

# Admissions & Financial Aid Basics

# Welcome

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# Introductions

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# About TCRAR



LUTHER  
COLLEGE



AU AUGUSTANA  
UNIVERSITY



A member of Minnesota State





**KANSAS STATE**  
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UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH DAKOTA®

# TODAY'S TOPICS

- Post-secondary Options
  - Focus today is on colleges/universities
- The Here and Now
- What's Coming Next?
- Looking Forward to Financial Aid
- Making the College Choice
- Questions and Answers



# POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

- Work/Apprenticeship
- Technical School
- Community College
- Military
- “4-year” College or University
  - Public or Private
  - Large or Small

# THE HERE AND NOW – UNDERSTANDING

## Why Do You Want to Attend College?

- Earning power
- Life-long learning
- Explore interests, values, new things
- Prepare for possible careers
- Activities and social life
- Influence of family and friends

**How will you know when you've found the right fit for you?**



# THE HERE & NOW – RESEARCH & COMPARE

## Research, Research, Research

- Where Do I Look?
  - Teachers | Counselors | College & Career Resource Center
  - Family | Friends
  - Internet | Social media
- Schools you will apply to, research their websites for important dates and deadlines.
- College Characteristics

# THE HERE & NOW – CURRICULUM & COURSE SELECTION

- AP or Honors | PSEO or CIS
- Rigor matters – this is student dependent!
- Recommended Curriculum for College\*

English            4 Units

Math                3 Units

Social Studies    3 Units

Science            3 Units

Foreign Language 2 Units

\*Requirements vary by institution

# THE HERE AND NOW – ACT

Upcoming ACT dates:

## Testing Dates

September 14, 2019

October 26, 2019

December 14, 2019

## Test Preparation

- Practice
- Don't pay too much

# WHAT'S COMING NEXT? – GET MORE INFORMATION!

- Annual National College Fair  
Minneapolis Convention Center  
October 2, 2019: 9-12 am, 5-8 pm  
October 3, 2019: 9-12 am
- Performing Arts Fair at MIA  
October 1, 2019: 7-9 pm
- Visit College / Career Resource Center
- Visit with Counselors
- Visit Colleges

# THE COLLEGE VISIT

## What Should I See and Do?

- Tour campus
- Meet with Admissions & Financial Aid Offices
- Meet with professors, advisors, and other staff
- Attend a class | Talk with students
- Eat lunch on campus
- Meet with extracurricular groups
- Pick up a student newspaper or listen to campus radio
- Attend a campus event

# WHAT'S COMING NEXT? – APPLYING

- How many colleges should you apply to?
- When is the best time to apply?
- Types of applications:
  - Rolling
  - Regular Decision
  - Early Action: Non-Binding contract
  - Early Decision: Binding contract

## What to submit?

- Application
- Application Fee\*
- Official Transcripts
- Official ACT or SAT scores\*\*
- Essay\*
- Resume/Activity List\*
- Letters of recommendation\*

\*Not required by all schools

\*\* Some colleges/universities are becoming test optional



# WHAT'S COMING NEXT? – APPLYING MADE EASIER

- Common App
- University of Minnesota System  
    Share My App
- Minnesota State Colleges & Universities  
    Universal Application Form for all 32 schools
- Reuse materials whenever possible
- Pay attention to deadlines – Apply on time!
- Do not apply to every single Common Application School, U of M System School, or Minnesota State Colleges and University System School

# FINANCIAL AID - BASICS

Primary Goal is to assist students!

Financial Aid:

- Scholarships
- Grants
- Loans
- Employment

# FINANCIAL AID - BASICS

**Cost of Attendance** – Variable depending on institution

- Tuition & Fees, Room & Board, Books, supplies, equipment, etc.
- Transportation
- Personal expenses

## **Expected Family Contribution** – Fixed number

Federal Formula

Consists of:

- Student Contribution (incomes & assets)
- Parent/Guardian Contribution (incomes & assets)
- How many family members currently in college
- Size of family/household

