

UTAH COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK

Best Practices for Creating a College-Going Culture



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Executive Summary

Utah College Application Week is an event sponsored by the Utah System of Higher Education. DuringUCAW, seniors apply for college throughout school hours with professional support. Younger grades participate in college awareness activities to establish college planning early. The following examples, ideas, and suggestions are fromUCAW’s participating high schools. These activities are effective in helping students apply and plan for college.

Each idea is organized by topic and designed to help counselors and college access professionals share them with their schools. The [USHE College Application and Financial Aid Resources webpage](#) contains several additional templates.

In addition to planning a college application workshop for seniors, the following ideas can be used to support Planning for College and Career Readiness and create a college-going culture across 9th and 12th grade levels.

Begin by exploring student-first ideas. Consider student feedback and input to decide what works best for your school. Use inclusive approaches that consider your school’s current population. Keep in mind that each grade level will prioritize different topics. Younger students may emphasize foundational soft skills, while older students will focus on actionable items such as college and scholarship applications. Additionally, consider how first-generation students and those facing economic barriers perceive their readiness for college. For example, some students might need specific high school credentials by their senior year to apply. Teach students about the opportunities at Utah public colleges and universities:

- 1) Applying to Utah public college colleges and universities is free.
- 2) Most public Utah colleges and universities offer open admission, guaranteeing access to anyone with a high school diploma or GED.
- 3) No minimum GPA or test score requirements exist for some colleges.
- 4) Financial aid opportunities are available to help cover the cost of college. Students can file the FAFSA to apply for state, institutional, and private scholarships and to access aid.
- 5) One of the best ways to learn about college options is to schedule a campus tour with an admissions representative.

The information in this document was gathered by participating Utah College Application Week schools. Although this document is not an exhaustive list of ideas, activities, or best practices, please let us know what you’d like to add. Your input is invaluable. Please email ucaw@ushe.edu.



Student Self-Awareness Tools and Activities

Some students may hesitate to consider college because they lack the knowledge or don't have the support to attend. Others might feel uncertain because they don't perceive themselves as college-bound. It is essential to bridge this gap, ensure students are informed, and show them what they can do to achieve their goals. Helping students learn that education goes beyond the classroom involves developing the skills to acquire and use knowledge.

One example is to discuss the significance of a student's high school credentials, like GPA and test scores, during one-on-one meetings. These factors should not solely influence their decision to apply and plan for college, but they can improve their application. Share the talking points:

- Applying to Utah public college colleges and universities is free.
- Most public Utah colleges and universities offer open admission, guaranteeing access to anyone with a high school diploma or GED.
- No minimum GPA or test score requirements exist for some colleges.
- Financial aid opportunities are available to help cover the cost of college. Students can file the FAFSA to apply for state, institutional, and private scholarships and to access aid.
- One of the best ways to learn about college options is to schedule a campus tour with an admissions representative.

Below are tools to support postsecondary planning. Remember, these resources can be used duringUCAW and for activities such as college and career planning discussions.

- [Utah College Directory](#) to schedule individual or group campus tours.
- [USHE College Guide](#) ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) has grade-level checklists and research tools to help students prepare academically and financially for postsecondary education.
- [Utah Programs and Majors Guide](#) to explore majors at public colleges and universities.
- [My Next Move](#) helps students learn about their interests and align those interests with career options. Students can also explore possible college majors and programs in Utah.
- [Keys to Success](#) aims to motivate students to unlock their future by connecting them to scholarships, internships, and careers.
- Students can explore the cost of living with the [Reality Check Tool](#).



Ideas by Student Population

College and Career Activities by Grade Level

We do a tailgate in our courtyard every year. We serve hot dogs and chips and have fun yard games for the students. It helps get the younger classes involved and knowledgeable aboutUCAW!

– Springville High School

9th grade:

- Decision-making, learning styles, study habits, high school transcripts, academic planning, connecting interests and careers, how to search for scholarships, colleges, and the degrees or certificates offered, college tours, and more.

