CHENEY HIGH SCHOOL
SENIOR PACKET

2019-2020

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# SAT vs ACT Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why Take It</strong></td>
<td>Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.</td>
<td>Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Test Structure**   | • Reading  
                       • Writing & Language  
                       • Math  
                       • Essay (Optional) | • English  
                       • Math  
                       • Reading  
                       • Science Reasoning  
                       • Essay (Optional) |
| **Length**           | • 3 hours (without essay)  
                       • 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay) | • 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay)  
                       • 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay) |
| **Reading**          | 5 reading passages | 4 reading passages |
| **Science**          | None | 1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge) |
| **Math**             | Covers:  
                       • Arithmetic  
                       • Algebra I & II  
                       • Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis | Covers:  
                       • Arithmetic  
                       • Algebra I & II  
                       • Geometry and Trigonometry |
| **Calculator Policy**| Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator. | You can use a calculator on all math questions. |
| **Essays**           | Optional. The essay will test your comprehension of a source text. | Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues. |
| **How It's Scored**  | Scored on a scale of 400–1600 | Scored on a scale of 1–36 |

CHENEY HIGH SCHOOL CEEB code is 480185
Senior Timeline

September
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT if you haven’t taken one yet or want better scores. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require (ex: SAT Subject Tests).
- Sign-up with your school or a recruiter to take the ASVAB if you are considering military.
- Look at college or trade school applications and gather all of the information you will need.
- Keep a folder or binder of all your passwords, logins, scholarships you applied to, applications, etc. so you can refer back to them when needed.
- Check your credits with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate.
- Take every opportunity to get to know colleges, trade programs, military options: meet with college/trade/military reps, attend college and career fairs, visit campuses.
- Narrow down your list of colleges/programs to “safe,” “realistic,” and “reach” schools.
- Find out if you qualify for scholarships at the schools/programs of your choice upon applying.
- Create your FAFSA Pin at www.pin.ed.gov at least a few days before you plan on filing your FAFSA. Be sure to use your commonly used personal email when creating your pin and write it down!
- Create a checklist of:
  - Test Dates, registration deadlines, and fees
  - College application due dates
  - Financial aid application forms and deadlines
  - Other materials you’ll need for college applications (recommendations, transcripts, essays, etc.)

October
- Well before your application deadlines, ask for teachers, registrars, and counselors to submit transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- ***Fill out the FAFSA, opens Oct. 1st. ***You will need the pin you created earlier!
- Check your deadlines and make sure you are meeting them. Look at each college’s/program’s webpage for application deadlines.
- Talk with your counselor if you feel like you qualify for college fee waivers.
- Finalize your college essays, personal statements, and any resumes.
- Research scholarship opportunities. (You should NEVER pay for scholarship information.)

November
- Finalize and send any early decision or early action applications normally due this month.
  - Have a parent, teacher, counselor, or other adult review the application before it is submitted.
- Make sure you request your transcript in advanced.
- Make sure your SAT or ACT scores have been sent to the schools of your choice.
- After finishing applications continue applying to scholarships. Create a free account at these websites to see scholarships available to you:
  - Thewashboard.org
  - Fastweb.com
  - www.cappex.com/scholarships/
  - Bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
  - Readysetgrad.org

December
- Begin to organize your regular decision applications and financial aid forms, which will be due in January or February (Check the college for deadlines).
- Register for the January SAT (if needed). It is the last one colleges will be able to consider for a senior.
- Make sure you have asked for all your letters of recommendation at the beginning of this month.
  - Don’t expect people to write them over winter break.
January
- Keep track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork. Make sure you are meeting all of your deadlines.
- Send first semester transcripts to schools where you applied.
- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) by logging in to your FAFSA and making sure the information is correct.

February/March/April
- While most of your applications will be complete and you are waiting to receive admission decisions, don’t slack in the classroom. The college that you do attend will want to see your second semester transcript. NO SENIORITIS!!!
- Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid award packages ($$$), and visit your final choices, especially if you haven’t already.

May
- May 1st is usually the date when the college you plan to attend requires a commitment and deposit. When you’ve made your college decision, notify your counselor and colleges. Send in your deposit by the postmark date of May 1st. If you’ve been offered financial aid, accept the offer and follow the instructions given. Also notify schools you will not attend of your decision.
- Make sure you have requested that your final transcript be sent to the school you will be attending.
- If you are “wait-listed” by a college you really want to attend, visit, call and write the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.
- Sign-up for your colleges orientation.

June
- Finish strong!!!
- Enjoy your summer and stay sharp for school come fall!
SAT & ACT Registration

SAT Dates 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Dates</th>
<th>Regular Registration</th>
<th>Late Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Registration</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 5, 2019</td>
<td>September 6, 2019</td>
<td>September 24, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3, 2019</td>
<td>October 3, 2019</td>
<td>October 16, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7, 2019</td>
<td>November 2, 2019</td>
<td>November 26, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14, 2020</td>
<td>February 14, 2020</td>
<td>February 25, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2, 2020</td>
<td>April 3, 2020</td>
<td>April 16, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6, 2020</td>
<td>May 6, 2020</td>
<td>May 23, 2020</td>
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**Test Fee:**
- SAT: $49.50
- SAT with essay: $64.50
- *Late Fee: $25.00

**Registration Information:**
- Online at: [https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat)
- You must have a valid credit card to register online. Check with your counselor if you feel you qualify for a fee waiver.

