



College Planning

Junior Timetable



■ Fall:

1. Take the PSAT in Oct
2. Research careers and colleges
3. Visit with College Representatives

■ Spring:

1. Register for SAT (collegeboard.com) or ACT (act.org)
2. Make a list of schools to visit
3. Seek letters of recommendation

■ Summer:

1. Visit schools
2. Apply to schools

Senior Timetable

Summer:

1. Create college list (5-8) and visit them
2. Register for fall SAT's or ACT's or SAT subject tests

Fall:

1. Visit with college reps in the counseling office
2. Attend College Fairs
3. Complete applications early
4. Visit top 2 college choices again

Winter:

1. Check monthly scholarship list (Fall-Spring)
2. Complete the FAFSA (October 1 - May 1)
3. Receive replies from colleges

Spring:

1. Complete college specific financial aid forms
2. Make final decision and send in the deposit





Creating a list of colleges

Things to consider:

- Size of the student body
- Location
- Academic programs
- Campus life
- Cost
- Diversity
- Retention and graduation rates
- Check out Educationplanner.org



The College Visit

- **Why visit?**

To really get a feel for the school, you need to see it and walk around. Do you feel comfortable? Can you picture yourself there for four or more years?

- **Procedure:**

Call the admissions office to set up a visit. A visit usually consists of a tour of the campus and time for questions and answers, so prepare a list of questions to ask before you go.

See collegeboard.com or educationplanner.org

SAT vs. ACT Which test should you take?

- Reading, Math, and Writing-800 points each.
- Math through Algebra 2
- Writing=70% multiple choice and 30% essay
- Use of writing up to schools
- Accepted by all schools
- Taken by 48% of high school students
- Curriculum based achievement test
- English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning (Writing section is optional)
- Composite score-1-36.

Check out this website:

Princetonreview.com

How are Test Scores used

- SAT- Highest verbal and math scores across different administrations. (52% of 4 year public schools and 61% private.)
- Others use the highest pair of scores from a single administration. (41% of public and 25% of private.)
- ACT- Most institutions use the highest composite score from a single administration. (69% of public and 60% of private)
- Best combination of English, Math, Reading, and Science. (21% of public and 25% of private)
- Some schools do not use test scores if your GPA is a certain level or if you include writing samples (ex: Lebanon Valley College, Franklin and Marshall)
- Check out Collegeview.com



How Do Colleges Evaluate You

- Grades And Course Selection
 - **Most Important!**
- Test Scores SAT Or ACT
 - SAT Optional Programs
- Essay And Application
- Activities/Community Service
- Counselor Recommendations
- Teacher Recommendations

Academic Records

- Transcript
 - GPA
 - Class Rank
 - Strength of Courses
 - Grade trends
- Standardized Tests
 - SAT, ACT (Either Test is OK)
 - AP, IB
 - Standardized Test Option
- Teacher Recommendations
 - Choose recommenders carefully and give them plenty of time!





Writing, Writing, Writing...

- Personal Essay
 - Chronological summaries of your life should be avoided
 - Use creativity, but leave out grammatical and spelling errors
 - Keep the essay about you and what you will bring to the college
- Supplemental Essays
 - Relate the essays back to the specific college (double check college names before submission!)
 - What makes you a strong fit?
- Letters of Recommendations
 - Requirements Vary By School

Trend Changes

- More students than ever before are applying to schools
- More schools offering summer start
- More schools are “wait listing”
- More schools are using “self-report”
- All schools accept SAT and ACT



Types of admissions

- Rolling- applications are evaluated as they are received
- Regular- definite due date- applications are reviewed in comparison to the entire pool
- Early Action- decision is reached by specified date-non-binding
- Early Decision- same as early action but binding
- Visit this website: [college advice tips](#)




Application Process

- Most Applications Will Be On-line In August or September
- Make Sure That You Request Transcripts and Letters of Rec. well before deadline
- College Applications and Financial Aid Applications are often Separate, but Parallel Processes
- If Appropriate Use The Common Application Common Application
- Remember It Costs \$\$ To Apply To Each College
- Don't Wait Until The Last Day To Apply



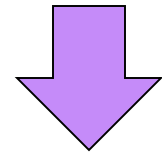
Application Process



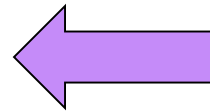
Student completes application online




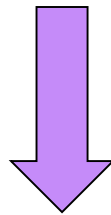
List colleges you are applying to in Naviance



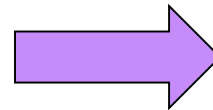
recommender uploads into Naviance




Invite "Recommenders" in Naviance- should be given 2 weeks to complete forms



Student completes transcript request form. Make sure if using Common App, it is linked.



Counselor reviews materials, signs official transcript, and sends transcript and letters (allow 10 school days)



Types of admission decisions:

- Accepted!
- Deferred- schools may ask to see mid-year grades or an additional SAT/ACT test score
- Wait Listed
- Denied





So..... Apply Early!!

- Usually increases your chances for acceptance
- Gives you time to visit or re-visit and weigh your options
- Most places have deadlines
- Less hassle for a busy senior year
- Apply to a variety of schools (“reach” and “safety” schools)

Don't Forget...

To work as a team..... Parents, student, counselors, admissions officers, and financial aid officers all work together.

To be aware of deadlines..... Application deadlines, scholarship deadlines, and financial aid deadlines vary by school and organization.

To look for a good fit..... Academic program, campus location and size, cost are important, not where your friends are going or where a relative went to school.

