accomplishments with all your college applications. It will give the admissions people an insight into who you are. Give it to the people you have asked to write [letters of recommendation](#) for you. Hand it to the admissions counselor at the start of your [college interview](#) so they can ask you questions about your achievements.

List your accomplishments and activities, such as:

- [Volunteer](#) work
- [Activities](#) (both in and out of school)
- Athletics
- Honors and Awards (Eagle Scout, Duty to God, YW Recognition, etc)
- Employment experience
- Other accomplishments (Seminary graduation, etc)

When it comes to writing your resume:

- List your most impressive and important activities first.
- Highlight specific details about your activities
- Use active verbs to describe your roles, i.e., assisted, starred, led, participated, completed, performed, etc.
- Keep the page neat, organized and easy to read.
- Spell out acronyms. Admissions officers won't know that AHSSC stands for American Heritage School Science Club.

It would be worth creating a 'professional' email address, and dedicate it to college-related correspondence. Yahoo, MSN, Gmail, etc offer free email accounts. Use this email address on all your applications, on your resume, at college fairs, on admissions and scholarships websites – anything related to your college search.

Letters of Recommendation [\(back to top\)](#)

While the letters of recommendation are not the top factor in admissions, they can make or break your application. Only select people to write letters you know you can trust to represent you well. If they show you in a negative light, you're sure to get denied acceptance into the college.

Most colleges require three recommendation letters—usually one from a principal and two from academic teachers who have taught you the past few years. Make sure your references are relevant - if you want to major in marine biology in college, it might be a good idea to ask your science teacher to write the recommendation letter. Consider how well the teacher writes—their letter won't have the same impact if it is poorly composed.

If the college does require letters from people other than school teachers or your principal, try to choose well esteemed members of the community (e.g. politicians, ecclesiastical leaders, business owners, etc) who know you well. This will enable the admissions officers to learn about different areas of your life and show a more complete picture of you.

Allow the people you would like to write your recommendation letters at least two weeks to do it. Perhaps you could even ask just before summer break at the end of your junior year, that way they can write it over the summer. Give them a copy of your [resume](#) to remind them about your accomplishments and interests so they can mention them in their letter. Provide them with a stamped envelope with your address written on the front so they can send their letter to you. Remember to write them a hand-written thank you note.

Admissions Office & Officers ([back to top](#))

Before you actually make application to the college as a student, the college's admissions office may be your best resource for answering the questions their website can't answer. Make sure you prepare well by having a list of questions to ask.

An important question to ask of any school's admission office is whether they will allow you to defer your tuition for a couple of years when you serve a mission and how they would like you to show this request on your application.

As you prepare your college application for submission, make the admissions officer smile by being a student who:

- Follows directions and send only requested materials by the due dates
- Answers [essay](#) questions to the best of their ability with originality and honesty
- Uses legible handwriting and complete application materials
- Submits glowing and personalized [letters of recommendation](#) (2 or 3 letters will do)
- Knows why they want to attend a particular university, not just because it has the 'right name'
- Follows-up with a call to ensure that all application materials arrived
- Sends thank-you letters

The Interview ([back to top](#))

The college admissions officers use the personal interview as a way to get to know you and find out why you want to attend their school. On average, the interview lasts between 20 and 40 minutes and will involve:

- An introductory handshake
- Some small talk
- A discussion about your academic accomplishments, interests and goals
- A conversation about the college and some of the programs offered
- An opportunity to ask questions
- A thank you and another handshake

To prepare for the interview:

- Practice interviewing with someone who has gone through the process themselves or a guidance counselor from school, but don't practice your answers so much that they sound fake. Practice speaking into a tape recorder so you can see how you actually sound and listen for the language you use.
- Get an idea of the kinds of questions they might ask and come up with some answers.
- Come up with your own list of questions that you can't find answers to on their website.
- Schedule 'practice interviews' with your number three or four choice colleges so that when you interview with your number one choice, you have a better idea of what to expect, ask and say and most of the jitters will be over.
- Research the college ahead of time so you can speak intelligently about the programs they offer that interest you.
- Know why you want to attend the school and decide how you will word your response—it's a question they're sure to ask.

At the interview, to make a good impression:

- Show up on time and dress appropriately (neat casual).
- Ask your parents to wait outside so you can talk to the officer alone.
- Use appropriate language – avoid using words such as 'uh', 'like', 'cause (instead of because)', 'you know?'
- Talk about your academic pursuits before you talk about your activities so they can see you are serious about studying.
- Be yourself and try to relax—remember it is as much a situation that you are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you.

Some college admissions officers might throw you a curveball to see how you'll react in an interview. Here are some examples of questions that have been asked in the past so you can prepare in case ones like this come your way:

- What was the worst decision you've ever made?
- How would your friends characterize you?
- What is your biggest regret about high school, and if you could change it, what impact would it have on you in the future as a college student?
- If you were a world leader, what would you do to bring more peace to the world?
- Where do you see yourself 20 years from now?
- Who is the most influential person in your life, and how have they influenced you?
- What book are you currently reading?
- What makes you a qualified to attend this college?
- What will be your greatest challenge in college?
- Why do you want to come to this college and not the others out there?
- Do you have any questions for me?

[Paying Your Way](#) (back to top)

[Scholarships & Grants](#)

[List of Scholarships](#)

[Financial Aid for Military Service](#)

[FAFSA](#)

[For the Boys](#)

Feeling frazzled about finding funds to finance your future? Unless your [parents](#) have agreed to pay your way, Grandpa Percy left you an inheritance, or you are an outstanding student who secures a full-ride [scholarship](#), chances are you will need financial assistance to fund your college tuition and living expenses.

Some points to consider:

- If financial aid is extremely important to your family, you might want to think about applying to colleges that are just below your academic profile. This way you'll be a more desirable candidate, and you will be more likely to receive significant scholarship and grant aid. Remember, the more a college wants you, the more likely they are to offer a financial aid package containing higher amounts of scholarship money and less loan money.
- When it comes to financial aid, guidance counselors say that the biggest mistakes families make are applying too late or not applying at all. Applying for financial assistance earlier is always better. Colleges tend to be more generous with the first few financial aid packages awarded than the last few.
- There are tons of [private scholarship programs](#) that donate funds based on criteria ranging from heritage to employment to what kind of toppings you like on your pizza.
- Uncle Sam wants you to go to college too. Need-based federal and state grants are there for the taking (see [FAFSA](#)).
- There is always the infamous student loan (that you have to pay back once you start working and making money).
- Many colleges offer work study programs in which you receive minimum wage in exchange for doing useful work on campus.
- You don't have to accept the first financial aid package that comes along. Excellent students often have colleges competing for their enrollment. If you don't think the financial aid package offered by your top choice college is good enough, call them and respectfully let them know what the other colleges are offering—they might just match it.
- A very early (and easy) way to squeeze free money out of a college is to ask the admissions office for a financial aid pre-read. They can project what they will be able to give you before you even apply. Unfortunately Ivy league colleges do not conduct pre-reads, so don't ask them.

