



JUNIOR PACKET

11th GRADE CHECKLIST

Fall:

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT
- Use SAT/ACT preparation tools beyond the PSAT to get ready for the tests
- Attend NCS college and financial aid information sessions
- Can take the SAT/ACT, but better to wait until spring
- Search for scholarship opportunities
- Keep up to date with your AzCIS high school plan and college/career searches (checklist below)

Spring:

- Take the SAT and/or ACT
- Attend financial aid night in the spring
- Attend college and career fairs around the valley
- Search for scholarship opportunities
- Look into the mission field or military opportunities if interested
- Meet with NCS counselor to check credits and modify four year plan accordingly
- Keep up to date with your AzCIS profile

Summer:

- Narrow down your list of potential colleges
- Take a tour of the school and speak with an admissions advisor about their programs.
- Look into the different application and scholarship deadlines for each school
- Applications for some colleges are due in the middle of 1st semester, so doing as much research in junior year and over the summer is important!

AzCIS Checklist (college/career planning):

Academic Plan

- Review your high school courses
- Write a post high school goal aligned to your career interests.
- Record any awards or achievements you have gotten during this school year.
- Take the SAT or ACT tests and record your test results.

Career Plan

- Take an interest survey or career assessment and record your results in your ECAP portfolio
- Review your career goal. What educational requirements will you need to meet that career option?
- Review and update your resume.
- Attend a career fair.

Postsecondary Planning

- Review your post high school educational or career goal. Is this still what you want to do after high school?
- Review two colleges that meet your post high school goals. Save your results.
- Do a review of costs for those two schools. Write your findings in your ECAP portfolio
- What are the admissions requirements and applications? When should you apply?
- Create a financial plan for meeting college costs.

Extracurricular Activities

- Document in your ECAP portfolio any club, sports, Fine and Performing Arts, community service, work experiences, including summer experiences.
- Document any leadership experiences you have been involved in.

PSAT/NMSQT

What is the NMSQT in PSAT/NMSQT??- It stands for National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Students who perform exceptionally (scoring in the top 1% of juniors in the nation) are commended in the initial round for National Merit and can potentially move on to be semi-finalists and then finalists to earn scholarship money. This also looks great on college applications!

Scores typically needed to qualify- Old PSAT= 205+, New PSAT= 1340+

SAT and ACT Test Dates

2016-2017 SAT TEST DATES

Register at: www.collegeboard.org

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Deadline</u>
10/01/2016	09/01/2016	09/20/2016
11/05/2016	10/07/2016	10/26/2016
12/03/2016	11/03/2016	11/22/2016
01/21/2017	12/21/2016	01/10/2017
03/11/2017	02/10/2017	02/28/2017
05/06/2017	04/07/2017	04/25/2017
06/03/2017	05/09/2017	05/24/2017

2016-2017 ACT TEST DATES

Register at: www.actstudent.org

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Deadline</u>
09/10/2016	08/05/2016	08/19/2016
10/22/2016	09/16/2016	09/30/2016
12/10/2016	11/04/2016	11/18/2016
02/11/2017	01/13/2017	01/20/2017
04/08/2017	03/03/2017	03/17/2017
06/10/2017	05/05/2017	05/19/2017

**NCS will be proctoring the official ACT for ALL Juniors on April 19th. No registration or payment is needed, further communication regarding this will go home in spring!

⇒ **SAT & ACT Prep Courses****

- Provided through Princeton Review
- In-person / Online options
- Guaranteed score improvement
- Fall and Spring course offerings

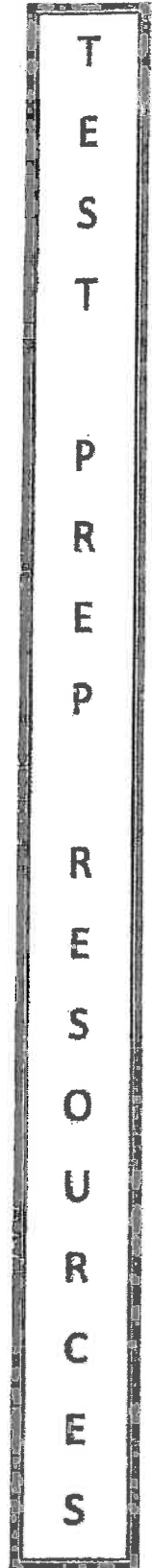
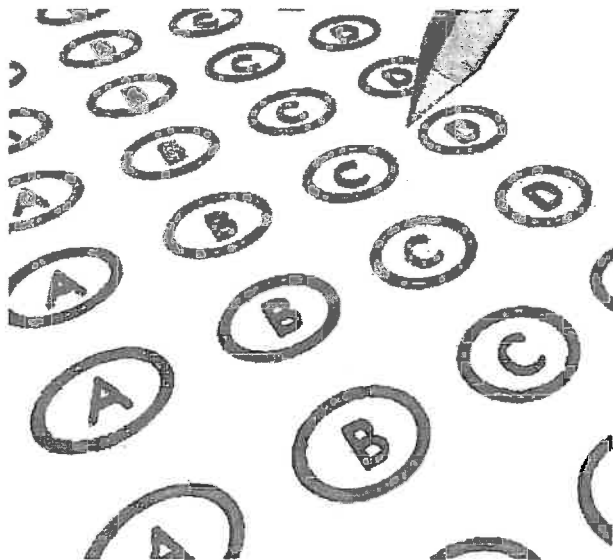
⇒ **Collegeboard** (<http://www.collegeboard.org/>)

