

POST SECONDARY PLANNING

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WE HAVE LOTS TO DISCUSS...

- Comparing colleges
- ACT & SAT
- Application process
- Scholarships
- Military
- Work

APPLICATION PROCESS: OVERVIEW

✓ GET ORGANIZED!

1. Investigate your college options (new GCIS website!)
2. Choose your colleges/universities/programs
3. Register and retake SAT and ACT tests (no later than December).
5. Apply using GAcollege411
6. Ask teachers for letters of recommendation
7. Request transcripts from home school counselors

CONNECTING TO YOUR COLLEGES



- ✓ College Fairs
- ✓ College Rep Visits
- ✓ Campus Visits
- ✓ Admissions
counselors

WHAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER...

- Size and diversity of student body
- Location
- Academic programs
- Campus life — athletics, activities, housing
- Graduation and retention rates
- Financial aid and scholarship opportunities

Above all, think about where you will be the most happy and
successful in your college life!!!

WHAT COLLEGES CONSIDER...

Primary Factors

- Quality/Rigor of Academic Courses
- Academic Performance/ Grades (upward trend)
- Test Scores (ACT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests)

Additional Factors

- Extracurricular Activities/Leadership
- Essay(s)
- Letters of Recommendation
- Demonstrated Interest
- Honors/Awards



DEADLINES!

- ✓ SAT/ACT Registration Deadlines
- ✓ November 1-15: Early Action deadlines
- ✓ December 1: University-based scholarships/honors programs
- ✓ February 15: FAFSA (can start it Jan 1)
- ✓ CSS Profile (opens October 1)



DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



National Association for
College Admission Counseling
Guiding the way to higher education.

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Restrictive Application Plans

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

EARLY DECISION & EARLY ACTION

Benefits

- If accepted, you can bypass some stress
- If you aren't accepted, your application is usually deferred and you can still be admitted during regular decision.
- Communicates your interest and the school may take you more seriously.

Drawbacks

- For early decision, you will have less time to explore and may be forced to rule out other schools with better financial aid packages.
- You can't improve your profile with 1st semester grades
- It may be harder to stand out against the high-quality applications that are usually submitted for early decision/action.

ACT OR SAT???

ACT

- Score range 1-36
- Science section
- Directly related to what you learn at school
- NO penalty for guessing
- Accepted by every 4 year college in US
- Must register for the optional writing portion!

SAT

- Score range 600-2400
- NO science
- More vocabulary and reasoning
- Guessing penalty
- Accepted by every 4 year college in US

ACT & SAT DEADLINES 2014

ACT

Test Date	Registration deadline
September 13	August 22 (late)
October 25	September 19
December 13	November 7

SAT

Test Date	Registration deadline
October 11	September 12
November 8	October 9
December 6	November 6

You are responsible for requesting your test scores to be sent to each school directly from act.org and collegeboard.org (SAT)!!!

Make sure to list up to 5 schools when you register for the tests – they will send these for free! After that, you have to pay for each one.

FEE WAIVERS

- If you qualify for free or reduced lunch you are eligible for 2 fee waivers each for both the SAT and ACT
- You are also eligible for up to 4 college application fee waivers
- Homeschool counselors have all fee waivers

SAT SUBJECT TEST

- One hour, multiple choice test on one of 20 different subjects.
- Required by some selective colleges for admission.
Note – most students do not need SAT Subject Tests.
- Some colleges accept the **ACT instead** of the SAT Reasoning + Subject Tests
- Offers you an additional opportunity to show colleges what you know.

PARTS OF THE APPLICATION



- ✓ Demographic Information
- ✓ Activities List
- ✓ Essay
- ✓ Send Test Scores
- ✓ Transcript
- ✓ Secondary School Report/
College Prep Form
- ✓ Recommendations
- ✓ Fee

COMMON MIS-STEPS ON COLLEGE APPLICATIONS...

- Missing the deadline!!!
- Weak senior course schedule
- Forgetting to request transcripts
- Copying essays from the internet
- Having a parent fill out the application
- Typos, spelling, grammatical errors



MAKE SURE TO...

- Proofread your application out loud!
- Review your essays- make sure you answered every part of the question!
- Confirm that your recommendation letters have been submitted
- Keep in touch with your connections (faculty, admissions reps, etc.) and keep them updated on your progress!
- Request transcripts
- Send official test scores



GCIS & GACOLLEGE411

- www.gcic.peachnet.edu

- Explore your career interests
- Learn about different schools and programs
- Explore scholarships

- www.GACollege411.org

- Complete college applications
- Send your transcript to colleges
- Calculate your HOPE GPA
- Apply to FAFSA

HOW MANY SHOULD YOU APPLY TO?

Apply to at least one safety school!!!

A safety school is a school whose requirements you exceed.

Apply to at least one school that is a good fit in terms of your GPA, courses, test scores, majors offered, etc.

What if you don't meet all the requirements for your dream school?

Apply anyway if you can! As long as you apply to other schools that are within your reach, as well as a safety school, you might as well apply for your reach school! You never know...

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ **Teacher (past and present)**
 - ✓ **Counselor**
 - ✓ **Administrator**
 - ✓ **Boss, coach, mentor**
-
- ✓ **Make sure you choose people who know you well and who can write about more than just what grade you got in a class!**



HOPE

- You must have a 3.0! (2.99 does not qualify)
- GPA is determined by averaging ALL core coursework (English, Math, Science, Social Science, Foreign language)
- Rigor requirements by year:
 - 2015 = 2
 - 2016 = 3
 - 2017 = 4
- Rigor requirements:
 - Math 3 or higher
 - Chemistry, physics
 - AP classes in core subjects
 - Dual enrollment classes in core subjects
 - Foreign language 3 or higher

HOPE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

[https://dl-
web.dropbox.com/get/RCA%20Counseling%20Website/HOPE%20eligible%20schools.pdf?w=AADOSDt6ZEilzdisfulxxGL7_q2Pa2EwicLXS7kuRaSNTg](https://dl-web.dropbox.com/get/RCA%20Counseling%20Website/HOPE%20eligible%20schools.pdf?w=AADOSDt6ZEilzdisfulxxGL7_q2Pa2EwicLXS7kuRaSNTg)

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

- www.fastweb.com
- www.gcic.peachnet.edu
- www.GACollege411.org
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.hsf.net (Hispanic Scholarship Fund)
- www.gmsp.org (Gates Millennium Scholars)
- www.questbridge.org
- Financial aid and scholarships webpages for the specific schools you are applying to

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- ✓ **NCAA Clearinghouse**
 - ✓ If you plan to play sports at the college level, you need to check into NCAA requirements
- ✓ **Fine and Performing Arts**
 - ✓ Be sure to find out about interviews, tryouts, supplemental applications, etc!
- ✓ **Free and Reduced Lunch**
 - ✓ Don't forget to request fee waivers for both the ACT/SAT, as well as college application fees!

NCAA

If you plan on participating in athletics at a NCAA Division I or II institution, you need to register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse!

www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

When taking the ACT or SAT, you need to enter **9999** as one of your school codes for the scores to be sent to NCAA.

IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS

- Check your transcript and make sure you have the requirements needed for the colleges you are looking at
- Retake the ACT/SAT and have scores sent to schools
- Decide on your final list of colleges and know all of their deadlines!
- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation.....NOW!!!
- Get started writing application essays!
- Research scholarship opportunities
- Begin submitting applications!

MY BIG CAMPUS

Applying to college code:

daxkrs80

First generation college prep code:

j1e97ai5

QUESTIONS?

