



COWETA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2017-2018 High School Counseling Dept. Breakdown (General Information)

To find more specific list of scholarship information and financial aid tips, Visit www.cowetaps.org and use the HIGH SCHOOL link to access Counselors Corner where Newsletters and Events will be posted.

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This year there will be a special opportunity to learn more the FAFSA and the new guidelines. Please plan to attend on Oct. 12 from 6:00-7:00 PM in the Media Center.

FAFSA

F-Free

A-Application

F-Federal

S-Student

A-Aid

Most colleges and many private universities require the **FAFSA** to be completed before a student will be considered for their grants and/or scholarships. **Remember:**

- **Students will be able to submit a FAFSA® earlier.** Students will be able to file a 2018–19 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2017, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2018. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.
- **Students will use earlier income information.** Students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2018–19 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2016 income information, rather than their 2017 income information.

A 2018-2019 FAFSA must be submitted no earlier than **Oct. 1 2017** and no later than **March 1, 2018** to be considered for state funds. We strongly recommend that you **SUBMIT** your application on line on as close to possible to Oct. 1, 2017 in order to be first in line for funds.

Here are some step-by-step resources are available to help you file the FAFSA. These resources were created for the 2017-2018 FAFSA but are

still valid because only the filing but the procedure for filing did not change. Because you will file based on 2016 taxes the worksheet contains the correct questions.

Video walk-through of the FASFA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voo6FOr15Gs>

Step by Step Instructions

<https://blog.ed.gov/2017/09/8-steps-to-filling-out-the-fafsa-form/>

Helpful Worksheet

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/2017-18-fafsa-worksheet.pdf>

Join the Federal Student Aid Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/FederalStudentAid/>

Please be aware you should only use the official FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete your application. Other sites look alarmingly similar but will charge you to complete your FASFA.

Senior Newsletters containing scholarships, college representative visits, college events, special Senior events and more will be available every 4-6 weeks. The complete newsletter will be posted on the High School website in the “Counselor’s Corner” section. It will also be posted in the google classroom announcements page for students and included in emailed announcements for parents.

We encourage all students to create an account at www.collegestart.org.

This site is a wonderful resource for scholarships and more!

If you are still researching college options, we recommend

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

College Admissions

Each college has their own deadlines for early and regular admissions. Because the FASFA open so much earlier this year, many early admission dates are Nov. 1, 2018. Begin applying early to be eligible for the greatest amount of financial aid. The counseling office can send a college admission fee waiver if you qualify.

Academic Common Market Program - an arrangement among Southern states allowing students to pay in-state tuition rates at a non-Oklahoma college or university while studying in select programs not available at Oklahoma public institutions. The tuition savings varies by institution. Go to www.okhighered.org/student-center/financial-aid/acm.shtml for further information and details on which programs qualify.

Financial Aid

Check out the website for the state regents for higher education at www.okhighered.org

This site has information about the many state programs designed for helping college seniors find resources for financial aid including

Federal Grant Programs

Federal Pell Grants

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)

Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG)

National SMART (Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent) Grants

State Grant Programs

Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG)

Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant (OTEG)

Scholarships

Individual scholarships and college information will be listed in the monthly senior newsletter but you can find many more opportunities with your own search. **Mixing hard work and patience you should be able to find a scholarship, grant, or contest suited just for you!**

**Always avoid websites that require a fee for service.
The following websites are free and helpful sites.**

https://www.okcollegestart.org/Financial_Aid_Planning/Scholarships/Scholarships.aspx

<https://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org>

<http://ucango2.org>

<http://www.scholarships4students.com/>

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

<http://www.scholarships.com/>

<http://www.collegeboard.org/>

<http://www.schoolsoup.com/scholarship-directory>

Book recommendation: "Winning Scholarships for College" by Marianne Ragins

College Visits

All Seniors and Juniors have 2 school days each year to visit colleges. There is a form that must be signed in the counseling office and by the college representatives before being turned in to the attendance office.

College Representatives

The counseling department schedules representatives from colleges in the area to come talk to seniors and juniors about their school, programs,

admission processes and scholarships. This visits are listed in the announcements and sent on the remind app. We encourage students to sign up and take advantage of this opportunity.

Transcripts

Students should come to the counseling office and sign the “Transcript Request” Book that is on Mrs. Martin’s counter to request a copy of their transcript or to request that a transcript be sent to a school.

Concurrent Enrollment

TCC

Students are eligible for concurrent (or dual credit) enrollment beginning the summer after their 10th grade year providing that they have met the ACT requirements and are in good academic standing at CHS.