Scholarships & Grants [\(back to top\)](#)

A word of warning! For all the legitimate scholarships offered, there seems to be almost as many scams.

No legitimate scholarship fund will offer you money for nothing.

No legitimate scholarship fund will promise that you will win anything in advance.

No legitimate scholarship fund will ever have an application fee (not even \$1)

No legitimate scholarship fund will ever require you to submit personal information (your social security number or bank account numbers, etc) in order to receive a scholarship.

The constantly increasing cost of higher education is enough to discourage any aspiring college-attende. Before you shelve your dreams to study beyond high school, do some research. In addition to the millions of dollars in federal and state aid available, thousands of grants are also awarded to undergraduate and graduate students each year by [private organizations](#). In fact, private and employer grants make up 7% of the total aid available to students pursuing post-secondary education and amounted to over 9 billion dollars in 2006.

Recipients may be determined based on merit (such as achieving certain test scores, athletic proficiency, or grade point averages), affiliations (such as membership in service clubs like the Lions), ethnicity, employment (companies may tuition reimbursement for good grades), or demographics (such as being a single parent). These scholarships can help recipients pay for tuition and class fees, room and board, even textbooks and other costs.

Five Essential Steps to Getting Private Scholarships [\(back to top\)](#)

While you may already feel overwhelmed by the college application process, much of the work you've done (such as identifying your skills, getting [recommendations](#), and writing [essays](#)) can be used to find and apply for [private scholarships](#). In fact, the process can be simplified into five straightforward steps. Follow them and you could find yourself much closer to financing your education. Most of the application deadlines for these private grants are in the late spring, and you need to take these deadlines seriously. Late arrivals generally receive form rejection letters. Start this process early to ensure you have enough time to make the cut.

1. Identify Your Niche

Everyone is a combination of distinctive talents, varying interests, personal beliefs, and a unique background, and it is precisely these differences that can help you win a private scholarship. Granting organizations usually look for candidates who have a particular skill or interest, belong to their organization, or are affiliated with a special interest group. To be more specific, your weekend hobby, summer job, or ethnic heritage could help you obtain funding for college.

To best identify your options, start by making a complete list of all the activities in which you have participated, clubs or groups you're a member of, your personal talents or skills, as well as your interests and potential area of study. Don't forget to ask your own employer about company scholarships or tuition reimbursement programs. Remember to include any organizations your parents or relatives are affiliated with as well, including employers, churches, or clubs. Even your neighborhood or hometown may offer funding for education. The more thorough you are with this list, the more opportunities you will find for scholarship assistance, so take your time and ask family members and friends for help if necessary.

2. Research Appropriate Organizations

Put your researching skills to the test (you'll need them in college) as you investigate pertinent [organizations](#) for each item on your list. The Internet is your best bet for finding these groups, and scholarship search engines can be a big help in obtaining information as well.

If you play the oboe, check out the Double Reed Society. If you're an aspiring potter, your state may have a potters' association that offers aid. Involved in environmental issues in your community? Look into the many non-profit organizations working on conservation projects. Planning to major in education or engineering? Many organizations offer funding to students based on their intended course of study, so don't forget to look into this option.

3. Make Contacts & Request Applications

Once you've discovered the groups that might have an interest in you, find out if they offer scholarship money. This information may be available on the organization's webpage, but if it's not don't be afraid to ask. It only takes a few minutes to send an email indicating your plans to study and inquiring about grants for post-secondary education. Your show of motivation could make a good impression on granting organizations.

4. Put It All Together

You have a folder full of applications for various scholarships. Great! Now what? The bad news is that this step of the process will take some elbow grease on your part. The good news is that you can use a lot of the materials that you've already developed for applying to colleges. Remember all those [letters of recommendation](#) that you had to get? Your advocates can easily alter them for scholarships. Did you pour out your heart in more than a few college [essays](#)? Feel free to use them again when appropriate.

Many organizations will require you to write about a topic that pertains to their area of interest. Take the time to reflect and write honestly on the [essay](#) topic, making sure to express your determination and desire to further your education. You might be asked to submit a portfolio of work or even a recording of your talent, if eligibility for the scholarship is determined by proficiency. Your grade point average may also be required in many cases, giving you yet another reason to be happy about all that hard work.

Perhaps the biggest challenge in the scholarship application process is organization. Each scholarship has a different deadline and distinct requirements. Use a calendar to manage your time and prioritize applications by due date. With the paperwork involved in multiple applications, you may find a set of folders to be helpful in keeping all the information together. Yes, it's a lot of work, but it's great preparation for those college classes next fall! As with college applications, don't forget to keep a copy of everything you send out, both for your own records and in case that you have to resubmit something.

5. Follow Up and Think Positively

All the envelopes are stamped and in the mail. You can heave a sigh of relief, but not before making a note to yourself to follow up with each organization in a week's time to check that they received your materials. After putting in all that work it would be a shame if your application didn't make it to its intended destination due to lack of postage or an illegible address.

Most organizations should be able to give you an idea of when they will choose grant recipients. If you don't

hear from them for a couple of weeks past this date, drop them a line. Checking in can never hurt (as long as you're not pestering them every week), and it could give you a leg up over other, less proactive, applicants.

You've done your part. Now relax and hope for the best. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Energy and persistence conquer all things". The time you put into scholarship research and applications will pay off, if not in the form of funds for school, then in all the things you learn about yourself and the skills you acquire in the process. Good luck!

Where to Look for Scholarships ([back to top](#))

You would be surprised that tens of thousands of companies, clubs, and organizations have scholarship programs. You just need to contact them and ask! Almost all are available for you to apply for during your High School years (and some as early as elementary school).

Perhaps the prestigious scholarships such as Gordon B Hinckley Scholarship, National Merit Scholarships, Bill Gates Scholarships are out of your reach, but did you know that companies like Olive Garden, Wendy's, McDonald's and KFC offer scholarships too? You might be surprised to learn that your local hardware store might offer scholarships you are eligible to apply for. Other places you might not think to look for scholarships are the park districts, religious institutions, family heritage based clubs, and other local businesses in an area. Sometimes these types of places have small \$500-\$1000 dollars scholarships, but get a bunch of them and they can really add up! Remember, the more you apply for, the better chance you have of winning one (or more).