10th grade:

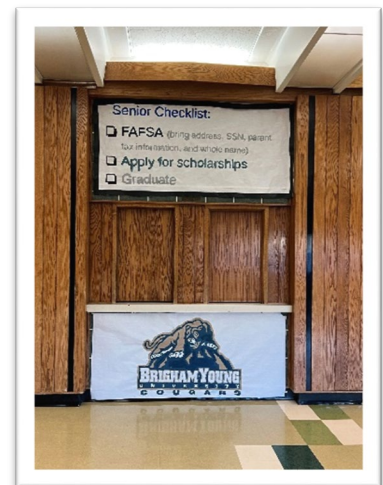
- Progress check, extracurricular activities, earning college credit during high school (AP, IB, Concurrent Enrollment, dual enrollment at technical colleges), college costs and ways to pay, how to search for scholarships, college tours, understanding college admission criteria, college entrance test, etc.

11th grade:

- Money and budget management, how to search for scholarships, creating a college list, exploring careers, understanding the admissions process, college tours, college entrance tests, preparing to apply, writing personal statements and essays, etc.

12th grade:

- Peer-to-peer mentoring duringUCAW, what to expect in college, choosing a major and program, finding the right college for you, exploring careers, resume writing, completing the FAFSA, applying for scholarships and colleges, and more.



Eligible Non-Citizen Students

Some students are undecided about applying for college or university for various reasons. To foster trust with these students and families, creating a supportive environment matters. Share information that signals to students and families that their school is a supportive resource for planning and applying to college. Supporting students happens with help from community organizations and their resources to navigate topics correctly. Inviting trusted partners to information nights and one-on-one meetings will help facilitate conversations.

Use the following talking points as a starting point in every presentation and conversation with students and their families:

- It is free to apply to public colleges and universities in Utah.
- All students, regardless of immigration status, can apply and attend college.
- Students do not need an SSN to apply for college.
- Most public Utah colleges and universities offer open admission, guaranteeing access to students with a high school diploma or GED.
- There are no minimum GPA or test score requirements for some colleges.
- There are financial aid opportunities to help cover the cost of college. Students can file the FAFSA to apply for state, institutional, and private scholarships and to access aid.
- One of the best ways to learn about possible college options is to schedule a campus tour with an admissions representative.
- Apply for scholarships your senior year with the help of a college adviser and school counselor.

Alternative Resources:

- Eligible non-citizen students can apply for HB 144. They must have attended a Utah high school for three years and graduated with their diploma or GED.
- Similarly, international high school students can apply for HB 118. They must have attended a Utah high school for three years and graduated with their diploma or GED.
- Students who have applied for or been granted refugee status, humanitarian parole, temporary protected status, permanent residency, or asylum can apply for in-state tuition through HB 102. Talk to an admissions representative for more information.
- All seniors and their parents will receive expert help on the FAFSA, which can help them pay for school, qualify for work-study jobs, the Opportunity Scholarship, and more.
- When working with students, ensure that their situation is kept confidential and share with every student alternative options to pay for college, such as private and institutional scholarships, non-resident tuition exemptions (HB 144, HB 118), etc.

Utah resources for immigrant and refugee students:

- One Refugee scholarship and mentoring opportunities: onerefugee.org
- Salt Lake Community College Dream Center: slcc.edu/dreamcenter
- University of Utah Dream Center: dream.utah.edu
- Weber State University Dream Center: weber.edu/dream-center

Additional opportunities:

- Federal Student Aid Estimator: studentaid.gov/aid-estimator
- Immigrants Rising: immigrantsrising.org/resource/list-of-scholarships-and-fellowships



- Scholarships A-Z: scholarshipsaz.org/scholarships
- Dreamer’s Roadmap Mobile app: dreamersroadmap.org

Students Who Are Citizens or Members of Federally Designated Native American Tribes

Several Utah public institutions offer [in-state tuition for residency purposes](#) to students who are citizens and/or members of federally designated Native American tribes. The student must meet the following criteria:

- Student is enrolled on the tribal rolls of a tribe whose reservation or trust lands lie partly or wholly within Utah or whose border is at any point contiguous the border of Utah; or
- Student is ia member of a federally recognized or known Utah trube and have graduated from a Utah high school.

