

College Prep Resources

College Information

- *College Fair*: Create an account to attend a local college fair. Information is given only to colleges selected via a barcode system: www.gotomyncf.com
- *College Searches*: Search for colleges by location, degrees offered, and different majors:
 - nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator
 - www.collegewise.com
 - knowhow2go.acenet.edu
 - studentaid.ed.gov/prepare-for-college/choosing-schools
 - www.educationconnection.com
 - www2.princetonreview.com/college-advice/find-your-best-fit
- *Essay Writing Tips*: The application essay shows the student's writing skills, arrangement of thoughts on paper, and tells a little bit about him/herself. The topic should represent the student and his/her plans. Before submitting, always have the essay reviewed and proofread by different persons, making note of any suggestions for improvement: www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/essay-questions
- *NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Clearinghouse/Eligibility Center*: Any student wanting to play on a Division I or II team must apply. Enter '9999' as one of the college choices to have ACT or SAT test scores sent to the Eligibility Center: web3.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp
- *Selective Service*: As a condition of enrollment for most public colleges, all males over 18 years of age who are not already in the armed forces, must register with the Selective Service System. You must have a social security number to register online: www.sss.gov
- *SouthArk*: All Arkansas public high school students are required to take at least one *digital learning course* for credit to graduate. This requirement allows high school students the opportunity to build a solid foundation for success in a digital world. Contact the high school counselor or local community college for additional information: www.southark.edu/student-services/college-transition
- *SSN (Social Security Number)*: Follow these steps to get a new social security number: www.ssa.gov/ssnumber
- *Resume Builder*: The Kuder Journey and Navigator can assist with creating a resume: arkansasworks.kuder.com

Financial Aid

- *FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)*: The FAFSA must be completed to be considered for any type of federally funded financial aid. Parents should inquire as to their eligibility for the Hope Credit, Lifetime Learning Credit, and other tax benefits as a result of having a child enrolled in college: www.fafsa.ed.gov
- *Financial Aid FAQ*: Find answers to many commonly asked questions about college financial aid:
 - www2.princetonreview.com/college-advice#s3
 - www.college.gov
 - www2.ed.gov/finaid/landing.jhtml
 - www.studentaid.ed.gov
- **Individual Scholarships**:
 - *Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship* – The 'Lottery Scholarship' is paid to Arkansas students who meet certain financial and academic criteria: scholarships.adhe.edu
 - *Buick Achievers Scholarship* – Receive up to \$100,000 over four years if your field of study is in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics). Annual deadline to apply is in early February: www.BuickAchievers.com
 - *El Dorado Promise* – This unique scholarship program, established and funded by Murphy Oil Corporation, provides El Dorado High School graduates with a scholarship covering tuition and mandatory fees that can be used at any accredited two- or four-year, public or private educational institution in the United States: www.eldoradopromise.com
 - *Financial Literacy Challenge Scholarship* – Complete an online money quiz to possibly win a \$36,000 college scholarship: www.53schools.com
 - *Military* – Every branch of the military can assist with paying for college:
 - Army www.army.mil
 - Marines www.marines.mil
 - Navy www.navy.mil
 - Air Force www.af.mil
 - National Guard www.ng.mil
 - Coast Guard www.uscg.mil
- *Scholarships*: Search thousands of scholarships, fellowships, loans, and other financial aid opportunities:
 - www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch
 - www.fastweb.com
 - studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships
- *Scholarship Scams*: Learn how to spot potential scholarship scams, fraud, and avoid paying for free services: studentaid.ed.gov/types/scams

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Testing

- *Accuplacer*: This online, computer-adaptive placement test assesses a student's academic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. Accuplacer's score reports provide early indicators of college preparedness and course placement where a student can confidently meet classroom demands and achieve their academic goals: www.collegeboard.com/accuplacer
- *ACT (American College Test)*: This multiple-choice exam consists of 4 main sections (English, reading, math, and science) with an optional 30-minute writing section. The ACT measures what has been learned in school and is one of the core college admissions exams. Scores range from 1 to 36 with an average score of 21. Usually it is given 6 times per year and takes about 4 hours to complete:
 - www.princetonreview.com
 - www.actstudent.org
- *AP (Advanced Placement) Testing*: Taking AP, honors, and dual enrollment classes shows academic vigor and the ability to tackle demanding material. Achieving 3 or higher out of 5 on an AP test may earn college credit which will save money and time: PrincetonReview.com/APInfo
- *ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)*: This multiple-aptitude military entrance test measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. The areas of word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, arithmetic reasoning, and mathematics knowledge are tested. It can be taken either during the junior or senior year of high school and is administered at military recruitment offices: official-asvab.com
- *PLAN*: This multiple-choice test covers the academic areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science. Usually it is taken during the sophomore year of high school and can be scheduled through the high school counselor's office. The PLAN is practice for the ACT test and provides an estimated ACT score. The PLAN is designed to improve students' preparation for education, training, and work after high school while there is still time to adjust their high school courses. Students who take the PLAN tend to score higher on the ACT than students who do not:
 - www.act.org/planstudent
 - www.act.org/path/parent/tests/plan.html
- *PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test)*: The PSAT is practice for the SAT test and should be taken prior to completing the junior year in high school. It takes about half the time of the SAT and does not have an essay or Algebra II section. PSAT scores serve as a strong indicator of potential SAT scores. High PSAT scores, excellent grades, and a recommendation letter from the high school are needed to qualify as a finalist for the National Merit, National Achievement, and/or National Hispanic Scholarship: www.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt
- *SAT (Scholastic Achievement Test)*: This multiple-choice exam measures ability rather than knowledge. The SAT consists of math, critical reading, and writing. Scores range from 600 to 2400 with an average score of 1500. The SAT is one of the core college admissions exams, takes approximately 4 hours to complete, and can be taken up to 9 times: sat.collegeboard.org/home
- *SAT Subject Tests*: These one-hour, multiple-choice exams focus on specific subject matter knowledge within five general categories: English, math, history, science, and languages. Each subject test is scored on a scale from 200 to 800 which demonstrate subject-matter strengths:
 - www.princetonreview.com/college/sat_subject-tests-information
 - sat.collegeboard.org/register
- *Test Prep*: Prepare to take the SAT, ACT, PSAT, AP Exams, and SAT Subject Tests by taking online tutorials:
 - www.princetonreview.com/Events
 - www.testprepreview.com

Career

- *Arkansas Job Link*: Create a Job Seeker account to assist with job searching, resume building, and other employment opportunities in Arkansas: www.arjoblink.arkansas.gov
- *Career Interests*: Explore different Arkansas careers by groupings of similar occupations or career clusters: discoverarkansas.net
- *Career Search*: Search hundreds of career choices while reviewing current detailed descriptions of a potential career and its future earnings expectations: www.princetonreview.com/career-search
- *Kuder Navigator*: Discover and build a career around your unique interests, skills, and learning styles: kudernavigator.com
- *Occupational Outlook Handbook*: Guide full of career information for hundreds of different occupations: www.bls.gov/ooh
- *O*Net Online*: Explore different career possibilities by looking at detailed descriptions, job analysis, and salary information for numerous career areas: www.onetonline.org
- *My Next Move*: Match interests and skills to a career while being able to see the average yearly salary of a potential career: www.mynextmove.org