THE AMBROSE SCHOOL

College Handbook

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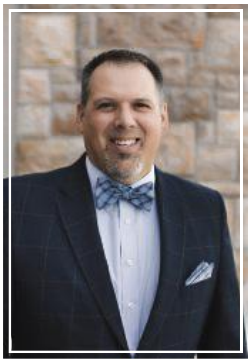
LIFE AFTER

THE AMBROSE SCHOOL



Dear Families,

Our vision of education has always been one in which the family is the primary educator, and the school provides direction and guidance while navigating post-primary school options.

We are seeing an increasing number of students join trade or apprenticeship programs, and we desire to expand these opportunities. However, historically, most Ambrose graduates matriculate into a four-year college or university.

With this in mind, as students and families discern their future educational opportunities, The Ambrose School encourages students and parents to visit small, medium, and large colleges or universities to get an idea of the size, fit, and culture of various institutions to help them narrow their search. These visits should stimulate conversations between students and parents about the importance of the decisions they face.

At present, parents and students must understand the current state of higher education and the workforce in which they will be joining. Government funding requires universities to provide diversity and inclusion programs; many colleges include LGBT transition assistance, and still others include outright denigration of the Christian faith and those who practice it. Please take the opportunity to prepare your students to observe evidence of these programs during your visit and encourage them to discuss the impact these programs will have on their college experience.

If you have additional questions about college and career planning for your student, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Grace to you,

M. Wade Ortego

M. WADE ORTEGO
Head of Schools

ACCREDITATION

*The Ambrose School is fully accredited by the Association of Classical Christian Schools and the Middle States Association. Therefore, our graduates have full access to admissions to **all institutions** of higher education.*

THE AMBROSE SCHOOL

CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

At The Ambrose School, our college advising program reflects our mission to nurture students' appreciation of truth, goodness, and beauty as they strive for excellence while guiding them to live purposefully in the service of God and man.

We work closely with families and students as they prepare for life after Ambrose. We approach this journey with enthusiasm, understanding that each student's educational path serves to glorify God while aligning with their talents, priorities, interests, and aspirations.

Throughout the four years of Rhetoric School, we walk alongside students and parents, providing objective information about the college landscape. This empowers families to navigate post-secondary options with confidence and clarity.

We believe that the college admissions and trade school process is about finding a suitable match for each individual student. In assessing a student's post-graduation plans, we focus on schools that are a good match academically, culturally, and financially.

CHART YOUR COURSE < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < <

9th & 10th

As your student navigates their freshman and sophomore years, take the time to explore what life might look like after graduation. Think about how their aspirations align with your family's values and priorities. If you're traveling, consider setting aside time to visit a college campus nearby. Share stories from your own profession and help them connect with family or friends who can offer a day of shadowing. These conversations are vital as you guide them in understanding what it means to follow the Lord faithfully as adults, discover their unique callings, and recognize their God-given gifts. By engaging in these discussions, you're helping them shape their transition into adulthood, aligning their journey with their values, strengths, and dreams.