Students should have their scores sent to their top 4 universities when registering for the SAT. It is free to send your scores to a college this way. It will cost you to send your scores after you have taken your test.

ACT Dates 2019-2020

<table>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Registration</strong>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26, 2019</td>
<td>September 20, 2019</td>
<td>October 4, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7, 2019</td>
<td>November 8, 2019</td>
<td>November 26, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8, 2020</td>
<td>January 10, 2020</td>
<td>January 18, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4, 2020</td>
<td>February 28, 2020</td>
<td>March 13, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13, 2020</td>
<td>May 18, 2020</td>
<td>May 22, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 18, 2020</td>
<td>June 19, 2020</td>
<td>June 26, 2020</td>
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**Test Fee:**
- ACT: $50.50
- ACT with writing: $68.00
- *Late Fee: $30.00

**Registration Information:**
- You must also upload a photo ID online. The deadline is one week after the last day of the late registration.
- You must use a valid credit card to register online. Check with your counselor if you feel you qualify for a fee waiver.

Students should have their scores sent to their top 4 universities when registering for the ACT. It is free to send your scores to a college this way. It will cost you to send your scores after you have taken your test.
Choosing the Right College

Choosing the right college can be a daunting task, but it does not have to be a seemingly impossible one. Here are a few things to consider that will help make your choice easier.

**Location:**
Climate and distance from home can be huge considerations, but we urge you to think more broadly. For instance, colleges seeking geographic diversity may give an out-of-state student a competitive edge in the admission and financial aid process. And colleges outside the area may be able to offer cheaper tuition. Check the WUE: [http://wue.wiche.edu/search_results.jsp?searchType=all](http://wue.wiche.edu/search_results.jsp?searchType=all)

**Size:**
There are pros and cons for both small and large colleges. It is important for students to consider what environment they would be most successful in. Small vs. large class sizes, university athletics/clubs available, student support resources like tutors, multicultural resources, etc. are all things to look into for each school. Students should ask themselves if they will feel overwhelmed or challenged by a large university atmosphere. Would a small school make them feel claustrophobic or supported?

**Academic Offerings:**
Many students clamor for big-name schools – the Ivy League or UW for instance – without knowing what their academic strengths are. We suggest that students with an interest in a particular field of study use websites like [https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/) or [https://www.cappex.com/](https://www.cappex.com/). Students are also encouraged to speak with professionals in their field of interest and their school’s available counselors.

**Character:**
Ultimately, the school has to feel right to the student – not to his or her family, best friend or counselor. What atmosphere best suits the student? Intellectual? Preppy? Nonconformist? Experimental? Steeped in history? Religious? Are clubs important? Are athletics important? Are you interested in the Greek system? College visits should happen early in the fall, as many schools desire applications in November. Some schools even offer scholarships just for registering and attending one of their college visit days!!!

**Cost:**
In researching the different colleges or programs, be sure to note the different scholarships and types of aid the schools can offer. Do not overlook private schools entirely because there is often a good amount of aid available to accepted students since they know the price tag is high. Most colleges offer financial aid after you complete and submit the FAFSA or WASFA (undocumented students). The amount of aid schools can offer you is usually known in early spring. After you apply and once you have received your financial aid offer, compare them to other university offers and make sure it fits with what you are ok with spending. Consider this: How much will you have to pay out of pocket? Are you ok with taking out loans? How much in loans are you comfortable taking out? How much is your family expected to contribute after you get your financial aid package.

**Resources to help your research:**
- Big Future: [https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/)
- FAFSA4Caster (predicts amount of aid) [https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm?execution=e1s1](https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm?execution=e1s1)
Financial Aid

Financial aid is money to help pay for college. It comes from the federal and state governments, colleges and universities, banks, and organizations. Applying for financial aid is a separate process from applying for admission to a college. You have to do both. To receive financial aid, you must apply for it using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA (www.fafsa.gov) or the Washington Application for State Financial Aid or WASFA (http://readysetgrad.org/wasfa). Colleges use the results of the FAFSA or WASFA to create a financial aid package. There are dozens of College Goal Washington events throughout the state in October and November if you need help filing your financial aid application. Visit readysetgrad.org/cgw-info for a list of dates and locations.

State Financial Aid for DREAMers

Eligibility for several Washington State financial aid programs has expanded to include students who are ineligible for federal financial aid due to immigration status. Students who meet individual program, income, or residency requirements for the State Need Grant, the College Bound Scholarship, State Work Study, or Passport Scholarship should complete the free WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) to apply for state financial aid. For more information, please go to www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa.

The FAFSA requires students to have a valid Social Security Number. U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals, U.S. permanent residents (those with a green card), and some non-residents can file the FAFSA. Please check the Federal Student Aid website (fsa.ed.gov) to see if you are eligible. Students granted refugee statuses are eligible to file the FAFSA. The WASFA is for non-citizen students who do not fall into any of the above referenced non-citizen categories.

Qualifying for Aid

Need-based financial aid programs are designed with the assumption that students and parents have a responsibility to pay a share of educational costs. The amount you and your family are expected to pay will vary based on factors like:

- Income.
- Assets.
- The number of children in the family.
- The number of children attending college.