For additional information or questions please ask the college’s residency office.

In addition, students who are members of a federally recognized tribes can apply for scholarships. Students are encouraged to speak with the scholarship offices for more information:

- [Salt Lake Community College](#)
- [Southern Utah University](#)
- [University of Utah](#)
- [Utah State University](#)

Additional resources:

- American Indian College Fund: collegefund.org/students/scholarships
- American Indian College Fund – College Access and Success Resources: collegefund.org/students/college-success
- College Horizons: collegehorizons.org/programs/resources

Students with Disabilities

All colleges and universities are legally required to designate a center that accommodates students with disabilities. This is different from modifications made in K-12 education which revises course curriculum and assignments. Students must self-advocate and self-disclose that they have a disability to receive accommodation in college. Accommodation is made on college campuses to create accessibility for students with disabilities, but adjustments aren’t made to the course requirements or the curriculum. Examples of accommodations include specialized tutoring, recorded/audiobooks, class notetakers, preferential seating, and lecture notes or study guides to prepare for exams are accommodations some colleges allow.

Encourage students to work with a parent, teacher, mentor, or trusted adult to help them understand what to say when they request accommodation in college. Each college has a process and procedure they ask students to follow, including meeting with the accessibility adviser and providing the necessary documentation.

Share this list of accessibility resources centers with your students:

- ushe.edu/wp-content/uploads/pdf/k-12/ucaw/Disability_Resource_Centers.pdf



Additional resources:

- Think College, resources for transitioning, preparing, and paying for college: thinkcollege.net/resources/resources-by-topic
- Utah Parent Center: utahparentcenter.org
- Center for Parent Information and Resources: www.parentcenterhub.org
- Able Account Savings Plan: ableut.com

Non-Degree Seeking Students

This year, we added resources for non-degree seekers, including skilled/technical certificates and apprenticeships, which helped more students engage in UCAW.

--West Jordan High School

Some students may be undecided about going to college. USHE uses the *1, 2, 4, or More* model to support all students pursuing certificate, associate and bachelor degrees, graduate degrees, and beyond.

Emphasize to students that several colleges offer open enrollment and don't require specific GPAs or test scores for admission. To enroll, students must graduate with a high school diploma or GED. Additionally, share the following talking points:

- Utah is home to 16 public colleges and universities, many of which have open enrollment admissions. This means that pathways are created for any student regardless of GPA and test scores.
- Utah graduates can earn 50% more annually than those without a college certificate or degree, leading to improved lifetime earnings, job security, and enhanced overall well-being.
- Whether pursuing a certificate, associate degree, bachelor's degree, or graduate degree, Utah colleges offer flexible class schedules with online, in-person, or hybrid programs.
- Students who want to attend a technical college can enroll anytime throughout the year and, in many cases, complete at their own pace and debt-free.
- Utah colleges offer ESL (English as a Second Language) programs.

Additional resources:

- [Utah College Directory](#) to schedule individual and group campus tours.
- [USHE College Guide](#) ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) has grade-level checklists and research tools to help students prepare academically and financially for postsecondary education.
- [Utah Programs and Majors Guide](#) is a guide to search for majors at public colleges and universities.
- [My Next Move](#) helps students learn about their interests and aligns those interests with career options. Students can also explore possible college majors and programs in Utah.
- [Keys to Success](#) aims to motivate students to unlock their future by connecting them to scholarships, internships, and careers.
- Students can explore the cost of living with the [Reality Check Tool](#).



College Spirit Ideas

College and Postsecondary Plan Pennant Wall

Celebrate students who have applied to college, the military, and the workforce with a pennant wall. USHE has provided [templates](#), which can be found on the UCAW webpage. After students apply to a college, they can write their name on a college pennant and hang it on a bulletin board.



