Blue Valley Northwest Counseling Department

Junior Personal Planning Guide

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Dear BV Northwest Student,

We are pleased to introduce or familiarize you with Family Connection! Family Connection is a comprehensive website that you can use to help with your plans about courses in high school, college planning and career exploration. Family Connection is linked to Naviance Succeed™, a service that we use in our office to track and analyze data about college and career plans, send critical admission documents and provide up-to-date information that is specific to our school.

Family Connection allows you to:

- Get involved in the planning and advising process – Build a resume, complete on-line personality surveys related to careers, and manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers.
- Research colleges – Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for students who have applied and been admitted in the past.
- Research Careers – Create goals and to-dos, and complete tasks assigned to you by the school to better prepare yourself for your future college and career goals.

Family Connection also lets us share information with you about upcoming meetings, events, local scholarship opportunities, and other resources for college and career information. You can also use the site to stay in communication with the counseling office.


To log on, type the following:

**Email:** District username only (ex. “jasmith”)

**Password:** (student ID #)

We hope you find this resource helpful. If you have further questions about Family Connection, please contact your student’s counselor.

Sincerely,

BV Northwest Counseling Team
Family Connection

Overview

Getting Started
To access Family Connection, you must have the following:
- A computer that is connected to the Internet
- Your personal or work e-mail address
- A registration code provided by your student’s school

Registering for Family Connection
Follow the steps below to register for Family Connection:
1. Click the I Need to Register link.
2. Enter the registration code provided by your student’s school.
3. Click the Register button.
4. Enter your e-mail address and create a password.
5. Accept the terms of service.
6. Click the Complete Registration button.

Note: Passwords must be at least six characters and cannot contain blank spaces.

Logging into Family Connection
Follow the steps below to log into Family Connection:
1. Enter your username in the E-mail field.
2. Enter your password in the Password field.
3. Check the box next to Remember Me if you want to bypass entering this information on return visits. (Not recommended for shared or public computers.)
4. Click the Log In button.

Communicating with School Staff
There are several ways you and your student’s school can communicate from the Home page of Family Connection.

Review the welcome message, pages, links and updates:
1. The welcome message is located on the Home page.
2. The school posts pages, links and updates on the Home page.

Send an e-mail message:
1. Click Contact Us on the right column of the Home page.
2. Your e-mail address and your school contact (student’s counselor) are pre-populated.
3. Enter a subject for your message.
4. Enter your message.
5. Click the Send Message button.

Read and reply to e-mail messages:
1. Click the New Messages link on the right column of the Home page.
2. Your inbox appears.
3. Click a message subject to open the e-mail.
4. To reply, click the Reply to Message link.

Complete surveys:
1. Click the About Me tab.
2. Parent surveys are listed in the Surveys to Take section. (Left side column)
3. Click a survey name to open the survey.
4. Complete the survey by opening the fields. Required fields have a red asterisk (*).
5. Click Update when you finish the survey.

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Planning Timelines
Countdown to college
Plan your path to education success with these month-by-month calendars, a resource from the CollegeSTEPS Program

**August**
- Review your high school courses and activities. Colleges look for challenging coursework, strong grades, and extracurricular activities.

**September**
- Browse college catalogs and guidebooks, and surf the Web for information.
- List 10 colleges you would like to attend.
- Talk to your parents and high school guidance counselor about that list to narrow it down.
- Register and study for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).
- Plan to attend college fairs and parents’ nights in your area.

**October**
- Take the PSAT
- Research Advanced Placement AP or college courses you might take.
- Continue researching organizations that award scholarships to graduating seniors. You may need to apply for them the summer after your junior year.

**November**
- Learn about eligibility requirements for federal and private student loans.
- Talk as a family about how much you can afford to spend for your education.

**January**
- Plan for the next round of tests: the SAT and the ACT
- Attend financial aid nights in your area.

**February**
- Investigate private scholarships and other aid programs. Check with your parents’ employers, local membership organizations, or programs related to your intended course of study.
- Make the most of spring break with a weeklong college tour.
- Register for the SAT and ACT.
- Take an exam prep course to help you succeed.

**March**
- Visit the three to six schools on your final list. Schedule an admissions interview and an overnight stay. Take time at each school’s financial aid office to collect information.
- Begin preparing essays for admission and scholarship applications.
- Take the SAT and/or the ACT.
- Mark your calendar with the dates for future tests.

**May**
- Take Sat and/or the ACT.
- Mark your calendar with the dates for future tests.

**June**
- Continue researching organizations that award scholarships to graduating seniors. You may need to apply for them the summer after your junior year.

Want more?
Get even more help planning for college with our CollegeSTEPS Resource Connection. You’ll get a list of questions to ask on campus visits, a step-by-step guide to financial aid, links to our blog about financing education, and more at wells Fargo.com/collegeplanning.
Countdown to college

Plan your path to education success with these month-by-month calendars, a resource from the CollegeSTEPS Program.

**September**
- Meet with college admissions representatives visiting your school.
- Make a calendar of key application and financial aid deadlines.
- Ask teachers, guidance counselors and other adults who know you for letters of recommendation for scholarship and admissions applications.

**October**
- Take the SAT or ACT if necessary.
- Work on admissions application essays.
- Revisit your top school choices.
- Talk face to face with current students and faculty members at those schools.
- Continue to seek and apply for scholarship awards from a variety of sources.

**November**
- Take the SAT or ACT if necessary.
- Obtain financial aid applications from your colleges of choice.
- Prepare your college applications.

**December**
- Gather the data needed for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

**January**
- Submit your completed FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible.

**February**
- Check to see if your mid-year transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.
- Plan for AP exams or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.

**March**
- Look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. Pay particular attention to the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and discuss it with your parents and family.

**April**
- Watch the mail for acceptance letters and financial aid award letters. Compare the financial aid packages.
- Choose a school and send in a deposit by the deadline.
- Contact the financial aid office at your chosen school to make certain your application is complete.
- Consider Wells Fargo as your lender and apply online.

**May**
- Take AP examinations.
- Write thank you's to the people who wrote you letters of recommendation.
- Celebrate your high school graduation!

**Want more?**
Get even more help planning for college with our CollegeSTEPS Resource Connection. You'll get a list of questions to ask on campus visits, a step-by-step guide to financial aid, links to our blog about financing education, and more at wellsfargo.com/collegeplanning.
College
College Choice Guide

College Research Tips

Consult your school counselor. Your school’s guidance office can assist you with information on college preparation, career options and making your final school decision.

Visit the universities’ Web sites. This will allow you to learn more about the school’s location, size, admission and financial aid information.