The process for determining your eligibility for financial aid establishes what you and your family can reasonably be expected to pay. This is called your **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** and is used to identify your financial need.

**CALCULATING YOUR FINANCIAL NEED**

Cost of Attendance (COA) – Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = Financial Need

Federal and state need-based financial aid is only offered if your **EFC** is not enough to cover the cost of attending a particular school. Although your Expected Family Contribution will stay the same, your financial aid eligibility may increase when you apply to higher-priced colleges.
How to Apply for Financial Aid

To qualify for financial aid, you must apply. The most important application is the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid. All federal financial aid programs, most programs offered by the Washington State, and many programs offered by colleges require you to complete and submit the FAFSA. If you do not have a Social Security Number, you should complete the WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) instead of the FAFSA. You should aim to complete the FAFSA or WASFA as close to October 1 as possible. Financial aid dollars are limited and are often awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Important FAFSA facts
- Make sure you visit the official FAFSA webpage at fafsa.gov. It is FREE to file the FAFSA! Be cautious of websites requesting you to pay a fee.
- At fafsa.gov, you can complete, submit, and track your application. There is also an online chat function to answer any questions students or parents might have. However, if you do not have Internet access, you can get a paper copy by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (433-3243).
- To learn more about how to complete the FAFSA correctly, visit www.studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa-fillingout.
- You will need to fill out the FAFSA to qualify for the Federal Pell Grant program. Pell Grants are need-based grants given to help meet the cost of college.
- You must file the FAFSA for every year you attend school. For example, if you are currently a college freshman, you should complete the 2018-19 FAFSA to receive aid for your sophomore year.

Important WASFA facts
- Make sure you visit the official WASFA webpage at www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa. It is FREE to file the WASFA!
- You will need to fill out the WASFA to qualify for the State Need Grant.
- Whether you are planning to attend college for the first time or as a returning student during the 2018-2019 academic year, complete the 2018-2019 WASFA.
- You must file the WASFA every year you attend school. For example, if you are currently a college freshman, you should complete the 2018-19 WASFA to receive aid for your sophomore year.

Types of Aid

Very few students get all of their financial aid for college from one source. When you are searching for financial aid, consider a wide variety of options and apply to as many programs as possible.

Grants
Grants do not have to be repaid if you successfully complete the courses in which you were enrolled. They are given to the students who have high financial need. Most grants come from the federal and state governments.

Scholarships
Scholarships do not have to be repaid provided that you successfully complete your coursework. They are awarded for good grades, cultural or religious background, sports and special talents. Most scholarships come from organizations and colleges.

Work Study
Work study helps you to earn money to pay for your education by working a part-time job offered through the college. There are federal, state, and institutional work study programs.

Loans
Loans for students have lower interest rates than most other types of loans. Unlike grants or scholarships, loans must be repaid with interest when you finish college, even if you do not graduate. Student loans are offered through banks, colleges, and other institutions.
Scholarships

TheWashBoard.org

The Washboard is a free website for Washington students attending college both within and outside of Washington. It helps students quickly identify scholarships for which they are eligible by showing only those scholarship opportunities that match their personal profile data. Students’ private information is kept confidential. Scholarships listed on theWashBoard.org are diverse and support a wide variety of student interests and accomplishments.

- One-third of listed scholarships require a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- More than half of scholarships are not based on financial need.

College Bound Scholarship

Established by the Legislature in 2007, the College Bound Scholarship program provides financial assistance to low-income students who want to achieve the dream of a college education. This early promise of financial aid is intended to alleviate the financial barriers that prevent low-income students from considering higher education as a possibility.

The scholarship is available to 7th and 8th grade students whose family income meets the guidelines, or who are in foster care. The deadline to sign up is June 30 of the students’ 8th grade year. The scholarship covers tuition (at comparable public colleges), some fees, and a small book allowance.

Learn more about the College Bound Scholarship by going to www.collegebound.wa.gov
You can view a list of participating institutions online at http://www.readysetgrad.org/eligible-institutions

Before you begin...

For FAFSA Filing:

- You can save time by using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, which automatically takes information from your tax return and fills in required information on the FAFSA form.
- Create a FSA ID. This is a username and password and allows you to gain entry to certain U.S. Department of Education websites. This FSA ID also acts as your online signature, which will allow you to submit your FAFSA digitally once you have completed it online. This ID will also allow you to check the status of your FAFSA later and to file again for next year. You can create your FSA ID by going to fsaid.ed.gov.

For WASFA Filing:

- Before getting started, review the WASFA instructions at www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa and gather any documents or other information you may need.
STEPS TO FILE A FAFSA
www.fafsa.gov

Step 1: Get a FSA ID
- You can create a FSA ID now at fsaid.ed.gov. If you do not have one when you start your FAFSA, you will be prompted to apply for one.
- Note: You and your parents will need a separate FSA ID number to electronically send your FAFSA. This ID should be different from your FAFSA login. (Put this number safe somewhere as you will use it every year when you fill out FAFSA)
- You will need the following:
  - Email address
  - Social Security Number (both student and parents)
  - Full name as seen on your Social Security Card (both student and parents)
  - Date of Birth
  - Mailing Address
  - Phone Number
  - You will be asked to provide answers to five challenge questions for security purposes
- Feel free to use the “Steps to Create an FSA ID” handout at the bottom of these steps to stay organized and track your information.

