



# Counseling Newsletter

**November 2024**



## AZ College Connect

College is a gateway to your dreams, helping you to reach higher, dream bigger, and achieve what matters to you. It's about becoming the best version of yourself, ready to make a positive impact on the world. Embrace the adventure and get ready to find the inspiration to chase your dreams and turn them into reality!

Explore the majors and degrees ASU, NAU, and UA are offering [here](#).

Keep in mind, switching majors is normal. College is about exploration, finding yourself, and refining your interests.

If you don't know where to start, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has a list of fastest growing occupations. You can view their list [here](#).

## FYI

By 2030, 37% of new jobs created will require a bachelor's degree!

College graduates earn an average of \$22,500 more per year than a high school graduate.

## Why does college matter?

- Discover your passion.
- Become independent
- Build connections, community, and friendships
- Broaden your horizons
- Explore innovation
- Fulfill your dreams
- Solve Challenges
- Develop flexibility
- Expand your career opportunities
- Increase your earning potential





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# Important Dates

**November 1-15: Early Action Deadline for College Apps**

**November 11: Veteran's Day (No School)**

**November 12: College Workshop at CHS Library**

**November 12: FSA ID & FAFSA Workshop @ CHS Library**

**November 13: Full Day Wednesday**

**November 15: FSA ID Workshop @ CHS Library**

**November 25-29: Thanksgiving Break (No School)**

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## Co-Enrollment

### What if I want to take a class that Cactus doesn't offer?

PUSD students have the opportunity to take unique courses offered on other campuses.

### What about transportation?

There are a few methods of transportation:

- 1) District transportation is provided one way and only **1st** or **5th** period.
- 2) You can drive yourself (must purchase parking pass at home school).
- 3) Parents can drive you to and from class.

### How do I request to co-enroll?

Make an appointment with your counselor to talk about the different class options and transportation. Your counselor will give you a co-enrollment form to fill out and get signed.

## Senior Reminders

Order your cap and gown **here**.  
To get the basic cap and gown unit, click **here**!

Visit this website for college essay support!

Meet with your counselor or the career specialist if you need help.

Schedule a college tour to help you narrow down your options.

## Freshman ECAP Schedule

### Presentation

Monday, November 4  
1st - 5th period  
Room 225

### Makeup Day

Tuesday, November 5  
2nd period  
Room 225

### Rotation

Monday - Friday  
November 12 - 15  
1st - 5th period  
ECAP Meetings



## College Workshops

Do you need help with college applications, scholarships, or NCAA/NAIA eligibility? Are you stuck not knowing what to do first?

Stop by at the **CHS Library from 3pm - 6pm** for the College Workshop! We can guide you and provide you with answers to your post-secondary questions.

Future dates:

January 6

March 3

April 7

## FAFSA FAQs

- The FAFSA launches on December 1st
- High school seniors will complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA Form
- 2023 Income and Tax info is required
- **Students** and **parents** will need to create an FSA ID prior to completing the FAFSA
- Use your personal email when creating your FSA ID

## FAFSA Workshops

- **11/12 and 11/15:** FSA ID Workshops will be hosted in the library during English or Social Studies class. Seniors, you will need to know your social security number to create your FSA ID. Don't bring your card to school.
- **12/5, 12/10, 12/17:** FAFSA Event for students and parents/guardians from 2:30 - 5:00 pm. Snacks and drinks provided.
- **1/13, 1/15, 1/22:** FAFSA All Day Workshop @ CHS Library. Students can make appointments or walk in for help.

Students who complete the FAFSA are entered in a drawing to win a prize. Prizes are drawn every Friday for the entire month of January.



# Grief Awareness

## November is Children and Teens Grief Awareness Month

Peoria Unified School District is partnering with Billy's Place to raise awareness of childhood grief, as November 21, 2024 is Children's Grief Awareness Day.

Throughout the month, staff, parents/guardians, and students will learn about the importance of understanding and supporting childhood grief.

Your child will be given the opportunity to engage in an optional activity to show support for those who have lost a loved one on **Thursday, November 21, 2024** during lunch.

