

Important Dates

Thursday, October 2
**SDP Closed
for Yom Kippur**

Friday, October 10
**SDP Closed
for Staff Development**

Monday, October 13
**SDP Closed for
Indigenous People's Day**



Greetings, Scholars and Families —

Thanks to everyone who was able to join us for last week's virtual orientation; we had a great turnout and enjoyed chatting with all of you! In case you missed it, the Zoom recording is now available. [Click here to view.](#) (Passcode: `^^4r1LN+`)

We're working on a special financial literacy event led by Wharton MBA students. Watch your email for the announcement, coming soon! In the meantime, read on for information on FAFSA, this month's College Corner sessions, and more.

Have questions or need assistance? Email us any time at vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu.



FAFSA Info for High School Seniors

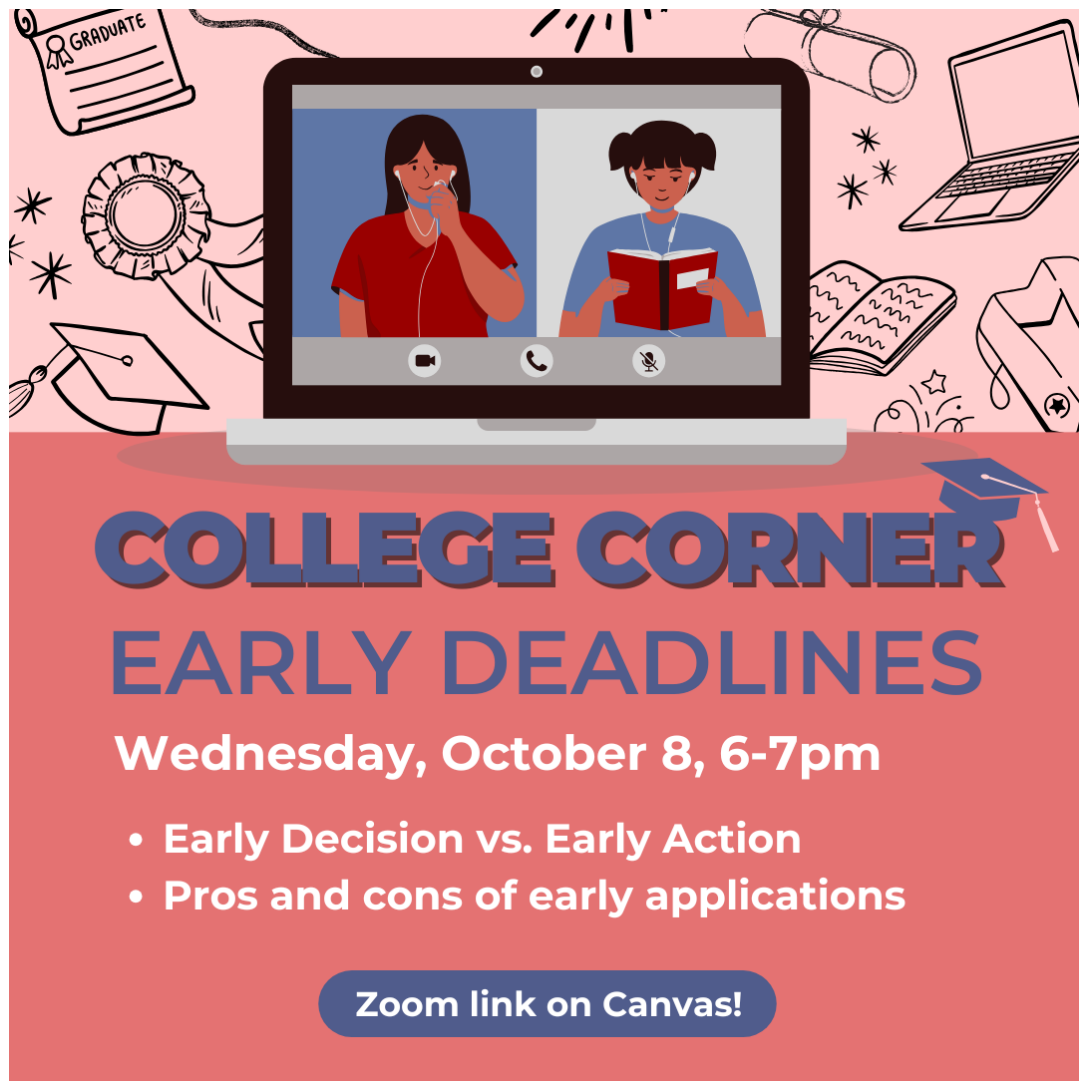
The 2026-27 FAFSA is now available! Colleges and career schools use the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to determine how much financial aid you're eligible to receive, which could include grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans.

Who should complete the FAFSA? **Any student, regardless of income, who wants to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs.** You must apply for aid every year, but with the right information in hand — and a little help from Talent Search — it's easy.

Penn Talent Search will host a [virtual FAFSA Workshop on Wednesday, November 5](#) from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Join us on Zoom to learn how to create an FSA ID, the difference between dependent and independent students, and more.

Zoom Link:

<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/96565426543?pwd=dpJWan1JF37XUbzgWqyTFK1Dal28S9.1&from=addon>

A graphic for a webinar titled "COLLEGE CORNER EARLY DEADLINES". The top half features a laptop screen showing a video call between two students. The background is pink with various school-related icons like a graduation cap, a diploma, a laptop, and books. Below the screen, the title "COLLEGE CORNER EARLY DEADLINES" is written in large, bold, blue letters. Underneath the title, the date and time "Wednesday, October 8, 6-7pm" are listed. A bulleted list of topics follows: "Early Decision vs. Early Action" and "Pros and cons of early applications". At the bottom, a blue button with white text says "Zoom link on Canvas!".