Step 2: Gather Documents
- You will need the following documents to complete the FAFSA:
  - Driver’s License
  - Alien Registration Number if you are not a US citizen
  - Federal tax information (2016 IRS 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ) including W-2 information
  - Last pay stub for 2016 (for each parent and yourself if you work)
  - Records of untaxed income such as child support received, interest income, and veterans non-education benefits
  - Information on checking and savings accounts, investments, and real estate (excluding your home)

Step 3: Fill out FAFSA (Free)
- On October 1st, go to www.FAFSA.gov to fill out your form.
- Save as you go along.
- If you get stuck, seek help. Contact FAFSA or the office of financial aid at the college you plan to attend.
- Sign (enter ID number) and Submit your FAFSA.
- If you have successfully submitted the form, there will be a confirmation page and a confirmation email will be sent to the email you provided.
- Make sure that you put the college codes on your FAFSA so that the information will be sent to each college that you have or will apply to. That way they can start your financial aid package started.

Step 4: Transfer Tax Information
On the FAFSA website, find the IRS DRT (Data Retrieval Tool) link to connect to the IRS website.
You must approve your tax information being transferred to your FAFSA form. If you do not use the IRS Retrieval Tool, you may get called for “verification”. You would have to contact the IRS to order a 2016 IRS Transcript and send it to your colleges’ financial aid office before they will compile your financial aid package. Note: If your family mails a paper copy of their tax return, you may update your FAFSA information by mail.
Step 5: Review SAR information
Approximately 3 weeks after you submit you FAFSA, you will receive a SAR (Student Aid Report). Review the information for accuracy. This is the information that your colleges will receive.

Step 6: Check College Status
At the colleges you have applied to, check online or call the financial aid office to confirm that they have received your FAFSA information. Sometimes the college may want additional information. It is good to check your application status weekly.

Step 7: Review Financial Aid Letters
- Once your college has received your SAR, they will send you a Financial Aid Letter. Depending on the college, you may receive this as a paper letter, an email, or on the school website.
- The Financial Aid Letter will help you make a decision about which college to attend. The letter may include:
  - Grants: Money that does not need to be paid back.
  - Scholarships: Money that does not need to be paid back.
  - Work Study: The opportunity to work to earn money for expenses.
  - Loans: Money that must be paid back after you graduate.
  - Family Contribution: This number is not a bill. This number reflects what you may have to pay for various expenses during your year at the college. Outside of tuition, fees, books, room, and board, your expenses will be dependent on your own needs and lifestyle.

Step 8: Acceptance of Financial Aid
Once you have chosen a college, you will need to respond to the financial aid offer. You may accept all that is being offered, part of what is being offered, or none of what is being offered.

Note: If your financial circumstances change at any time, let the colleges financial aid department know. An example of a change in financial circumstance is that one of your parents loses their job.
Steps to Create an FSA ID

1. Go to fsaid.ed.gov or, if you are ready to begin your FAFSA, start at FAFSA.gov and click on the Create an FSA ID link.

2. Create a username and password, and enter your email address.

3. Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information, and challenge questions and answers.

4. Review your information, and read and accept the terms and conditions.

5. Confirm your e-mail address using the secure code, which will be sent to the e-mail address you entered when you created your FSA ID. You can use your FSA ID immediately to file and sign the FAFSA even if you aren’t able to confirm your email with the secure code.

Each student needs an FSA ID. If parent information is required on the FAFSA, one parent will also need an FSA ID to sign the student’s FAFSA. Each student and parent must create their FSA ID separately at fsaid.ed.gov.

Tips to Remember When Creating an FSA ID

Be sure to enter your information accurately.
Your information will be verified by the Social Security Administration and making a mistake, especially with your social security number, birthdate, or name, will cause delays.

Keep in mind that an email address can only be associated with one FSA ID.
Students and parents cannot use the same email address.

If you have an email other than your high school email address, use that alternate email. You may even want to create one especially for financial aid and college application purposes.
Your high school email access will likely expire after you graduate. You will need to use your FSA ID for years to come so link it to an email address that you will continue to use.

It is important to have access to your email when creating your FSA ID.
A secure code will be sent to your email that you will need to retrieve when creating your FSA ID. Entering this secure code will confirm your email address, which is very important if you forget your username or password, and it will allow Federal Student Aid to communicate with you electronically.

Your FSA ID can be used immediately to access and sign the FAFSA.
However, you won’t be able to use it to update or correct the FAFSA or enter any other FSA websites until it has been verified with the Social Security Administration (one to three days).
Your Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID)

Creating an FSA ID is the first step to completing your FAFSA. An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid’s online systems and serves as your legal signature. Only create an FSA ID using your own personal information and for your own exclusive use. If you had a PIN, having that number available will make this process easier.