- Reduce printing costs by using a map of Utah or the U.S. in high-traffic areas. Pin the location of the colleges applied to.
- You can also create a bulletin board posing questions like, “What are your plans after high school?” Then, provide sticky notes or a space on the bulletin board for each student to write down their thoughts.
- Link to template:

[We] developed a US map displaying colleges [for] students to indicate their interest by adding their names throughout the month. In addition to receiving prizes, students placed their names next to every school they applied to. This sparked a friendly competition among students, encouraging them to maximize their presence on the board and apply to multiple colleges ... and even capturing memorable moments by posing for photos with friends. This interactive activity ... fostered stronger connections among students applying for colleges [and] motivated those who had yet to apply ...

--Ogden High School

"Ask Me!" Signs

“Ask Me!” signs are a quick and low-cost way to create awareness and excitement for your school’s UCAW. This helps students solidify their understanding of higher education and career planning by seeking attainable and relevant opportunities. Additionally, leverage the relationships that instructors and staff form with students to support them in making self-aware decisions about their future.

- Send the “Ask Me!” sign to staff and ask them to customize it with the college or university they attended.
- To be more inclusive of all college and university options, ask each staff member or teacher to create a sign with information about various colleges in Utah (regardless of their attendance at that college) and display it outside their classroom or office door.
- Include the Career Center staff at your school by asking them to create “Ask Me” signs that highlight possible career opportunities.



We sent a survey to teachers asking them about their academic history, favorite parts of college, and next-step planning advice. I made a poster for each teacher with this information and hung it on their doors. During announcements, we did teacher spotlights and read the teacher's college information/advice. The first student to guess the teacher received college swag ... and a treat.

–Altamont High School

College Spirit Days

- A fun way to generate excitement at your school is to have college t-shirt or sweatshirt days. Make sure to represent technical, two-year, and four-year colleges and universities.
- Some high schools collaborate with local colleges and universities to bring mascots for school assemblies or lunchtime activities to create excitement and foster college spirit.
- Get everyone involved—all students, staff, and administrators!
- Many schools host college spirit days for several Fridays before UCAW or every day during the week preceding the event.

Involve Teachers and Staff

Our Financial Literacy teacher gave extra credit for every school [students] applied to. This helped our numbers so much!

--San Juan High School

Invite teachers and staff to share their college experience:

- Show off or wear alma mater gear.
- Decorate the classroom or door with college banners, mascots, or other college-related items.
- Promote multiple colleges throughout the school. Ensure that technical colleges, community colleges, and universities are included.
- Boost team morale by providing teachers and staff with food and snacks.

Informational Sessions

Senior Assembly

An assembly is a great way to get students excited about college applications. Invite guest speakers to share their college experience and provide valuable insights. Consider incorporating resources and tips for succeeding in college. To enhance engagement, student leaders should be involved in planning the event and encouraged to develop creative ways to present the information.



Mini Senior College Tour

Invite local degree-granting and technical colleges to meet with seniors before UCAW. If your school has previously participated in the Utah Higher Education Day (aka, Utah College Tour, Junior College Day), consider hosting a similar event tailored to your school. Reserve several classrooms for college presentations about their admissions process, tuition, scholarships, first-year programs, and resources. Students can choose a selection of college presentations they're interested in during the school day, spending 20-30 minutes at each.

Hybrid Application Workshops

Our school had two colleges come each day... Students needed to go by the counseling office for a ticket and fill out applications to [specific colleges]. We split the colleges into different rooms, with all the information needed for the application on the board, two counselors in each room, with the representatives. We had a check-in and check-out sheet asking if they finished the application there with us . . . [for] each application and Flex workshop [students participated] in preparation for UCAW, students received a ticket for Plinko to win various prizes.

--American Fork High School

Some schools host application workshops tailored to specific colleges. Start by distributing a short survey to seniors asking them to list their top-choice institutions. Based on their responses, direct students to designated computer labs to receive targeted application assistance for the colleges they are interested in.

