

Parents of JUNIORS planning to attend college should...

*If you've never looked at the Educational Alliance website, it is a good place to start with some basic information

<https://arkansashomeschool.org>

*If you haven't already begun, **start a transcript**. Here's a link to every question you might have...

<https://www.annieandeverything.com/homeschool-high-school-transcript/>

See template on KCA website here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yRbGNnW6vDTzBHnFV1SoC1S4FRfMPo1w/view>

Other websites with free transcript templates:

<https://letshomeschoolhighschool.com/2016/06/01/download-high-school-transcript-template/>

http://www.howtohomeschooltoday.com/transcript_creator

Transcript service:

<https://arkansashomeschool.org/index.php/services/high-school-transcript/>

*If you haven't already been keeping track of activities, awards, achievements, hobbies, volunteer work, employment, camps etc. that might set your child apart from his/her peers, start the list now. This can be placed at the bottom of the transcript and helps show interests and abilities not otherwise represented.

*Register your child to take the **ACT** at <https://www.act.org>

Plan for your child to take this at least twice their junior year.

If your family *would qualify for free or reduced lunch according to income guidelines, you are eligible for up to 4 fee waivers (must be a junior or senior). Contact the public school counselor in your school district and make the request. More details found here:

<https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/FeeWaiver.pdf>

*Look into and make decisions about concurrent enrollment during your child's Senior year. Typical courses include: English Comp 1, English Comp 2, History, Communications, College Algebra. Courses can be taken online or in person and are typically offered at a reduced price.

Parents of SENIORS planning to attend college should...

*Prepare a transcript, if you haven't already (see information listed under JUNIORS).

*Get a file or folder to place all documents/ passwords/ logins/ etc for the upcoming college prep materials.

*In OCTOBER, fill out the FAFSA (Pell grant & loans; starting point for ANY financial aid) at

<https://fafsa.gov/>

Delay can mean missed opportunities, so do it as soon as possible. You will need your tax information from the previous tax year.

*Fill out Arkansas Youniversal Application (State grants & state merit-based scholarships to attend college in Arkansas) at https://www.ark.org/adhe_financialaid/Login.aspx

This application is for one of two scholarships available through the use of the AR lottery.

1- Academic Challenge: \$1000-\$5000 per year. Application deadline JUNE 30 of the year of graduation. Awards begin to be announced in May. Renewable.

<https://scholarships.adhe.edu/scholarships/detail/academic-challenge-scholarships>

2- Governor's Distinguished Scholarship. \$10,000 per year. Application deadline FEB 1 of the year of graduation. Notification of award in late April. Renewable.

<https://scholarships.adhe.edu/scholarships/detail/governors-distinguished-scholarship>

Application process will require you to

- submit ACT score (or other qualifying test score)
- submit transcript (must mail)
- complete FAFSA by application due date

Be sure to login to the youniversal website to check the status of your application and to follow-up if needed.

Other State-based scholarships/grants here:

<https://scholarships.adhe.edu/scholarships-and-programs/high-school/>

*Gather immunization records to be sent to college upon acceptance or submit request for exemption at

<https://onlineimmunizationexemption.adh.arkansas.gov/WebsiteContent/Home-Page.aspx>

*Actively look into the colleges of choice and apply. Many more scholarship opportunities are available to "early" registration candidates. Some colleges even host invitation-only scholarship events to early applicants. Most early decision and early action applications are due between **October 1 and December 1**.

*See if your child qualifies to be a member of the Arkansas Honor Society (based on ACT and GPA)

Requirements and application found here: <https://hi.qww.arkansashomeschool.org/index.php/services/honor-society/>

*Once a college decision has been made, contact the financial aid office to make sure your information (FAFSA) has been received. Ask for suggestions for other sources of financial aid.

*"Hack" your local high school's website to find local scholarship opportunities. Look for a webpage set up by the Guidance Counselor(s) and search for Scholarship info.

Here's the link to Conway High: <https://www.conwayschools.org/Page/640>

Here's the link to Greenbrier High: https://ghs.greenbrierschools.org/26579_1

Other Scholarship opportunities to look into...

*Arkansas Community Foundation <https://www.arcf.org/apply/scholarships/>

This link will require you (student) to fill out an eligibility form to connect student with scholarships that meet their interests. 20 volunteer hours in Faulkner County & planning to attend a local college will make you eligible for Toad Suck Daze \$1000-2000 scholarship.

*Talent based scholarship for Arkansas students in areas such as creative writing, visual arts, slam poetry, film, etc. Applications due in January. <https://www.theafoundation.org/scholarships>

SENIORS planning to attend college should...

*Actively look into the college of choice and apply. Many more scholarship opportunities are available to “early” registration candidates. Some colleges even host invitation-only scholarship events to early applicants. Most early decision and early action applications are due between October 1 and December 1.

*Request up to 3 letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors, employers or youth group leaders. Many scholarship applications will request these.

*Write at least three essays on the following topics: What are your future plans, the person you most admire, something you have overcome, and why you need scholarship money. These need to be five hundred words. These essays should serve you well for all scholarship applications. You can tweak these essays to fit just about any application. A good website to help you with these essays is: http://www.paperrater.com/site/show_sub/b3ed28f5df/9016050?print=true Give your essays to others for feedback.

*Make a list of all of your community service. If you don’t have any, you need to log some hours.

*Schedule college visits