### Why:

- In the US, 1 in 12 children will lose a parent or sibling by the time they reach 18.
- Our response can either serve as a source of support and stability during a difficult time or as an additional hurdle to overcome - we want our school to be a source of support.
- Children take much longer to deal with grief than we expect and they experience inner turmoil that we need to be aware of.
- We want people to learn new ways they might help a grieving child they happen to know.

For additional information, please contact:  
Shannon Threadgill at [stthreadgill@pusd11.net](mailto:stthreadgill@pusd11.net) or  
Billy's Place at <https://billysplace.me/>

# Industry Updates

If college isn't the right pathway for you, you can get industry certified through a trade/technical school or complete a fast track certificate program at a community college.

## Certificates

Earn fast-track certificates that can be completed in 2 semesters or less.

These certificates are available through Maricopa Community College programs. More certificate programs are available [here](#).

- [Automotive Engine Repair](#)
- [Small Business Management](#)
- [Certified Bookkeeping](#)
- [Commercial Real Estate](#)
- [Amazon Web Services Cloud Practitioner](#)
- [Web App Development](#)
- [Early Childhood Education Management and Administration](#)
- [Accelerated Pharmacy Technology](#)
- [Basic Phlebotomy](#)
- [Emergency Medical Technology](#)
- [Nurse Assisting](#)

## Job Spotlight

### Semiconductor Technician

Per the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Arizona leads the nation in pay for Semiconductor Processing Technicians, with an **average** salary of nearly \$27 per hour or \$57,260 per year!

The program is offered at the following community colleges:

Estrella Mountain  
Mesa  
Chandler-Gilbert

Program details:

- 10 day accelerated program
- 4 hours per day
- 3 transferable college credits
- Tuition reimbursement
- No prior experience necessary
- Classes start every 2 weeks

For a FAQ and more information, click [here](#)!





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# Scholarship Universe

**ScholarshipUniverse** can help admitted ASU, NAU, and UA students find and apply for scholarships that match with their unique profile. This platform can connect them with numerous scholarship opportunities within the university and their partners. *Once a student is admitted and has activated their ASU, NAU, or UA User ID, they can start using ScholarshipUniverse right away.*

## Benefits of using ScholarshipUniverse:

- **Personalized matching:** By providing information about their academic achievements, interests and background, students will receive personalized scholarship recommendations based on their eligibility.
- **Comprehensive database:** Students can access a wide variety of scholarships from various sources, including those offered by ASU, NAU, or UA and external organizations.
- **User-friendly app:** Students can easily apply for multiple scholarships at once, saving time and effort.

**Most scholarships have deadlines!** Act now on opportunities and be organized with your time.

Below are links to ScholarshipUniverse portals by school:

[Arizona State University](#)

[Northern Arizona University](#)

[The University of Arizona](#)

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# Scholarship Spotlight

## Calvin Coolidge Presidential Fund Inc.

Current High School Juniors can apply to the 2024-2025 Coolidge Scholarship.

The Coolidge Scholarship is a **full-ride, four year, merit** scholarship that can be used at *any accredited college* or university in the United States.

Any high school **Junior** who plans to enroll and is an American citizen or legal permanent resident is eligible to apply.

Deadline:  
Wednesday  
December 11, 2024  
5:00pm (pacific time)

A complete description of the scholarship's criteria, along with the online application and more information, is available at **[coolidgescholars.org](https://coolidgescholars.org)**.

## Mission228

Mission228's goal is to provide an annual scholarship to a student who plans to attend **nursing school** or has chosen to advance their education in the field of nursing by returning to school. The \$10,000 scholarship is a way of giving back to all of those amazing nurses that helped Linkyn Reischl in her short but impactful life.

### Eligibility

- Must be an Arizona resident
- Must be in good academic standing
- Must be a prospective Nursing student

For information on how to apply, visit **[Mission228.com](https://Mission228.com)**.

### Application deadline:

January 31, 2025

### Notification of Award:

February 28, 2025

### Announcement of Award:

February 28, 2025



# Scholarship Spotlight

## Dorrance Scholarship

The Dorrance Scholarship Program provides academic and financial support to Arizona's first-generation college students.

The program funds up to 60 awards annually for incoming freshman attending ASU Tempe, NAU, and U of A.