COLLEGE CORNER
EARLY DEADLINES
Wednesday, October 8, 6-7pm

- Early Decision vs. Early Action
- Pros and cons of early applications

Zoom link on Canvas!

Are you a high school student getting ready to apply to college? Join our counselor, Ms. Sofia, for **College Corner**, a series of live webinars covering everything you need to know about the college application process.

We have **TWO College Corner sessions** scheduled for this month:

- **Wednesday, October 8: Early Deadlines**
 - We'll cover the pros and cons of early applications and the difference between Early Decision and Early Action.
- **Wednesday, October 22: The College Essay**
 - We'll cover choosing an essay topic and how to stand out to admissions officers.

Join on Zoom (same link for both sessions):

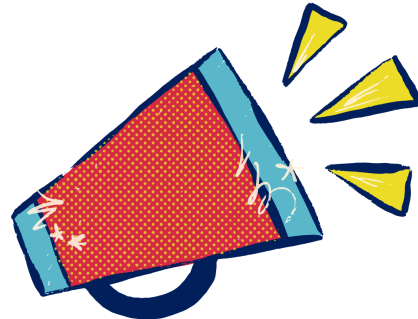
<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/92100309823?pwd=x5LHaixCb1wn8EvSeieFjp7nPvwaNF.1>

Advocate for Talent Search and Other TRIO Programs

Did you know that Penn Talent Search is a federal TRIO

program?

TRIO programs operate in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., the Pacific Islands, and Puerto Rico. Collectively, **more than 3,400 TRIO programs nationwide** help nearly one million students enter and graduate from college each year. Penn Talent Search alone serves 583 students in Philadelphia.



Recently, the White House issued a **budget proposal** that would **eliminate all TRIO programs** in the coming year. Across the country, TRIO students could lose access to the academic advising, career guidance, and personal support that make success possible for so many first-generation and low-income students.

Policymakers in Congress need to hear from YOU — the TRIO students, parents, and families — about the importance of protecting Talent Search and other programs, so we can continue to support every one of our participants along their educational journey!

Use the links below to contact your senators and representative asking for continued funding of the federal TRIO programs

- [Sample Email from Current TRIO Student](#)
- [Sample Email from Parent/Guardian and Other Supporters](#)

Thank you for being a TRIO advocate!

Opportunities for Talent Search Scholars

LEDA Scholars

LEDA (Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America) is looking for highly motivated high school juniors with strong academic records and a desire to grow as leaders to join the 22nd Cohort of LEDA Scholars.

LEDA brings together a community of student leaders for a completely **free five-week residential program at Princeton University and Yale University** that includes:

- Academic preparation for college
- Leadership training
- SAT/ACT preparation
- Individualized college guidance
- The opportunity to experience life on a college campus

Eligibility requirements:

- **Junior attending public high school in the U.S. graduating in 2027**
- U.S. citizen, permanent resident (meets eligible non-citizen requirements), or have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status
- Annual household income under \$90,000 (assets will also be considered)
- Minimum unweighted cumulative GPA of 3.5

[Click here to get more information and apply no later than December 10.](#)

Impact Studios After-School Arts Program

The Village of Arts and Humanities presents Impact Studios, a free after-school arts program for **students ages 10 to 14**. This fall, middle school youth have the chance to explore their creativity, build new skills, and connect with peers in a supportive, inspiring environment. Led by professional teaching artists, Impact Studios is perfect for youth looking to express themselves in new creative and innovative ways!

Fall 2025 Impact Studios run from **October 20 through December 12** and include:

- Clay and Ceramics (Mondays)
- Fashion Design (Tuesdays)
- Philly Earth (Wednesdays)
- Natural Hair Care (Thursdays)

[Click here to get more info and apply no later than October 13.](#)

Stantec Future Leaders Scholarship

Each year, Stantec awards \$200,000 in scholarships to students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering,

826 National Student Publishing Opportunity: Write Your Power

Each year, the 826 National youth writing network collaborates with an author or other creative leader to share a writing prompt and publishing opportunity with students across the country. For the 2025-26 school and program year, 826 National and Tony Weaver, Jr. invite young people across the country in **grades 5-12** to explore what's possible through writing science fiction and superhero stories.

When they finish, students are encouraged to submit their writing for a chance to be published in 826 National's student anthology! **All published authors will receive two copies of the publication**, which will be released and distributed in June 2026.

[Click here to get more info and submit no later than November 14.](#)



arts/architecture, and mathematics (STEAM) fields. This scholarship is open to students from all backgrounds who demonstrate leadership potential, resilience, and a commitment to shaping a better future.

The number of scholarships awarded will be based on the specific needs articulated by applicants, and the **award values will range from \$1,500 to \$10,000**. Additionally, there will be up to 10 paid internships available to applicants.

To apply for this award, students must:

- **be enrolled in a college, university, or post-secondary institution in the 2026-27 academic year in pursuit of a Bachelor's or Technical/Vocational degree**. Funds will be issued to the institution in Summer 2026.
- pursue a STEAM major. "STEAM" refers to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. For the purposes of this program, it also includes education majors planning to teach STEM.
- demonstrate leadership potential and a commitment to making a positive impact in their chosen field or community or have demonstrated perseverance in overcoming challenges or barriers in pursuit of their education and career goals

[Click here to get more info and apply no later than October 15.](#)



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