



Tuscola High School Senior Newsletter January 2013

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FINANCIAL AID HELP

→ On **Saturday, February 23, 2013**, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon, college financial aid officers and other financial aid specialists will assist students in the completion and the electronic submission of their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms. Register at www.cfnc.org/fafsaday.

→ On **Tuesday, March 19, 2013** and **Wednesday, March 20, 2013**, Haywood Community College financial aid officers will be at Tuscola to assist students and parents in the completion of the FAFSA. More details coming next month.

→ **Any Weekday**, you can call Haywood Community College's financial aid office and they will help you complete your FAFSA. Just call 626-4509 to make an appointment.

Congrats!

Bullinger, Alyssa
Gardner-Webb University
Provost Scholarship- Total:
\$36,000 & WCU

Hay, Thomas
Lees McRae College Pinnacle
Scholarship - Total: \$30,000;

Simson, Georgia
Auburn University, Gardner
-Webb University, &
University of South
Carolina



BEFORE BEGINNING THE FAFSA

(Free Application for Student Aid)- Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for more information.



1. **Gather all the documents that you need**—social security number, drivers license, income tax returns, bank statements, and investment records.
2. **Complete a FAFSA on the web worksheet.** (You can get these at www.fafsa.ed.gov.)
3. **Plan how to sign your FAFSA.** (Sign electronically with a **Personal Identification Number** or by mailing in a signature page.)
4. **Apply for a PIN now!** (You can go to the Federal Student Aid PIN Web site at www.pin.ed.gov to apply.)
5. **Check your eligibility for federal student aid.** (Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, have a valid Social Security Number, be registered with Selective Service if you are male and 18 to 25 years of age (go to www.sss.gov for more information), have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) Certificate or pass an exam approved by the U.S. Department of Education, be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program at a school that participates in the federal student aid programs, not have a [drug conviction](#) for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, loans, or work-study),
6. **Note important deadlines.** (Apply as early as possible. Contact schools for exact deadline dates.)

* Federal Student Aid estimates that for first-time users, FAFSA on the Web will take you less than one hour to complete. Once you begin filling out your FAFSA, you can save it whenever you want, and then complete and submit it later at your convenience.*

Also note the following:

- If you are filing a **2012 income tax return**, we recommend that you complete your tax return before filling out the 2011-2012 FAFSA. Note that you do not have to actually send your tax return to the IRS before filling out the FAFSA. You can submit your FAFSA using estimated income and tax information. However, after you file your tax return, you must correct any income or tax information that is different from what you submitted on your original FAFSA.
- You should receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) within three weeks. Carefully review all of the information on the SAR to make sure it is correct. Follow directions for making and submitting corrections promptly. If you do not receive a SAR within three weeks, or if you have questions about your SAR, refer to the [Customer Service](#) page.

TIP: You can check the status of your application by selecting [Check Status of a Submitted FAFSA or Print Signature Page](#) under the **FAFSA Follow-Up** section of the home page at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

If you or your family have unusual circumstances (such as loss of employment) that might affect your eligibility for federal student aid, check with the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend.

FASTWEB SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Go to www.fastweb.com.
2. Fill out your profile completely.
3. Keep an eye on your inbox for scholarship opportunities.
4. Apply to those that you have been matched to.

Mid-Year Transcripts

Make sure to stop by the Counseling Center and complete a transcript request if your college requires a mid-year transcript. We will make announcements when mid-year transcripts are available.



College Dorms On-Campus Housing Options

Most college students live in a dorm for the first year, if they don't commute from home. Many colleges require their resident students to live on campus their freshman year. Even if you have the option of living off campus, there are benefits to living in the dorms for at least a year.

The dorms can help jump-start your social life, ease the transition to life on your own and introduce you to a diverse group of people. Although there are some drawbacks – sharing a bathroom, coordinating schedules – most students feel that the rewards outweigh the frustrations.

Types of College Dorms

In the summer before your first year at college, you may be asked for your dorm preferences. Every college has different housing options. Some even have special dorms:

Single-Sex Dorms

Some colleges require all first-year students to live in a single-sex dorm. These dorms may have restrictions concerning guests of the opposite sex.

Special-Interest or Theme Housing

In these dorms, you'll meet students who share your interests. For example, there may be a dorm for international students, music majors or vegetarians.

Types of Rooms

Most dorm housing consists of either a room off a hallway, or a suite with several bedrooms and a living room. In most cases, you'll be sharing a bathroom with other students. The bathrooms may be single-sex or coed.

Singles

It's pretty rare to get a room by yourself as a first-year student. Having a single has its obvious perks, but there are a few negatives. Usually, single rooms cost more. And you might miss the companionship of a roommate, especially when you first arrive on campus.

Doubles

A double — sharing a bedroom with one other person — is by far the most common setup at most colleges. You and your roommate can decide how to set up the room. Rooms with bunk beds may give you some extra space.

Suites

This is a nice option if you can get it. Suites usually consist of a couple of bedrooms and some kind of shared living space. For instance, a quad (four people) might be made up of two double bedrooms and one common room. You get the best of both worlds with this option; you can go into your bedroom to sleep while your roommate studies or talks on the phone in the common room.



PUBLICATIONS INFORMATION

- Yearbooks with personalization must be paid in full by February 15.
- Cap and gown pictures will be at THS on January 25th. (Caps and gowns will be provided and proofs will be sent home.)
- Baby ad payments are due.



CSS Profile

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® is the financial aid application service of the College Board. More than 600 colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected on the PROFILE to determine eligibility for nonfederal student aid funds. The PROFILE is a fully web-based application system that provides students a secure and efficient method for reporting their financial data to schools.

Visit www.collegeboard.com to see a list of schools that require the PROFILE and to complete the application.



Avoid Senioritis and the Senior Slump

There's a common misconception that once you've made it to your senior year -- and especially once you've been accepted by colleges -- that senior grades no longer matter. However, colleges do request and review senior grades, especially from the first half of the school year. Be forewarned, though, that if you let your grades slip anytime during the year, colleges have the right to ask you to document and explain why your current grades have dropped below previous years.

Continue to take pride in your grades and continue to attempt your best. Some studies report that high school seniors who lost interest in high school because of a "senior slump" also had problems in college because they had lost interest and devalued the importance of education, and you don't ever want to face the worst-case scenario: not graduating high school because you are short one credit because you failed an elective course. Visit www.quintcareers.com for more information.



ACCUPLACER INFORMATION

The Accuplacer tests are required for community colleges. The purpose of the Accuplacer tests are to provide you with useful information about your academic skills and for placement in college classes. You can take the Accuplacer by contacting the community college you plan to attend, or the Accuplacer will be given at THS in March. You must sign up in the Counseling Center. Study guides are available in the Counseling Center.