

# ZAG TALK

## Tips and Information for Prospective ZAG Parents

ZAG TALK is a newsletter created by the Office of Admission that offers helpful tips and information about navigating the college selection process, as well as news and notes regarding the many activities and events here on campus.



**From the Dean of Admission...**

Let me begin by saying thank you for your interest in Gonzaga University. We are honored that your family would consider our institution for your son or daughter.

Researching colleges, making applications, and applying for financial aid can be an absolutely overwhelming process. We would like to be your partner in navigating the rough terrain of the college admission process.

My colleagues and I hope to share important information with you in this newsletter. We are here to help your son or daughter meet application deadlines, understand the financial aid process, and research college opportunities. Please contact us by email or phone if we can be of assistance.

Best of luck to you and your family. I look forward to working with you!

Julie McCulloh  
Dean of Admission  
800.322.2584  
[mcculloh@gu.gonzaga.edu](mailto:mcculloh@gu.gonzaga.edu)

### A Partnership Committed to Assisting Families

By: Darlene Hendrickson, Director Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Office would like to extend a warm, friendly hand in the upcoming months as you and your student begin to consider college attendance and the financing of a college education.

You will have lots of help! The Financial Aid Office is staffed with 12 professionals who have 141 combined years of financial aid experience. Every student that attends Gonzaga has their own individual financial aid counselor assigned to them. This means you and your student will speak with the same counselor each time you telephone or email our office - no having to tell the same story over and over.



Gonzaga's Financial Aid Office is committed to helping families prepare and plan for this exciting time. Each year Gonzaga awards over \$30 million in institutional aid in the form of merit (need-blind) scholarships and need-based grants. With the help of federal, state, institutional, and outside assistance the average freshman financial aid package amounted to \$21,251 last academic year. We believe that our competitive financial aid awarding policies make it possible for every qualified student to attend Gonzaga.

During the late fall and winter months, your student should begin applying for scholarships. We recommend regular checks with their high school counseling

center to gather information about newly posted scholarships. Don't forget to network with affiliated clubs, churches, foundations and employers that offer scholarships.

More importantly, mark your 2009 calendars for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion. File on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) anytime after January 1 but before February 1.

The Financial Aid Office is available to help with any FAFSA questions you may have or to discuss other financial matters. Financial aid professionals can be reached Monday thru Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM (PST). Contact us at 1-800-793-1718.

We wish you all the best as you embark on the college selection journey with your son or daughter!



Gonzaga University remained the No. 3 best university in the West in U.S. News & World Report's annual college rankings for "Universities - Master's".

GU ranked No. 3 for best value and the engineering program rose four spots to No. 21.

## 8 Step Application Checklist

By: Megan Ewens

Gonzaga accepts both the **Common Application** and the **Universal College Application**. These not-for-profit organizations allow students to submit college applications to multiple institutions by completing ONE APPLICATION, ONE TIME!

Follow these eight steps to ensure all components of your application are complete.

### □ ONE

Complete the Common Application or the Universal Application. HINT: Instruct your student to use the application that is accepted by the majority of institutions they are applying to. Some colleges and universities accept both the Common Application and the Universal Application, while others accept one or the other, or in some cases neither. Visit the respective websites to see a comprehensive list of member institutions.

### □ TWO

Complete the Gonzaga Application Supplement. It can be found at any of the following websites:

[www.gonzaga.edu](http://www.gonzaga.edu)

[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

[www.universalcollege.com](http://www.universalcollege.com)

### □ THREE

Submit SAT and/or ACT test scores. You may send us updated scores after you submit your application.

### □ FOUR

Send us OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS and if applicable COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS.

### □ FIVE

Include with your application a list of extracurricular activities or a complete resume.



### □ SIX

Submit your personal essay. HINT: Two pages is a good length. Tell us something that makes you stand out! Have your essay proofread at least twice.

### □ SEVEN

Request letters of recommendation from a teacher/professor be sent to Gonzaga.

### □ EIGHT

Ask that your school counselor complete and submit the School Report.

## To Declare or Not Declare

By: Megan Ewens

One of the most commonly asked questions among college bound students is whether or not to declare a major upon enrolling their freshmen year.