Go to your local library. You can find college books and college guides that offer detailed school profiles, programs offered, tuition costs, campus culture and more.

Surf the Internet. Internet sites such as www.fastweb.com provide a free college search. You can also find college blogs online to give you an inside look at campus life and activities.

Call the school’s alumni association. Schedule an interview with an alumnus of the school who can offer advice and share his/her collegiate experience, including activities in which you may be interested in participating.

Campus Visit Tips

Pick a regular day to visit. Have multiple dates and times. Avoid major events or holidays and ask for a guided tour. Arrange to speak to other students, faculty members, financial aid, admissions and career offices. Send a thank-you note to all you meet!

Pack smart. Pack more casual clothes for when you walk around campus and something more formal for an interview with the admissions office.

Stay in a dorm overnight. Sit in on a class to see how it is conducted. Speak with current students and professors about what life on campus is like.

View other campus buildings. Check out residence hall rooms, cafeterias, computer labs, health and recreational facilities, the library, etc.

Record your experience. After your campus visits, make a list of the good and bad points about each school. Use the questions below to guide you in your college choice.

College Choice Questions to Consider

Academics and Career Planning

Does the college offer the academic major that interests me? What’s the reputation of the program you desire? Is the timeline for your program of study four years or more? What is the average class size? What is the student-to-faculty ratio? Are most classes taught by professors or by a teaching assistant? What kinds of career planning services are available? How many graduates find jobs in their field of study? Does the school offer internships and research opportunities in your field of interest? How easy is it to switch academic majors? Will it mean spending more time in school?

Finances

What is my actual cost? Other expenses beyond just the “sticker price” for tuition can include:
- application and doc fees
- add/drop a course fees
- food and clothing expenses
- health insurance costs
- student activity fees
- transportation expenses (insurance, parking fees)

What is the average increase in tuition and other costs from year to year? View at least three year’s worth of data to chart past increases.

Student Life

Is the campus diverse? Will I meet students different than me?

What student organizations are on campus? Does the school offer a variety of recreational activities, varsity and intramural and club sports? Are they ones you would want to join?

What’s the social scene like? What is the campus like on the weekends? Do many students leave campus? What kinds of student activities are planned?

Do you need a car? Are jobs close to campus? Do you need to drive to any classes? Is public transit accessible?

Housing and Campus Resources

What is the status of student housing? What is the cost? Is off-campus housing available? Is campus housing available for all four years? Are the dorms well-kept or in poor condition?

Is the campus safe? What services does campus security provide? What is the surrounding area like? What is the quality of campus resources? Are facilities up-to-date? Is wireless access available?

What meal plans are available? What is served in the cafeteria? Are special dietary plans available? Are there after-hours options? Does the meal plan extend off campus? What about money/meals that go unused?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>What does it do?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Career Exploration</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.onetonline.org/">https://www.onetonline.org/</a></td>
<td>Breakdown of skillset via career</td>
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<tr>
<td>wwww.payscale.com</td>
<td>Find current career salary profiles</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.jccc.edu/student-resources/counseling/career/choices.html">http://www.jccc.edu/student-resources/counseling/career/choices.html</a></td>
<td>“Choices” workshop at JCCC. Offers several career assessments and immediate feedback. Register online or call career center. 2 hour session.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JCCC Career Center 913-469-3870</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>College Affordability</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://collegecost.ed.gov/">https://collegecost.ed.gov/</a></td>
<td>Will show loan default rates = do grads have jobs to pay loans? Also shows tuition rates and other college tuition data</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Affordability and Transparency Center</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/">https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/</a></td>
<td>USDE College search engine</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.studentaid.gov/about/data-center/student/default">www.studentaid.gov/about/data-center/student/default</a></td>
<td>USDE website detailing types of available aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>msep.mhec.org/</td>
<td>Information pertaining to discounted tuition for Midwest schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“College Ahead” Mobile App college planning tool</td>
<td>By Sallie Mae</td>
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<td><strong>AP or Transfer credit</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>College Board website</td>
<td>Find colleges that offer credit for certain AP scores.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies">https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google search: “(Insert university or college name) transfer credit”</td>
<td>To determine institute’s policy on transfer credit (example: College Now Courses)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>College Majors, Admission &amp; Campus Info</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Google search: “(Insert university or college name and major) course catalog”</td>
<td>Will show you what courses are required for certain degree.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Google search: “(Insert university or college name) freshman profile”</td>
<td>Will show admission data on the most recent class of students accepted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clery Center for security on campus</td>
<td>Campuses that receive federal funding must report crime data. Search schools on website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clerycenter.org</td>
<td>Rankings and reviews of colleges by students/staff</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://colleges.niche.com">https://colleges.niche.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Testing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Google search: “Test optional colleges”</td>
<td>Schools that do not use ACT/SAT scores for admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT or SAT</td>
<td>The difference between the tests</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.actstudent.org/faq/actsat.html">http://www.actstudent.org/faq/actsat.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Princeton Review: Which test should I take quiz?</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act">http://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act</a></td>
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COMMUNITY COLLEGE vs FOUR YEAR COLLEGE

What is Right for You?

What is a Community College?

Community colleges are typically two-year institutions that offer the benefits of low tuitions and convenient locations. Students usually choose a community college with one of the following goals in mind:

- To begin earning basic credits that they will later transfer to a four-year college
- To pursue a two-year Associates Degree or certificate program to prepare for a specific career
- To take continuing education classes in order to build new job skills, explore a new career or pursue a personal interest

When Should You Consider a Community College?

A community college offers plenty of benefits, but it might be a particularly good option for you if one of the following is true:

- **Cost is an issue.** Tuition at most community colleges is quite a bit cheaper than at their four-year counterparts. Even if you plan to eventually attend a four-year school, you can save a lot of money by taking a couple of semesters of general prerequisites at a community college.

- **Your grades do not make the grade.** Unlike competitive four-year colleges, community colleges typically have open admission policies which only require a high school diploma. Plus, attending a community college is a great way to improve your academic track record in order to get accepted at a four-year college.

- **You are not quite ready to leave home.** Plenty of high school grads just are not ready for the responsibility of living on their own. Community colleges are a good stepping stone, since you can ease into college courses while still living at home.

- **You want job-specific training.** At a community college, you can usually dive right into a two-year program that will give you specific training for a specialized field or a technical or vocational career.

