

College Information

for Seniors and their Parents

Agenda

- Is my son or daughter on track?
- Preparing for a College Search
- Applications
- Scholarships
- Parent Tips
- Next Steps for Juniors

Are we on the right path?

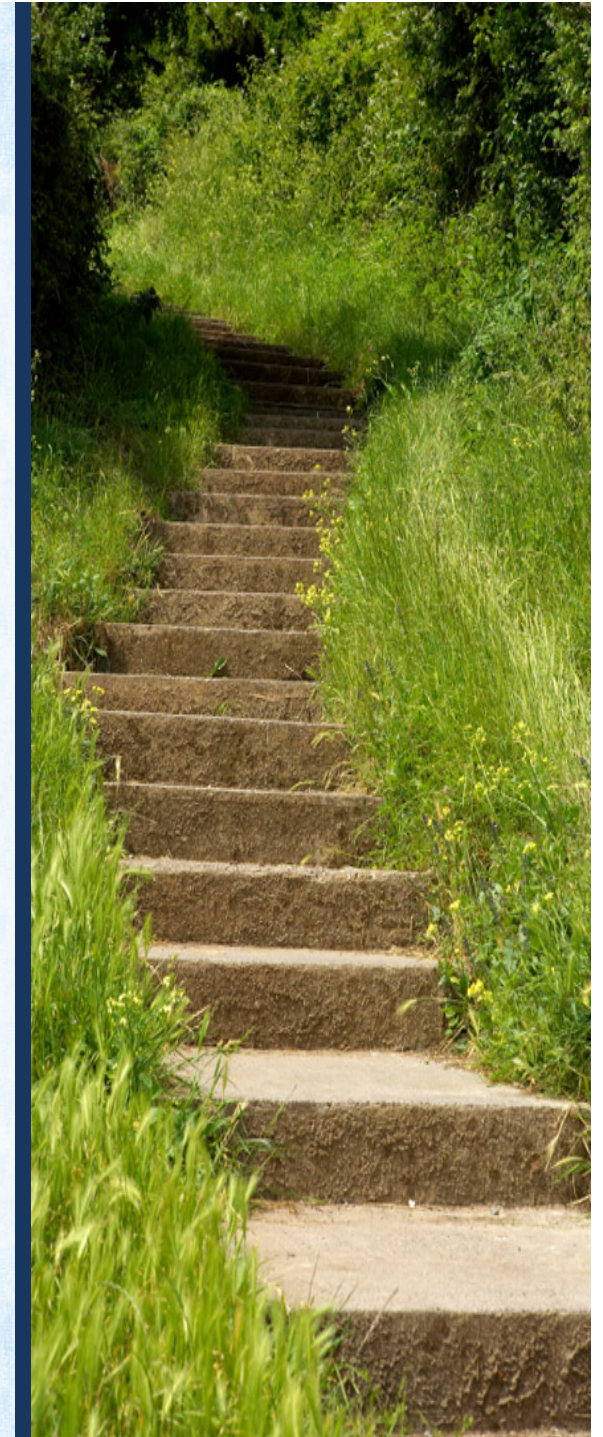
Many juniors take SATs and/or ACTs in May or June. The next opportunity for ACTs is in September and October for SATs.

Register by 9/17 for the 10/23 ACT at www.actstudent.org.

Register for the 10/9 SAT by 9/10 at www.collegeboard.com

All seniors have accessed Career Cruising to explore interests, potential careers and possible colleges. Continue to explore this site at www.careercruising.com

Username: albany118 password: career



About College Admission Tests

- **ACT**

- Consists of four tests: English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing
- Writing component is optional for the ACT but usually required by colleges
- Top composite score is 36
- Questions align with school curriculum and seem more familiar to students

- **SAT**

- Consists of three tests: Verbal, Math, Writing
- Each test is scored on a scale of 200-800
- This is a reasoning test



Preparing for a College Search

Choosing Your College Priorities

What is important to you?

- Academics (majors)
- Location
- Size
- Campus Appeal
- Social Life/Athletics
- Total Cost – Including aid



Know Yourself

- Values
- Ambitions
- Achievements
- Academic Strengths
- Interests
- Your Standout Talents



Four year colleges

Type	Description	Tuition	Admission Requirements
Four year	<p>Degrees offered: Bachelors and beyond</p> <p>Provides: A well-rounded college experience that includes an academic area of study.</p>	<p>State: Typically under \$15,000/year</p> <p>Private: Typically more than \$20,000/year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAT or ACT• GPA• Class rank• Essay• Extracurricular activities• Letters of recommendation• Transcripts

Two year colleges

Type	Description	Tuition	Admission Requirements
Two year	Degrees offered: Associates Offers: Career- oriented majors or a way to ease into college / take general college classes for credit. Typically have agreements with four year colleges to transfer credits.	Typically around \$3,500/year	Open-door admission policy

Investigating Colleges

- College websites
- College Representatives visiting Maple Hill
- College visits
 - Tour campus and set up appointments through admissions
- Fall Open Houses
 - More comprehensive often including tour, financial aid information, admission presentation and availability of representation from different departments

What information do college admission officers review?