Some schools offer appointment times for students to meet one-on-one with admissions recruiters from their preferred colleges. For example, schedule specific days with recruiters from Southern Utah University, Utah Tech University, and Snow College, who are available for individual meetings throughout the school day. Consider providing walk-in times to accommodate as many students as possible.

College Fairs

Invite Utah colleges and universities to set up a booth with information about admissions, specific programs, and resources. This could double as a workshop event in the evening by inviting colleges to present to students and their families.



Lunch Activities

We had a good time! Seniors chose to come down during our flex time to get help. We had popcorn, music, and treats. For every application submitted, students got a raffle ticket for the prize drawing. This year, we gave away three pairs of BEATS headphones.

--Bonneville High School

Lunchtime is a good place to promote UCAW to create enthusiasm for college applications. Use this time to promote a college-going culture among all students, emphasizing encouraging seniors to submit their college applications.

- Set up a table with “Ask Me How to Apply to College” signage or “Ask Me About Ways to Pay for College”
 - Ask teachers and other staff to table throughout UCAW.
- Draw in engagement with candy, games, or freebies.



Information for Students and Families

College Application Week Folder

The UCAW folder is a great way to organize students’ necessary application information in one place. Seniors keep the folders and can refer to them throughout the year. We have provided a section in the **UCAW Manual**, “**Appendix A: Student Resources and Handouts**,” a great addition to a student’s folder as a toolkit with handouts and activities for students preparing for or during UCAW.

These resources are tools for students to refer to as they apply for colleges and universities. Create a list of standard requirements for college applications so students can gather the necessary information before applying. Additionally, the following resources, specific to each student, will be useful for UCAW and beyond:

List of standard information regularly found on college applications:

- Current transcript
- UCAW worksheets and informational documents
- Places for students to write down login information
- A small notepad and pen, college swag



- PrintedUCAW calendar or QR code forUCAW school information
- Any worksheets found in theUCAW manual that will be used
 - Even if not all worksheets are used duringUCAW events and activities, students and their families may find it helpful in the future.
- Senior Canvas Course or webpage
 - QR Code to course
 - Use your school’s Canvas portal to create a one-stop shop for all seniors throughout October and the rest of the year.
 - Include information about:
 - Utah colleges (two-year, four-year, and technical colleges)
 - [Facts-at-a-Glance](#)
 - [College and Universities Slide](#)
 - Scholarships, FAFSA, and other resources pertinent to the student demographics.
 - If your school has a college adviser, you may want to include them in creating this Canvas course.
- Link to handouts on the Utah College Application and Financial Aid Resource webpage: ushe.edu/utah-college-application-week

Communications

School Website

Leverage your school’s website to advertiseUCAW to students, families, and the community.

- In addition to adding College Application Week to the school calendar, be sure to include pre-event activities.
- Use your website to post any materials you want students and their families to have access to before your event, such as forms, handouts, websites, and answers to commonly asked questions.

Morning Announcements

Generate excitement by highlighting different colleges and universities during school announcements in the weeks leading up to the event.

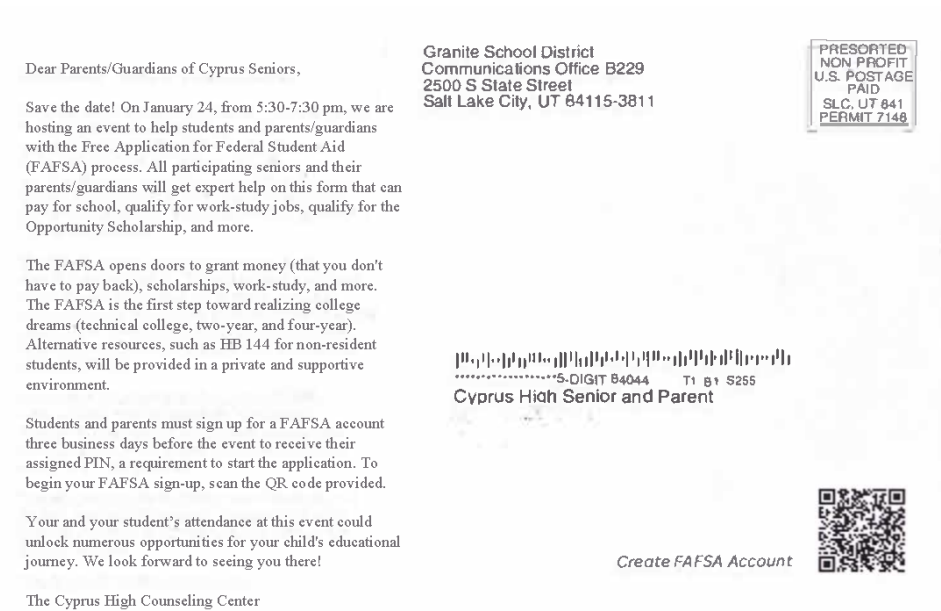
- Make the announcements exciting by having speakers provide a unique fact about the school, sing the school’s spirit song, etc.
- Create college trivia with teachers. Play trivia with students and offer prizes. Also, try the Online Scavenger Hunt handout in theUCAW manual.