To create an FSA ID, go to fsaid.ed.gov. Complete this form to keep track of important information related to your FSA ID. This information should be kept confidential and stored in a secure location. Please bring this document to your College Goal Washington event. You can find events that provide assistance with completing your FAFSA at http://readysetgrad.org/cgw-info

Student Information
Email Address: ________________________________________________________
Username: _____________________________________________________________
Password: _____________________________________________________________
Answer to Challenge Questions (answers are case sensitive):
Challenge Question Answer 1: _____________________________________________
Challenge Question Answer 2: _____________________________________________
Challenge Question Answer 3: _____________________________________________
Challenge Question Answer 4: _____________________________________________
Significant Date Answer (MM/DD/YYYY): _________________________________

Parent Information (if appropriate)
Email Address: ________________________________________________________
Username: _____________________________________________________________
Password: _____________________________________________________________
Answer to Challenge Questions (answers are case sensitive):
Challenge Question Answer 1: _____________________________________________
Challenge Question Answer 2: _____________________________________________
Challenge Question Answer 3: _____________________________________________
Challenge Question Answer 4: _____________________________________________
Significant Date Answer (MM/DD/YYYY): _________________________________

College Savings

The Importance of Saving
Most families use a combination of resources to pay for college, including scholarships, grants, loans, other types of financial aid, and saving money ahead of time. There are many different ways that families can set money aside for college. The important thing to remember is that no matter how you choose to save and how much you can afford to save, any amount (big or small) can make a difference.

Ways to Save for College
To help families save for future college expenses, Washington offers the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program – a prepaid tuition program. GET guarantees that if families buy a full year of in-state college tuition today, they will be able to get a full year of tuition in the future, no matter how much the cost changes over time. Families do not have to buy a full year of tuition in order to benefit from GET, and can save small amounts over time, as their budgets allow. GET works best for families with young children, so there is time for their savings to grow. If your family already has a GET account, and you would like to learn more about how to use GET when it's time for college, visit http://www.get.wa.gov/pay-for-school.
To learn more about college savings, we encourage you to visit www.get.wa.gov.
College Application Process

1. Request transcripts by filling out the transcript request form in the career center. You can request an official transcript, which is sealed, or an unofficial transcript, which is not sealed. If you need to request test scores (SAT, ACT, AP, etc.) please let the registrar know by making a note on your request form.

2. Applications needing letters of recommendation: if your application requires letters of recommendation, you need to allow two weeks for your counselor/teacher to complete them. Please allow additional time before Winter break. **Remember, a January 1st deadline is really a December 16th deadline!!**

3. Before sending in your application:

   - Fill out the actual application (paper or online)
   - Make copies of the finished application
   - See the college and career counselor for “School Official” information
   - Double-check to make sure you’ve included all the necessary forms required with the application (transcripts, essays, letters, fees, etc.)
   - Submit your application before the deadline (or mail it early)
   - Write down the date you submitted online or mailed the application so you can verify the date in the event of “lost” or “not received” applications.

Please refer to these user-friendly college application checklists for your use. The first one is thorough and for use in tracking multiple colleges. The second could be printed and used for each college you apply to.

Here is a link to the bigfuture website that explains the application process and provides a downloadable college application checklist at the bottom of the page: [https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/quick-guide-the-anatomy-of-the-college-application](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/quick-guide-the-anatomy-of-the-college-application)

College Deadlines Explained

There are typically three types of college application timelines:

1. **Regular Admissions** – You apply by the midwinter deadline, hear from colleges in early April, and make your decision and notify colleges by May 1st (known as the universal candidate reply date) about whether or not you will attend.

2. **Priority Admissions** - You apply before the Regular Admissions date so you can find out earlier whether you are accepted.

3. **Rolling Admissions** – You apply and usually receive an admissions decision within two to six weeks from the time you submit your application. Most community colleges and technical schools use this timeline. There are a few 4 year universities that use this timeline. Always check with the college you are applying to by calling the admissions office or looking on the web page online.

4. **Early Application** – There are two types of early plans – one nonbinding and the other binding – are offered by several colleges that also use the regular application deadline. Here’s how they differ:
   - **Early Action (EA):** This is a nonbinding plan that requires you to submit your application early in the fall (usually by November 1 or 15). Always check with the college your applying to, to make sure you have the correct date. The college lets you know whether or not you’re accepted by early January, but you have the right to wait until May 1 before responding. This gives you time to compare colleges before making a decision, as an EA application doesn’t commit you to enrolling if accepted.
   - **Early decision (ED):** This is considered binding, so it is essential that you be certain about wanting to enroll at that college. As with early action, you submit an application in early fall. Sometimes between mid-December and the beginning of January, the college notifies you whether you have been admitted, deferred to the pool of regular applicants for spring decision, or denied admission to the college. By applying under and ED deadline, you make a commitment to attend that college if you’re accepted, and surrender the right to wait until May 1 to make a decision. This commitment is taken very seriously. Going back on your agreement after being offered ED admission could result in other colleges refusing to admit you.