The award includes \$12,000 per year for 4 years, a semester abroad, academic support, and other enrichment opportunities.

Register for virtual information session below:

- [Thursday December 9 @ 11 am](#)

There are also virtual information sessions for students. You can register for the events below:

- [Thursday, November 21 @ 5 pm](#)
- [Monday, December 9 @ 5 pm](#)

If you are interested in more information, click [here](#)!

## McDonald's HACER Scholarship

The McDonald's HACER National Scholarship Program offers scholarships to up to 30 outstanding students from all over the country.

There are 3 tiers of funds:

- Tier 1 recipients are awarded up to \$100,000
- Tier 2 recipients are awarded \$20,000 or \$10,000
- Tier 3 recipients are awarded \$5,000

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Recipients are selected based on

- academic achievement
- community involvement
- personal statement
- financial need.

The deadline to submit your application is February 6, 2025.

For more information on eligibility and requirements and to apply to the scholarship, click [here](#).



# More Scholarships

## Taco Bell Live Mas Scholarship

How to enter:

Submit a video (2 minutes or less) that answers the following:

- What is your passion and how are you currently pursuing it or planning to pursue it?
- How do you plan to use your passion to make your community, country, and/or world, etc. a better place?
- What is your education plan and how will it help you pursue your passion and create a positive impact?

For eligibility and more information, visit this [link](#).

## GE-Reagan Foundation

Earn a \$10,000 (renewable, up to \$40,000 total) scholarship for tuition, school fees, books, supplies, and on-campus room and board.

Eligibility:

- Strong academic performance (3.0 GPA or higher)
- Current US citizen
- Current high school senior
- Enroll in a full-time undergraduate program

Visit this [link](#) to get started!

## College Depot

College Depot is an extremely useful tool that can help you with:

- FAFSA
- College Applications
- Scholarships

You can search for scholarships [here](#).

## Skill Pointe Foundation

Skill Pointe Foundation offers several scholarships for students.

Click the [link](#) to start your scholarship search.





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# PEF Scholarships

The Peoria Education Foundation is committed to assisting learners at all levels of their education. Scholarship programs have been established to enable students to continue their post-secondary education. Scholarships are awarded to recognize outstanding accomplishments as well as to provide encouragement and incentives as students continue to work toward meeting their educational goals.

Each spring, the Foundation Board celebrates the scholarship recipients at an awards reception.

**Scholarships are due on Friday, Dec. 13.**

The following Foundation scholarships are available for students to apply:

- Against All Odds Scholarships
- Community Service Scholarships
- Joseph McCord Memorial Scholarships
- Dr. Santarelli Leadership Scholarship
- Project Unify Scholarship
- Peoria Future Farmers of America (FFA) Baskett Scholarship

A complete list of these scholarships and their descriptions can be found **[here](#)**.

More information about each scholarship is on the next page.

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# PEF Scholarships

**Against All Odds Scholarships** are awarded to high school seniors who have overcome significant adversity to complete their high school coursework and plan to continue with post-secondary education. These remarkable young men and women face health issues, language barriers, adult responsibilities, family tragedies, and/or financial hardship with courage and fortitude.

