

College Information Night

From Selection to Enrollment

Why Apply Exercise

Why do you want to/
Why did you go to college?

What do you hope to learn about yourself/
What did you learn about yourself?

One thing you hope to learn/
One thing that you learned in
college?

One benefit you hope to realize/
One thing you know you got out
of going to college?

Contact Information

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- If you would like this presentation emailed to you, please contact me. Links included in the presentation will be available to kids in my Google classrooms but we may also post them on the Charter website on the Student Services page

Step One – Exploring Your Options

- Vocational Assessment – there are a variety of options
 - Next Steps Idaho - [Next Steps Idaho](#)
 - CDA Charter Website – Focus 2, Career Explorer and O*NET
 - Focus 2 - [Focus 2](#)
 - Career Explorer - [Career Explorer](#)
 - O*NET - [O*NET](#)
 - Google Classroom
 - RoadTrip Nation - [RoadTrip Nation](#)

Step Two - Choosing Your School

- Things to Consider:
 - Does the school have a program that interests me?
 - Resource – CollegeScorecard (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>)
 - What special features about the school interest me? Think about Greek life, study abroad, Honors College, particular professor
 - College/class size
 - Environment – town, activities, distance from home
 - Cost – can you afford it?

College Search Resources

- YouTube – Many schools have campus tours that you experience online; usually done in about 15 minutes
- College Tour on Amazon Prime – more in-depth campus tours, featuring interviews with students and faculty, highlighting unique features of campus and generally giving a greater feel for the school. Also available on YouTube.
- Next Steps Idaho – lots of information on Idaho schools particularly (of course)

Types of Admissions – Understanding the Difference

- Early decision
- Early Action
- Regular Admission
- Rolling Admission
- Deferred Admission

Early Decision vs. Early Action

Early Decision

- Binding agreement
- Can typically only be done one school at a time
- Make sure this is what you want and that it's going to work for you
- Net-Price Calculator

Early Action

- Demonstrates heightened interest but can be used at different schools at the same time
- Can sometimes be restrictive if you apply single-choice early action. Important to read the details
- Are you going to be prepared to submit your application at this time?

Regular Decision, Rolling Admission and Deferred Admission

Regular Decision

- Still a deadline
- Most applicants will take this route
- Less restrictive
- If this gives you enough time to prepare the best application, this is the route to take, considering all aspects of the application

Rolling Admission

- Apply any time before classes start
- Typical at community colleges, least selective schools
- Deferred Admission – appropriate if you decide to take a gap year

Where do I find this information?

- Duke University - [Duke Undergrad Admissions](#)
- Whitman College - [Whitman College Admissions](#)
- Boise State - [Boise State Undergrad Admissions](#)

Building an Application List

- Safety school – your academics are higher than the average student that they admit
- Match school – your academics match those of the average student admitted
- Reach school – your academics are lower than the average student admitted but maybe you have a different factor that could make you attractive to the school

Application Type

- Idaho schools – Apply Idaho. Works for all Idaho schools. Opens October 2nd
- Common vs Coalition vs Institutional Applications
 - Common App is widely used across the country; various deadlines; school specific
 - Coalition App is used with increasing frequency. Many more selective schools use this
 - Check on the school's admissions website to see what is preferred
 - Pay attention to deadlines, particularly as they relate to the type of admission you're seeking

Next Steps Idaho

- <https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/>
- Lots of resources for college/career/scholarship search here
- Automatic admission – seniors should be notified very soon of their admission status.
- Letter from state - [Auto Admissions Letter](#)
- Students must still apply if they wish to enroll, however, this notification is meant to encourage follow through/remove barrier or fear of being denied admission.
- These benchmark GPAs don't mean that students with different GPAs can't or shouldn't apply.

Apply Idaho & Scholarship Idaho

- Application used at all institutions of higher education in the state.
- Open October 2 (<https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/apply-Idaho>)
- Scholarship Idaho – Opens soon (not quite yet)
 - One stop application for scholarships administered through the State Board of Ed
 - Scholarship Discovery Center - [Scholarship Discovery Center](#)

Testing

- Many colleges/universities are still test optional, which means that submitting your SAT/ACT score won't be counted against you, if they're not quite where they need to be, but, if you're close, or if your grades aren't quite reflective of your abilities but your test scores are, it may be a good idea to share them.
- The State of Idaho still requires students to take a college entrance exam. Check the admissions website of the colleges to which you're applying to see their policies.
- Still time to take the SAT if you're going regular decision (many places)
- [SAT Dates/Registration](#)

Positioning Yourself For Your Dream School

- Research
 - Learn all that you can about the school you dream of attending
 - Look at the specific department where you think you want to study
 - Watch lectures made by professors that are interesting to you
 - Write your admissions essay based on your research and reflection – **DO NOT USE AI SUPPORTS** (ChatGPT, Bard, Socratic, etc.)
 - Schools, particularly selective schools, talk about holistic admissions – they want to know about you, not just your academics

What Else Do You Need?

- EDUID – If applying in-state; this is your student ID number. Posted on your transcript and/or see me
- Transcript request form – outside HS office or see Mrs. Wasson/Mrs. Walker
 - Unofficial transcript
- Resume/Brag Sheet
 - Take time to reflect! Think about all of the experiences you've had that could be relevant, 9th grade to now and beyond
 - Don't discount the things you didn't enjoy or that were hard – these can be our greatest opportunities to learn
- Letters of Recommendation
 - Check to see what is required
 - Ask early and give your recommender a timeline
 - Provide as much information as you can

Financial Aid & Scholarships

- FAFSA opening in December (TBD)
 - Everyone should fill this out – this is how colleges determine institutional aid and scholarships, regardless of your family's income
 - Read the Financial Aid pages of the colleges you're interested in to determine whether or not they have a separate scholarship application
 - Out of state public schools – Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)
 - [WUE](#)
 - [CSS Profile Form – Article](#) – Can be completed on the timeline colleges want, if they require it

Idaho Launch

- Idaho Launch
- New program from the state of Idaho
- Funds a wide variety of educational programs, most importantly workforce training/certificate programs
- “In demand careers”
- Very much in process – lots of questions still about the funding and how to use it

Other Opportunities

- Large corporations have education benefits for their employees:
 - Starbucks; Walmart; Amazon

ROTC – competitive scholarships with military service obligation

Consider community college - you can save money by matriculating as a transfer student

Must have at least 14 credits after high school to be considered a transfer student

Helpful Links

- [University of Idaho – Application Process](#)
- [Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy Student Services](#)
- [Next Steps Idaho](#)
- [College Board - Big Future](#)
- [College Confidential](#)
- [Peterson's](#)

More Helpful Links

- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#) – Cost estimator
- [Career One Stop - US Department of Labor](#) – Career exploration, scholarships
- [MyinTuition - College Cost Estimator](#) – Selective schools

Upcoming Event

- All Things Senior – Next Steps Fair
- Tuesday, September 26 – Coeur d’Alene High School, 5-8pm
 - This is a great chance to connect with admissions reps from local and regional colleges:
 - Academy representatives will be present here as well – Air Force/Naval/Coast Guard academies; U of I ROTC, Idaho National Guard

Please...

- Let me know if you want study lab sessions where we talk about each of these things in depth
- I'll be sending out a Google form soon, asking for information about your plans for next year (where you're applying, what you're thinking of doing). Please respond. This is really useful information that can help me help you.
- In late fall/early spring, we'll send out another Google form, asking for information on scholarships that you've received. Please respond. We need this information for our senior awards night, right before graduation. This is a fun time where we hope to celebrate you and your accomplishments. We can't do this without information.