**Should you apply early?**
For students who have found their “ideal” college and feel confident in their grades, college essays and application, applying early allows them to bypass the regular spring notification deadline and reduces the time spent waiting for a decision. Students who have already completed their college search can accelerate the admissions calendar by applying under an early plan. Being admitted under an early plan can sometimes be less competitive and sometimes lets the college know that you are extremely interested in attending their college. Be careful! Call the college admissions office first and ask them about their early admittance policies. If your grades, essays and applications are not where you want them to be or you have not double checked everything and revised your essays sending in your application early could hurt you. Make sure you know for sure that it is a college you want to go to.
College Application Tips

- Apply to a “safe” school, a “realistic” school and a “reach school”
  o Safe school – a school you know you will get into
  o Realistic school – the school you want to go to but may be a little unsure of
  o Reach school – a school that you want to go to but know that it is competitive and may be tough to get into. You never know, you might be the person they are looking for!
- Apply before the deadline!
- Know your chosen colleges’ preferences and requirements
  o Visit the college campus, make to set up an appointment so they know you are interested
  o Talk with the admissions counselor at the college you are applying to
  o Visit the college website
- Talk with the college and career counselor at Cheney High School for more information about the college
- Make sure to complete every part of the application online or by mail
- School/ counselor reports need to be downloaded and given to your counselor in a timely manner for completion and signatures.
- Know your deadlines: Visit the college website for the latest information
- Some colleges have scholarship deadlines as early as November. Check for early enrollment deadlines.
- Enclose the correct fee payment
- Note any nonrefundable deposits (May 1st is usually the final date for refund).
- Complete your application as thoroughly as possible.
- Make sure to sell yourself in your essays! What makes you standout? What makes you, you? Why should a college choose you?
- Colleges are moving to a comprehensive review for admissions. Here is what they look at (not in any particular order):
  o Transcript (the classes you took; did you challenge yourself?)
  o GPA
  o Personal Essay
  o ACT/SAT scores
  o Extracurricular activities/ volunteer experiences
- Make your personal essays matter! Edit and rewrite often. Have another person read and edit your essay.
- Request your transcripts in a timely manner. (From the Registrar)
  o Request forms are available in the counseling center
- Request final transcripts in June through LA classes.
- Compare your packages
  o Tuition costs
  o Financial aid package
  o Scholarships
  o Loans
Letters of Recommendation

Everyone wants a good letter of recommendation whether it is for a college application, a job, or maybe an apprenticeship opportunity. In order to increase your chances of getting a great letter it is important to do a few things. And remember, the best letters come from people who know you well. That may mean your teachers, a counselor, employer, coach, or administrator. Here are some helpful tips.

1. Ask the person for permission to use them as a reference.

2. Give them at least two weeks notice before you need the letter of recommendation.

3. Provide them all the necessary forms. Counselors often require specific forms that you need to provide them.

4. Make sure you provide an updated, thorough “Personal Data Form” to everyone you are asking to write a letter of recommendation. See the Personal Data Form on the next two pages. Make copies or save the completed form for future use.

5. Once you receive the letter, be sure to make copies or get a PDF version online that you can save.

6. Write a follow-up thank you note.

Letters of recommendation require a great deal of effort. People are giving their time and energy to help you. Demonstrate your gratitude by making their task as easy as possible.
Personal Data Form

Student Name: ___________________________ Phone Number: ________________

Special Instructions to Writer of Letter of Recommendation:

College or Scholarship Name: ____________________________________________

Qualifications/Selection Criteria: _________________________________________

DEADLINE (ready for pick-up by): ________________________________

Cumulative GPA: ________ Class Rank: _____________ in a class of ___________

SAT Scores: CR____________ M__________ W____________

ACT Scores: E________ M________ R________ S_______ Composite___________

Describe your college plans (including intended college and college major):

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Describe your future career plans:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

List advanced courses that you have completed or in which you are currently enrolled (i.e. AP courses, Honors courses, Math, Science, etc.):

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

List clubs, activities, sports, student government participation (please indicate grade levels/offices held):

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

List any awards and/or honors you have received:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Describe community service, volunteer work, church activities, or jobs in which you have participated:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Describe something unique about yourself (i.e. travel experiences, hobbies, special talents, etc.):

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What challenges have you met/or of what single accomplishment are you most proud?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What would those who know you well say are your qualities?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Please have your parents or guardian write at least a paragraph on your strongest attributes. Include examples that demonstrate these qualities:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Additional helpful information:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Campus Visit Questions

- What makes this college unique?
- What types of activities are offered on campus?
- What are the college’s strongest programs?
- What kinds of resources are available to me on campus?
- What’s the largest class size that I would be in as a freshman?
- Are professors available and easy to talk to? Do they teach most of the freshman classes?
- What supports are in place to help freshman be successful?
- Are there intermural sports available?
- Are there volunteer activities offered?
- What are the leadership opportunities?
- What kind of support is there for me if I’m struggling in a class?
- What is the social life on campus like?
- How much time do students typically spend on homework?
- How much writing and reading are expected?
- How widely used are teaching assistants on your campus?
- What is the average class size of upper division courses?
- What opportunities are there for undergraduate research?
- How many students participate in undergraduate research?
- Is there a culminating senior year experience?
- Do you have an honors college?
- Do you have a learning community or other freshman experiences?
- What is your average financial aid package?
- What is the typical breakdown of loans versus grants/scholarships?
- What percentage of financial need does the school typically meet?
- What is the average merit award? (An award based on high school GPA and SAT/ACT scores)
- What percentage of students receive college scholarships/grants?
- What is the average college debt that students leave with?
- What work-study opportunities are there?
- What is your four-year graduation rate?
- What is your five-year graduation rate?
- What does it take to graduate in four years?
- What percentage of freshman return for sophomore year?
- What type of tutoring programs do you have?
9 Reasons to Consider a Community College:

1. **Close** – If you need or want to stay close to home, this is one way to go.

