



COWETA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2016-2017 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. 13 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. The following are changes to the 2017-2018 FAFSA:

- **Students will be able to submit a FAFSA® earlier.** Students will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. (There is **NO CHANGE** to the 2016–17 schedule. The FAFSA became available January 1 as in previous years.)
- **Students will use earlier income information.** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.

A 2017-2018 FAFSA must be submitted no earlier than **Oct. 1 2016** and no later than **March 1, 2017** to be considered for state funds. We strongly recommend that you **SUBMIT** your application on line on as close to possible to Oct. 1, 2016 in order to be first in line for funds. For the first time ever you can use your previous year's taxes (tax year 2015) there will

be a worksheet on line beginning Sept. 20, 2016 that will allow you to have all of your information gathered to enable you to submit on Oct. 1, 2016.

Here are some step-by-step resources are available to help you file the FAFSA. These resources were created for the 2016-2017 FAFSA but are still valid because only the filing but the procedure for filing did not change. Because you will file based on 2015 taxes the worksheet contains the correct questions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fSeHK4ceGs> Video walk-through of the FAFSA

http://www.fastweb.com/nfs/fastweb/static/educators-2016/FAFSA_Step_by_Step_2016.pdf

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/2016-17-fafsa-worksheet.pdf>

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

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 FAFSA.

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 e-mailed home to parents in Mr. Ellis’ email. Hard copies of all information is available in the counseling office.

We encourage all students to use www.collegestart.org and <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/> To begin college planning.

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, 2016. 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.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. These 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 take a TCC class concurrently, a Junior must have a 21 composite on their ACT and an 19 on the related subject score. They may be admitted based on a GPA of 3.5 or higher in some cases. Most Juniors take one class each semester. A Senior must have a composite score of 19 on their ACT. Most Seniors take 2 classes each semester. Students should see their counselor approximately 6-8 weeks before the beginning of the semester that they would like to be concurrently enrolled. 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 2nd 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 and we have received a grant from ATT that waives the mandatory fees as well. CPS provides the college textbooks for students. Students are responsible ONLY for the College Fee which is \$13.50 for History, Government, and Speech and \$34.50 for College Algebra.

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 22, 2016	September 16, 2016
December 10, 2016	November 4, 2016
February 11, 2017	January 13, 2017
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017

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.

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 Nov. 2 here at CHS. Sign up in the Counseling Office.**

State Testing

The State Law recently changed regarding the previously required EOI tests. Specific tests have not been determined as of Sept. 2016, but we know that Sophomores will be tested in English, Math, and Science and students will also be tested in US History which is usually completed during the Junior year.



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 June 30, 2017.** 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 long and tedious book otherwise known as your financial aid lifeline. If you have any questions or concerns about the information listed above, please feel free to schedule an appointment with your specific counselor. Most applications and informational sheets can be found in our office. Please pay special attention to deadlines and requirements for each scholarship or grant you are applying for. 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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