The bottom line is that community colleges and traditional, four-year colleges both offer great educational opportunities. Like every other choice you will make in your college search, deciding what is best for you boils down to weighing your educational goals, your personal circumstances and what you want most from your college experience.
FINDING YOUR COLLEGE FIT

What is a college fit? It is the idea that colleges are not one-size-fits-all. That some colleges are for you, and some are not. That instead of worrying about attending the “best college”, you should instead be looking for the best college for you personally - the one that has the combination of elements that will let you thrive both academically and personally.

Forget rankings, ratings and what your friends have to say about the colleges you are considering. When it comes time to decide which college is the best fit for you, simply ask yourself the following questions:

**WILL I BE SATISFIED ACADEMICALLY?**
A school is a good fit if it challenges you academically and offers degree programs and electives that interest you. Think too about what type of classroom environment you excel in and choose a college that is a match in terms of class size, access to faculty and overall teaching philosophy.

**WILL I BE FULFILLED PERSONALLY?**
Your college career is about much more than the time you spend in the classroom. The activities and events you participate in and new interests that you pursue will round out your experience on campus. Look into what opportunities you will have for non-academic pursuits and make sure they match with what is important and meaningful to you.

**WILL I BE HAPPY SOCIALLY?**
Check out the social scene at the college you are considering. Can you see yourself fitting into it? Think about how you are likely to make friends - through Greek organizations, athletics, or other campus organizations, events and traditions. Will people with backgrounds similar to yours surround you or will you meet students from all walks of life and parts of the country? If you are excited by the prospect of the people you will meet and the things you will do together, the college is probably a good match for you socially.

**WILL I BE AT EASE ON CAMPUS?**
Everything from the size and location of a college to its political climate will affect how comfortable you are there. Many students thrive on a campus where they are a bit out of their element, while others prefer to stick with something familiar. Decide what is best for you.
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS WORKSHEET

We suggest that most students submit 6 to 8 applications; however, in some cases, fewer or more than 6 may be appropriate. In making your final list the counselors strongly recommend at least 2 applications in both the “Probable” and “Likely” categories.
* All applicants should consider any school that accepts fewer the 30% of its applicants a REACH school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECISION CRITERIA</th>
<th>REACH*</th>
<th>PROBABLE/MATCH</th>
<th>LIKELY/SAFETY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What factors, in your order of importance, have you used to make the college choices indicated here? Possible examples include school size, tuition/housing costs, proximity to home, intended major, family affiliations, religious affiliation, etc. What's important to you?</td>
<td>A school you would like to attend but where your chances of being accepted seem slim. However, since each student is a unique individual with assets and abilities that might interest a college, you may want to have some college applications in this category.</td>
<td>A school where your chances of being accepted are better than your chances of being rejected; however, some students with credentials like yours have been rejected. It is essential to apply to at least 2 colleges in this category</td>
<td>A school which seldom has rejected candidates with your credentials. It is essential to apply to at least 2 colleges in this category.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>A school in which you have significant interest, but your statistical “snapshot” may put you below the average GPA and the mid-50% range of the SAT/ACT of the incoming freshman class</td>
<td>A school in which your statistical “snapshot” is very close to the same GPA as incoming freshmen and your SAT/Act scores fall within the mid 50% range for incoming freshmen.</td>
<td>A school in which your statistical “snapshot” place you above the average GPA and above the mid-50% SAT/Act range for the school’s incoming freshman class.</td>
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The college evaluations above are based on available GPA and test scores. Most colleges also use other factors in their admissions decisions.

NOTE: A more selective college may not be the better college for you-think about the “fit,” not the “label.” Also, keep in mind that selectivity is not the same as quality.
### Non-Restrictive Application Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Decision</td>
<td>Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.</td>
<td>NON-BINDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling Admission</td>
<td>Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.</td>
<td>NON-BINDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Action (EA)</td>
<td>Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.</td>
<td>NON-BINDING</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Restrictive Application Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Decision (ED)</td>
<td>Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.</td>
<td>BINDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictive Early Action (REA)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>NON-BINDING</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

For a copy of this flyer, please visit [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)
Campus visits ........................

There’s no substitute for seeing a college yourself!

There are lots of ways to find out about a college, from brochures to videos to college fairs. But the bottom line is that nothing beats the test of going to a college and seeing it for yourself. Here are some ideas to help you make the most of a campus visit.

Before you go

Call the admissions office in advance

If you want to stay overnight in a residence hall, ask if they can make arrangements.

Also, find out about lining up an interview (if they offer them and you’d like one) or attending an information session, visiting classes and talking with faculty.

Read up on the college and think about questions

Go back through the information you’ve collected about the college. Check the resources at your school’s guidance office and browse the college’s Web site, if possible. This research will help you think of questions to ask and aspects of the college to explore while you’re there.

The other side of this page has lists of questions to help you get started. As you think of other questions, write them down.

While you’re there

Talk to as many students as you can

Once you’re on campus, try to take advantage of a variety of ways to learn about the college:

• Meet with an admissions officer or attend an information session
• Take a tour of the campus
• Sit in on a class

• Have a meal in the cafeteria
• Pick up copies of the student newspaper and alumni magazine.

Throughout your visit, talk to as many students as you can and don’t be bashful about asking questions!

Prepare for the interview

If you have scheduled an interview, take along your list of questions, so you’re sure to cover everything you wanted to find out. You’ll probably be asked about your academic background, interests, hobbies, goals and why you’re interested in the college, so be ready to talk about that.

As with any interview, be on time, or call ahead if you know you’ll be delayed.

Take time to look around on your own

Take some time to explore the campus on your own and absorb the atmosphere. While organized activities can give you information you can’t get on your own, the reverse is true, too.
You’ve probably already thought of lots of questions to ask during your campus visit. Here are some suggestions, but be sure to ask the questions that are important to YOU.

**When you talk to students, ask . . .**

1. How many hours a week do you study? Is that typical here?
2. Are faculty members interested in students and accessible outside of class?
3. Do many students go home on weekends?
4. Are the athletic facilities open to all students or only to athletes?
5. Is it possible to study in your dorm room?
6. Is the food good?
7. Are campus jobs readily available?
8. Is there easy access to computers? Where are they located?
9. What’s the library like as a place to study? to do research?
10. What do you like most about this college? least?
11. How easy is it to get the classes you want?
12. If you could change something about this school, what would it be?

**If you attend a class, ask yourself . . .**

1. Are students prepared for the class? Do they seem interested in the material?
2. Do I feel that the students are learning—either new facts or new ways of thinking about a subject?
3. Is there time for questions and discussion? Do students participate?
4. Am I intellectually challenged by what is taking place in the class?
5. Is there good rapport between professors and students?