2. **Prepares you** – Students going from a 2-year school to a 4-year school feel prepared for the higher level of classes.

3. **Easy transfer** – Transferring from a community college to a 4-year university is easy. Always talk to your advisor to make sure your credits transfer to the university you want to go to.

4. **Helps you Plan** – 2-year colleges help you identify areas of career interest and help you identify goals.

5. **Job opportunities** – because of their close ties to the community, they can offer experiences and job opportunities both before and after graduation.

6. **Great teachers** – Faculty are known to be excellent teachers and offer continuous assistance to those who need it.

7. **Applies to your job** – If you are applying for an apprenticeship at a local company, many require you to take classes at a community college or technical school.

8. **Get done quicker** – If you don’t want to spend three or four years doing a lot of reading, writing and continuous courses, this is the way to go.

9. **Cheap** – Annual tuition and fees are about ½ the cost of a 4-year school.
CHS Career Center

College and Career Counselor
Darrin Carlson – dcarlson@cheneysd.org

Counseling Secretary/Career Specialist:
Lynda Ford - lford@cheneysd.org

“Educating and developing young minds and hearts to be confident as individuals to pursue their dreams.”

The Cheney High School Career Center provides a variety or resources for college and career readiness. The Career Center is a place where students can come to obtain information on 2- and 4-year colleges, apprenticeships, and the military, testing and test preparation, financial aid and scholarships, career exploration and college and major descriptions.

In collaboration with the grade level counselors, we continue to work on building a comprehensive college and career going culture for all students. In addition to scheduled appointments, students are welcome to come to the Career Center during before school, during lunch or after school to utilize the resources. All students are welcome to schedule appointments and come talk with the college and career counselor or the career specialist.

The college and career counselor provides all students with:
- 1 on 1, group, and classroom career guidance
- Helping with the High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP)
- Help with applying to jobs, apprenticeships, and colleges
- Connecting students with the appropriate admissions counselors or military recruiters
- Helping students find a pathway to the career that matches their strengths and interests
- College information nights for students and parents
- The college admission process
- Financial Aid information and application assistance
- College admissions test preparation and registration
- Campus visits from college admissions and financial aid professionals
- Career planning

The career specialist helps the college and career program provide and carry out the tasks described above.

Schoolinks:
A College & Career Information System, researches and distributes information about career, colleges and helps students manage your school and resume portfolios. This particular system will be used for your High School and Beyond Plan which is a Washington state graduation requirement

Schoolinks User ID: student email  Password: Student’s birth date

Schoolinks Electronic Portfolio:
This is a place for students to store, retrieve and update information gathered during career and educational exploration. The portfolio is a convenient method of storing: career research and career assessments, educational plans, assessment records, work and community experience, school involvement, resumes and cover letters.

Test Prep:
Practice Tests for man of the tests that you have or will take, including:
- ACT, SAT, and PSAT
- ASVAB
• AP practice tests (Peterson’s Practice tests)

Resources:
• www.khanacademy.com
• https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/
• https://fafsa.ed.gov/
• http://www.fastweb.com/
• http://www.thewashboard.org/login.aspx
• http://www.wiche.edu/wue
• https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships

Come into the career center or check out our website for information on:
• Scholarship search & applications
• College search & applications
• College speakers & visitations
• Apprenticeship programs
• Military information
• Job opportunities

Seniors be sure to check out the bulletin board outside the counseling center. All scholarship information and important senior information is located on this board!

Students and Parents be sure to sign-up via text for REMIND notifications from your college and career counselor about important college and career information regarding:
• College and recruiter visits
• Field trips and events
• Scholarships $$$
• SAT/ACT Testing
• Deadlines
• Much more!!!!

Text @db4g6ag to the number 81010
You’ll receive a welcome text from Remind.
If anyone has trouble with 81010, try texting @db4g6ag to (859) 878-1161.

Cheney High School
Credit Check

Name: ____________________________________________

Last Name       First Name

Class of 2018 needs 23 credits to graduate with the following courses completed:

Language Arts: 9 9 10 10 11 11 12 12
Useful College and Career Information Websites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Resource Description</th>
<th>Helps with</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMPREHENSIVE HELP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/">https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/</a></td>
<td>Parent, student, and educator resource designed to assist in all areas of college exploration</td>
<td>Financing college information, student self-exploration, college and career comparisons, college searches, college decisions making support, plan making, essay and testing tips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>march2success.org</td>
<td>Free resource covering financial aid info, scholarships, test prep.</td>
<td>Create a free account. Full SAT and ACT practice tests, quizzes, flashcards, and tips. College prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>college processes, and athletic recruiting info.</strong></td>
<td>course to help identify strengths and weaknesses. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) practice tests. Scholarship, financial aid, admission process info, and guide to athletic recruiting.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>khanacademy.org</strong></td>
<td>College Admissions, entrepreneurship, career profiles, and personal finance</td>
<td>Provides information regarding the college-going processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong><a href="https://www.cappex.com">https://www.cappex.com</a></strong></td>
<td>Parent, student, and educator resource designed to assist in all areas of college exploration</td>
<td>Create a free account and search colleges, compare colleges, and to use their GPA/SAT/ACT tool to determine likelihood of acceptance into different colleges. Also search for scholarships you may be eligible for.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