Take charge and pick up the phone and make a few phone calls. Start with family and friends first. Make sure everyone you know knows that you are looking for scholarships for college and ask them to inquire at their businesses etc. You would truly be surprised how many companies have small scholarships. You may have heard of a story of a young man that found out through his mother's work that her business had a \$500 dollar one time only scholarship for college upperclassmen (juniors or seniors). Not only did he win the scholarship, he was the only one who applied! Spring semester books, paid for!

Special Scholarships ([back to top](#))

Have you heard about the special scholarships out there with money for the taking? You won't believe the kind of scholarships offering free money. The best part is that you don't have to be a straight A student or write the perfect essay to win!

Here's an example. Did you know there are scholarships offered for people of short stature (with a medically diagnosed form or dwarfism)? Small stature clubs may offer it, and so too the very university you are interested in attending may offer it if they feel their student body doesn't have enough people of small stature represented in their school. You just need to ask the financial aid person responsible for scholarships at the university and they should be able to help you with your search.

Think out of the box and let your imagination run wild. If you can imagine a quality, interest, preference, passion or talent, there's probably a scholarship out there for it. Your ability to earn bits of money here and there to put toward your college fund is only limited by your creativity. With that being said however, here is a sample list of some of the weirdest, odd and obscure scholarships advertised on the internet.

Short People Scholarships (generally below 4'-10")

Tall People Scholarships (women over 5'-10", men 6'-2")

Duct Tape Custom Wearing Scholarships

Descendents of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence Scholarships

Left Handed Scholarships
National Field Archery Association Scholarship
Star Trek Fan Scholarships
Poetry Out Loud
Milk Mustache Wearing Scholarships
Twins Scholarships
Scholarships for Obese Teens
Blue Eye Scholarships
Vegetarian Scholarships
Beef Eaters Scholarships
Woodworking Scholarships
Jamaican Citizen Scholarships
Animal Lover Scholarships

Additional Scholarship Links ([back to top](#))

Did you know there is even a scholarship available for your parents? It's called the Gen & Kelly Tanabe Parent Scholarship and grants \$1000 for the 250-word short answer essay the Tanabe's choose. There are two competitions each year – the Spring running from Jan 1st to July 31st each year, and the Fall running from August 1st to December 31st. Find out more about it at: <http://parentscholarship.com>

www.fastweb.com

www.collegeboard.com

www.collageanswer.com

www.scholarships.com

www.scholarshiphelp.org

www.finaid.org

www.freschinfo.com

List of Scholarships [\(back to top\)](#)

Scholarship availability and due dates change yearly.
Please check websites for current availability and due dates.

SEPTEMBER

UTAH HISPANIC BUSINESS LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: 2.0 or above GPA.
Must be of Hispanic/ Latino descent.
Demonstrated leadership and/or community service. Must be planning to attend a Utah college, university or vocational school.
DEADLINE: Sept 18
WEBSITE:
www.utahbar.org/bars/.../utah_hispanic_business_leaders.html

OCTOBER

UTAH CENTRAL CREDIT UNION YOUNG LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: 500 word essay for middle school and high school students.
AMOUNT: \$250-1000
DEADLINE: October 23
WEBSITE: www.utahcentral/teen.com

HORATIO ALGER SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Seniors with a strong commitment to completing a bachelor's degree at an accredited college. 2.0 GPA, critical financial need, perseverance in overcoming adversity, U.S. citizen.
AMOUNT: \$5000
DEADLINE: Oct 30
WEBSITE: horatioalger.org/scholarships

COCA-COLA SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: For seniors with GPA of 3.0 or better. Based on leadership, character, and achievement both inside and outside of the classroom.
AMOUNT: 50-Four-Year \$20,000 Scholarships
(\$5,000 per Year)
200-Four Year \$4,000 Scholarships
(\$1,000 per Year)
DEADLINE: October 31
WEBSITE: www.coca-colascholars.org

NOVEMBER

THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS - NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

CRITERIA: School's top community volunteer.
AMOUNT: \$1,000 and a trip to Washington D.C.
DEADLINE: Nov 2
WEBSITE:
www.principals.org/awards/prudential.cfm

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY VFW SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: 9- 12 grade. Essay and recording of essay required.
AMOUNT: Up to \$30,000.
DEADLINE: Nov 1
WEBSITE: www.vfw.org

BENNINGTON YOUNG WRITERS AWARD

CRITERIA: 10, 11 AND 12th grade students submit one of the following: poetry(a group of three poems), fiction (a short story or one-act play), or nonfiction (a personal or academic essay).
AMOUNT: \$250 - \$500.
DEADLINE: Nov 1
WEBSITE: www.bennington.edu/go/news/young-writers-competition

SUSAN G. KOMEN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

CRITERIA: Must be the child of a parent who has died of breast cancer, live in either Salt Lake, Davis, Weber or Utah Counties, exhibit financial need and plan to attend a state -supported college in Utah.
AMOUNT: up to \$10,000/yr.
DEADLINE: November 12
WEBSITE: www.komen.org/grants

RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

CRITERIA: For African American students who excel academically, show leadership potential, and are involved in community.
AMOUNT: \$10,000/year
DEADLINE: Nov1 & Jan 9
WEBSITE: www.ronbrown.org

FREEDOMS FOUNDATION AT VALLEY FORGE

CRITERIA: 11th grade students who demonstrate leadership qualities, high academic achievement, and exemplary citizenship. Essay required. Scholarship is cost less 300.00 of Spirit of Youth Conference held in Valley Forge, 2 PA. Sessions held Mar 12-15 or Apr 23-26, 2009.
DEADLINE: Nov 27
WEBSITE:

DECEMBER

TOYOTA COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

CRITERIA: Academic excellence and active participation in community service.
One student nomination per school
AMOUNT: \$10,000- \$20,000
DEADLINE: not offered in 2009
WEBSITE:
www.toyota.com/communityscholars

SHOPKO SCHOLAR

CRITERIA: Complete application (available at ShopKo). Based on academic record, need, community service, etc.
DEADLINE: December 1
WEBSITE: www.shopko.com

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF TV ARTS SCIENCES

CRITERIA: High school seniors who intend to major in television, telecommunications, or a similarly related field at a 4 yr college or university.
AMOUNT: \$40,000
DEADLINE: December 10
WEBSITE: www.wemmyonline.org