Informational Letters

- Send letters or postcards to parents and community partners. Include:
 - Important dates
 - Main events/speakers/community partners involved
 - Topics that will be covered
 - A website with more information



- Here's an example:



Phone/Email Blast Message

After sending a phone call to all parents and regular text and email updates, we had more people attend.

--Westlake High School

To ensure students have time to prepare for the event, we recommend that you call or send a text blast to parents at least three weeks before the program.

- If your school has a college adviser, consider including them in efforts to engage parents.
- **Sample text message:**
 - Calling all seniors! (Name of High School) is hosting Utah College Application Week, October XX-XX, to encourage every senior to apply to at least one college. Learn more about colleges and careers and get expert help with college applications. Don't miss out on this opportunity! Text: 1 – I know what colleges I want to apply, 2—I need help to create a list of colleges, 3—I am not sure, and I want to learn more.
- **Sample message:**
 - Friendly reminder that (Name of High School) will host Utah College Application Week, October XX-XX, to encourage all seniors to apply to at least one college. Students should come prepared with a list of colleges they wish to apply to and any necessary information, such as completed college courses (AP, Concurrent Enrollment, etc.). This will help streamline the application process. If you have



any questions or need assistance, please contact our [job title of the person overseeing UCAW] at [contact information].

- If your school has created a webpage for the event, include the URL in messaging to students and parents.
- If your school is hosting a family informational night, include any relevant information (date, time, if snacks will be provided, what to bring).

School Newspaper

Enlist the yearbook staff and school newspaper writers:

- Interview seniors about their college plans and publish these interviews in the school paper.
- Post graphics or ads in the school newspaper or create a special section discussing UCAW.

Social Media Templates

We have created UCAW social media post templates. Tailor them to match your school colors, and add relevant dates and school logos. Simply edit, download, and use them for social media accounts, email blasts, and the school's website.

- Canva templates:
 - [Twitter post](#)
 - [Instagram post](#)
 - [Instagram story](#)
 - [Facebook post](#)
- UCAW Materials Google folder: drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m-3hEAl0St-YQBTYaZ3XjFBGucoN1TAe?usp=sharing

Flyers and Posters

Hang flyers and posters around your school to build excitement and anticipation for UCAW.

- Invite seniors to use #UCAW, #CollegeBound, and #iApplied on social media. Get creative by making school-specific hashtags.
- Engagement can be rewarded with drawings and coupons to local restaurants. This helps create excitement for UCAW participation.
- Canva templates:
 - [Flyer](#)
 - [Postcard](#)
 - [For email use this business card size \(3.5x2\)](#)

School District Awareness

A district-wide UCAW announcement will spread awareness throughout the community, as well as elementary, junior high, and middle schools in your district. Messaging from your school district will signify the importance of college and career planning to students, especially seniors applying to college in the fall. Include parents and guardians in your messaging to engage them in UCAW.



Feel free to include the Utah System of Higher Education [proclamation](#) with the Governor's Office. This can solidify your school's efforts to engage all students in college and financial aid planning during October.