**As you tour the campus, ask yourself . . .**

1. Are the buildings in good repair? the grounds well-kept?
2. Are the residence halls pleasant and quiet enough to study in? Are there laundry and kitchen facilities?
3. What’s the cafeteria like?
4. Are computers and lab equipment up-to-date and plentiful?
5. What’s the surrounding town or city like?

**In an interview or information session, you could ask . . .**

1. Does the college have academic programs that fit my interests?
2. Where are computer terminals located? Will I have to pay extra for computer time?
3. Will I have access to special equipment (such as an electron microscope) as a first-year student?
4. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the college’s advising system?
5. How many students will there be in courses I’m likely to take in my first year? Are those courses taught by professors or graduate assistants?
6. What kinds of campus jobs are available for first-year students?
7. Will there be any new programs or facilities in the next two years?
8. What are the college’s recent graduates doing now?

**After the visit**

Write down your impressions

1. Were the people you met friendly? Did they answer your questions fully and candidly?
2. What do you think of the quality of instruction and the academic atmosphere?
3. Were the students the kind of people you’d like to get to know?
4. Did you like the social atmosphere?
5. Would you like to spend more time there?
After you’ve gathered a lot of information from colleges that interest you, this college evaluation chart can help you put it all in perspective.

For each of the selection factors listed, evaluate each college on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). You decide whether a college or university receives a 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 on each factor, such as location or academic program.

In other words, a college that you evaluate as a 5 on one factor may receive a 1 on that same factor from someone else.

Now, for each factor, compare your evaluations of the colleges. Keep in mind that it’s unlikely that all of the college selection factors will be of equal importance to you. Pay special attention to those you think are most important to your interests and needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection factors</th>
<th>College names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate each college from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic program and atmosphere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student-faculty ratio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility of faculty outside of class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty teaching reputation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for independent study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for international study</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities for internships</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic counseling program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career counseling program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus setting and architecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic facilities (classrooms, labs, practice rooms)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of computers and Internet access</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library as a place to study and do research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural facilities (theaters, galleries, concert halls)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to hear visiting lecturers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to see visiting artists and performers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal counseling program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational facilities (gyms, tracks, pools, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student health facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of campus and surrounding town or city</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Size of student population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for part-time work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to participate in clubs, sports and activities (list all that interest you)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence halls or other types of college housing (special houses, fraternities, sororities, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for entertainment and social life (movies, concerts, dances, coffee houses, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other factors of importance to you (list below)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This College Guide handout is published by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. © 2009
Visit College Representatives
at Blue Valley Northwest

• Juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend information sessions with college admission representatives that visit BVNW each fall and spring.

• A list of visiting colleges can be found on Naviance.

  Log into the Naviance Family Connection Student Account
  Click the Colleges Tab
  Upcoming College Visits will be listed on the right side
  Click on “View all upcoming college visits” to see the entire list
  And/or sign up.

• Students sign up through their Naviance account and print off the visit with the date/time to use as a pass.

• Permission from the classroom teacher must be given for the student to attend the college information session and be excused from class. Students are responsible for any missing work.

• Before the visit, students are encouraged to research the colleges whom they meet. The information gained from the representatives should supplement what has already been learned from other sources such as Naviance and web sit
Questions to Ask at a College Fair

After you decide what college fairs you will be attending, register, and map out your route, here are some possible questions to ask. Choose a few that are important to you and your family. These are also great for a campus visit too!
Remember to shake hands and introduce yourself.

STUDENTS

• How would you characterize the majority of students? (age, gender, race/ethnicity, etc.)
• What percentage of first-year students return the following year?
• What percentages of graduates are employed within one year?

ADMISSIONS

• What are the admissions deadlines?
• Can credits be earned online or transferred from others colleges?
• Which association has given your college accreditation?
• Does your college award credit for Advanced Placement (AP) and College NOW at JCCC/Baker (concurrent enrollment)
• What are the test score requirements?
• Are admission interviews conducted? Are interviews required?
• Do you look at demonstrated interest? (campus visits, calls, emails, etc. from interested student)

ACADEMICS AND FACULTY

• What is distinctive about education here? What is the educational philosophy of the college? Has it changed much in recent years?
• How are faculty advisors assigned, especially before a major has been chosen?
• How would you characterize the academic pressure and workload?
• Are there research possibilities with the faculty? In what areas?
• What is the quality of student and faculty relationships? Is the faculty interested in and accessible to students after class? Do faculty members participate in student activities?
• What is the average class size?
• Will a professor or graduate student most likely teach the courses?
• When must you decide on a major?

FINANCIAL AID

• How much does it cost to attend your college (including tuition, room and board, fees, etc.?)
• What financial aid options are available?
• Does the school participate in federal and state aid programs? (Not all schools are eligible)
• What percentages of undergraduates receive aid? How much do they receive on average?
• Will private/non-government scholarship reduce the amount of need-based aid I receive?
SOCIAL LIFE AND CAMPUS ACTIVITIES
- What is the role of fraternities and sororities on campus? If I didn’t want to join, could I have a satisfactory social life?
- What role do team sports play in the social life of the college? What happens on football or basketball weekends? If I didn’t want to join in, would I find kindred spirits?
- Is there a good balance of academics, social life, and extracurricular activities?
- Is there an alcohol problem and if so, how is the college handling it?
- What is the incidence of binge drinking?
- Do students feel safe on campus?
- What is the security on campus like?

CAMPUS FACILITIES
- Housing and Dining
  - What are the types of food plans? All you can eat? Vegetarian? Kosher? Gluten Free?
  - What types of meal plans are available?
  - Are freshmen required to live on campus their first year?
  - How do you assign roommates?
  - Are freshmen allowed to have cars on campus?
  - What are your parking fees?

- Activity Centers & Athletic/Recreational Facilities
  - What kinds of facilities does the student center have? Is it a magnet for student activities?
  - How would you rate the fitness center?
  - Do students get free admission to athletic events?
  - Are intermural, clubs, and /or varsity sports offered?

- Health, Career Counseling, Student Services, and Security
  - Is there a doctor/nurse or health clinic on campus?
  - Do you have a counseling center for students?
  - What is the average waiting period for appointments?
  - Do you provide academic services such as tutoring or career counseling?

- Library
  - What have been students’ experiences with the library?
  - Is the library well equipped with the latest technology?

COMMUNITY OFF CAMPUS
- What is there to do in town?
- Is public transportation provided if students do not have a car?
- Is the community supportive of the college and students who attend the college?
CHOOSING YOUR CAREER

What do you want to be when you grow up? If you still don’t know the answer to that question as you are looking at colleges, don’t worry, you are not alone. But you should be thinking about your career path in order to make the most of your college years.