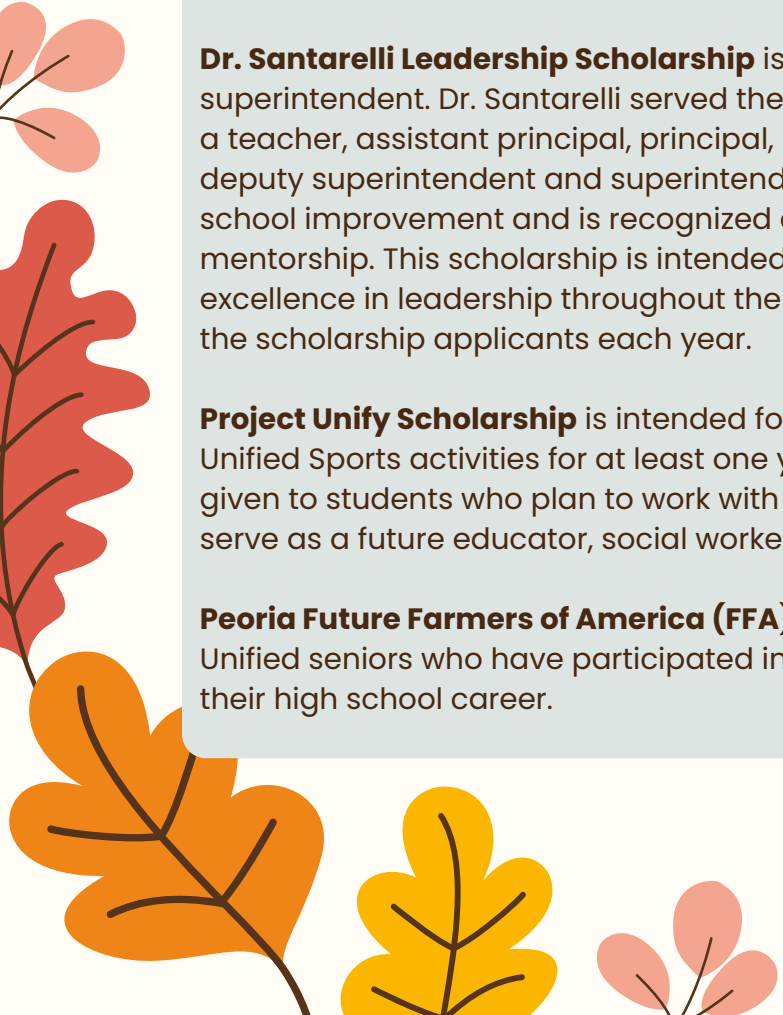
**Community Service Scholarships** are awarded to select high school seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence and a strong commitment to the community in which they live. Each of the winners contributed over 60 hours of community service and plans to attend a community college or career and technical education school.

**Joseph McCord Memorial Scholarships** are given to deserving seniors who share Mr. McCord's passion for history, politics and giving back to the community. Mr. Joseph McCord, who served on the Peoria Unified School District Governing Board, had an affinity for history and a strong commitment to community service. His wife, Mary Lynn, and the Peoria Education Foundation established this scholarship in his honor and Mrs. McCord reviews the scholarship applicants each year.

**Dr. Santarelli Leadership Scholarship** is in honor of Peoria Unified's former superintendent. Dr. Santarelli served the Peoria Unified School District for 35 years as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, K-12 administrator, assistant superintendent, deputy superintendent and superintendent. He is well-known for his contributions to school improvement and is recognized across Arizona for his leadership and mentorship. This scholarship is intended for graduates who have demonstrated excellence in leadership throughout their high school career. Dr. Santarelli reviews the scholarship applicants each year.

**Project Unify Scholarship** is intended for Peoria Unified seniors who participated in Unified Sports activities for at least one year during school. Special consideration is given to students who plan to work with individuals with disabilities, or who plan to serve as a future educator, social worker, or other related services.

**Peoria Future Farmers of America (FFA) Baskett Scholarship** is intended for Peoria Unified seniors who have participated in FFA a minimum of two semesters during their high school career.



# ACT vs SAT

## What's the difference?

ACT

1 - 36

Final Scores

Digital SAT

400 - 1600

Without Essay  
2 hours 14 mins

With Essay  
3 hours 4 mins

Time

Without Writing  
2 hours 55 mins

With Writing  
3 hours 35 mins

71-95 seconds  
per question

Time per  
question

36 - 60 seconds  
per question

2 sections

# of sections

4 sections

Math 50%



Reading and Writing 50%

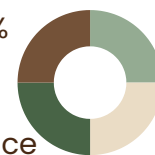
Subjects Tested  
and weights

Math  
25%

Reading  
25%

Science  
25%

English  
25%



Allowed

Calculator

Allowed

Essay  
Scored separately on  
3 scales between 1-8

Optional Test

Writing  
Scored separately  
on a scale of 2-12



# What can the ACT do for you?

## SHOW COLLEGES THAT YOU ARE READY TO SUCCEED

More and more selective schools are realizing the value of test scores and again requiring them for admissions. An ACT score can show schools that you are prepared to tackle their curriculum from day one.