COMCAST LEADERS AND ACHIEVERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CRITERIA: 2.8 GPA or higher.
Demonstrate leadership abilities in school activities or through work experiences.
Strong commitment to and involvement in community service. One nominee per high school.
AMOUNT: \$1,000
DEADLINE:
WEBSITE: <http://www.comcast.com>

SCHOOL BAND AND ORCHESTRA MAGAZINE SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Essay writing with a different subject announced each year
AMOUNT: 5 x \$1,000 for grades 4 – 8 and 5 x \$1,000 for grades 9 - 12
DEADLINE: Dec 31
WEBSITE: <http://www.sbomagazine.com/>

AXA ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Demonstrate ambition and self-drive as evidenced by outstanding achievement in an activity in school, community or workplace.
AMOUNT: \$10,000 - \$25,000
DEADLINE: Dec 15
WEBSITE: www.axa-achievement.com

LYNN JENSEN MEMORIALSCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Seniors who plan to become a school counselor or public education teacher. Write an essay about a school counselor who has had a positive effect/influence on you and your school success.
AMOUNT: \$500.00
DEADLINE: December 18
WEBSITE:

JANUARY

NROTC SCHOLARSHIPS

CRITERIA: U.S. citizen who are 17years of age by Sept. 1st of the year you plan to enter college. Must apply to a NROTC college.
AMOUNT: full with subsistence
DEADLINE: January 1
WEBSITE: www.nrotcscholarship.com

TALBOTS SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Female senior with perseverance and ingenuity. Financial need, academic record required, list work experience and involvement in community activities.
AMOUNT: 10 scholarships of \$15,000, 1 scholarship of \$30,000.
DEADLINE: Jan 2
WEBSITE: www.scholarshipamerica.org/talbotswomen
Only the first 5,000 eligible applications submitted will be processed.

DISCOVER CARD TRIBUTE AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

CRITERIA: **Juniors** with 2.75 cumulative GPA or better and demonstrate accomplishments in 4 of 5 areas:
1. Special talents
2. Leadership
3. Obstacles overcome
4. Community Service
AMOUNT: State Scholarships Up to Nine Gold Awards - \$2,500 each
National Award \$25,000.00
DEADLINE: Application and Criteria Statement by January 7
WEBSITE: www.discovercard.com/tribute.htm

ELKS MOST VALUABLE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Academic excellence based on GPA, ACT, courses taken, extra-curricular activities, and financial needs. Suggested top 5% of graduating class.
AMOUNT: \$1,000-\$15,000
DEADLINE: January 14
WEBSITE: www.elks.org/enf/mvs.cfm

RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

CRITERIA: For African American students who excel academically, show leadership potential, and are involved in community.
AMOUNT: \$10,000/year
DEADLINE: November 15 & January 9
WEBSITE: www.ronbrown.org

JOHN F. KENNEDY PROFILE IN COURAGE ESSAY CONTEST

CRITERIA: 9th -12 grades. 1000 Word essay that demonstrates an understanding of political courage.
AMOUNT: \$500-5,000
DEADLINE: Jan 10
WEBSITE: www.jfklibrary.org

GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS

CRITERIA: African American, American Indian /Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American. Students are nominated based upon academic qualifications, particularly in math, science, engineering, education and library science.
AMOUNT: tuition, fees, books and living expenses
DEADLINE: January 12
WEBSITE: www.gmsp.org

WAL-MART/SAM WALTON COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CRITERIA: Any senior who is not an employee of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., or child/ dependent of an employee of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Based on financial need, academic record, ACT/SAT test scores, community/ extracurricular involvement and work experience.
AMOUNT: \$1,000
DEADLINE: Jan 14
WEBSITE: www.walmartfoundation.org

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

CRITERIA: Juniors or seniors, Residents of the United States
Essay required.
AMOUNT: \$100.00 - \$5,000.00
DEADLINE: Jan 15
WEBSITE: www.planning.org/institutions/hsessay.htm

PHI DELTA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL

CRITERIA: High School seniors whose intended college major is education. High academic standing, Essay, letters of

recommendation, involvement in school and community activities.
AMOUNT: \$1,000 - \$5,000
DEADLINE: January 15
WEBSITE: <http://pdkintl.org>

WASHINGTON CROSSING FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Students planning on a career in government service. U.S. Citizen and possess qualities of leadership, sincerity, historical perspective
AMOUNT: \$500 – \$5,000
DEADLINE: must be received by January 15
WEBSITE: www.gwcf.org

NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Senior who has Multiple Sclerosis or a parent with MS.
DEADLINE: January 15
WEBSITE:

MICRON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

CRITERIA: High school seniors. Combined SAT score of at least 1350 or ACT score of at least 30. GPA of at least 3.5. Plan to major in Engineering (Electrical, Computer Chemical, Mechanical), Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry or Material Sciences at the baccalaureate level. Demonstrated leadership.
AMOUNT: \$16,500 to \$55,000
DEADLINE: January 20
WEBSITE: www.micron.com/scholars

MCKELVEY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: High school senior who owns and operates own business with at least one paid employee
AMOUNT: \$10,000 per year
DEADLINE: Jan 25
WEBSITE: www.mckelveyfoundation.org

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL OFFICE PROFESSIONALS SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Seniors must intend to continue his/her education in an office related business field. Applicant must have completed two or more business education courses (four semesters). Must maintain a 2.9 GPA for the duration of the scholarship.
AMOUNT: \$ 500.00
DEADLINE: Jan 31
WEBSITE: www.uaeop.org

THE SPIRIT OF ANNE FRANK AWARDS

CRITERIA: Grades 9-12. 250 word essay, nomination, two sponsors. Attendance to award ceremony in New York mandatory
AMOUNT: Various awards, cost of travel if needed.
DEADLINE: Jan 31

WEBSITE: annefrank.com

CHICANO/A SCHOLARSHIP FUND

CRITERIA: Recipients are selected on the basis of family background, life challenges, involvement in community activities which strengthen the Latino community.

DEADLINE: Jan 31

WEBSITE:

ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Offered to one 10th grade student per school to pursue a bachelor's degree in math, science or engineering. Merit based.

AMOUNT: \$2000 - \$25,000.

DEADLINE: Jan 31

WEBSITE:

www.energysolutionsfoundation.org

PAPA JOHN,S SCHOLARS

CRITERIA: Any student with a 2.5 GPA. Different combination of intelligence. Encourages creative and interesting students who are motivated to continue their education.

