



## IMPORTANT DATES FALL 2019

### OCTOBER 1 – NOVEMBER 30, 2019

Fall 2019 application filing period for CSU admissions

### OCTOBER 4, 2019

AP Students confirm registration with AP Coordinator at their testing location

### OCTOBER 5, 2019

SAT Exam test date (Registration deadline 9/6, Late Registration 9/7-9/24)

### OCTOBER 26, 2019

ACT Exam test date (Registration deadline 9/20, Late Registration 9/21-10/4)

### NOVEMBER 1-30, 2019

Fall 2019 application filing period for UC admissions

### NOVEMBER 2, 2019

SAT Exam test date (Registration deadline 10/3, Late Registration 10/4-10/22)

### NOVEMBER 8, 2019

Deadline to enroll in NUVHS Fall term AP Classes

### DECEMBER 6, 2019

Deadline to enroll in NUVHS Fall term College Prep Classes

### DECEMBER 7, 2019

SAT Exam test date (Registration deadline 11/8, Late Registration 11/9-11/26)

### DECEMBER 9, 2019

NUVHS spring term begins

### DECEMBER 14, 2019

ACT Exam test date (Registration deadline 11/8, Late Registration 11/9-11/22)

## FALL NEWSLETTER

# News & Events

### Dear NUVHS Students,

As National University Virtual High School commences its sixteenth academic year, I am delighted to welcome you to our dynamic online learning community. During the previous school year, over 2,800 students successfully completed their college-prep and Advanced Placement courses with NUVHS.

Over the last three years, NUVHS has endeavored to expand its course offerings to add new core and elective courses that will help all of our students meet their individual academic goals and explore their interests through new subject area pathways and electives. For example, NUVHS students now have the option to take either the Integrated Math pathway or the traditional math pathway, depending on their personal preferences and education plans. Additionally, NUVHS now offers nearly 50 elective courses in many exciting subject areas, including Anthropology, Astronomy, Coding, Creative Writing, Cybersecurity, Game Design, Forensic Science, Fashion and Interior Design, Music, Sports and Entertainment Marketing, and many more.

As the 2019-2020 school year progresses, our efforts to expand our academic portfolio, revise and update existing courses, and work closely with our accrediting agencies to ensure that the highest quality of education is provided to all of our students will continue. We welcome your feedback and hope that you will take the time to review our current course offerings and discover the many ways in which NUVHS strives to create an inclusive and engaging course of study across the curriculum which will prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century world.

Maintaining academic excellence for all students and ensuring that each student receives a quality college preparatory learning experience which is interactive, relevant, and academically rigorous is the guiding philosophy of our institution. We are very pleased to have the opportunity to be a part of your son or daughter's educational journey as they prepare for college and beyond.

Sincerely,

Darren Smith, Director

National University Virtual High School



## TOP 11 TIPS FOR BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL

These tips will help you keep everything on track all semester long by starting out organized, with a plan and with the right goals in mind.

### 1. Check in with your guidance counselor

Your counselor can help keep you on track with your college admissions process and ensure you're on track to graduate with the right courses to meet both your graduation requirements and look good on your college applications. Stop and check in to make sure you're on the right path to achieving your goals, at the very minimum, each semester.

### 2. Set semester goals

How do you know where you're headed if you haven't mapped out a goal plan for yourself? Create concrete goals for each semester to work towards achieving. Try to include your classes, the college admissions process, and applying for scholarships within your goals.

### 3. Befriend your teachers (you'll need recommendation letters soon!)

Start the semester out on a good note with your teachers and talk to them before, during, and after class. Remember, you'll need teachers who know your unique personality when it comes time for recommendation letters, so getting to know each of your teachers on a personal level will certainly help.

### 4. Map out deadlines, due dates, and important reminders in your schedule

Whether you decide to utilize an agenda, a calendar, or your phone, make use of some sort of planner to keep track of important dates and deadlines from syllabus you receive in class, standardized testing dates, important admissions deadlines, and any scholarship reminders. If you take the time to set it all up at once and get into the habit of continually updating it as

## Accreditation Updates

NUVHS recently renewed the school's AdvancED accreditation with renewal through the 2023 academic year. For those who may not be familiar with this organization, please visit their website for a brief overview of the AdvancED organization: [www.advanc-ed.org/](http://www.advanc-ed.org/).

Currently, NUVHS is preparing for our upcoming full accreditation review visit with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Organization (WASC). NUVHS looks forward to celebrating our continued accreditation with this world-renowned external review association. To learn more about WASC, please visit the following website: [www.acswasc.org/wasc/acs-wasc-overview/](http://www.acswasc.org/wasc/acs-wasc-overview/). NUVHS began the re-accreditation process in the Fall of 2018, with stakeholder surveys provided to students, parents, staff, and the community. Feedback from these surveys, as well as analysis and reflection on the school's longitudinal schoolwide data, has been compiled in a full Self-Study report which was provided to the WASC Visiting Committee in early September. Final preparations for the WASC Committee Visit are currently underway, with the WASC committee set to visit NUVHS from October 20-23, 2019.