Each year, approximately one third of Gonzaga's freshmen class enters the University without formally declaring a major and at least a third of those who did declare a major, changed it. Because Gonzaga students have until the end of their sophomore year to decide upon and declare a major, they may use their first two years to explore various subjects that engage their personal interests and talents.

That said, for students who are fairly certain they want to pursue careers in education, engineering and medicine, it is better for them to declare as freshmen and begin work in their respective majors due to the intensive and structured study associated with each of these fields.

Every undecided student is assigned an academic advisor to help them with selecting their courses each semester and monitoring their academic progress. The Gonzaga Counseling and Career Assessment Center is available to assist students in the process of researching and choosing an academic area that fits their interests, values, and needs.

# 40 %

of Students Study Abroad  
during their time at  
Gonzaga

## Application Deadline Reminders

By: Anne Thomas

As you watch your son or daughter burning the midnight oil and completing endless amounts of paperwork, here are some important dates to keep in mind.



If Gonzaga is a top college choice, your student should consider applying under the **Early Action** application option. Freshmen completing their application by **November 15** (postmarked/submitted) will receive notification of an admission decision by January 15. This decision is **non-binding**. In addition, Early Action students receive early information about student employment, housing, and registration.

The final admission application deadline for freshmen is **February 1** (postmarked/submitted). Students applying under this **Regular Decision** deadline will be notified of their admission decision no later than April 1.

Students may apply to the University by accessing the Common Application or the Universal Application on our website or by going directly to: [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) or [universalcollegeapp.com](http://universalcollegeapp.com)

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

Check out...

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

## Parents of High School Juniors: What You Should Be Doing Now

By: Anne Thomas

When it comes to selecting a college, there are some important things you and your student can do during their junior year that will make life easier next year.

1. Begin visiting colleges. Many schools have special “preview days” that give you a general overview. Consider also doing an interview with an admission counselor.
2. Sit down and talk with your student about what type of school he or she is looking for, including size of school, geographic area, school mission, etc., as well as what expectations you have. Make sure you are on the same page!
3. Plan the academic schedule wisely. Encourage your student to continue taking challenging courses this year **and** next year. Most colleges consider curriculum (including senior year curriculum) to be as or more important than grades.
4. Make sure your student is in regular contact with his or her counselor. The counselor can be a great resource for college and scholarship information.
5. Now is the time to get on mailing lists and explore college websites.
6. Encourage your student to stay involved in activities, clubs, and volunteer work. Begin compiling a resume that will be sent to schools next year. If he or she hasn't been involved in the past, better late than never!
7. Get organized! Create a college notebook with sections for each school. Get a blank calendar and write down all deadlines associated with applications and scholarships. Recycle information from schools no longer in consideration.

## LEADS Unites Freshmen: New Program Offers Guidance to Help Students Cope with the Challenging College Transition

By: Angelica Asiesiukiewicz  
Gonzaga Bulletin  
September 19, 2008

In response to the sometimes challenging transition from high school to college, Unity House developed a program to assist freshmen in coping with new life at Gonzaga: The Leadership, Education, Academic Development and Survival Skills (LEADS) Program.

The program is a monthly seminar that focuses on mentoring freshmen about life at the university and providing support for hardships that may come during their first year.

The program coordinator, Anna

Gonzales, was eager to begin this program. It consists of group meetings once a month for a variety of programs, workshops, and seminars. Secondly, a member of the faculty, staff or administration will be assigned to each participant as a mentor. Students will meet with their mentor at least once a month. “In the sessions, students will learn things such as conflict resolution, leadership development, prepare for the next



academic semester, dealing with homesickness, the housing lottery, basketball tickets, etc.”, Gonzales said.

At the program's first meeting on September 16, students enjoyed refreshments as they discussed coping with long distance relationships, classes, and life at Gonzaga in general.

“LEADS is a great opportunity to meet new people, hang out with friends, and discuss important issues in a friendly environment,” freshman Justin Trujillo said.

The program is based on student feedback, so “what the students want, the students get, from discussions to activities. We are all about the fun,” Gonzales said.