AMOUNT: \$1,000

DEADLINE: January 31

WEBSITE: www.papajohnsscholars.com

FEBRUARY

AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST

CRITERIA: Original oration on some phase of the Constitution of the United States prepared by high school student presented at Post, District and State levels.

AMOUNT: \$1,500 - \$18,000

DEADLINE: February

AMOUNT: <http://www.legion.org/events>

IVORY HOMES SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Latino/a high school seniors who plan to attend the University of Utah. The student must desire a business career in management, marketing, finance, accounting, etc. Applicants do not have to be Business majors.

AMOUNT: \$4000 toward college expenses

DEADLINE: February 1

WEBSITE:

DAN HOLA LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Pacific Islander student who will be attending the University of Utah.

AMOUNT: \$1000 - \$2000

DEADLINE: Feb 1

WEBSITE:

RMHC/ AFRICAN-AMERICAN, ASIA, HACER AND UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIPS

CRITERIA: Have at least one parent of specified heritage. Eligible for a two or four year college. Demonstrate financial need in our region by recognizing their accomplishments, potential and commitment to serve the community.

AMOUNT: \$1,000

DEADLINE: February 1

WEBSITE: www.rmhscl.org

ITALIAN AMERICAN CIVIC LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Seniors who are of Italian ancestry. Scholarship award based on ACT or SAT scores. 300 word essay required.

AMOUNT: \$1000

DEADLINE: Feb 4

WEBSITE:

<http://www.italianamericancivicleague.com/Italian%20American%20Civic%20League%20Sch-Appl-2010.htm>

BEST TEEN CHEF

CRITERIA: Submit favorite recipe and 250 word essay.

AMOUNT: Tuition scholarship

DEADLINE: Feb 8

WEBSITE: www.artinstitutes.edu/btc

THE BLACK ADVISORY COUNCIL FUTURE LEADERSHIP

CRITERIA: African descent, 2.5 GPA. Two page essay.

AMOUNT: \$500.00

DEADLINE: Feb 8

WEBSITE:

KFC COLONEL SCHOLARS

CRITERIA: High School Senior planning to attend college in legal state of residence 2.75 GPA, U.S. citizen, or permanent resident. Compose a few short answer responses to various questions. Must apply for FAFSA.

AMOUNT: \$20,000.

DEADLINE: Feb 10

WEBSITE: www.kfcsholars.org

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARD

CRITERIA: Senior who demonstrates entrepreneurial spirit and initiative.

AMOUNT: \$1,000

DEADLINE: Feb 11

WEBSITE: www.goonline.com

AFA TEENS FOR ALZHEIMERS AWARENESS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: US Citizen. Submit a personal biography and 1200 word essay.

AMOUNT: \$5,000

DEADLINE: Feb 15

WEBSITE: www.afateens.org

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NATIONAL SOCIETY SHOLARSHIPS

CRITERIA: Multiple scholarships awarded with varying criteria. Must obtain a letter of sponsorship from local chapter of DAR

AMOUNT: varies

DEADLINE: Feb 15 and April 15

WEBSITE:

http://www.dar.org/natsociety/edout_scholar.cfm

COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP BY MONSANTO IMAGINE AND NAFB

CRITERIA: High School Senior who come from a farm family and plan to pursue a career in the field of agriculture.

AMOUNT: \$1,500

DEADLINE: February 15

WEBSITE: www.monsanto.com or www.nafb.com

BEST BUY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CRITERIA: 9-12 grade students with solid grades involved in volunteer community service or work experience.

AMOUNT \$1000 - \$1500

DEADLINE: Feb 15

WEBSITE: www.bestbuy.com/scholarship

BURGER KING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

CRITERIA: High school senior, U.S. resident, 2.5 GPA or higher, work part time, actively involved in community service, demonstrate financial need.

AMOUNT: \$1,000.00

DEADLINE: Feb 15

WEBSITE: www.bk.com/scholars

BEST BUY @15 SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: 9 – 12 grade students with solid grades, involved in volunteer community service or work experience.

AMOUNT: 1,000 scholarships of \$1,000 each

APPLY: between Dec 28, 2009 and Feb 15, 2010

WEBSITES:

www.bestbuy.com/scholarships or

www.at15.com

U.S. BANK INTERNET SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: High School Seniors planning to attend accredited two or four year colleges full-time. Award 5 recipients are selected through a random drawing process.

AMOUNT: \$1,000

DEADLINE: February 28

WEBSITE:

www.usbank.com/studentbanking

UCENT GLOBAL SCIENCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

CRITERIA: Students who distinguish themselves in math and science and demonstrate a strong interest in Information Technology related careers.

AMOUNT: \$5,000

DEADLINE: February

WEBSITE: www.iie.org

(Click on Corp./Found programs and then Award programs)

U OF U UTAH OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Students who live in the greater Salt Lake City area who are first-generation college students and/or who do not have other means to pay for college.
AMOUNT: \$5,000
DEADLINE: Feb 19
WEBSITE: www.utah.edu/

UTAH ASIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Must have contributed to the American Asian community. Good academic standing with a GPA of 2.0 or above required. Demonstrated involvement in school, community and/or service organizations.
AMOUNT: \$1,000
DEADLINE: Feb 20
WEBSITE:

ACCESS SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN

CRITERIA: Must be admitted to the University of Utah. For women in science and mathematics.
Must attend an integrated summer science course.
AMOUNT: \$3,500
DEADLINE: Feb 20
WEBSITE:

USA TODAY ALL - USA HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC TEAM

CRITERIA: Students who have independently completed a scholarly or artistic work, high grades and leadership experience.
AMOUNT: \$2,500
DEADLINE: February 22
WEBSITE: www.allstars.usatoday.com

CPU / LOMAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: 9 – 12 grades. 5 essay questions, financial information, 2 letters of recommendation, community and school activities.
AMOUNT: \$1,000
DEADLINE: Feb 27
WEBSITE: utah.cpcusociety.org

MARCH

SUSAN W. CODA SCHOLARSHIP - WOMEN ONLY

CRITERIA: Utah women only/attend university out of state; Acceptance to a four year school 3.8 GPA or higher, high SAT/ACT scores leadership, extra-curricular activities, be involved in community affair.
AMOUNT: \$4,000
DEADLINE: March 1

WEBSITE:

THE GOVERNOR'S HONORS ACADEMY

CRITERIA: Application submitted with the following information:
1. A resume of accomplishments
2. Two letters of recommendation
3. An official high school transcript
4. A 750 word essay on a topic of your choice
DEADLINE: March 1st - 50 students only
WEBSITE: www.suu.edu/gha

NSPE SCHOLARSHIP TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY IN ENGINEERING