- Free practice tests
- SAT question of the day
- Official SAT online course to purchase
- SAT study guide book to purchase

⇒ **ACT** (<http://www.actstudent.org/>)

- ACT practice questions
- Practice tests
- ACT question of the day
- ACT study guide book to purchase

⇒ **SAT & ACT study booklets are available in guidance office**



Northwest Christian

A Princeton Review Lighthouse School

Program Overview

- NCS is a Lighthouse Partner School with one of the best test prep companies in the country, The Princeton Review. This partnership allows us to bring more college readiness preparation and affordable SAT and ACT prep courses to our students
- We are very excited to be able to offer this to our families and see our students utilize the tools they learn from Princeton Review, along with the education from NCS to be ready for these college entrance exams!
- Free online self-paced SAT and ACT courses for juniors and seniors available.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in one SAT or ACT class based on the following pricing in the school year:

- GPA of 3.75 and above= **FREE**
- GPA of 3.50-3.74=\$200

A **FREE 15-hour PSAT Prep** course will be offered to the top 25 students in the Junior class. If the class does not fill it will be opened up to more students.

FALL		SPRING	
SCHEDULE	DATES	SCHEDULE	DATES
PSAT Prep Course	October 1st- November 1st Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:30-6:30pm Saturdays 9am-12pm	SAT Prep Course	January 21st- March 9th Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:30-6:30pm Saturdays 9am-1pm
ACT Prep Course	October 29th- December 8th Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:30-6:30pm *One Monday meeting for the 1st class Saturdays 9am-1pm	1st Spring ACT Prep Course	March 8th- April 18th Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:30-6:30pm *One Wednesday meeting for the 1st class Saturdays 9am-1pm
 		2nd Spring ACT Prep Course	April 29th- June 8th Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:30-6:30pm Saturdays 9am-1pm

The Princeton Review will be offering free practice ACT and SAT tests

both in-person and online to help determine which course is better suited for you!

COMMON SAT/ACT MISCONCEPTIONS

- One is better than the other
 - They are both equally accepted by colleges

- I don't need to take it if my college doesn't require it
 - You could change your mind last minute and the college you decide to attend requires it

- I can't afford to pay for it
 - I have fee waivers for families who qualify based on the income level chart

- There's a limit to how many times I can take it
 - You can take it as many times as you want

- If I takes it several times my score will increase significantly
 - Unless you do something to improve your score significantly like preparing for the next test, your score will not change

- I shouldn't request my scores to be sent out to colleges until I know what I got
 - You get 4 free colleges to send it to when you register on the collegeboard and ACT website, so use it. They will take your best score so don't worry about them seeing your lower one

GRADUATION VERSUS AZ STATE UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

Subjects	Graduation Requirements	AZ University Requirements
Bible	4 credits	
English	4 credits	4 credits
Gen Electives	3.5 credits	
Math	4 credits	4 credits
Lab Science	3 credits	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits	2 credits
Business	1.5 credits	
P.E. or Band	1 credit	
Foreign Language	1 credit	2 credits
Fine Arts	1 credit	1 credit
Totals	26 credits	16 credits

In-State Universities

Arizona State University:

Admission Requirements

- *Top 25% of graduating class
- OR**
- *Cumulative GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale in 16 core courses
- OR**
- *1040 on the SAT Reasoning
- OR**
- *22 on the ACT
- AND**
- *Complete all 16 core courses with a 2.0 GPA in each subject area

Northern Arizona University:

Assured Admission Requirements

- *Cumulative GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale in 16 core courses.
- AND**
- *Complete all 16 core courses with a 2.0 GPA in each subject area

Delegated Admission Requirements

- *2.5 GPA in the 16 core courses
- *No more than 1 deficiency in any two subject areas, unless it's a combination of math and science, in which case you would be denied.