ACTION STEPS

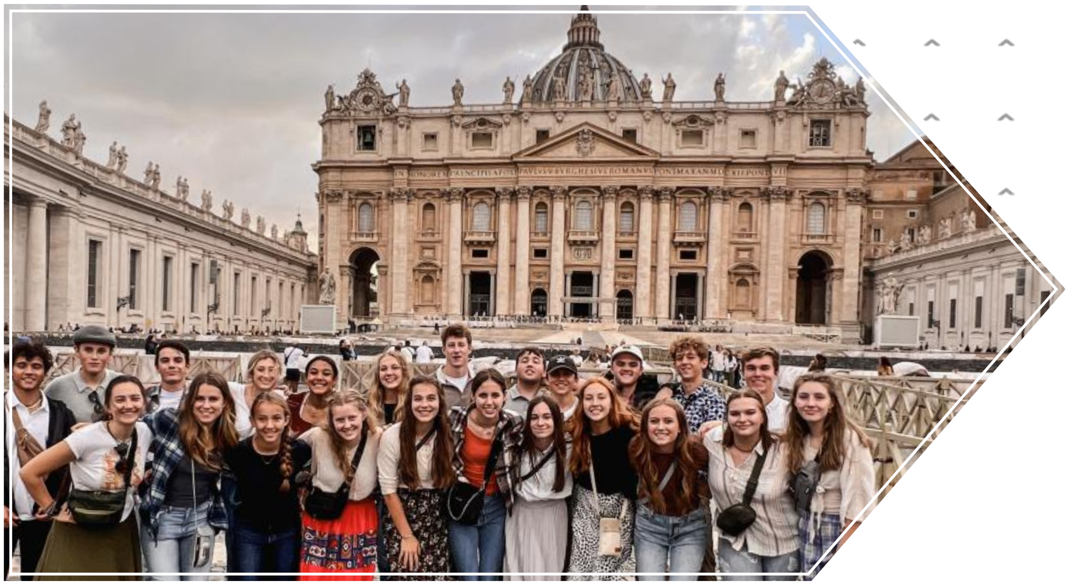
1. ***Talk About Finances:*** Make it a priority to discuss your family's financial guidelines openly and often.
2. ***Encourage Work Experience:*** Help your child find a summer job or a shadowing opportunity to gain real-world insights.
3. ***Focus on Meaningful Activities:*** Encourage them to invest deeply in fewer activities. This approach will give a richer picture of who they are rather than spreading themselves too thin.
4. ***Look Ahead:*** Check admission requirements and connect with the College Advisor to be sure your planned coursework at TAS includes the required courses for those potential colleges/universities. For example, Cal State schools require 2 years of the same foreign language. However, for the vast majority of students, our graduation requirements fulfill the admission requirements set forth by colleges/universities.
5. ***Academic Commitment:*** Encourage your child to connect with their teachers and put in their best effort in class. Remember, college applications happen early in senior year, so maintaining a strong academic record is essential.
6. ***NCAA Registration:*** If your child is passionate about NCAA athletics, remind them to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center before the end of their sophomore year.

11th

Your student's junior year is a pivotal time filled with exploration and growth as the planning for life after graduation comes into sight. This year often marks the moment when the prospect of graduation becomes tangible for students and their families. While navigating some moments can be frustrating, they are also an opportunity to build character and responsibility that have been cultivated throughout their education. It is essential for both parents and students to understand that the responsibility for post-graduation plans lies with the student and their parents.

ACTION STEPS

1. ***Visit Campuses:*** Starting with one from each end of your college list (reach, safety, and match). Consider visiting when college is in session for the best window into the campus community.
2. ***Attend Lunchtime Visits:*** Stay informed of visits from college admission counselors; these are offered in the fall and spring.
3. ***Complete College Bootcamp:*** Students are automatically enrolled in College Bootcamp for one semester. Topics covered include college admission essays, resume writing, introduction to standardized tests, available scholarships, and career exploration.
4. ***Schedule Testing:*** Students are automatically registered for the PSAT that is scheduled fall of their junior year. ACT, SAT, and CLT are scheduled by each student individually.
5. ***Explore Options:*** Consider a summer job, internships, job shadowing, or a camp as a possibility.
6. ***Register with NAIA:*** If interested in NAIA athletics, register with the NAIA Eligibility Center.
7. ***Consider Summer Intensives:*** If considering the United States Service Academies, look into their summer intensive programs.



Summer of 12th

ACTION STEPS

1. ***Complete Campus Visits:*** Use this summer to visit any college campuses you couldn't see during the school year.
2. ***Engage in Summer Experiences:*** Consider taking on a summer job, internship, job shadowing, class, program, or camp to gain valuable experience.
3. ***Work on Your Personal Essay:*** Take the time to complete your admissions application personal essay, reflecting on your journey and aspirations.
4. ***Update Your Resume:*** Revise and polish your resume, incorporating the activities and experiences from this summer.

12th

Senior year brings the exciting reality of graduation, filled with both practical steps and meaningful reflections. While college applications and future plans will naturally be important topics of conversation, be mindful to keep the focus balanced. Many families find it helpful to set aside a specific time each week to review and discuss the application process, ensuring it doesn't overshadow your family time.

ACTION STEPS

1. ***Schedule a Meeting with Your College Advisor:*** Sign up for a time to meet in the fall to discuss your application and deadlines, get questions answered, etc.
2. ***Request Letters of Recommendation:*** If your application requires a letter of recommendation, speak to a teacher who can write you a strong letter. Please be respectful of timing.
3. ***Complete Testing:*** Wrap up SAT/ACT/CLT testing by December.

COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

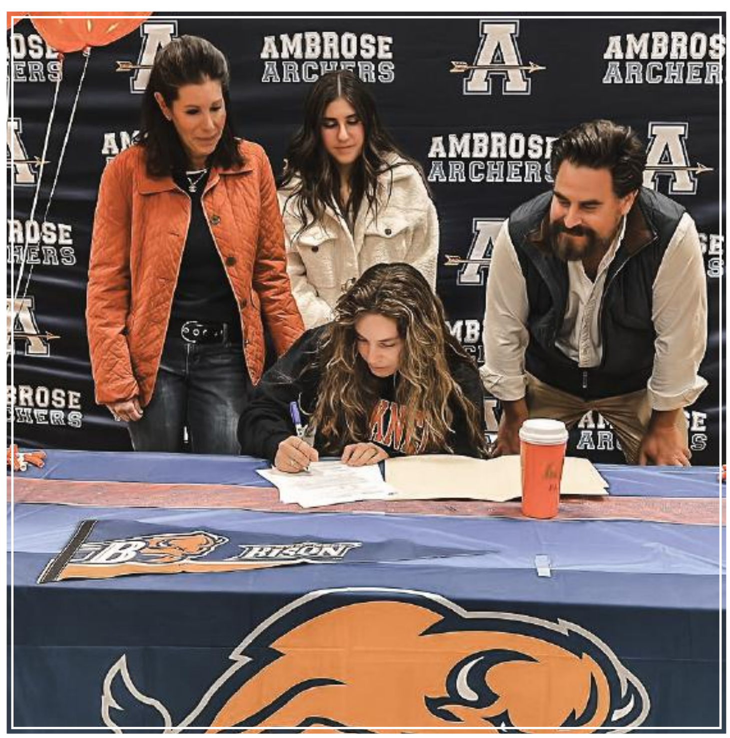
Pursuing athletics after high school can take many forms and offers a wonderful opportunity to develop further and express the gifts you've been given. However, navigating the options can be challenging, as there are many pathways to consider and various voices influencing your decisions. We encourage open discussions focused on your child's "why" for pursuing collegiate athletics, as this will help provide clarity and direction. Some athletic opportunities may complement academic pursuits, while others may be more recreational or demand the same level of commitment as a full-time job.

Online Resources to Help with the Recruiting Process

- NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student Athlete
- NAIA Resource Page for Future Student-Athletes
- "Looking for a Full Ride?" by Renee Lopez

Collegiate Athletics Key Terms

- ***NCAA:*** The governing body of collegiate athletics, consisting of over 1,100 institutions divided into three divisions:
  - Division One: The highest level of competition, where athletic scholarships are available.
  - Division Two: A competitive level where athletic scholarships can also be offered.
  - Division Three: This division does not offer athletic scholarships.



- ***NAIA:*** Another governing body of collegiate athletics, encompassing around 250 institutions, with 82% being private and 65% faith-based. Institutions in this category are eligible to offer athletic scholarships.

- ***Junior College:*** Two-year institutions that serve as a stepping stone for students looking to transition to more competitive programs.

STANDARDIZED TESTING & TERMINOLOGY < < < <

Research over the years consistently shows that the most significant factor influencing student test scores is a strong, rigorous classroom experience over time. While test preparation can be beneficial when done thoughtfully, we suggest starting with initial testing early in the junior year with minimal prep. From there, test prep can be more strategic and targeted. It’s also worth noting that students can take most exams multiple times and usually have the option to choose which scores, if any, to submit to colleges.

HOW MANY SCHOOLS SHOULD I APPLY TO?

Terminology used when discussing college/university selections with students and families.

Reach
Highly selective schools where your test scores and GPA are below the 25th percentile of students currently attending. Overall acceptance of total applicants is below 20%.

Match
Institutions that are the “perfect fit.” Your test scores and GPA match those of the incoming freshman class and are between the 25th and 75th percentile of students currently attending. (Keep 2-4 match schools on your list.)

Safety
Institution that you have an 80% chance or higher of being accepted. Compare your SAT/ACT scores and your GPA to the student body average. You should be in the 75th percentile or above. Consider putting two safety schools on your list.

TESTING KEY TERMS

PSAT: Pre-Scholastic Achievement Test

Administered once per year in the sophomore and junior years. The junior year score is used to determine National Merit Scholars but is not included in college applications. All 10/11 grade students take the PSAT in the Fall; The Ambrose School takes care of the registration process and fees.

