



**OFFICE OF ADMISSION**  
12180 PARK AVENUE SOUTH  
TACOMA, WA 98447-0003

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

**PLU**  
AT A GLANCE

2021  
**BEST  
WESTERN  
COLLEGE**  
-PRINCETON  
REVIEW

**TOP 20**  
NATIONALLY FOR  
HIGHEST PERCENTAGE  
OF STUDENTS WHO  
STUDY ABROAD

**2,900**  
STUDENTS

**40+ MAJORS**  
.....  
**50+ MINORS**

**#7 BEST  
VALUE SCHOOL  
IN THE WEST**  
-U.S. NEWS &  
WORLD REPORT

**CONNECT  
WITH US!**

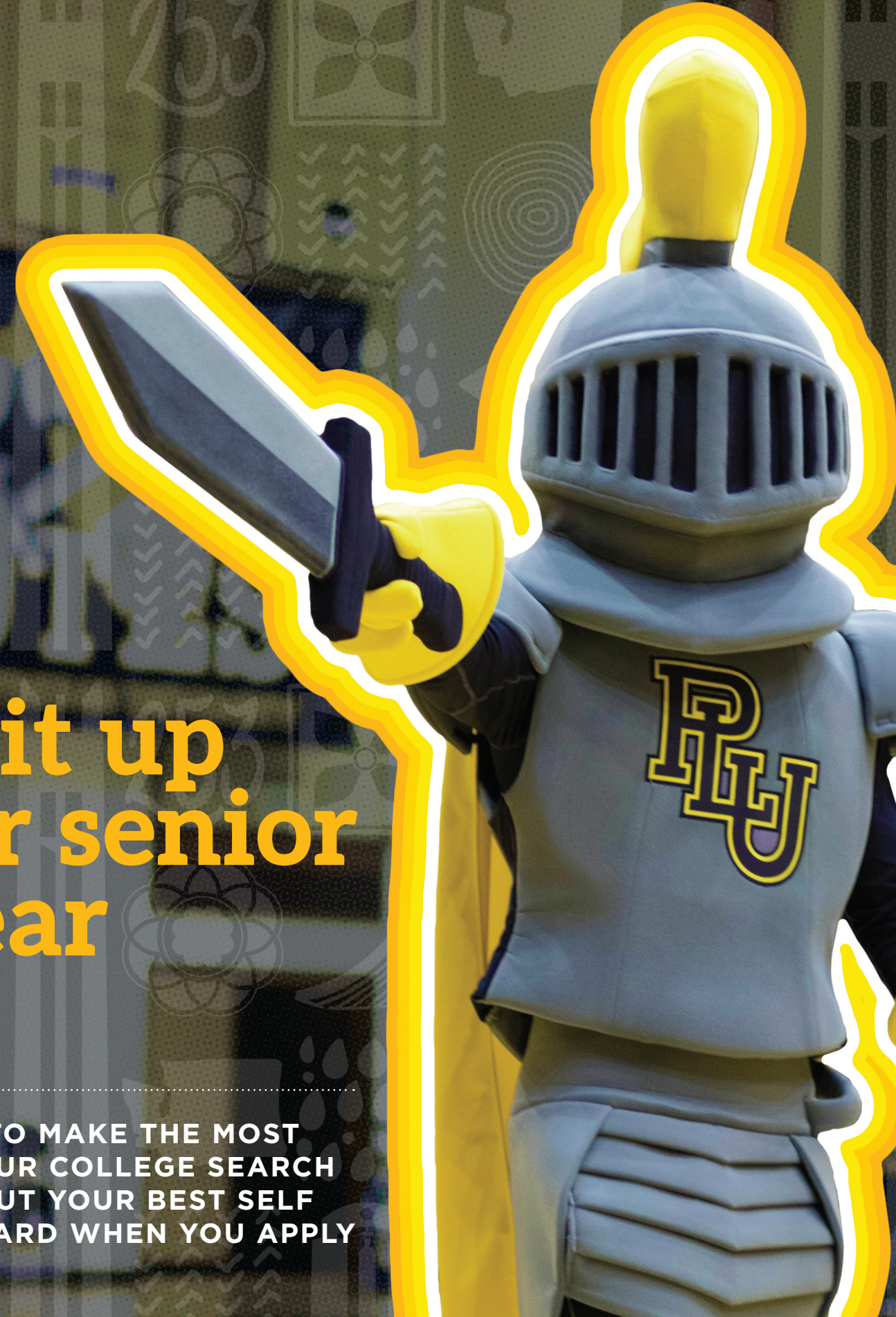
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PacificLutheranUniv

@plu\_admission  
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**suit up  
for senior  
year**

.....  
**HOW TO MAKE THE MOST  
OF YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH  
AND PUT YOUR BEST SELF  
FORWARD WHEN YOU APPLY**





## Talk with your family & support network

**Ask** family members, teachers, and people close to your age about their college experience. **Share** your own interests and goals to get advice, and be sure to **connect** with experts like college and school counselors.



## Make a wish list

Begin listing all the things you want in a college. **Think size, location, and environment.** List everything from possible majors to extracurricular activities to food! Then pick 10 colleges you know about and compare what they have to your wish list. Not sure what you want? Visit different colleges in your area even if you're not considering them — what you like and don't like about that visit can help get you started on your list!



## Research online

Utilize college search sites to find a good match. Browse **college websites** to get information about their programs and student life. Check out **virtual tours** and **social media** accounts for a closer look. Don't ignore college emails and mail — you may find one you haven't heard of that could be a good fit!



## Research in-person

**In-person tours are a really important part of the college search process.** You'll not only get a feel for the campus, but get to meet professors, staff and other students. Attend in-person college fairs and school visits from colleges as you are able (virtual fairs work too) — you can learn a lot about different colleges in one place and get your questions answered in real time!



## Take challenging classes

Taking rigorous classes like Honors, AP and IB will help prepare you for college coursework and help your college application stand out. **Your junior year grades will be especially important**, as will your senior year course selection.



## Get involved & write it down

Get involved in activities that **you're passionate about** (not just because you were told they'd look good on an application), and **keep track of everything you do**, including jobs and community service (don't sell yourself short!). You'll be ahead of the game when it comes time to start your college applications.



## Find out about financial aid

How to pay for college is probably the most intimidating part of the process, but **the more informed you are, the less stressful this part will be!** Go to info sessions, watch webinars and videos (including PLU's!), and read articles. Then you'll know what questions to ask colleges, like 'what's your average cost after financial aid?', 'does your average financial aid award include loans?' or 'does your school give out mostly need-based scholarships?'



## Search for scholarships

A great question to ask colleges is which of their scholarships **you** might qualify for based on your grades, involvement (like music or athletics), identity, location, financial need, etc. Additionally, don't forget to look for 'outside' scholarships — scholarships from your own high school, local community, state, and even nationwide scholarships.



## You can get in!

Of the nearly 4,000 colleges and universities in the U.S., fewer than 100 are highly selective, which means they accept less than 25% of applicants. There are so many colleges that can fit any student, so **know that there is a place for you.**



## YouTube

Find our 'Suit Up for Senior Year' webinars for more information to help you prepare and feel confident as you continue your college search!



LEARN MORE:  
[plu.edu/admission](https://plu.edu/admission)

*PLU admits students without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabling conditions, financial resources or any other status protected by law.*