Take an Honest Look at Yourself

- Think realistically about your personality and what type of work will keep you happy and satisfied.
- Examine your hobbies and interests. Do you have an interest you would consider pursuing as a career?
- Take stock of your talents and skills. Do you have a head for numbers? A flair for words? What are your best subjects in school? Investigate careers that let you put your natural abilities to use.
- What do you get out of your hobbies-are they an outlet for creativity or competition, or an opportunity to help others? Look for a career that can give you the same satisfaction.
- Consider a career/personality assessment. If you need help figuring out the type of work you are best suited for, take a career assessment test or talk to a career counselor.

Learn What’s Out There

- There are more career options than you can imagine. Learn about as many as possible to help pinpoint the one for you.
- Browse college websites and look at the list of available majors and see what sparks your interest. See what classes are required for the different degree programs to get a feel for the knowledge and training you’ll need.
- Talk to a variety of people about what they do. What do they love and hate about their career? What is their average day like? What does it take to be successful in their field?
- Take introductory classes. Once you’re on campus, use your elective requirements to explore careers that interest you. Classes with “Intro To” or 101 in the course title are a great way to test the waters.

Give Yourself Some Flexibility

- Deciding on a future career isn’t something you can or should do overnight.
- Keep your options open. Chances are good you’ll change your major at least once before college graduation, so choose a college with several degree programs that interest you in case you decide to switch gears.
- Choosing a career is an important decision, but it’s not necessarily a permanent one. In fact, statistics show the average American changes careers several times over the course of their lifetime. Find a career that feels right for you now, but remember that as you grow and change in the years ahead, your career interests may very well change, too.

REASONS TO DECLARE A MAJOR NOW

Most colleges don’t require you to declare a major until your sophomore or even your junior year, however you should still put some thought into areas of study before you step foot on campus. In fact, there are reasons it might be a good idea to go ahead and choose a major now.

1. **Having a major in mind can help you choose a college.** If you know even a general area of study, say English or Math, that will help you eliminate a lot of colleges that don’t have strong programs in those areas. If you aren’t 100% sure about your major, think about what other options the colleges you are considering offer in case you change your mind down the road.

2. **Choosing a major early (and sticking with it) improves your chances of graduating on time.** For most majors, you’ll complete a number of prerequisites and required courses before you start taking upper-level courses. If you want to graduate in four years, declare a major now and start completing those early courses right away.

3. **Having a major can help you get in at competitive colleges.** Competitive colleges are inundated with applications from students who want to enter the most popular major programs. If you declare a major that’s not so sought after on campus, you might just set yourself apart from the masses and give yourself an edge getting in.

4. **You can always change your major.** If you don’t like your major, then change it. Transferring to a new program is typically easy if you change your mind. Since a lot of early prerequisite classes are the same for many majors, you may not lose much ground if you decide to change directions after a semester or two.

Choosing a major is an important decision. You should put serious thought into it and take time to consider your interests and long-term goals, but think of declaring a major now as a chance to learn about an area that interests you. The major you choose is a great jumping-off point.
DECIDING ON A MAJOR?
The Choices Workshop is designed to guide you through the beginning stages of the college major and career decision-making process. This workshop is offered for JCCC students. You will learn and do the following during the workshop:

**Career Assessments**
- Gain an understanding of your interests and how these guide your college major/career decisions
- Discover the unique aspect of your personality and see how it may influence your college/career planning

**Career/College Major Exploration**
- Access an extensive selection of resources to investigate a possible career or college major
- Begin to research a possible career or college major

**Enrollment Options**
- **In person** – visit the Career Development Center, Student Center, second floor
- **By phone** – call 913-469-3870
- **Online** – [www.jccc.edu/career-development](http://www.jccc.edu/career-development); click on Discover Yourself; click on Choices Workshop Schedule and Registration; click on Register for Workshops; click on Choices Workshops and choose one that fits your schedule.

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“\[I felt like I was the only one who didn’t know which career path to take when starting college, but the workshop allowed me to meet others in similar situations and really get to know myself so that I saw all of my possibilities. It was really helpful.\]”

— Adara, student

“I found the Choices Workshop to be very influential. Discovering who I am and where I’d like to be drives me to get there.”

— Alex, student

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**Fall 2017 Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>1-3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>9-11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>6-8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>9-11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>3-5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>1-3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>6-8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>1-3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>3-5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>9-11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All workshops take place in Student Center 252.
WHAT is federal student aid?
Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It’s money that helps a student pay for higher education expenses (i.e., college, career school, or graduate school expenses).

Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation.

There are three main categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study, and loans. Check with your school’s financial aid office to find out which programs the school participates in.

WHO gets federal student aid?
Every student who meets certain eligibility requirements can get some type of federal student aid, regardless of age or family income. Some of the most basic eligibility requirements are that you must

- demonstrate financial need (for most programs—to learn more, visit StudentAid.gov/how-calculated);
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security number;
- register (if you haven’t already) with Selective Service, if you’re a male between the ages of 18 and 25;
- maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school; and
- show you’re qualified to obtain a college or career school education by
  - having a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate or a state-recognized equivalent; or
  - completing a high school education in a home-school setting approved under state law; or
  - enrolling in an eligible career pathways program.

Find more details about eligibility criteria at StudentAid.gov/eligibility.

HOW do you apply for federal student aid?
1. Create an FSA ID. Students, parents, and borrowers should create an FSA ID, made up of a username and password, to submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) online and to access U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity and electronically sign your federal student aid documents. To create an FSA ID, visit StudentAid.gov/fsaid.

2. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) at fafsa.gov. If you plan to attend college from July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018, you’ll be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA beginning on Oct. 1, 2016. You’ll be required to report income and tax information from 2015. Schools and states often use FAFSA information to award nonfederal aid, but their deadlines vary. Check with the schools that you’re interested in for their deadlines, and find state deadlines at fafsa.gov.

NOTE: In the past, you couldn’t submit the FAFSA until January 1 of the year you planned to attend college. The change to October 1 is a permanent change, and you’ll be able to complete and submit your FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.

3. Review your Student Aid Report. After you apply, you’ll receive a Student Aid Report, or SAR. Your SAR contains the information reported on your FAFSA and usually includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is a number (not a dollar amount) used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information to make sure it’s correct. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA will get your SAR data electronically.

