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## Happy Summer!

Welcome to the inaugural Pathway Admissions newsletter!

We hope you are all enjoying fun vacations and the more relaxed pace of summer. We also hope you've been able to get out and visit some colleges on your list now that campuses are beginning to open up more to visitors. There are still restrictions in many instances (tours are appointment-only and may be mostly outdoors, students can typically only bring one guest, and everyone must wear masks and socially distance), but we encourage you to do as many tours as you can.

Seniors -- be sure to schedule frequent meetings so we can finalize your list and get a head-start on (or finish!) your application essays this summer.

Alex and Penny



## [UT Short Answer Supplemental Prompts - 2022](#)

The UT Short Answer prompts are now available, and you can read our suggestions for your approach to answering them on our blog (click the "Read More" button to be taken to our blog).

[Read More](#)

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## **University of California Campuses to Limit Out-of-State Admissions**

The California budget for 2021-22 passed by the legislature last week and presumably soon to be signed into law by the governor puts an escalating cap on the number of out-of-state students who can be admitted to UCLA, UC-Berkeley, and UC-San Diego for the next 3 years (classes of 2022-2024). While

tuition rates, we can expect non-resident admissibility odds to shrink at these 3 campuses over the next few years.



## College Spotlight: Willamette University

Nationally ranked liberal arts college with MBA program and law school on the campus, this charming Pacific Northwest gem has much to offer. Notable programs include: Politics, Policy, Law & Ethics (PPLE), Data Science, Theater, Japanese language and cultural studies, Sustainability & Environmental Science.

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## MONEY MATTERS

Many families understandably want to avoid paying premium out-of-state tuition rates at public universities, especially if the in-state choices are strong.

However, with the competitiveness of admissions at our two primary Texas flagship universities, looking to other states is fairly common.

Some state flagship universities offer a tuition discount or waiver for nonresident students who meet certain GPA and/or test scores.

- University of New Mexico's Amigo Scholarship pays for the nonresident differential plus an additional \$2,000 (total discount of \$16,138), and the minimum standards are only 3.5 GPA paired with 1070 SAT (or 23 ACT) or better.
- University of Arkansas's New Arkansan Scholarship waives between 50-90% of the differential between resident and non-resident rates (with surrounding states getting 70-90% off), based entirely on the student's high school GPA. Other premium scholarships wipe out all the differential in combination with additional amounts that can be applied toward the resident tuition and/or housing or other costs.

and 1200-1250 SAT (or 25-26 ACT) is entitled to a scholarship award of \$11,000 per year (nonresident premium is \$15,520).

- University of South Carolina has many generous scholarships that dramatically reduce the premium non-resident rates

Many parents wonder if a student can establish residency after a year of attending college in another state. The answer is almost always no, but there are a few exceptions. A student who obtains a North Dakota driver's license before the beginning of the fall semester of freshman year, changes his or her voter registration to ND, and maintains a place of residence during the summer between freshman and sophomore year will be entitled to claim in-state residency for tuition purposes at the beginning of sophomore year.

There are many other universities with generous scholarships that will defray or eliminate the non-resident tuition premium.



## TEST PREP CORNER

Test prep timeline: if you're a senior, make sure that you're being strategic. It doesn't make sense to prep or re-test if you're not going to send your scores to schools. If your target score is in the middle 50% for a given school, then it's a good idea to send it.

For rising 11th graders, summer is a great time for test prep. A good rule of thumb is that you can start ACT or SAT prep if you've completed at least 6 weeks or so of Algebra II (so don't be afraid to wait if that's not the case.) Targeted one on one tutoring can improve your score as much as 11 ACT/400 SAT points (and our average improvement for all students

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## 9th-10th Grades

- Take free or low cost career assessments
- Course Selections - AP/IB/Honors -- evaluate for any career or college plans you already have and be sure to consider as much rigor as you can handle without stress
- College Tours - virtual, local or vacations are all a good way to get a jump start on what you want in your college experience
- Create a college resumé you can update each year
- Evaluate summer options - jobs, internships, pre-college programs
- Consider test prep or academic tutoring as needed

## 11th Grade

- Keep your grades up
- Pay close attention to course selections - rigor is an important factor in college admissions
- Research and tour colleges -- virtual or local tours to get started, but plan to visit as many colleges in person as you are able
- College List - you will want a balanced list of 8-12 colleges by beginning of senior year
- Take or retake the SAT and/or ACT -- consider test prep if needed
- Update your College Resumé
- Consider portfolios or athletic recruitment outreach
- Summer plans -- jobs, internships, volunteer work, pre-college programs

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