- Strength of high school course selections
- Grades / Overall GPA
- Admission Test Score
- Essay
- Teacher and counselor recommendations
- Class rank
- Student's demonstrated interest
- Personal accomplishments
- Personality characteristics
- Courses in progress during the Senior year

Applications

- Common Application
 - One application to apply to multiple colleges
 - Supplemental application required by individual colleges
- SUNY Application
 - Apply to four SUNYs with one application
- College-specific applications



Application Decisions

- Early Decision – Binding agreement
 - Application Deadline between Nov. 1st and Dec. 15th
 - Can apply to multiple colleges but only one as early decision.
- Early Action – Non Binding
 - Apply by early deadline and receive decision usually within a few weeks
- Regular Decision – Usually a Jan. 1 Deadline
- Rolling Admission – Later Deadlines
 - Decision made on a rolling basis until class is filled



Scholarships

Scholarship Resources

- **High School website** – Guidance link
- **Daily morning announcements**
- **Fastweb.com** - Private scholarships
- **fafsa.ed.gov** - Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- **Studentaid.ed.gov** - The federal government's website about paying for college
- **MeritAid.com** - \$11 billion in merit scholarships
- **Schoolsoup.com and Cappex.com** - Scholarship matching
- **finaid.org** - Free student resource for learning about all types of financial aid

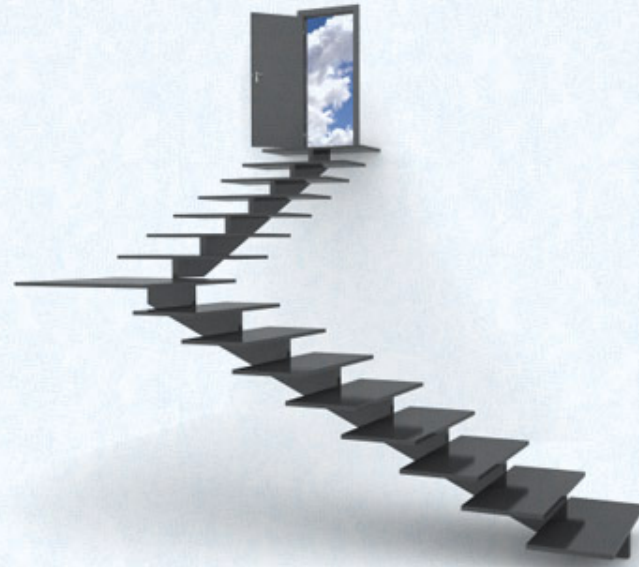
Scholarship Tips

Apply, Apply, Apply!!!!!!

- Not just for “A” students
- Many awards emphasize leadership, community service or school involvement
- Nearly all colleges offer merit aid scholarships
- The guidance office receives many smaller scholarship opportunities that more students should apply to
- It’s especially important to apply to those local scholarships that are guaranteed to at least one of our students

10 Tips for Parents

1. Call or email with any questions
2. Help your student understand the college search process
3. Be realistic and non-judgmental
4. Have the college finance conversation early
5. Be in the "back seat" of the college search process – let your son/daughter make the contacts with colleges
6. Be open to dialogue and responsive to questions
7. Be aware of deadlines and fees due
8. Keep copies of everything and always confirm receipt of materials
9. Submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st
10. Celebrate successes!



Next Steps

Next Steps for Students

In School

- ✓ Stay focused on academics
- ✓ Do not lighten your academic load for senior year
- ✓ Meet with your school counselor
- ✓ Stay involved in school activities

Standardized Testing

- ✓ Prepare for and register for ACT / SAT tests
- ✓ Register for SAT II subject tests if necessary

College Exploration

- ✓ Explore colleges on the Web
- ✓ Visit colleges if you can
- ✓ Meet with college representatives
- ✓ Attend college fairs

Next steps for Seniors - Fall

- Early Fall
 - Individual meetings with seniors
 - Students should request recommendations from teachers
- Thanksgiving – Date we recommend applications to be completed
- Students will submit a transcript request form for each college application