



# COLLEGE PLANNING



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# KNOW THE COUNSELORS

- College Counselor:
  - Mrs. Glasson
  
- Individual/College Planning Counselors:
  - Mrs. Emma Lee Menszak
  - Ms. Alyssa Mikulski
  - Ms. Lauren Raymond



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# KNOWING YOURSELF

## Things for students to think about:

- What are my strengths and weaknesses?
- What are my interests?
- What are my values?
- What am I most interested in academically?
- What activities interest me the most?

## Complete Surveys in Naviance

- “Do What You Are”
- Career Interest Profiler
- Cluster Finder

## Campbell Interest and Skills Survey

- Helps to guide students on specific occupational areas.
- Provides feedback based on interests and talents.

Meet with your individual counselor!



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# WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

- The Work Force.
- Trade School
  - (Culinary, Cosmetology, Auto-mechanics, etc.)
- Military
  - (ROTC)
- Gap Year
- College



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# MILITARY (ROTC)

- Army
- Marine Corps
- Navy
- Air Force
- Coast Guard
- Reserve Officers' Training Corps
  - A group of college-based officer training programs for training commissioned officers of the United States Armed Forces. ROTC officers serve in all branches of the U.S. armed forces.
  - Under ROTC, a student may receive merit-based scholarship, covering all or part of college tuition, in return for an obligation of active military service after graduation.



# GAP YEAR



A period between completing high school and beginning college:

- Students step outside the traditional classroom experience.
- A time to explore the world, reflect on personal values and goals, and prepare to take the next step in life.
- Some colleges offer scholarships to students who take a gap year.



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# COLLEGE AS AN OPTION



- Associate Degree (2 years)
- Associate Degree and then transfer to a four-year college (2years+2years)
- Bachelor Degree (4years)
- Select programs leading to a Masters Degree/  
Doctoral Degree (5years+)



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# COLLEGE SEARCH



## Criteria to consider

- Two year or four year
- Location
- Size
  - Number of students
  - Teacher to student ratio
- Major

## Narrow Down

- Specialized programs
- Support services
- Athletics, activities, clubs
- Housing
- Cost, Financial Aid



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# CAREER/MAJOR/COLLEGE SEARCH

- Naviance
- CollegeBoard
- Education Planner
  - Choose career planning, career search
- O'Net Online
  - (Occupational Informational Network)
  - STEM Discipline
  - Bright Outlook
  - Green Economy Sector
  - Career Cluster

## College Search



**bigfuture**<sup>™</sup>  
by The College Board

You have  
3,855 college  
options. Choose a  
category on the  
left to find the  
right ones for you.  
We'll help along  
the way.

Not sure where to start?  
Go to College Search  
Step-by-Step, an  
interactive guide.



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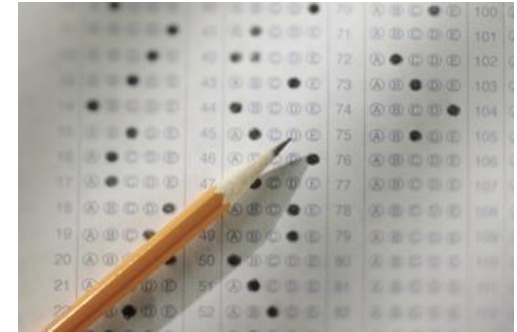
# STANDARDIZED TESTING

- Used for admission.
- Used for placement.
- Used for advising.
- Used as a validity check for application essay.



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# THE ACT



- **English:** standard written English and rhetorical skills
  - **Mathematics:** math skills taken up to the beginning of gr. 12
  - **Reading:** reading comprehension
  - **Science:** interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning and problem-solving skills
  - **Optional Writing Test:** measures writing skills taught in high school and in entry level college composition classes
- 
- ACT test scores range from 1 to 36.



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# ACT

## College Requirements

- Saint Joseph's University
  - 23-28
- Pennsylvania State University
  - 25-30
- University of Pennsylvania
  - 32-35
- West Chester University
  - 21-26



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# SAT

- **Evidence-Based Reading and Writing**
- **Mathematics**
- **Optional Writing Essay (50 Minutes):** is optional and will not be factored into your overall score but will be shown separately on the report and is based on:
  - the student's comprehension of the source text,
  - the student's ability to analyze and evaluate the text's argument,
  - the student's written communication skills.
- **The SAT test scores can range from a 400-1600**
  - Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 200-800
  - Math: 200-800



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# SAT

## College Requirements

- Saint Joseph's University (1110-1290)
  - Critical Reading: 560-640
  - Math: 550-650
- Pennsylvania State University (1160-1340)
  - Critical Reading: 580-660
  - Math: 580-680
- University of Pennsylvania (1420-1560)
  - Critical Reading: 700-770
  - Math: 720-790
- West Chester University(1040-1210)
  - Critical Reading: 530-610
  - Math: 510-600



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# SAT SUBJECT TESTS

- OPTIONAL unless your college requires them.
- Most Ivy League (highly competitive) schools like to see subject test scores.
- Plan ahead: take SAT Subject Tests in May or June of junior year.





# WHY PREPARE FOR SAT OR ACT?

- Being familiar with the test can calm you and give you some sense of confidence on the test day.
- Preparing for the first test will likely result in a good initial score.
  - Collegeboard recommends only taking the tests 2 times
- Standardized test scores can make or break an application.
- Test preparation helps build endurance and stamina, which is helpful due to the duration of the SAT.