SAT: Scholastic Achievement Test

Typically taken in the junior and senior years. Students can take the SAT multiple times and choose which scores to send to colleges. The Ambrose School offers the SAT for all interested students each Spring. It is an alternative test to the ACT. It is sometimes used to determine English/Math placement. Students pay for this test individually.

ACT: American College Testing

Also taken in the junior and senior years. Like the SAT, students can take it multiple times and select which scores to submit. It is an alternative test to the SAT. It is sometimes used to determine English/Math placement. Students pay for this test individually.

CLT: Classic Learning Test

The CLT is taken by the student at home as it is remotely proctored. Accepted by over 200 schools nationwide and often linked to specific merit scholarships. This is an ideal test for students who have received a Classical Christian education.

Concurrent Credit/Dual Credit

Courses offered to high school students that provide both high school and college credit at a substantial discount through our partnership with individual colleges/universities. Students may choose concurrent credit for several reasons: to shorten their time to degree completion, and to demonstrate academic rigor for college admissions. Ambrose graduates and parents consistently report back that concurrent credits have proven valuable, and some students have graduated college a semester or a year early. All Idaho schools and the majority of accredited institutions across the country accept the transfer of concurrent credit; the exceptions are highly selective institutions and military academies. Based on the university's concurrent credit requirements, a class will transfer either as a general elective or take the place of an existing course. The Ambrose School can provide a syllabus for a class if necessary.

- ***Test Optional:*** Students can apply for admission with or without submitting their test scores. However, merit scholarships are sometimes based on test scores.
- ***Test Blind:*** Test scores are not considered at all in the admissions process. If submitted, they will be removed before the application is reviewed.
- ***Test Required:*** A test score is mandatory for admission to that institution.
- ***Super Score:*** Some schools accept a "super score," which combines a student's highest section scores across multiple attempts of the same test.

COLLEGE ADMISSION APPLICATIONS < < < < < < < < <

DEADLINES *to* REMEMBER

- ***August 1***
  The Common App and most other applications open.
- ***October-November***
  Early Action Deadline for most schools that offer Early Action
- ***December 1***
  FAFSA and CSS profiles become available.
- ***February and March***
  A number of housing deposits are due.
- ***Mid-March***
  Most admissions decisions are communicated.
- ***March through May***
  Financial aid packages and awards are announced.
- ***May 1***
  Nationwide deadline for students to make their enrollment decisions.
- ***June***
  College orientation and the enrollment process begins; The Ambrose School final transcripts are mailed. Request official transcripts directly from CCU or NNU for concurrent credit courses after grades have been posted.

APPLICATION OPTIONS

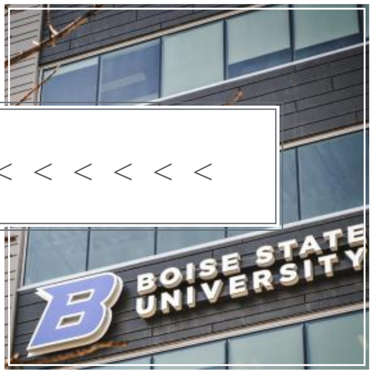
Regular Decision: This is a non-binding option that usually has a later application deadline. The majority of higher educational institutions utilize Regular Decision.

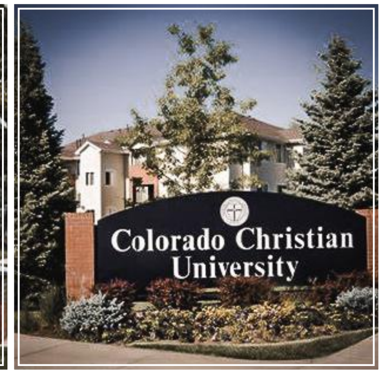
Rolling Decision: With this non-binding option, applications are reviewed, and decisions are released throughout the admissions cycle, giving you flexibility in your application timeline.

Early Decision: Only apply if you are absolutely certain you will attend. This is a binding agreement between the student and the university. Once admitted, you are committed to attending, regardless of the outcome of financial aid. Be advised that this path limits your ability to compare financial aid packages between schools, and you may only apply to a single E.D. school.

Early Action: This option is non-binding, meaning you have until May 1 to decide. E.A. often increases your chances of being accepted and you'll receive your admissions decision earlier than with regular applications. Application deadlines vary from mid-October through November.