CRITERIA: Seniors, ethnic minority going into engineering. US Citizen, SAT or ACT scores and transcript required. Letters of recommendation required.
AMOUNT: \$5000
DEADLINE: Must be received by Mar 1.
WEBSITE: nspe.org/scholarships

HONORS PROGRAM FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Any student accepted to the University of Utah and the Honors Program is eligible. Combination ACT/SAT and GPA index score of 120
AMOUNT: Tuition for 12 credit hours for 8 semesters (contingent upon maintaining a 3.4 grade point average).
DEADLINE: March 1
WEBSITE: www.honors.utah.edu

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

CRITERIA: Female students interested in math, science, engineering, medicine, finance or computers.
AMOUNT: \$2,000 post secondary scholarship
DEADLINE: March 1
WEBSITE: www.zonta.org

SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Utah residents with at least a 3.0 GPA who have been accepted at Salt Lake Community College, plan to attend full time, and show financial need.
AMOUNT: \$1,000/tuition and fees
DEADLINE: March 1
WEBSITE: www.slcc.edu

LARRY H. & GAIL MILLER ENRICHMENT SCHOLARSHIP - U OF U

CRITERIA: Senior whose ethnic background is under represented in higher education in Utah or those who are first generation college students. Must be admitted to the U of U. Demonstrate financial need; eligible for federal financial aid.
AMOUNT: Tuition, fees & books for 4 yrs.
DEADLINE: March 1
WEBSITE:

SLCC - ZIONS BANK FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Seniors of Utah high schools with at least a 3.0 grade point average. Acceptance to Salt Lake Community College for full time status is also required.
AMOUNT: Tuition for up to eight semesters
DEADLINE: March 1
WEBSITE: www.zionsbank.com/scholarship.jsp

KAPLAN /NEWSWEEK MY TURN AMERICAN LEGION EAGLE SCOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

CRITERIA: Eagle Scouts who are members of troops chartered to American Legion post or auxiliary units.
AMOUNT: 1st place winner - \$10,000
3-2nd place winners - \$2,500
DEADLINE: March 1
WEBSITE: www.legion.org

CTE SCHOLARSHIPS

CRITERIA: Seniors seeking an associate's degree or less, or seeking to be school teachers in CTE areas.
AMOUNT: One year college or ATC tuition.
DEADLINE: Mar 2
WEBSITE: www.schools.utah.gov/cte/scholarships

THE UTAH JAZZ - TEACHERS FOR ALL

CRITERIA: High academic achievement. Participation in minority communities (employment, civic, church, educational or club activities). Foreign language ability (helpful, not required). Public service. Recommendations. The selection committee reserves the right to call and verify all recommendations.
AMOUNT: \$1,000
DEADLINE: March 2
WEBSITE: www.utea.org

YOUTHLINC YOUNG HUMANITARIAN AWARD

CRITERIA: Essay, letters of recommendation, and above all, focused service efforts.
AMOUNT: \$1000 - \$ 5000
DEADLINE: Mar 7
WEBSITE: www.youthlinc.org

SAMMY - SCHOLAR ATHLETE MILK MUSTACHE OF THE YEAR

CRITERIA: Academic performance, Athletic excellence, Leadership skills, Community service
AMOUNT: \$7,500 in scholarships
DEADLINE: March 8
WEBSITE: www.bodybymilk.com

AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL PRESIDENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

CRITERIA: Children of veterans of WWII, Korean War, or Vietnam War. Based on

character, Americanism, leadership scholarship, and need. Must be child of veteran.

AMOUNT: \$1,000 - \$2,500

DEADLINE: March 10

WEBSITE: www.legion-aux.org

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Candidates shall be Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, have held membership in the American Auxiliary for the past three years. SAT or ACT scores and at least 3.0 GPA. AMOUNT: One (four year) scholarship will be awarded in each division of the Auxiliary in the amount of \$1,000 per year.

DEADLINE: March 10

WEBSITE: <http://www.legion-aux.org>

ANTHEM ESSAY CONTEST

CRITERIA: 9th and 10th graders.

Essay contest based on the book *Anthem* by Ayn Rand.

AMOUNT: \$300.00 – 2,000.00

DEADLINE: Mar 20

WEBSITE: www.aynrand.org

HORACE MANN SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Must be child or legal dependent of U.S. public or private school employee, 23 ACT or 1,100 SAT, B avg. GPA, entering a 2 or 4 yr. college in the fall, write 300-word essay.

AMOUNT: \$1,000 one time - \$10,000 (over 4yrs)

DEADLINE: March 15

WEBSITE: www.horacemann.com

FORD COUNTRY SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Any junior or senior student who plans to follow a career that supports rural life and livelihood. 2.5 GPA

AMOUNT: \$5,000

DEADLINE: March 17

WEBSITE: www.fordcountryscholars.com

JOE RHOADS SCHOLARSHIP UTAH SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

CRITERIA: Senior, U.S. Citizen Must have at least a 30 in math and a 26 in English on the ACT. Must be planning to major in engineering. Essay required.

AMOUNT: \$1,000.

DEADLINE: Mar 21

WEBSITE: www.uspeonline.com

ROBERT C. BYRD HONORS SCHOLARSHIP 7

CRITERIA: Exceptionally able students who show promise, continued excellence and who have been admitted to a post secondary school. GPA of 3.5 and ACT score of 25. AMOUNT: \$1,500 per year for 4 years

DEADLINE: March 27

WEBSITE: <http://www.usoe.org>

Click on Curriculum and Instruction

then Programs and then Scholarships

UTAH JUMP START COALITION/ UHEAA SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Demonstrate knowledge of financial literacy through an essay.

AMOUNT: \$1000.

DEADLINE Mar 28

WEBSITE: www.utjumpstart.org

UA INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF UTAH

CRITERIA: Business or insurance major, 3.0 GPA or above, extra-curricular activities at school, church, or work.

AMOUNT: 3 - \$1,000 Scholarships

DEADLINE: March 31

WEBSITE: www.uaiia.org

JANICE M. SCOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

CRITERIA: U.S. Citizen or permanent resident. 2.5 GPA. Demonstrated leadership abilities. Community service. Two letters of recommendation and essay required. Must be planning to attend an accredited four year institution.

AMOUNT: \$2,500 – \$20,000

DEADLINE: March 31

WEBSITE:

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CRITERIA: Students who are blind or visually impaired.