NUVHS is currently seeking student and parent volunteers to participate in group interviews set for Tuesday, October 22. Should you wish to participate in one of these interview sessions, please contact our Student Services team at 866-366-8847 or [info@nuvhs.org](mailto:info@nuvhs.org).

## Test Registration and Deadline Information

### AP Testing

As a distance learning provider with a widely dispersed student body, NUVHS does not proctor AP exam testing for its students. Typically, most students coordinate their registration for AP testing with the assistance of their full-time school of record. If you are a full time student at NUVHS, or if your school does not offer AP testing, you will need to contact AP Services for Students by calling 888-225-5427 or via email at [apstudents@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:apstudents@info.collegeboard.org). The AP testing services office can give students contact information for AP coordinators in their area who may be willing to test outside students. NUVHS recommends that you reach out to the AP testing office no later than September 4th and complete the registration process no later than October 4th, 2019.

Following is a link to the College Board AP website with more information for homeschooled and distance learning students:

[apstudents.collegeboard.org/faqs/can-i-register-ap-exam-if-my-school-doesnt-offer-ap-classes-or-administer-ap-exams](http://apstudents.collegeboard.org/faqs/can-i-register-ap-exam-if-my-school-doesnt-offer-ap-classes-or-administer-ap-exams)

If you are a junior or senior who has not yet taken the SAT Exam, follow the link below for more information

If you are a junior or senior who has not yet taken the SAT or ACT Exam, follow the link below for more information on test dates, testing fees, and the registration process.

### SAT Testing

[collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines](http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines)

### ACT Testing

[www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html)



necessary, it will become much easier to keep track of everything you need to remember.

#### 5. Set up a study routine

As you prepare to head to college, creating a study routine becomes increasingly important to your college preparations. Try to set aside a certain amount of time each evening focused on your classes and, on certain nights, college admissions or your scholarship search. Continue this practice until it becomes second nature.

#### 6. Start researching colleges you're interested in

Now is the time to begin exploring colleges. Create a list of what you'd like in a school and begin researching what schools you're thinking about applying to. Do they meet the criteria on your list? You can start to cross off the schools on your list that don't, move up the schools on your list that do, and you may even discover, through your research, schools you are interested in that you didn't even know you liked!

#### 7. Challenge yourself

It's important to colleges that you continue to challenge yourself throughout your junior and senior years of high school. This is in reference to academics but, also, in terms of extracurricular activities, high school clubs, part-time jobs and volunteer work. Try to keep as busy as possible and remember that you want your college applications to be as full as possible. That being said, don't join just to join – you actually have to participate.

#### 8. Work on college test prep regularly

As mentioned with creating a study routine, maintain a healthy regime of ACT/SAT prep. You can decide to take a course in-person or online, utilize practice tests, books, or questions at home, or use flashcards on the go. There are many ways to study; simply choose whatever works best for you on any given day and stick with it!

#### 9. Connect with friends

Why? Friends can help with your overall experience because they understand

## TEACHER HIGHLIGHT: April O'Rourke



Hello everyone! My name is April O'Rourke and I have been a teacher with NUVHS since Fall 2016. I joined NUVHS after working as a classroom teacher for over 10 years and really love the online learning community and working with NUVHS.

I first realized I wanted to be a teacher when I was young and would 'teach' my dolls or cat vocabulary terms on my easel at home. I have always been drawn to teaching as I feel like it is a way to connect with others, and I really love teaching history as it is a way to connect ideas from the past with people today. As a teacher, I enjoy seeing the learning process in students as they apply history to their own lives, families, and communities. This love for learning, teaching, and working with others led me to UNC-Chapel Hill as a Teaching Fellow where I earned my BA in History and my MA in Teaching Social Studies.

I believe that as a teacher, I teach students first and subject matter and skills secondary. The courses are a means to connect with the students as part of their learning process. Working with students and seeing them find success and confidence in themselves, especially with subjects they find challenging or with a skill they want to further develop, are all highlights of this profession. Watching students challenge themselves by taking their first AP course or developing their skills with historical writing and analysis are part of what I enjoy most about my job. My goal as a teacher is to instill in students a sense of confidence in their own abilities and a desire to learn.

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*"I believe that as a teacher, I teach students first  
and subject matter and skills secondary."*

- April O'Rourke

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Throughout my teaching career I have been fortunate to teach a wide array of courses within the social studies umbrella, and I enjoy teaching all of them. AP Government gives students a chance to learn about the government as an active agent and how individuals can get involved in the many parts of our democracy. AP Psychology is such a great course as I really get a chance to know the students as they reflect on course concepts and think about how psychology can teach us empathy. Then there is U.S. History and World History, which I just love. These courses are an excuse to drag my family to museums across multiple states and countries as a means of 'learning more about my job' to share with the students. My favorite museum in the U.S. is the Tenement Museum located in the Lower East Side, New York City. I love learning about the history of immigration, especially in the United States, as the story of immigration weaves together the story of the United States.