4. Contact the school(s) you might attend. Make sure the financial aid office at each school you’re interested in has all the information needed to determine your eligibility. If you’re eligible, each school’s financial aid office will send you an aid offer showing the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare the aid offers you received and see which school is the most affordable once financial aid is taken into account.
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• have a valid Social Security number;
• register (if you haven’t already) with Selective Service, if you’re a male between the ages of 18 and 25;
• maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school; and
• show you’re qualified to obtain a college or career school education by
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  ○ completing a high school education in a home-school setting approved under state law; or
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4. Contact the school(s) you might attend. Make sure the financial aid office at each school you’re interested in has all the information needed to determine your eligibility. If you’re eligible, each school’s financial aid office will send you an aid offer showing the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare the aid offers you received and see which school is the most affordable once financial aid is taken into account.

HAVE QUESTIONS?
Contact or visit the following:
• StudentAid.gov
• a college financial aid office
• studentaid@ed.gov
• 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) toll-free
• 1-800-730-8913 (toll-free TTY for the hearing impaired)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program and Type of Aid</th>
<th>Program Information</th>
<th>Annual Award Amount (subject to change)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid</td>
<td>For undergraduates with exceptional financial need who have not earned bachelor's or professional degrees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Amounts can change annually. For 2017–18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), the award amount is up to $5,920. Visit StudentAid.gov/pell-grant for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid</td>
<td>For undergraduates with exceptional financial need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Up to $4,000. Visit StudentAid.gov/fseog for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid unless student fails to carry out service obligation</td>
<td>For undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and graduate students who are completing or plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching. As a condition for receiving this grant, student must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve in which the student agrees to perform four years of qualifying teaching service and meet other requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Up to $4,000. Visit StudentAid.gov/teach for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid</td>
<td>For students who are not Pell-eligible due only to having less financial need than is required to receive Pell funds; whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The grant award can be equal to the maximum Federal Pell Grant amount (see above), but cannot exceed your cost of attending school. Visit StudentAid.gov/Iraq-Afghanistan for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Work-Study</td>
<td>Work-Study: money is earned; does not have to be repaid</td>
<td>For undergraduate and graduate students; part-time jobs can be on campus or off campus. Money is earned while attending school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No annual minimum or maximum amounts. Visit StudentAid.gov/workstudy for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Subsidized Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest</td>
<td>For undergraduate students who have financial need; U.S. Department of Education generally pays interest while the student is in school and during certain other periods; student must be at least half-time. Interest rate is 3.76% for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2016 and before July 1, 2017, and fixed for the life of the loan. Visit StudentAid.gov/interest for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Up to $5,500 depending on grade level and dependency status. Visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Unsubsidized Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest</td>
<td>For undergraduate and graduate or professional students; borrower is responsible for all interest; student must be at least half-time; financial need is not required. Interest rate is 3.76% (undergraduate) and 5.31% (graduate or professional) for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2016 and before July 1, 2017, and fixed for the life of the loan. Visit StudentAid.gov/interest for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Up to $20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status. Visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct PLUS Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest</td>
<td>For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; borrower is responsible for all interest; student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required; borrower must not have an adverse credit history. Interest rate is 6.31% for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2016 and before July 1, 2017, and fixed for the life of the loan. Visit StudentAid.gov/interest for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maximum amount is cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received. Visit StudentAid.gov/plus for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Perkins Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest</td>
<td>For undergraduate and graduate students with exceptional financial need. Eligibility depends on the student's financial need and availability of funds at the school. For questions on Perkins Loan eligibility, students must contact the school's financial aid office. Interest rate is 5% and fixed for the life of the loan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Undergraduate students: up to $5,500; graduate and professional students: up to $8,000. Visit StudentAid.gov/perkins for more information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The information in this document was compiled in spring 2016. For updates or additional information, visit StudentAid.gov.
Getting the information you need about Financial aid

Questions to ask colleges

Although the process of applying for financial aid may seem complicated and difficult, the financial aid officers at colleges and universities are there to help you. Don’t hesitate to contact them! Here are some questions you might ask.

1. What kind of financial assistance does the college offer: need-based, merit-based, or both?
2. Can the college provide an early estimate of what our financial aid award might be?
3. What forms are needed in order to apply?
4. When are financial aid applications due?
5. What costs for a student are taken into account by the financial aid office? Tuition, room, board, transportation? How about additional expenses like books, fees, computers and personal expenses?
6. What is included in the comprehensive fee? For example, do students have to pay extra for computer time or to attend campus events (concerts, plays, films, lectures, athletic events, etc.)?
7. When will we be notified about the amount of assistance we can expect?
8. Does the institution have an appeal process to review special circumstances?
9. Is there a commitment for financial assistance beyond the first year?
10. How and when do we apply for financial assistance after the first year?
11. What if we do not qualify for need-based aid? Are there alternative financing options available?
12. What grants, loans and work study opportunities are offered by the college itself? Are there any we might be eligible for?
13. What is the average student loan indebtedness of the college’s graduates?
14. Is there a restriction to the length of time that financial assistance will continue?
15. How long does it typically take a student to graduate from this college? Four years? Longer?
16. What impact do scholarships from outside sources have on other financial aid?
17. Can we apply financial aid toward an off-campus study program, either in the U.S. or another country?
18. What happens if our family’s financial situation changes substantially during the school year?
19. Are there any payment options available (such as monthly or quarterly)?

The types of financial aid

Financial assistance comes in several types: grants and scholarships, loans and work-study.

Funding for financial aid comes from the federal government, state government, private sources and from the colleges and universities themselves.

• Scholarships and grants are outright gifts of money. Most of the time, they are based upon need. Sometimes, though, they are awarded for academic excellence and promise, or for special achievements or abilities. This is also known as gift aid.

• Loans are a significant part of most aid packages. They must be repaid, but most often not until after you graduate. Interest rates are usually lower than other types of loans. The payback period on college loans varies from two or three years up to 30 years.

• Work-study is a part-time job on campus. For instance, you might work in the library, or as a resident advisor, lifeguard or food-service worker.
Financial aid package The combination of gift aid, loans and work-study that a student receives.

Comprehensive fee The total cost of tuition, room, board and student fees charged by a college or university. In addition, other expenses (such as transportation and books) are added to the comprehensive fee to determine the cost of attendance at a college.

Need analysis Using information provided on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form and on other forms a college or university might require, the income and assets of both the parents and the student are analyzed. Many variables that affect a family’s financial situation are considered, such as the number of people in the household, number of children in college, state of residence, age of the parents, and the types of assets and savings.

Expected family contribution The amount that the family, including the student, could reasonably be expected to contribute toward the cost of college education. This is determined by need analysis.

Financial need The difference between the estimated family contribution and the estimated cost of attendance at a college or university. The amount of financial need is the basis for awarding need-based aid.

