



November  
2020

# Stepping into Your Future

*If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much.*

~Jim Rohn



#### Upcoming Dates

##### November 4

Grand Canyon U  
UC Santa Barbara  
Colgate University  
UAF

FAFSA Wednesday

##### November 5

AK Student Panel  
Register for SAT

##### November 7

College Essay  
Workshop

Register for ACT

##### November 11

Davidson College  
More than Sad  
FAFSA Wednesday

##### November 14

College Essay  
Workshop

##### November 18

Portland State U  
UAA Application  
Day

FAFSA Wednesday

##### November 25

FAFSA Wednesday

## COLLEGE VISITS AND CAREER EVENTS

### College Essay Workshop

On November 7th and 14th from 10am-12pm, [Story Works](#) will be hosting a free, online College Admissions and Scholarship Essay Workshop!

These workshops are a great way to get support in writing a great college admissions or scholarship essay.

Students can come with their written (or unwritten) essays, a paragraph or outline, or no idea at all! There will be brainstorming sessions and essay advice from local community members! Students will be broken up based on their point in the process.

Here you will find the [Link to register](#).

Here you will find the [Link to website page with info](#).

### 8-School Panel Event for Alaska Students

Washington State University will be hosting an 8-school panel to discuss the challenges of attending school away from home, resources on campus both financial and academic, as well as unique campuses and degree options on Thursday, November 5th from 6:00p-7:30 pm AKT. This is specifically for Alaska students.

Schools in attendance will be: American University of Paris, Colorado Mesa University, Denison University, Drew University, Miami University of Ohio, Sacred Heart University, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Washing State University. You can register [HERE](#).

### **Colleges Visit West**

Schools will be visiting (virtually) West regularly. Seniors are encouraged to join. After you sign up, you will receive the zoom link a few days before the scheduled meeting. Sign up and find the most up to date list [HERE](#).

### **UAA Application Day**

UAA will be hosting a free application day with West High (zoom) on Wednesday, November 18 at 11:00 a.m. Admissions counselors will assist students with starting and completing the UAA application for Spring, Summer, or Fall 2021 for free. However, please feel free to join the zoom if you have already applied or have questions about college.

Zoom information: <https://alaska.zoom.us/j/81275372053>

Please have your social security number for the application!

### **UAA TRIO**

TRIO Upward Bound (UB) is a federally funded college access program that serves high school students from low-income backgrounds and who may be the first-generation in their families to complete a bachelor's degree. UB prepares students to successfully complete high school and enroll in postsecondary education by providing academic advising, career exploration, tutoring, college planning, college tours, cultural enrichment experiences, leadership opportunities and more. All services are offered at no cost to the participant!

Application:

<https://uaa-whs-ub-pub.studentaccess.com/appform/default.aspx?guid=bf03c739-8552-4a97-a5bf-c976411165c7>

Video: <https://youtu.be/6CSfU5CCcYQ>

### **Unpacking the College Admissions Process**

Parents, if you're confused or anxious about how to help your student find and apply to a college that is a great fit you're not alone. Students, do you wonder what goes on "on the other side" of this mysterious admissions process right of passage? There's a lot of information out there, much of it conflicting or confusing. The Admissions Office at Tulane hosted a candid and straightforward seminar for parents (but useful for students too) with honest answers to questions like:

- How important is "the essay"?
- What does test optional really mean?
- What are admissions personnel "looking for" in an application?
- How important are letters of recommendation?
- How has Covid-19 impacted admissions numbers and expectations?

You can view the seminar [HERE](#)- it's a great one to listen to on a drive, too. The Tulane Admissions blog is also a reliable (and engaging!) source for gaining a better understanding of admissions topics like [Admissions Anxiety](#), [What They're Looking for in an Applicant](#), and [Top 10 Application Tips](#), all which are applicable to most any school you are considering.

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*Your attitude, not  
your aptitude, will  
determine your  
altitude.*

*~Zig Ziglar*

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## FUNDING YOUR FUTURE

### REVIEW Alaska Performance Scholarship Information:

If you are interested in qualifying for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) you can see the qualification requirements [here](#), or more details [here](#). This scholarship is available to Alaska students who meet the qualifications and can be used at many Alaska post-secondary programs. Note: the ACT or SAT is still required for qualification purposes this year, so you should start registering now. Some tests are taking quite a long time to get registered for, and are filling quickly. Register for the SAT [here](#) or ACT [here](#).

### FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid-FAFSA: The window to complete the FAFSA is open (October 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>)! The FAFSA determines a student's eligibility for need-based federal financial aid for college, which may include grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans. If eligible, it can really help you pay for school! Everyone who wishes to pursue post-secondary education should complete the FAFSA, regardless of how much their parents make. Why?