Currently, my husband and I live in Orange County, CA with our son and cat. My guilty pleasures include going to Disneyland, watching The Great British Bake Off, and doing a date night of sushi and a show at Pantages in Hollywood. I love doing walking history tours from Rome to Boston as it is a chance to learn about the everyday people and places that make their cities and stories so special.



everything you're going through. Not only can they can console your back to school blues, but they make going back to school much less painful. Plus, once the semester gears up, your good friends will be the ones to help you stay focused (study buddies, anyone?).

#### 10. Search – and apply for – scholarships on a regular basis

Between classes, studying for standardized exams, and the college admissions process, it can be easy to put the scholarship search on the back burner. That, however, is a big mistake. As you know, the scholarship search is ultimately a numbers game. The more you apply to, the better your chances are of winning. So, if you don't apply, you won't win. It's as simple as that. Set aside time (we recommend weekly) to apply for a minimum number of scholarships – that will be your weekly scholarship goal. Ensure you meet your goal each week throughout the school year – it can go a long way to helping you pay for college (we don't have to tell you how expensive that can be).

#### 11. Start brainstorming college admissions essay topics

Whether you're a high school junior or a high school senior, college admissions essays are coming. Start thinking – and perhaps even jotting down – ideas for your college admissions essays. Since you're not sure of what the essay prompts may be, start with any unique experiences you've had, what defines you, what drives you, and what type of career passions you'd like to pursue.

#### SOURCE

[www.fastweb.com/student-life/articles/top-11-tips-for-back-to-high-school](http://www.fastweb.com/student-life/articles/top-11-tips-for-back-to-high-school)

#### ACCREDITATIONS

WASC-ACS & NCA-CASI through AdvancedEd

#### APPROVED COURSES

UC a-g, NCAA, NAIA & College Board

## Resources for NUVHS Students

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Students who require technical support should call (888) 892-9095 or visit the following link to open a support ticket/chat with a live Blackboard help desk representative:

[https://nu.edusupportcenter.com/sims/helpcenter/common/layout/SelfHelpHome.seam?inst\\_name=nuvali](https://nu.edusupportcenter.com/sims/helpcenter/common/layout/SelfHelpHome.seam?inst_name=nuvali)

If students are not able to resolve computer/technical issues after contacting the Blackboard support desk, they are asked to contact NUVHS Student Services for additional assistance. Student Services can be reached at 866-366-8847 or via email at [info@nuvhs.org](mailto:info@nuvhs.org)

Please note: All academic concerns such as questions on lectures, course assignments, and due dates should be directed to the teacher rather than the technical support staff.

### LIBRARY RESOURCES

All students have 24/7 access to extensive library services through the National University Library System. Services include a wide range of online books and articles, as well as fast and free access to the extensive collection of print resources housed in the library at National University's Spectrum Business Park campus. All NUVHS students may access the online library resources at: [library.nu.edu](http://library.nu.edu). All library related questions should be directed to [refdesk@nu.edu](mailto:refdesk@nu.edu) or 866-682-2237, ext. 7900.

### STUDENT SERVICES

For any other questions, please contact our Student Services team at: 866-366-8847 or [info@nuvhs.org](mailto:info@nuvhs.org). The NUVHS office is open M-Fr from 8am to 5pm. There is also after-hours support provided by the National University Student Concierge Services (SCS) team M-Sat as well. To contact our after-hours service line, please call 866-628-8988. E-mail response time is 24-48 hours.

### ONLINE MATH AND WRITING CENTERS

NUVHS students are encouraged to utilize National University's Writing and Math Centers. The Writing Center offers individual tutoring sessions online, by phone, or at a National University campus. To schedule an appointment, please visit: [nu.edu/student-services/mathcenter](http://nu.edu/student-services/mathcenter) for the Math Center and [nu.edu/student-services/writingcenter](http://nu.edu/student-services/writingcenter) for the Writing Center.

### CAREER CENTER

NUVHS students can also use the National University Career Center. The Career Center offers easy-to-use online resources on numerous career services—from counseling to career assessments to resume/cover letter writing assistance. Online services through this department provide convenient and helpful resources, counseling, and guidance. Visit [careerservices.nu.edu](http://careerservices.nu.edu), email [careerservices@nu.edu](mailto:careerservices@nu.edu), or call 858-541-7950 to get started.

### TRANSCRIPTS

Upon submission of all coursework and once a final grade is verified by the teacher to NUVHS administration, NUVHS can generally issue a transcript within 5-10 working days. Students must request a transcript to be sent by completing the online transcript request form at: [secure1.nu.edu/vhs/transcript-request.cfm](http://secure1.nu.edu/vhs/transcript-request.cfm)