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# SAT PREP

- PSAT
- Use SAT/ACT practice books
- Tutor Programs
  - Dr. Pace
  - Nazareth's SAT Prep
  - Kaplan or other outside tutors programs.
- Daily Practice App ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org))
  - Question of the day.
  - Review sample questions, test-taking strategies and directions from the SAT prep booklet.
  - Take a practice SAT.
- Khan Academy (online or mobile app)
  - CollegeBoard approved official prep for the SAT and PSAT.
  - **Personalized** practice IF you link to your College Board account.
- Varsity Tutor (ACT Prep)



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# REGISTERING FOR TESTS

❖ When you register for SAT, SAT Subject Tests, or the ACT, use our school code:

**393400.**

❖ Select up to four (4) colleges to receive your test scores.

❖ If you need to send your scores to more than 4 colleges, then you will need to pay to have them sent through [Collegeboard.com](https://Collegeboard.com) or [Act.org](https://Act.org)



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# TAKING THE TESTS

- Prepare for the test well in advance.
- Go to bed early the night before.
- Eat a protein-filled breakfast.
- Be organized, and have your materials ready for the testing day.
- Remember your Admission Ticket and your photo ID.
- Arrive early for the test.
- Do NOT bring any electronic devices!
- Read the directions and questions for each section carefully.
- Pace yourself during the test. Don't spend too much time on any one question.
- NO penalty for guessing on the SAT or the ACT!
- Try to answer every question.



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# SAT TEST SCHEDULE 2018-2019

SAT DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
December 1, 2018	November 2, 2018
March 9, 2019	February 8, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019
June 1, 2018	May 3, 2019



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# ACT TEST SCHEDULE 2018-2019

ACT DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
December 8 2018	November 2nd
February 9, 2019	January 11, 2019
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019
July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019
September 7, 2019	N/A
October 26, 2019	N/A
December 7, 2019	N/A



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# PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

## Curriculum

- **Right Courses: (Penn State)**
  - Four years of math recommended
  - A Trig course mandatory for all students.
  - Chemistry for Nursing Majors.
- **Challenging Classes**
- **Honors Classes**
- **Advanced Placement Classes**

## Test Scores and GPA

- **SAT/ACT Requirements**
  - Use PSAT scores
- **GPA Requirements**
  - Use cumulative from 10<sup>th</sup> grade.



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# HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY RÉSUMÉ

- Contact information
- School activities
- School athletics
- Out of school activities
- Volunteer work
- Awards/ Honors
- Employment: Job description, duration, duties



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# COLLEGE APPLICATION

- Application (Student)
  - Essay
  - Activity resume
  - SAT or ACT scores (College Board or ACT)
- Secondary School Reports (College Counselor)
- Teacher Recommendations (College Counselor)



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# APPLICATION ESSAY

- Prepare now
- Who am I? Who do I want to be?
- Look at essay questions at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- The English Department is willing to look over and give constructive feedback for essays!
- College board Resources for Essays:
  - Articles and slideshows.
  - Sample college essays.
  - Ways to approach common college essay questions.



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# HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT



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- Verify legal name
- Be sure transcripts are in order
- Students may self-report
  - Student copy of transcript grades 9 and 10
  - Student final report card from grade 11
  - Student roster of senior classes (sent in July)
- Contains grades from:
  - Ninth
  - Tenth
  - Eleventh
- Current and Cumulative GPA
- Courses for grades 12
- Attendance Record:
  - Absence
  - Tardy
- School Marking System (Profile)

# COMMON APPLICATION

- Apply to various schools at one time by utilizing the Common App.
  - Not all schools utilize the common app.
- The Common Applications becomes available to juniors during the spring.
- Start prepping for applications during the spring and summer.
  - Personal Information
  - A short answer (150 words or less)
  - A personal essay (650 words or less)



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# CAMPUS VISITS

- Plan college visits
- Call to set up a tour and interviews
- Confirm appointments
- Write a thank you note to anyone you met with formally.
- Talk to people on campus:
  - Admissions, financial aid, students, professors, coaches, etc.



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# COMMUNICATION WITH COLLEGES

- Choose a professional e-mail for all communication with colleges.
- Give full name and contact information on each e-mail.
- Use proper punctuation, grammar, and avoid using acronyms.
- Do not send blanket emails to a lot of institutions.
- Have a professional greeting message for cell phone.



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# SOCIAL MEDIA

- Postings on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. Can be viewed by colleges and/or potential employers.
  - Be careful about what you post!
- According to a 2015 Kaplan Test Prep survey, 40% of college admissions officers browse social media to learn more about candidates!
  - Take the opportunity to highlight yourself!



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# FINANCIAL AID

- Attend Parent Financial Aid night in the fall.
- Attend College-hosted Financial Aid sessions.
- Scholarship Searches:
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - [www.Naviance.com](http://www.Naviance.com)
  - [www.mycollegedollars.com](http://www.mycollegedollars.com)



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# COLLEGE PLANNING TASKS

- Make sure you are following along with the checklist for Junior College Planning.
- Junior College Paperwork:
  - Parental Authorization form.
  - Senior Brag Sheet.
  - Teacher Recommendations Form.
  - Copy of high school transcript.



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# GENERAL QUESTIONS

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