## **Net Price Calculator**

# FINANCIAL NEED

Cost of Attendance

- (minus) Expected Family Contribution

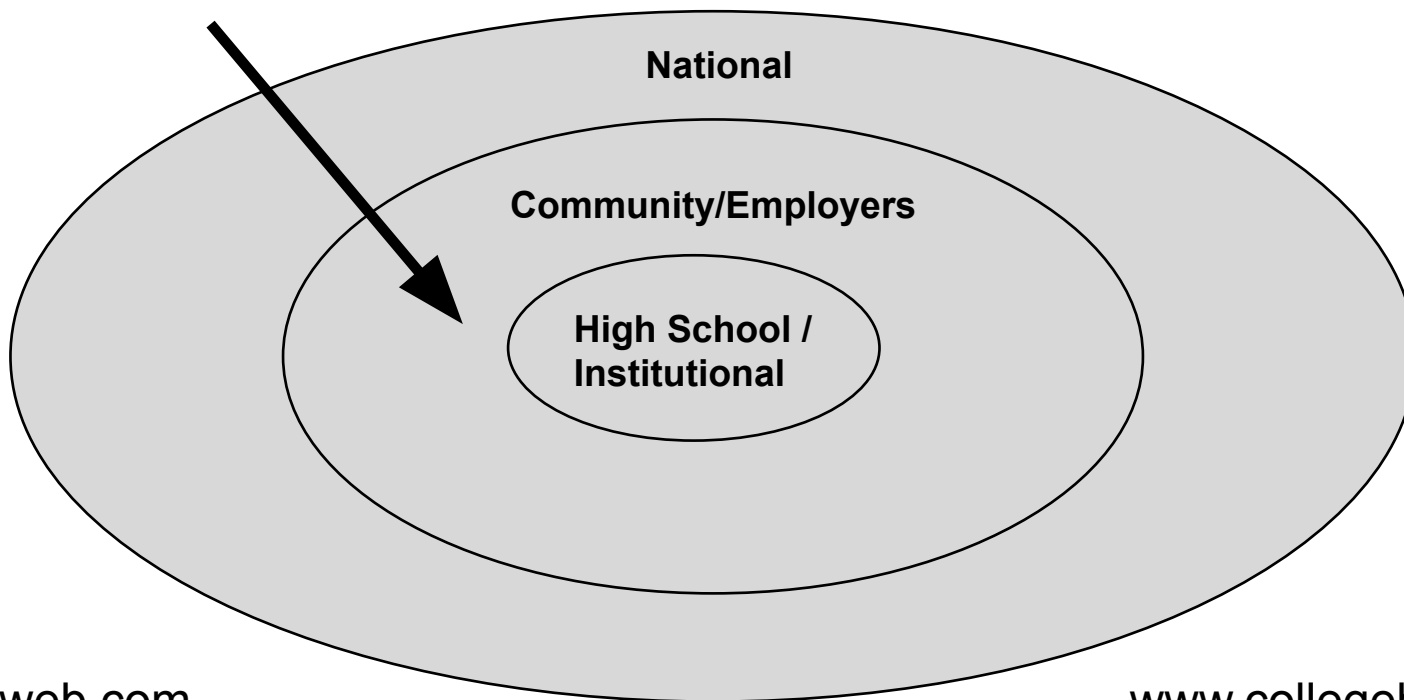
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**= (equals) Financial Need**

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- Great questions to ask:
  - “When is the best time for me to complete my FAFSA?”
  - “After completing the FAFSA when can I expect my financial aid award letter?”

# FINANCIAL AID – SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

**Start Close to Home**



[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

# MAKING THE COLLEGE CHOICE

Multiple Factors:

- Academics | Athletics | Cost | Family
- Friends | Location | Outcomes | Prestige
- Religious affiliation | Size | Social | Student Activities



# MAKING THE COLLEGE CHOICE

- Own your decision
- May 1<sup>st</sup> – National Candidate Response Date
- Inform colleges of your choice
- Prepare for fall semester



TWIN CITIES  
REGIONAL ADMISSIONS  
REPRESENTATIVES

[www.tcrar.org](http://www.tcrar.org)



Thank you!

**Source:** Members of TCRAR | FAFSA | Fastweb | College Board