

The University Application

- 1. When do I apply?** It is recommended to apply early!! The application for admission to Arizona universities is also used as the application for academic scholarships (merit-based). Check websites for types of admission and deadlines. Check to see if out-of-state has early action or early decision options.
- 2. How do I apply?** Universities prefer on-line applications. Check to see if the common application can be used for out-of-state applications. (www.commonapp.org)
- 3. Is there a fee?** Yes, \$25.00 for NAU, \$50 for ASU and U of A – fee waivers are available with counselors for those students who qualify. Out-of-state application fees average \$50-\$75.
- 4. Do I have to declare a major?** No, many students apply as undeclared or undecided. Students might be admitted to a university but may not be admitted to the program they desire. Check each university for special admission criteria for each field.
- 5. How do I request transcripts?** Students can request transcripts to be sent in the Career Center.
- 6. How do I send my SAT/ACT scores?** Scores must be sent directly from ACT and/or SAT. Students should list the DVHS code (030144) on the testing registration, although SAT and/or ACT scores are NOT sent with the official transcript from DVHS.
- 7. Do I really need to take the SAT or ACT? Which test should I take?** If you plan to attend a university after graduation, you must take the ACT or SAT. Most schools accept either test for admission. Scores must be received by the universities before the student's application can be reviewed for scholarships. Fliers are available explaining the difference between the SAT and ACT tests.
- 8. How do I register for the SAT or ACT?** You can register online. SAT website is: www.Collegeboard.com and the ACT website is: www.ACTstudent.org. The Career Center also has paper registration packets, Test Prep information, and practice books for both tests.
- 9. How will I hear if I have been accepted?** Arizona universities will mail you a letter of admission, usually taking 4-6 weeks. The University of Arizona will include scholarship awards at the same time. Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University scholarship award letters will arrive in a few weeks after your letter of acceptance. Out-of-state notification depends on the type of admissions.

Applying for Financial Aid

- 1. What are the four basic types of financial aid?** Grants, loans, scholarships, and work-study.
- 2. How do I apply for Financial Aid?** You cannot apply for Federal financial aid until after January 1st of your senior year. You can apply online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov. You can also pick up a paper application in the Career Center, which will be available in December. For questions about FAFSA on the web, call 1-800-801-0576.
- 3. What type of information is asked for on the FAFSA?** Both the student and parents' social security numbers are needed along with, W-2 forms, other records of money earned by you and your parents, prior year's federal income tax return, and bank statement information.
- 4. Do I have to register with the Selective Services?** In order for male students to receive federal financial aid, they must be registered with the Selective Service.
- 5. When is the deadline for my Financial Aid Application?** It is recommended to complete the FAFSA by March 1st. Help in filling out the form is available at "College Goal Day" to be held in February. Information is available at www.collegegoalsunday.com.
- 6. What happens after I apply?** After a few weeks of submitting the FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). Review the SAR and make any necessary changes and re-submit for processing. The SAR will give your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Schools you have applied to will also receive this information and then determine your financial need to attend their school based on the formula: Cost of Attendance (COA) – Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = Financial Need.
- 7. What is a financial award letter?** Schools will send our financial aid award letters only after students have been accepted for admission. The letter will detail the types of financial aid that will be awarded (grants, loans, scholarships, work-study). Students have a choice to accept all or part of the financial aid package.
- 8. What is the difference between grants and scholarships?** A scholarship is a gift of money that does not need to be paid back after you finish college. It is awarded on specific criteria such as grades, athletics, community service, leadership, etc. Grants also do not need to be paid back but are based on financial need only.
- 9. Where can I get information about scholarships?** Scholarship notices are posted in the Career Center on the Scholarship board and on the DVHS Counseling/Guidance website: www.dvusd.org/dvhs
- 10. Can I negotiate my financial aid package?** If an award package is much lower than what is being offered by similar institutions, families should call and ask if there is additional information that may make a difference. Colleges store data in different ways; they may have missed something important in your financial picture.

How do I finance my college education?

Financial Aid is based on need, merit, or both.

Grants

This is money that does not have to be repaid. Most grants come from the federal government, the state, or from the college/university itself. Grants are also available from other sources, such as tribal grants for students who are American-Indian descent.