To gain admission to TCC, Juniors and Seniors must have a 19 composite on their ACT or a 3.0 or higher GPA. Most Juniors take one class each semester and most Seniors take 2 classes each semester. Student must have a minimum of 19 in the reading section of the ACT to enroll in a course. Students should see their counselor approximately 6-8 weeks before the beginning of the semester that they would like to be concurrently enrolled. Students interested in concurrent enrollment that do not meet the admission criteria above but are interested in participating in concurrent enrollment should discuss it with their counselor. TCC waives the tuition for all concurrent students, however students will be responsible for the fees (usually between \$105-\$120), book(s), and transportation.

NSU

We are currently in our 3rd year of a wonderful and exciting partnership with NSU. NSU currently has two classes each semester on our campus. . NSU waives the tuition for Seniors only. CPS provides the college textbooks for students. The classes offered this year are Fundamentals of Oral Communication, America History since

1876, College Algebra and American Federal Government.

Testing Information

ACT

Coweta High School has been approved as an ACT testing site. Students from Coweta and the surrounding areas may register online at www.actstudent.org to take the ACT in Coweta.

Test Date:

Registration Deadline:

October 28, 2017	September 22, 2017
December 9, 2017	November 3, 2017
February 10, 2018	January 12, 2018
April 14, 2018	March 9, 2018
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018

In order for colleges to receive your ACT scores before the semester ends, you must take the test ASAP. Those of you planning to enter college or a trade school will be expected to take the ACT. We recommend that you take one of these tests this fall if you plan to enter college next summer or next fall. We encourage you to take the test early. All Juniors will be able to take the test for free at CHS on April 3, 2018 this year.

Instructions about registration and other information is available in the counseling office. A digital photo submission is part of the application process. There is an “ACT Photo” App available that makes this a simple submission.

Register Online at www.actstudent.org

Coweta High School Code

370920

SAT

Colleges in Oklahoma accept and usually require the ACT. However, if you plan to attend college out-of-state or are interested in taking this alternate assessment test which measures mathematical and verbal skills, information is available on-line or in the counseling office.

PSAT

The independent, nonprofit Merit Scholarship Corporation awards about 5,000 scholarships each year. Students compete on the basis of test scores, academic and extracurricular achievements, and school recommendations. Taking the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in the fall of your junior year in high school will enter you in the competition. You may take the PSAT as a Sophomore to evaluate where you are. **This year's PSAT is October 11th here at CHS. Sign up in the Counseling Office.**

State Testing

The State Law recently changed and will continue to change regarding the previously required EOI tests. As of October 1, 2017 all students must take the ACT or SAT and one Science Content State Exam before graduation.



If you are a student athlete planning to participate in college athletics (which includes band) please see Mrs. Tuell about NCAA Division I & II eligibility. You should create an account with the NCAA eligibility center during your Junior Year, or as early as possible. Go to www.eligibilitycenter.org to get started.

Oklahoma's Promise

Oklahoma's Promise - Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program - Awards scholarships to students in families earning less than \$50,000 per year who have demonstrated a commitment to academic success and making good choices in high school. Students who plan to participate in this scholarship program must enroll in the program in the eighth, ninth or **10th grade**. **Applications must be postmarked by July 2nd, 2018.** Applications are available in the counseling office.

Driver's Permit

In order to receive your driving permit you must have a letter showing a passing score on your 8th grade reading test. Students should request this letter by signing the "8th Grade Reading Test" book located on Mrs. Martin's counter. Letters will be ready for the student to pick up within 24 hours.

ICTC

Students are eligible to participate in a vocational education program at Indian Capital Technology Center beginning their Junior year. Many programs are two years in length. If a student begins vo-tech as a Senior there are 13th year scholarships that allow for students to complete their program for free. A list of programs offered is in the counseling office.

Other Important Information:



Register with the Selective Service

All males must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday with the Selective Service System to qualify for federal and state student financial aid, jobs and job training. There are 3 different ways that you can register for the military

REGISTER ONLINE

Young men may now register online with Selective Service: www.sss.gov

AT THE POST OFFICE

Selective Service "mail-back" registration forms are available at any U.S. Post Office. A man can fill it out, sign (leaving the space for his Social Security Number blank, if he has not yet obtained one*), affix postage, and mail it to Selective Service, without the involvement of the postal clerk. Men living overseas may register at any U.S. Embassy or consular office.

*Provide your Social Security Number to the Selective Service when you do obtain one.

CHECK BOX

Another way a young man can register is to check a box on the application form for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA form). A man can check "Register Me" on Box #22 of that form, and the Department of Education will furnish Selective Service with the information to register the man.

Congratulations!!

You have reached the end of this document that provides and overview of information from the counseling office. If you have any questions or concerns about the information listed above, please feel free to schedule an appointment with your specific counselor. We look forward to working with each of you over the course of this school year.

THANK YOU,

The High School Counseling Staff

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