Need-based aid Financial aid awarded on the basis of the financial need shown by a family, as determined by need analysis.

Merit-based aid Financial aid awarded on the basis of factors other than financial need. This usually consists of scholarships awarded for academic performance or for special talents, such as artistic or athletic ability.

Tips for navigating the financial aid process

- Read each college’s brochures carefully to find out which form(s) to submit and when to apply for financial aid.
- Fill out all forms accurately and completely. Mistakes or incomplete information on financial aid forms can cause delays.
- If you have questions about filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID.
- Make sure you don’t miss important deadlines, as the dates might vary. For example, merit scholarships often have deadlines that are different from those for other types of financial assistance.
- Keep a copy of every financial aid form and supporting documentation that you send out. Also, keep copies of any correspondence and notes of conversations you have with financial aid officers.
- Beware of scholarship scams. As a general rule, if you have to pay money to get a scholarship, it’s probably a scam.
- Reapply every year. Most financial aid awards are not automatically renewed.

Where to go on the Web for more info

www.finaid.org A comprehensive Web site, including explanations of different types of financial aid, a glossary of terms, and calculators for estimating college costs and financial aid.

www.studentaid.ed.gov This is the student financial aid site for the U.S. Department of Education. The site includes resources and suggestions for every step of the process, from beginning your college search to financing your education to repaying college loans. The “Funding” section has links to information about the FAFSA, downloadable federal student aid publications, and links to information about financial aid programs in each state. This site has a Spanish language version.

www.studentaid.org The Web site of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) features online financial aid brochures (some in Spanish), worksheets and checklists.

www.fastweb.com FastWeb is a searchable database of more than 600,000 scholarships.
FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE

Apply Early and Follow All Rules

Millions of families apply for financial aid successfully each year—approximately two-thirds of full-time college students receive some type of aid. The best way to get financial aid is to research available programs, policies and deadlines. Next, follow the procedures rigorously and make sure all deadlines are met.

The Summer Before Senior Year

- Request college applications and financial aid information. Organize everything into separate files by college. Keep a college calendar of all admission and financial aid deadlines.
- Continue to research scholarships. Find out if employers offer scholarships or tuition reimbursement. Check with all organizations and associations to which your family belongs.
- Learn more about how financial aid eligibility is determined; a good source of information is www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE filers can order this publication at a discount directly from the PROFILE site. This document is used by many private colleges.

September

- Learn if your family qualifies for financial aid; you can use the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Calculator to help. By subtracting your EFC from the cost of the colleges where you are applying, you get a rough idea of your maximum eligibility for financial aid.
- Make sure you have the forms you need for financial aid; review what you need for the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) so you are ready to submit it beginning October 1.
- Check your library for books and pamphlets about financial aid; you can also search online for information. Look for special state, federal and local programs from which you may be able to get aid.

OCTOBER- **FAFSA is now Available!** (See January notes)

- If you are applying early decision or early action, fill out a supplemental aid application (if required) using estimated income figures.
- Check website and print material to see if the colleges you are considering require you to submit your aid application earlier than the typical deadline so that you can receive priority consideration for merit or need-based scholarships. Your admission and financial aid applications might be due in the winter to qualify for some scholarships.
- Get information on state and federal scholarships. Many of these programs require the FAFSA, the PROFILE, or both.
- Search the PROFILE to see which institutions require the PROFILE and search their priority filing dates. The PROFILE Online is available beginning October 1 for early decision and early action applicants who are applying for financial aid.
- Register with Selective Service if you are a male who will be 18 at the time you complete the FAFSA. You won’t be eligible for federal aid unless you do. Register at the post office or through the FAFSA form. Call Selective Service at 888.655.1825 for more information. You may also register at Blue Valley West.
- Go online to visit the FAFSA on the Web. Start gathering the documents you’ll need to fill out the FAFSA. They are listed at www.fafsa.ed.gov
December

- Apply for scholarships in time to meet application deadlines.
- Review any early decision and early action responses. If you are admitted to your early decision school and you have applied for financial aid you should receive a financial aid award. Some early action programs may admit you but not send a financial aid award notice until later in the spring. Check out the college literature for more information.
- Read the award letter carefully. Some require you to submit a written acceptance. Make sure you understand the terms and conditions of the award before making a final decision.

January

- Remember that it is the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Don’t let anyone charge you to complete the online form!
- Prepare your income tax return (student and parents) as early as possible, since you need the income and asset figures from the returns to complete the FAFSA. It is not necessary to submit your tax return to the IRS before submitting the FAFSA.
- Start filling out the PROFILE application for colleges that require it as soon as possible to meet February priority deadlines. If you complete the application after January 5, you can print out a FAFSA worksheet, which provides answers to most of the FAFSA questions.
- Sign and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1. Applying early improves the chances of receiving aid from as many sources as possible.
- Complete the pre-application worksheet if you are submitting the FAFSA online. It is designed to help your family organize financial information for the FAFSA, and should not be submitted to federal processors.
- Complete the institutional financial aid application for each college if one is required.

February

- Make sure to submit your applications and meet priority deadlines for the PROFILE in early to mid-February. Applications received by the priority deadline are given the highest consideration.
- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR); it should arrive two to four weeks after you submit the FAFSA. If you have not received it after four weeks call 800.4.FED-AID or 800.433.3243/TTY 800.730.8913. The EFC figure is printed on the front page at the upper right-hand corner. If there are any errors on the SAR, make corrections to SAR online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

March

- See if there is an asterisk next to the EFC figure on your SAR. If there is, your FAFSA was chosen for a routine process known as “verification”. During verification, the information you submitted is checked against copies of signed tax returns. Be sure to submit all requested documentation to the financial aid office in a timely fashion.
April

- Most admission and financial aid award letters arrive this month. Read aid award letters carefully and be sure to meet deadlines for accepting awards.
- Compare your aid awards.
- Consider meeting with financial aid staff members to discuss your situation if your full need has not been met, or if your family’s financial circumstances have changed.
- Make your final decision.
- Mail the enrollment form and deposit check to the college you chose by May 1, the reply deadline for colleges.

May

- If it is difficult to pay the EFC, start pursuing alternatives, such as parent loans, to close the financial aid gap.
- Review your financial aid package. If it includes student loans, your college will send you instructions about the loan application process. You need to complete and sign the Master Promissory Note (MPN) to receive your Stafford Loan.

The Summer Before College

- Return the fall semester bill with proper payment as quickly as possible.
- Make sure you have completed all forms correctly and met all deadlines so that financial aid funds will be credited to your student account before the beginning of the semester.
- Finalize your housing plans.