Engaging with Community Partners and Teachers

We held a large resource fair to help our students see what resources are available to them after they graduate from high school. Some of the resources were colleges, some were community resources, like Centro Hispano, and we also invited apprenticeship programs for students who did not want to go to college.

--Provo High School

Use relationships with teachers, college access advisers, and community partners (i.e., Utah College Advising Corps, TRIO, GEAR UP, AVID, LIA, POP, and BSU, etc.) to engage with students in meaningful ways with the student body.

- Reach out to community partners to findUCAW volunteers.
- Invite community partners to table during events, such as college fairs, mini college tours for seniors, or during a tailgate.
- Ask English teachers if they would be willing to coordinate a writing workshop for personal statements or essays. Teachers can review correct grammar and language for a college application or scholarship. Additionally, stress the importance of using appropriate email addresses that are not school emails (i.e., alana.gonzalez@gmail.com, not catgirl1@gmail.com).
- Ask Civics, Psychology, or Social Studies teachers to lead a college match lesson where students research and identify schools that suit their academic records and goals.
- Ask Financial Literacy teachers if they would be willing to teach a lesson on calculating financial need, creating an FSA ID account, and evaluating the return on investment of a college degree. Investigating the average salaries of students who graduate and move into specific fields is an important piece of the research.
- Academic incentives: extra credit for students participating inUCAW events and activities.

Follow-up Activities

This was the first year I've offered "after school" sessions for students who couldn't make it to a different time. A good number showed up, and some brought parents.

--Stansbury High School

Offer alternative times to follow up with students. Leverage your relationships with teachers, college access advisers, and community partners to help the counseling team follow up with students and families. Include the following action items and activities:



- Include parents in your messaging about follow-up opportunities, and consider providing a language interpreter for Spanish speakers so parents can understand the information presented at meetings.
- Meet individually or in a group setting to help students submit incomplete college applications.
- Before your school's FAFSA event, work with financial literacy teachers or during advisory periods to give students time to create their FSA ID accounts. Monitor students who encounter difficulties during this process to follow up with them and ensure they complete their accounts before the event.
- Offer office hours before the school day, during lunch, or after school for students to ask questions about their postsecondary plans. Tell students they do not necessarily need a college or post-high school plan to make an appointment. The purpose of the office hours is to talk through hesitations, worries, successes, etc.

Data Collection

We sent out a survey after UCAW to gather data about who had applied, who still needed help, and whether they completed their FSA ID or needed help. Then, we had a random drawing for a bag of college swag.

--Timpanogos High School

The Utah System of Higher Education reports to the Utah Board of Higher Education, the Governor's Office, the state legislature, and the System's national partners on the number of high school seniors participating in UCAW events statewide.

We may report on the program's impact on school administrators, the school board, parents, volunteers, and community members. Data tracking helps those efforts. USHE administers the UCAW Coordinator Survey to schools to track the number of students who applied to college.

Each school may track the following information as it sees fit:

- Number of transcripts sent to colleges during and after UCAW
- Number of seniors who participated during and after UCAW

Additional questions and thoughts:

- What strategy or practice does your school use to engage all students in college and career planning?
- How do you track the number of students who participated and the number who submitted college applications for your UCAW event?
- Share student or event success stories at your school.

Some schools administer a survey to seniors with questions to capture school-level data. Other schools have students sign out of the event with their name and the college to which they applied. Other schools meet individually with students and track data as they go.



Conclusion

Building a college-going culture within high schools ensures students have the knowledge, resources, and confidence to pursue higher education. The ideas and activities shared in this guide provide a comprehensive framework for high school counselors and college access professionals to inspire and support students at every grade level. By integrating these ideas, schools can create an environment emphasizing the importance of post-secondary education and planning that empowers all students, regardless of their background, to see college as an option. Counselors can significantly impact students' college readiness and success through early engagement, tailored support, and inclusive approaches.

As we continue to foster a college-going culture, let us remain committed to addressing the diverse needs of our students and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to explore and achieve their educational aspirations.