At this first session, students had the opportunity to question Dr. Darrell Hunt, a professor from Miami, about how to be a successful student, how to deal with stress and how teachers create quizzes. Most students responded very positively to the seminar.

“The experience is rewarding. I learned more about how Gonzaga unites all different racial backgrounds. It's all about diversity and unity here at LEADS,” freshman Miriam Okot-Okidid said. “It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, everyone is welcome at LEADS and the Unity House.”

## Visiting Do's and Don'ts

- Do** call the school and schedule your visit at least two weeks in advance.
- Do** take a tour, talk with students, and meet with an admission counselor.
- Don't** be bashful! Ask questions. Have some written down ahead of time.
- Do** read the student newspaper.
- Don't** plan to visit more than two campuses per day.
- Do** check out the city/town.
- Do** have an eye for safety issues.
- Do** write down your impressions afterward.



## \$16 Million Goes to New Residence Hall

Contributions By: Ben Radchuk  
Gonzaga Bulletin  
September 26, 2008

Workers at Gonzaga University are transforming a grass soccer practice field into an estimated \$16 million residence hall to hold 340 members of next year's freshmen class.

The construction comes as Gonzaga confirmed another record large freshmen class.

According to 10th-day enrollment figures from the Registrar's Office, the current freshmen class numbers 1,107 students, topping the record-large final 2007 freshmen class totaling 1,031 students.

The 10-day enrollment figures also peg Gonzaga's total undergraduate enrollment at 4,515 students, up from the final 2007 total undergraduate enrollment of 4,377 students.

The fall 2008 total institutional enrollment (by headcount) is 7,229 students, up from the final fall 2007 count of 7,020 students. Total enrollment includes undergraduate, Law School, and all graduate programs.

The finished size of the structure will be 102,000 square feet, and is located along Hamilton Street east of the Martin Centre. The residence hall has not yet been named.

Designed by Wolfe Architectural Group P.S., of Spokane, and built by Walker Construction, the new residence hall will include four stories of wood-framed housing with a concrete deck and 18,600 square feet of parking underneath.

Similar to the Kennedy Apartments, the "hybrid" residence hall will include lounge and recreation areas, a main lobby with a fireplace, a reception center, a classroom and an small Sodexo food and coffee facility. Each floor will

have an apartment to accommodate resident directors, a chaplain or live-in faculty.

With the new residence hall scheduled to open for freshmen in fall 2009, workers are on a fast track to finish on time.

"Normally you would allow 15 to 18 months for a project of this size starting on a new site," director of plant and construction services, Ken Sammons said. "We opted to take the crew that had just finished building Kennedy and have them continue what they've been doing successfully for the last three years."

The facility includes capacity to construct housing for up to 260 more students (600 total) if additional winds are added later.

The Gonzaga board of trustees approved the construction at its July meeting. The construction is part of several projects at Gonzaga. In the near future, a new student center will be built where the COG (main dining facility) is located.

It's a close knit campus," says GU freshman, Angelica Asiesiukiewicz. "Now we feel a little crowded, we need room to spread our wings a little more."

Gonzaga isn't the only school undergoing construction. Both Whitworth University and Washington State University are in the midst of building new residence halls.

## College Application Tips

Encourage your son or daughter to ask someone for feedback on their essay.

Content, spelling, and grammar all matter!

Try this editing trick:

Read backwards.  
Sometimes mistakes are more apparent that way.

## Updated SAT and ACT Policy

[www.gonzaga.edu/Admissions](http://www.gonzaga.edu/Admissions)  
September 30, 2008

We will accept all sections of the new SAT as it is provided, but will not universally use the new **Written** portion for the class applying for fall semester 2009.

We are currently reviewing our policy with regard to the SAT Writing test for the entering class of 2010 and beyond.

We will not require the **Written Section** of the ACT until further analysis is done.

## Frosh Facts Fall 2008

Class size: 1107

SAT Composite average: 1185\*

Male Students: 45%

Classes Taught by Professor: 100%

GPA average: 3.60

ACT average: 26.4

Female Students: 55%

Average Class Size: 22

\* Includes only critical reading and math sections.