## DO YOUR BEST WITH THE TESTING FORMAT YOU PREFER

Depending on what you are more comfortable with, you can choose **paper and pencil** or **online** testing.

### CONNECT WITH COLLEGES AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS VIA EOS

The **ACT Educational Opportunity Service** helps match you with colleges and other career-related resources aligned with your background and interests.

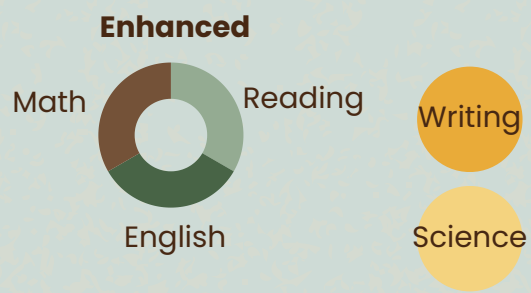
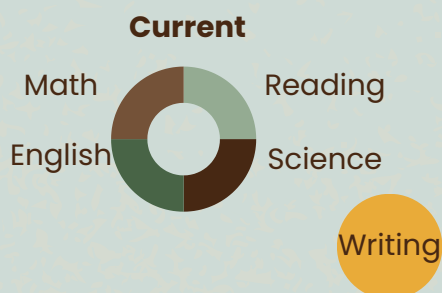
### WISH YOU COULD SEE YOUR ANSWERS ALONGSIDE THE CORRECT ANSWERS AFTER TAKING A TEST?

With the ACT, you can order your Test Information Release (TIR) question and answer key for three test dates a year. Learn more at [act.org/tir](https://act.org/tir).

## THE ACT SHOWS THE RANGE OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Starting in 2025, the enhanced ACT will be shorter, provide you more time to respond to each question, and have three main sections – English, Math, Reading – that equally impact your score. Science and writing sections, if taken, will be reported separately and won't affect your composite score. Until then, the ACT consists of four sections – English, Math, Reading, Science – each contributing 25% of your score.

Current changes will begin in April for online and September for paper and pencil national tests.





## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE ACT

- Take challenging high school courses.
- Study hard using ACT test prep.
- Stay positive - **you've got this!**

Visit [act.org/prep](https://act.org/prep) to explore test prep options.

### GO TO [ACTSTUDENT.ORG](https://actstudent.org) for free resources:

- ACT Practice questions
- Testing tips for each subject
- *Preparing for the ACT* downloadable test prep booklet
- Test day checklist

### THE ACT CAN HELP SAVE MONEY ON TUITION

Your ACT score can increase your chances of earning scholarships that can fuel your future and help with college costs. Even schools that are test optional may still require or recommend an ACT score to qualify for merit awards.

### GIVE YOUR APPLICATION AN EXTRA BOOST WITH THE OPTIONAL WRITING TEST

Demonstrating your writing skills and ability to understand and explore ideas can help you stand out for competitive programs.

### SKETCH OUT YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER PLANS IN MYACT OR THE ENCOURAGE APP

Narrow down [college majors](#) and [career options](#) that align with your interests. Take the [ACT Interest Inventory](#) on MyACT or quizzes within the Explore tab of the [Encourage app](#) to start building your future.

### PUT YOUR BEST SCORE FORWARD WITH AN ACT SUPERSCORE

If you take the ACT more than once, your best subject score from each test will be used to create an official Superscore to showcase your best performance.



### INTERESTED IN A STEM PROGRAM?

The ACT is the only test that includes a unique **STEM score**. If you choose to take the science section, you will receive a STEM score to measure your readiness for STEM-related majors.

### ONLY THE ACT OFFERS SUPPORT FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

If you are enrolled in your school's English Learners (EL) program, you may qualify for additional support when taking the ACT. Work with your school counselor to request EL accommodations after you register.

### THE ACT OFFERS FEE WAIVERS FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Every student deserves the chance to chart their own course for success. If you have trouble paying for the ACT test, the ACT Fee Waiver Program can help with registration fees, test prep, and more. Check with your school counselor to find out if you are eligible to apply.

For more information about the ACT & preparation resources, visit [actstudent.org](https://actstudent.org).