- The FAFSA is how you qualify for Stafford Loans, which typically offer the lowest interest rates and best repayment deals.
  - The FAFSA is the application for the APS. The priority filing date for your FAFSA is June 30.
  - Schools want to see that you tried to get federal funding before they offer school specific scholarships.
  - You might be pleasantly surprised 😊
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Complete the FAFSA early! According to Ashley Boucher, a spokeswoman for Sallie Mae, the earlier families fill out the FAFSA, the better the chance to be in line for that aid. If you wait, there may be less money available so your financial aid may be more loans, less grants. Visit [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) today to start the process and keep a lookout for future West virtual FAFSA Night events to help families complete the application process

### **Virtual FAFSA Wednesdays:**

The goal of FAFSA Wednesdays is to assist Alaska students/adult learners successfully complete the FAFSA while they are preparing for postsecondary education and career training.

FAFSA Wednesdays – fully virtual, weekly assistance provided by ACPE's FAFSA Experts. FAFSA Wednesdays are free to attend and no registration is required. Individuals can join the Zoom session **any time between 3pm and 6pm on Wednesdays** to receive help with creating their FSA ID and filing out the FAFSA.

For more information, please connect with Dominika Szpotanska at [dominika.szpotanska@alaska.gov](mailto:dominika.szpotanska@alaska.gov).

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

- Meeting ID: 947 1651 7297
- Passcode: FAFSA
- One tap mobile: 8887880099,, 94716517297# US Toll-free; 8335480276,, 94716517297# US Toll-free
- Meeting ID: 947 1651 7297
- Passcode: 476153

### **Scholarship Resources**

Finding scholarships requires some digging. **COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA!**

Local scholarships will pop up from time to time and will be posted on on the West counseling website and occasionally placed in the Monday News.

College/School specific scholarships can be found by searching the school or program that you plan to attend and applying directly with them following their guidance.

National Databases exist to make it easier for you to search based on your needs:

[Unigo](#) and [College Board's Big Future](#) both have scholarships that you can be eligible for simply by working through the college search and application process. Many scholarship databases exist, here are some you can try:

[Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)

[ScholarshipOwl](#)

[Scholly](#)

[Scholarships360](#)

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## THERE IS A TEST FOR THAT

### Practice SAT or ACT

Sign up for a free practice SAT and ACT, brought to you by the West Anchorage High School counseling team. After taking a full-length proctored practice SAT/ACT released by the test maker, you will get a detailed score report with a roadmap to score improvement, plus guidance on whether to focus on the SAT or ACT. This semester, West Anchorage High School and Frontier Tutoring are co-hosting the following online practice tests:

- Online Practice SAT on November 3. Check-in will begin at 8:30 AM, with testing running 9:00 AM – 1:10 PM
- Online Practice ACT on November 7. Check-in will begin at 8:30 AM, with testing running 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Space is limited. View all practice SAT/ACT dates and reserve your seat for free at [www.frontiertutoring.com/practicetest](http://www.frontiertutoring.com/practicetest). After signing up, you will receive instructions on how to join the online event.

### SAT

The next chance for students to take the SAT is December 5 (register by 11/5). Register at [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org).

### ACT

The next chance for students to take the ACT is December 12 (register by 11/6). Register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

## DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN?

### Career Search Tool:

AKCIS Career Information System is a fantastic, free, tool students can use to create portfolios, assess interests, write resumes, search for post-secondary education and post-secondary scholarships, and much more.

First Time User Steps to Login through Clever:

- [asdk12.org](http://asdk12.org)
  - Students
  - Clever
  - Login with Active Directory and login using your ASD Login
  - Scroll down to find “AKCIS” in the Apps
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- On the AKCIS Login page click “Sign Up” on the left side and follow the prompts to your page

## Wellness Check

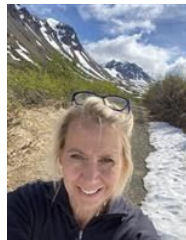
### Suicide Prevention Presentation or Parents/Guardians:

The Alaska Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the West High Counselors invite you to join us for the More Thank Sad Suicide Prevention Education for Parents/Guardians.

The More Than Sad for Parents program teaches parents how to recognize signs of depression and other mental health problems, initiate a conversation about mental health with their child, and get help. Please join us November 11 from 6-8 pm if you are a parent wanting more information on this important topic. Teens are welcome if they attend with their parent/guardian. Participants can register in advance online at [www.afsp.org/alaska](http://www.afsp.org/alaska) or the following URL: <https://westhighschoolmorethansadeducation.attendease.com/>



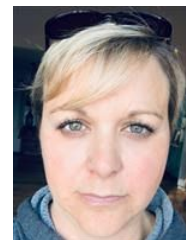
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