University of Arizona:

Assured Admission Requirements

- *Top 25% of graduating class
- *No deficiencies in the 16 core courses

Delegated Admission Requirements

- *Everyone below top 25% of graduating class
- *Complete all 16 core courses with a 2.0 GPA in each subject

Having a deficiency is defined as either not completing a required course, or receiving less than a 2.0 GPA in a subject area. Having more than 2 full deficiencies (4 semester courses) or having both deficiencies in a combination of math or science will result in denial of acceptance

Average cost for AZ universities:

Tuition- \$8,800-\$9,800 per year depending on campus and major
Books and Supplies- \$1,200
Room and Board- \$6,000-\$12,000

Grand Canyon University

- *3.0 GPA or Composite score of 19 on ACT/ 1380 on SAT or 920 on SAT CR+M

Arizona Christian University

- *2.5 GPA
- *950 on SAT (CR+M) or 20 on ACT

College/Career/Scholarship Resources

AzCIS

Log onto NCS account (username: nwcs password: 2viewazcis)

*Create a personal portal titled "My Education Career Action Plan"

*Sort through colleges and degrees

*Scholarship Sort

*Free career interest assessments

*Free test prep

... And much more!!!

Go to <http://www.azcis.intocareers.org/>



Fast web

*Log in to keep track of scholarships

*Receive email updates and alerts

*Search for colleges

*Career planning

*Financial aid information

Other great resources:

www.unigo.com

www.scholarships.com

www.campustours.com

www.christianconnector.com

www.colleges.niche.com

www.cappex.com

www.studentaid.ed.gov/

Big Future

*Free tool through Collegeboard

*Keeps track of your information

*Tracks what you should be doing this year

*Career sort

*College sort

*Scholarship sort

Go to www.collegeboard.org/bigfuture



Scholly

*App to download on the Ipad

*Only for seniors

*Only 99 cents

*Searches for scholarships that fit you personally

*Provides website, deadline, qualifications

*Search for "Scholly" in the App store

FINANCIAL AID

SCHOLARSHIPS VS GRANTS VS LOANS

SCHOLARSHIPS

- This is FREE money!!!
- Obtaining scholarships is based on what you have done to earn it
- The largest portion of money will come directly from the college through academic success or a talent in extracurriculars such as sports or fine arts.
- Some scholarships have a financial need component to it, but not all
- You should be applying for outside scholarships now as a junior!
- Merit scholarships coming directly from the college will be automatically offered once you have applied in senior year
- Many colleges have extra scholarships you can apply for
- Do NOT have your parents applying for you! You need to do it yourself!

GRANTS

- More FREE money!!!
- Eligibility determined by the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Every school will be different in how generous they are with grant money
- The earlier you fill out the FAFSA in spring of your SENIOR year, the better chance you have of getting more money
- This money is not guaranteed every year, you must reapply through FAFSA

LOANS

- This is money you have to pay back
- Also determined by the FAFSA
- Students typically qualify for a small portion to be taken out in their name, the rest will need to be under their parent/guardian's name

AZCIS

Career Information System

Can help you answer . . .

What should I study?

Which occupation pays the most?

How do I get a Job?

How can I get money for school?

Where should I go to school?

CIS has . . .

- Information on occupations, education, and financial aid
 - Self-assessments to help you decide your direction
 - A portfolio and course planner to save information and store results
 - Job search hints and a resume creator
- ...plus much more!*



NCS is licensed

to use CIS.

To log on, go to:

www.azcis.intocareers.org

Use the username

and password

below to get in.

Username: nwcs

Password: 2viewazcis

Recommendation Letter Request Form for _____

Name:

Date:

Grade:

Where is recommendation going and when is it due?

Why are you applying for this particular college/award?

What are 3 qualities that you like best about yourself?

What do you feel are your strongest accomplishments in the following areas?

Academics:

Extracurricular Activities/Athletics:

Leadership:

Volunteerism:

What are your career goals?

Is there anything else you'd like me to know about you?

IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

September 20th - Junior Classroom Visit

September 21st - Deadline to register for Fall PSAT Prep Course

September 26th - College Readiness Night

October 4th - FAFSA Workshop

October 18th - Deadline to register for ACT Prep Course

October 18th - Christian College Mini Fair- During the school day

November 2nd - PSAT/NMSQT

November 15th - University Night

January 11th - Deadline to register for Spring SAT Prep Course

February- Course selection for senior year

February 10th - ASVAB Career Interest Assessment

February 22nd - Deadline to register for Spring Session 1 -ACT Prep Course

April 11th - Deadline to register for Spring Session 2-ACT Prep Course

April 19th - ACT Test given at NCS!