AMOUNT: \$500 - \$1500 state level

\$3,000 _ \$13,000 national level

DEADLINE: March 31 National

April 15 State

WEBSITE: www.nfb.org

UTAH PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION / MOUNTAIN AMERICA CREDIT UNION

CRITERIA: Individuals or dependents who belong to **both** Mountain America Credit Union and Utah Public Employees Association. Based on skill, scholastic ability, financial need, community service, and employment plans.

AMOUNT: 3 - \$1,000

DEADLINE: March 27

WEBSITE:

APRIL

MENS ITALIAN AMERICAN CIVIC LEAGUE

CRITERIA: Outstanding graduating high school senior of Italian ancestry. (At least one of the student's parents must be of Italian ancestry.)

AMOUNT: \$1,000

DEADLINE: Apr 1

APPLICATION available in the Counseling Center.

AMERICAN FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOC. SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

CRITERIA: Write essay on an assigned topic. Include a bibliography. Also, application and letter of recommendation.

DEADLINE: April 1

AMOUNT: \$1,000 - 4,000

WEBSITE: www.afsascholarship.org

CONWAY B. & ELAINE W. SONNE SCHOLARSHIP (UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY)

CRITERIA: High school seniors showing talent and potential for continued leadership.

AMOUNT: \$1,000-1,500

DEADLINE: Apr 3

WEBSITE:

PAUL R. BALL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Financial need, Scholastic ability, Community Service. Essay required. Parents must be a member of Mountain America Credit Union.

AMOUNT: \$1,500

DEADLINE: Apr 10

APPLICATION available in the Counseling Center.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SCHOLARSHIPS

CRITERIA: Multiple scholarships awarded with varying criteria. Must obtain a letter of sponsorship from local chapter of DAR

AMOUNT: varies

DEADLINE: Feb 15 and April 15

WEBSITE:

http://www.dar.org/natsociety/edout_scholar.cfm

FIRST IN MY FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Hispanic-American students who are first in their family to attend college, and have financial need. U.S. citizens or permanent residents. 3.0 GPA.

AMOUNT: \$500 - \$ 5000

DEADLINE: Apr 15

WEBSITE: www.hispanicfund.org

THE FOUNTAINHEAD ESSAY CONTEST

CRITERIA: Juniors and seniors. Essay contest based on the book *The Fountainhead* written by Ayn Rand.

AMOUNT: \$50.00 - \$ 10,000.00

DEADLINE: APR 15

WEBSITE: www.aynrand.org

AMERICAN DREAM SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: African American students with financial need. U.S. citizens or permanent residents. 2.5 GPA .

AMOUNT: \$500 - \$5000

DEADLINE: Apr 15

WEBSITE: www.uncf.org

CANCER SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CRITERIA: Graduating seniors from the Rocky Mountain States who were diagnosed with cancer before the age of 21 and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Based on academic performance, community service, leadership and financial need.
AMOUNT: \$1,000
DEADLINE: April 16
WEBSITE: www.cancer.org
TELEPHONE: 800-729-1151
Applications are mailed to students upon request.

YOUNG NATIVE WRITERS ESSAY CONTEST

CRITERIA: For Native American high school students. Essay required.
AMOUNT: \$1,000. - \$5,000.
DEADLINE: April 15
WEBSITE:

HILL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

CRITERIA: Must be a dependant of a Hill AFB employee. Scholarships awarded in two categories; Academic achievement and Essay
DEADLINE: Apr 18
WEBSITE:

UTAH JUMP\$TART COALITION/ UHEAA SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Demonstrated knowledge of financial literacy .Essay up to 750 words. FAFSA and college applications required.
AMOUNT: \$1,000
DEADLINE: APR 17
WEBSITE: www.utjumpstart.org

JIFFY LUBE "YOUR TURN BEHIND THE WHEEL" SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Grades 9-12. 500 word essay on "what drives you now".
AMOUNT: UP TO \$3,500
DEADLINE: Apr 19
WEBSITE: yourturn2apply.com

UTAH MORTGAGE LENDERS ASSOCIATION

CRITERIA: 100-word essay entitled The American Dream of Home Ownership for high school seniors.
AMOUNT: \$500.00
DEADLINE: April 30
WEBSITE:

UTAH TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Senior with asthma. Must be U.S. citizen, 3.5 GPA. Scholarships available in Performing Arts , Visual Arts, Community Service, Athletics, Science
AMOUNT: \$5,000
DEADLINE: Apr. 19
WEBSITE:

MAY

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY OGDEN ALUMNAE CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: High school graduate. African American male or female, official transcript, letters of recommendation, 500 word essay.
AMOUNT: \$ 1,000
DEADLINE: May 1
WEBSITE:

PFIZER EPILEPSY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

CRITERIA: 12 grade student who is under a doctor's care for epilepsy Successful in school and outside activities. Two letters of recommendation required.
AMOUNT: \$3000
DEADLINE: 5/1
WEBSITE: www.epilepsy-scholarship.com

AEMP LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CRITERIA: 500 word essay, two letters of recommendation, 3.0 GPA
DEADLINE: Apr 30
WEBSITE: www.utahtrappers.org

ALLIANCE FOR UNITY

CRITERIA: Given to high school students in Utah who exemplify the ideals of unity, civility and respect of others in their daily lives and have crossed boundaries of culture, religion and ethnicity to better understand and accept others.
AMOUNT: 20 - \$500 each
DEADLINE: April 30st
WEBSITE:

WILL TO WIN SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Does heavy equipment inspire you? Letters of recommendation from an educator and employer required. 3.0 GPA.
AMOUNT: Up to \$2000
DEADLINE: MAY 1
WEBSITE: www.aemp.org/scholarship.htm .

COLLEGE BOUND MAGAZINE-STUDENT OF THE YEAR CONTEST

CRITERIA: Essay, academic excellence, transcript
AMOUNT: 1. Personal Computer
2. \$5,000.00
3. Microsoft software
4. Winter break ski trip
5. \$500 first semester textbooks
6. Class ring
DEADLINE: May 14
WEBSITE: www.collegebound.net

EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

CRITERIA: Based on GPA, ACT and SAT scores, activities and financial need
AMOUNT: \$1000 - \$5,000
DEADLINE: May 15
WEBSITE:

UNMET NEED SCHOLARSHIP

CRITERIA: Open to families with a combined income of \$ 30,000 or less, this program supplements financial aid packets that that fall more than \$1,000 short of students' financial needs. U.S. citizen or permanent resident. 2.5 GPA .
AMOUNT: \$1,000 - \$3,800
DEADLINE: May 31
WEBSITE: www.thesalliemaeFund.org/smfnew/scholarship/unmet_need.htm

EDUCATION IS FREEDOM NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CRITERIA: US resident, GPA 3.0 -3.5. Financial need. activities and leadership.
AMOUNT: \$2,000
DEADLINE: May 31
WEBSITE: www.educationisfreedom.com

Financial Aid for Military Service [\(back to top\)](#)

In order to receive aid, you must give a commitment to serve in the armed forces. Check out the pros and cons of enlisting in the [Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines](#). If you decide it is right for you and enlist, after your tour of service for the military is over, you can take advantage of the GI Bill, which contributes to an education fund.