| **fastweb.com** | Create a free account for scholarship identification | Assists students in finding scholarships available to them based on their personal information. |
| **thewashboard.org** | Create a free account for scholarship identification | WA state scholarship finder. Assists students in finding scholarships available to them based on their personal information. |
| **https://www.cappex.com/scholarships/** | Create a free account for scholarship identification | Assists students in finding scholarships available to them based on their personal information. Oversharing is usually better than under sharing because you never know what you would qualify for! |
| **https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search** | Scholarship Search | Helps you find scholarships available to you. |
| **http://www.wiche.edu/wue** | WUE: Western Undergraduate Exchange | Information on how to become eligible for the WUE scholarship, which is for students who want to attend college in a state other than WA. See the participating states and schools. Apply early for this one, very competitive. |
| **readysetgrad.org** | College Bound Scholarship | For students who signed-up and qualified in middle school. Income-eligibly based. See your counselor to see if you qualify. |
**SAT AND ACT PREP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>march2success.org</td>
<td>Free SAT, ACT and ASVAB prep</td>
<td>Full SAT and ACT practice tests, quizzes, flashcards, and tips. College prep course to help identify strengths and weaknesses. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) practice tests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>khanacademy.org</td>
<td>Free SAT prep</td>
<td>Full-length practice tests and instant feedback on progress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>collegeboard.org</td>
<td>SAT registration site. PSAT information.</td>
<td>SAT test dates, registration, and practice information. PSAT information and practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opened.com</td>
<td>Free ACT prep</td>
<td>Practice ACT information and other study tools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>act.org</td>
<td>ACT registration, test dates, and prep</td>
<td>ACT registration, test dates, free study guide, free college and career navigation profile.</td>
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**ADMISSIONS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-application-checklist">https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-application-checklist</a></td>
<td>Application Checklist</td>
<td>Gives you a list of what you need to complete an application. Could be used for each college you apply to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.exploringcollegeoptions.org/">http://www.exploringcollegeoptions.org/</a></td>
<td>Shares dates of workshops for students and parents interested in Ivy League schools and their requirements.</td>
<td>Understanding IVY League school expectations.</td>
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**STUDY TOOLS**

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<tr>
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<th>Features</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>khanacademy.org</td>
<td>Free study tool</td>
<td>Covers math, science, computing, history, grammar, econ, and financing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://college-scholarships.com/gpa-calculator/">http://college-scholarships.com/gpa-calculator/</a></td>
<td>GPA Calculator</td>
<td>Allows students to calculate their GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>march2success.org</td>
<td>Free Test prep and math and writing enhancement.</td>
<td>Full SAT and ACT practice tests, quizzes, flashcards, and tips. College prep course to help identify strengths and weaknesses. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) practice tests.</td>
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**FAFSA**

- **www.pin.ed.gov**
  - Create your NEEDED FAFSA Pin Here
  - Create a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), You MUST create an "FSAID" on the site in order to file a FAFSA (this can take a couple of days to process). Be sure to keep your FSAID information and to use your (student's) personal email when making an FSAID.

- **fafsa.gov**
  - File your FAFSA
  - Need to complete to qualify for College Bound Scholarship and to be eligible for subsidized and unsubsidized student loans. Filing a FAFSA can pair some students up with free money in scholarships or grants. Schools base their award package amounts (money for students) off the FAFSA information.

- **https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm?execution=e1s1**
  - FAFSA4caster
  - Used to predict a student's financial aid amount.

- **https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/**
  - Official FAFSA site
  - Explains who is eligible for aid, what type of aid is available, etc. Can help with more specific questions.

- **http://readysetgrad.org/college/financial-aid-101**
  - FAFSA PowerPoint
  - User-friendly PowerPoint describing loans, grants, and scholarships.

- **http://readysetgrad.org/wasfa**
  - WASFA: Washington Application for State Financial Aid
  - For students who are ineligible for the FAFSA due to immigration status. Students who meet individual program, income, or residency requirements for the State Need Grant, the College Bound Scholarship, State Work Study, or Passport Scholarship should complete the free WASFA.

**APPRENTICESHIPS**

- **http://www.exploreapprenticeship.wa.gov/parents.htm**
  - WA State apprenticeship information
  - Shares what an apprenticeship looks like.

  - Find a program suitable for you
  - Explore the different apprenticeship options.
| Apprenticeship processes. Not all are the same, be sure to speak with a representative regarding your program. | Find an apprenticeship that's right for you. |

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<tr>
<th>MILITARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.goarmy.com/rotc/high-school-students.html">https://www.goarmy.com/rotc/high-school-students.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive information on their branch and how to become a part of their branch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.marines.com/">https://www.marines.com/</a></td>
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<td><a href="https://www.gocostguard.com/">https://www.gocostguard.com/</a></td>
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<td><a href="https://mil.wa.gov/national-guard">https://mil.wa.gov/national-guard</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Athletics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility center for students looking to play sports at schools in the NAIA league. Must create an account to register. Does have a fee. Do this at the beginning of junior year. Registering with the eligibility center is necessary for coaches to contact you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center">https://www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility center for Division I, II, and III athletics. Must create an account to register. Does have a fee. Do this at the beginning of junior year. Registering with the eligibility center</td>
</tr>
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</table>
is necessary for coaches to contact you.