Restrictive Early Action: Similar to Early Action, this is also non-binding, but you cannot apply to any other private institutions under an early decision or early action plan, nor to binding early programs at public universities. You still have until May 1 to make your decision.





COMPONENTS OF THE ADMISSIONS APPLICATION

Ambrose Transcript

- **Official Transcript:** This is sent directly from The Ambrose School to the college upon request. To request your official transcript, please complete our Transcript Request Form.
- **Unofficial Transcript:** This is a copy for a student or parent. Please contact the front office or email Ms. Ingersoll (ningersoll@theambroseschool.org).

Concurrent Credit Transcript

Colorado Christian

- **Official Transcript:** for a college/university; small fee
- **Unofficial Transcript:** for your records; no cost

Northwest Nazarene University

- **Official Transcript:** for a college/university; small fee
- **Unofficial Transcript:**for your records; no cost

- ***School Profile:*** This document outlines the rigor and nature of your transcript from TAS and is automatically sent alongside your official transcript by your college advisor to the institution applying.
- ***Activities Section:*** This section should thoroughly highlight the student's involvement during high school, detailing how they've invested their time and talents.
- ***Counselor Evaluation:*** A letter or evaluation completed by the College Advisor, sent directly from The Ambrose School to the applying institution.
- ***Letter of Recommendation:*** These letters can come from The Ambrose School faculty, employers, community members, or other adults who can speak to your strengths. They are sent directly from your recommender and are not handled by the student. Always provide your recommender with a copy of your resume and a lead time of 3-4 weeks.
- ***Personal Essay:*** A narrative or reflective essay that showcases your character, life experiences, and writing style.
- ***Resume:*** A concise overview of your high school experiences and achievements, formatted like a traditional job resume.
- ***Performing Arts Portfolio:*** Required for applications to fine arts or design programs, including disciplines like painting, architecture, sculpture, music performance, photography, film, or media production; not as common as other application components
- ***Admissions Interview:*** This can be conducted in person, via video, or as a panel interview by the admissions department or faculty, and alumni from specific programs or majors; not as common as other application components.

KEY FINANCIAL AID TERMS

- ***Financial Aid Package:*** Typically communicated in the spring of senior year, this package includes merit scholarships, need-based scholarships, grants, work-study opportunities, and loans, along with the total cost of attendance and what's needed after aid is applied.
- ***Financial Aid:*** Refers to any funding not directly provided by the student or their family, including various scholarships, federal loans, grants, and work-study income.
- ***Cost of Attendance (COA):*** The total expenses for an academic year, including tuition, fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses.
- ***FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act):*** Students need to have this form on file for parents to access legal college documents; generally completed during the application process.
- ***FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):*** This form is required for federal financial aid and is used by many colleges to determine eligibility for institutional aid.
- ***CSS Profile (College Scholarship Service):*** An additional financial aid form is required by many private colleges.
- ***Student Aid Index (SAI):*** Eligibility index calculation based on information from the FAFSA; used by financial aid offices to eligible federal student aid
- ***Merit Awards/Scholarships:*** Funds awarded based on merit, which do not need to be repaid. The majority of schools award funding automatically based on GPA and test scores; additional applications are not required. Schools can have limited scholarships available to plan ahead and apply Fall of your senior year.
- ***Grants:*** Need, or merit-based, aid that doesn't require repayment, often interchangeable with scholarships.
- ***Loans:*** Money borrowed by the student, which must be repaid. This includes federal loans, subsidized loans (where interest accrues after graduation), and unsubsidized loans (where interest accrues from the start).
- ***Net Price Calculator:*** A tool for estimating COA that considers potential merit and need-based aid.
- ***Parent Plus Loan:*** A loan taken out solely in the parent's name.

NET PRICE CALCULATOR

To get a clearer idea of the actual cost of attendance, visit the ***U.S. Department of Education College Affordability and Transparency Center****. This tool provides a helpful estimate before students receive their financial aid packages in late spring of their senior year.*

Handling finances after your child graduates can be quite challenging. It often involves discussions around parental support, independence, financial ownership, educational expectations, and career paths. By having open and early conversations about your family's values and expectations in these areas, you can create a collaborative process that strengthens your family rather than causing conflict. This is also a great opportunity to apply the financial literacy lessons you've been working on together.

Remember that most things in a college financial package can be negotiated. Meal plans and housing options are examples of items that can be negotiated during financial discussions with your chosen college or university.

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