Find out if your parents were ever part of the military. If they were, you might be eligible for help with a loan.

If you decide you would like to attend college before serving in the military, you could consider attending a military academy. After this form of college you will be required to serve four years in the military as an officer. Be aware though, that admission to a military academy is extremely competitive and requires superior grades, activities, and test scores, as well as a letter of recommendation from a Senator, State Representative, or ranking government official.

You can serve part-time in the Coast Guard, National Guard, or Reserves. Scholarship opportunities are open to you if you do so.

Keep this in mind too – after you attend college and feel burdened by your hefty student loan, Uncle Sam will lend a hand if you decide that then is the right time to join and serve in the military.

FAFSA [\(back to top\)](#)

You should fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), even if you don't think you'll qualify for assistance. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to print out a copy of the form.

- Some colleges even require that parents fill out these forms to receive merit (free) money, so it's a good idea that they take an hour or two and make sure it is filled out.
- Ask your parents to file their taxes in January instead of April. This way you can send in the FAFSA earlier than the rest of the financial aid seekers, and you'll have a good shot at a better package.
- Some colleges require that you submit the CSS (College Scholarship Profile) as well as FAFSA. You can find this form at www.profileonline.collegeboard.com The CSS provides more detailed information about your family's financial status, which allows private colleges to evaluate other factors in your request for financial aid.

For the Boys [\(back to top\)](#)

If you're a boy, make sure you register for the Selective Service by your 18th birthday. Otherwise you won't be eligible for federal aid. You can register on your FAFSA form or go to the Selective Service website at www.sss.gov

Tips for Talking to Parents [\(back to top\)](#)

Exodus 20:12 “Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the lord thy God giveth thee.”

This is the first commandment your loving Heavenly Father gives you that is accompanied by a promise. Your parents love you and want what’s best for you. Their love and concern for you began even before you were born and will not stop once you leave home and gone off to college. It is that same love that sends them to their knees before their Heavenly Father as they pray for your safety, guidance and advice on how to help you through troubling times in your life. The spirit often prompts them what to say and share with you. If you prepare your heart to listen to them, you are certain to glean pearls of wisdom. Listening and weighing their counsel will go far to help you make informed decisions and is a way you can give them the honor the commandment requires.

Elder Ballard gave a wonderful gave an excellent discourse in the General Priesthood Session of October 2009 General Conference about the importance of the relationship between fathers and sons. We can be sure the same counsel relates to the importance of the relationship between mothers and daughters.

“You see, we’re all on a journey. Dads are a little further down the road, but none of us has yet arrived at our final destination. We are all in the process of becoming who we will one day be. Fathers and sons can play a critical role in helping each other become the best that they can be. Young men, you are your father’s pride and joy. In you they see a promising future and their hope for a better, improved version of themselves. Your accomplishments are a joy to them. Your worries and problems are their worries and problems. Ask your father for advice. Let’s be honest: he is probably going to give you his advice whether you ask for it or not, but it just works so much better when you ask! Nothing shows respect for another person as much as asking for his advice, because what you are really saying when you ask for advice is, “I appreciate what you know and the experiences you have had, and I value your ideas and suggestions.”

Read the full talk at <http://lds.org/conference/talk/display/0,5232,23-1-1117-16,00.html>

Sometimes your relationship with your parents can become strained when it comes to ‘helping you’ choose a college, especially if they are trying to convince you to go to their alma mater.

Here’s how to get around it:

- Do the research on your favorites and theirs. Make sure you don’t want to attend their alma maters because they’re not right for you—not just because you want to be different from Mom or Dad.
- Speak intelligently about the colleges that DO interest you. Show your parents that you’re taking college seriously and that you have tangible reasons for liking your top picks.
- Be assertive, not overly emotional. If you don’t want to attend your parents’ old colleges, tell them nicely. Don’t blow up at them—even if they’re pressuring you because a) they’re your parents (see above commandment) and, b) it will make you seem immature, and c) they’ll probably be paying the college bills.

The LDS Perspective on Education [\(back to top\)](#)

Pick up any Church publication, listen to any BYU or CES devotional or fireside, hear the words of modern day prophets and general authorities and there's no denying that you belong to a Church that places great emphasis on education. The Church has made it so easy for us to be able to read and hear many excellent discourses and talks about the importance of education. These are the best websites:

www.lds.org The Church's official website with the ability to search curriculum, General Conference addresses and other resources.

www.byub.org BYU Broadcasting website which provides audio and manuscripts for most CES firesides, college devotionals, etc given at BYU in Provo, Idaho and Hawaii. When you watch a talk on BYU TV (if it is not a General Conference talk which would be accessible on the lds.org website), you will usually find it here.

www.besmart.com The Church's website specifically designed for youth. It also contains information on college counseling, Seminary and Institute.

“For members of the Church, education is not merely a good idea—it's a commandment.”

(Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Two Principles for Any Economy,” *Ensign*, Nov 2009, 55–58)

“You might recall a story about a person who was asked to build a house. He decided to cut corners, use cheap materials, and do a poor job. When he was done, the owner handed the builder the key, and said, “I'd like to give you this house as a gift.” Attending university is like that. You can work hard and do a good job. Or you can cut corners and do a poor job. Either way, you're the person who will live in the house for the rest of your life.”

(James D. Gordon III, Prof of Law J. Reuben Clark Law School, BYU at a BYU-Idaho Devotional, June 16, 2009)

“Take full advantage of the opportunities that you have. They pass quickly. The time for preparation, though it seems long now, is really brief. I think back on my grandfather, who was an immigrant from Sweden. When I [was] a freshman, he and my grandmother helped me move my things into the dorm. He ... mused somewhat, saying, ‘Oh, if only I had had this kind of opportunity for education, I would have amounted to something.’ He was a great man in many, many ways, but it made me appreciate the unique blessing I had of education, of preparation, of learning, of experiences and associations. ... Don't let them pass. Be serious enough that you take full advantage of that.”

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, press conference, April 6, 2008; audio available at newsroom.lds.org.