Scholarships

This is money that does not have to be repaid. Most scholarships are awarded from the college/university itself. The only application for applying for academic (merit-based) scholarships from Arizona universities are to apply for admission. Arizona universities use many factors, including but not limited to: rank, GPA, competitiveness of the course curriculum, SAT/ACT scores, and academic interests. Check each university website for current scholarship information.

Deer Valley High School Career Center receives local and national scholarship information. Scholarship information that is received is dispensed in the following ways:

- *Daily bulletin and announcements
- *Postings in the Career Center -
- *Postings in the classrooms
- *Posted on the Deer Valley Counseling website
<http://www.dvUSD.org/dvhs> and then click on counseling (on the bottom left of home page)
or at: dvUSD.org/scholarships

Loans

Student loans are the most common way of financing a college education. Students or parents can take out student loans. Loans are available from the federal government or private lenders. Federal loan programs include: Subsidized and Unsubsidized Safford Loans, PLUS Loans (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students) and consolidation loans.

Work-study

Work-study jobs are paid jobs that are mostly on-campus.

SENIOR YEAR TIMELINES

UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PROCESS- APPLY EARLY!!

A complete application includes:

- ✓ **Application - On-line**
- ✓ **Official Transcript sent from DVHS: fill out request form in Career Center**
- ✓ **If applicable: Official Transcript sent from Rio Salado for Dual Enrollment classes and any other Community College classes you have taken. This is the student's responsibility.**
- ✓ **SAT/ACT scores sent from the testing center**
- ✓ **Fee paid**

Additional requirements for many out-of-state universities:

- ✓ **Essay**
- ✓ **Letters of recommendation**

September

- ❖ Prepare and register for the ACT or SAT if not taken yet or your spring scores are not satisfactory
- ❖ Apply on-line to universities. Fee waivers to Arizona universities are available from the Career Center for students who qualify
- ❖ If applying to out-of-state universities, check to see if the common application is used (www.commonapp.org)
- ❖ Request that an official transcript be sent from DVHS (request in Career Center)
- ❖ Have Dual Enrollment and any other Community College transcripts sent also
- ❖ Check on-line at the university website for admission status
- ❖ Attend The Greater Phoenix National College Fair on Sunday, September 28th, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Phoenix Convention Center
- ❖ Meet with college representatives who come to DVHS
- ❖ Continue to visit colleges
- ❖ Check in the Career Center about upcoming scholarships
- ❖ Register with www.fastweb.com for a free scholarship search
- ❖ Do volunteer and community service work. Check in the Career Center for postings or visit: www.phoenixvolunteer.org for ideas
- ❖ Talk to recruiters about ROTC Scholarships

October/November

- ❖ Continue working on applications – check deadlines
- ❖ Attend the In-State College Night in September – date, location, and time TBA
- ❖ Continue working on scholarships
- ❖ Meet with college representatives who come to DVHS

December/January

- ❖ Pick up the Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) forms in the Career Center or online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov
- ❖ Continue to search for scholarships.
- ❖ Meet with college representatives who come to DVHS
- ❖ January 1st- first day you can start your FAFSA application

February/March

- ❖ Attend financial aid workshop -“College Goal Sunday” in February located throughout the city. Locations available at: www.collegegoalsunday.com
- ❖ Priority deadline for the FAFSA is February 14th! Arizona universities start awarding on March 1st
- ❖ Continue scholarship search
- ❖ Meet with college/university representatives who come to DVHS
- ❖ Take the Accuplacer placement test if you are going to a Community College

April

- ❖ Review acceptance and financial aid packages. Visit colleges again, if need be, before your final decision
- ❖ Fill out application for Community College and meet with academic counselor at that college
- ❖ Continue to search for scholarships
- ❖ Notify Mrs. Walters in the Career Center of any scholarships and awards/recognition received, so you can be recognized at the Senior Award Ceremony (May 26, 2015)

May

- ❖ Notify the college of your choice of your acceptance and return appropriate paperwork
- ❖ Take AP exams if you are eligible
- ❖ Attend the Senior Awards Ceremony – May 26th in the Auditorium.
- ❖ Continue to search for scholarships
- ❖ At Senior check out, request final transcripts to be sent to the university you will be attending
- ❖ Request Rio Salado and/or other Community College Transcripts to be sent- forms are available in the Career Center
- ❖ GRADUATE!—Friday, May 29, 2015 at 2:30 – University of Phoenix Stadium