September (Fall of first college semester)

- If you have a Stafford loan, complete loan counseling (or an “entrance interview) so it can be disbursed. This is a federal requirement to ensure that you understand all loan obligations. The college’s financial aid office provides you with information about the counseling process—in most cases, you complete a brief online questionnaire.
- Sign a promissory note if you have been awarded a Perkins Loan.

If you have general questions, we can help here at Blue Valley Northwest. However, if you have very specific questions, the best answers might come from the specific college/university’s financial aid office that you are applying. They are an excellent resource and can help with very specific questions and unique situations.

KEEP CALM
Your School Counselor CAN HELP
Scholarship Guide

Master the Basics

Where to start
- Go online and take advantage of free scholarship matching services such as www.fastweb.com for local, regional, state, national awards and college-specific scholarships.
- Ask your school guidance counselor about local, private and corporate sponsorships.
- Search your community. There are many philanthropic and non-profit organizations that may offer awards. Visit your school or local public library to research scholarships. Ask your parents’ employers and unions if they sponsor scholarships for children of employees.

How to prepare
- Get organized and keep the scholarships you are working on separate from those you have not started. Use a calendar to keep track of dates and deadlines or the status tool available on Fastweb. Create a folder for each application and materials.
- Know your time frame to apply. Complete and submit the easiest scholarships first. Then focus on the scholarships with earlier deadlines and ones that may require more time. Allow plenty of time when requesting letters of recommendation.

Submit your application
- Remember to check your spelling and grammar.
- Proofread your materials and have a teacher, parent or friend review your application and essay if submitting online or by mail. They can provide feedback and catch mistakes.
- Keep a copy of your application, if you submitted paper or electronic copy.

The Scholarship Essay/Application

Before you begin:
Develop a theme that fits the scholarship. Learn about the scholarship provider’s mission and goals. Tailor your essay/application to complement the sponsor’s expectations. For example, if the provider is interested in community service, highlight ways you impact your campus community and your community at large within your essay. Here are a few topic ideas:

Personal achievements
- Talk about specific interactions you had with others. Sponsors want to know the impact you had on others and what this says about “you”. Do you still keep in touch with anyone you’ve helped? How did you influence their lives?
- How did your achievements reflect your values? Why are your achievements important to you? Did you do something that received high praise or recognition?
- Personalize your experience. For example, what makes the volunteer and community service you’ve performed unique? What made you stand out?

Academic plans and possible major
- Instead of saying, “Science is my favorite subject,” discuss a specific assignment or project that you worked on that sparked your interest. Give examples.
- Avoid saying that you selected a major or career path to “help people.” What specific actions can you take to improve the lives of others? Discuss how your values are relevant to what you will be studying in college.

Tip: Focus on the classes you hope to take in college, your academic degree, your future goals and why they are important to you.

Social issues and current events
- Think about current issues or events in the news that you feel strongly about.
- Do you know a lot about a controversial topic?
- Do you know of someone who is directly involved in an issue who might be able to provide insight?

Mentors, admirers and influences
- Think about your friends and family, community and the things you’ve learned outside of the classroom. Pick specific people, incidents and learning experiences to write about that will let your personality come through.
- Is there a person you aspire to be like within your chosen academic major or career path? Someone who encouraged you to succeed?
- Focus on specific qualities or actions that the person has inspired in you.

Tip: When writing about others, be sure to focus on how this person has inspired you and shaped your life.

What Do Judges or Evaluators Look For?

Do you qualify? Every year, students waste time by applying for awards they aren’t eligible to win. If you don’t meet the eligibility criteria, don’t enter!

Is your application presented well? Type your essay and check for grammar and spelling errors. Place the application, essay and other contents in a large folder for mailing. Do not fold any of the materials.

Did you include all required documents? Make sure you include all required academic transcripts, references and letters of recommendation. When selecting individuals to provide you a letter of recommendation, be sure you know them very well and give them ample time to provide you a letter and provide them a self-addressed stamped envelope, if it will be mailed.

Did you answer all of the questions? Double-check that you haven’t forgotten any required information.
Top Twelve Tips on Winning a Scholarship

1. Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible. Don't wait until the spring of your senior year in high school to start searching, or you'll miss half the deadlines. There are many scholarships available to students in grades K-11, not just high school seniors. Continue searching for scholarships even after you are enrolled in college.

2. Use a free scholarship matching service like Fastweb.com. The Fastweb database is updated daily and the site will email you notifications of new scholarships that match your personal background profile.

3. Answer all of the optional questions on a scholarship matching web site for about twice as many matches.

4. Look for local scholarships on bulletin boards near the guidance counselor or financial aid offices, or the library's jobs and careers section. Also look in the coupon section of the Sunday newspaper. Improve grades for more matches.

5. To win more scholarships, apply to every scholarship for which you are eligible. It's a numbers game. Even among talented students, winning involves a bit of luck, not just skill. Pursue less competitive scholarships, such as small awards and essay contests. They are easier to win and help you win bigger scholarships. You can't win if you don't apply. It gets easier after your first 6 applications. Essays can be reused and tailored to each new application.

6. Don't miss deadlines. Use checklists to get organized.

7. Tailor your application to the sponsor's goals. Read and follow the instructions carefully.

8. If you have difficulty writing essays, record yourself as you answer the question out loud and transcribe the recording. Most people think and speak faster than they can write or type. Write an outline afterward to organize your thoughts.

9. Personalize your essay and be passionate. Write about something of interest to you. Make your application stand out from the crowd. Talk about your impact on other people. Give examples and be specific.

10. Google your name to ensure that you have a professional online presence. Use a clean email address, such as firstname.lastname@gmail.com. Review your Facebook account, removing inappropriate and immature material.

11. Proofread a printed copy of your essay and the application for spelling and grammar errors.

12. Make a photocopy of your application before mailing it. Send the application by certified mail, return receipt requested or with delivery confirmation.

Preview of Secrets to Winning a Scholarship

This quick reference guide is a preview of Fastweb’s new book, Secrets to Winning a Scholarship. This book provides practical, clear and concise advice about how to find and win scholarships and fellowships.

Brought to you by Fastweb, the leading free scholarship matching service, Secrets to Winning a Scholarship gives you the insider insights and expert tips you need to improve your chances of winning a scholarship. Learn strategies for increasing the number of scholarship matches, writing more memorable scholarship essays, acing the scholarship interview and maximizing your chances of winning a scholarship. Secrets to Winning a Scholarship will help you go for the gold with unique information and advice about winning scholarships from one of the nation’s leading experts on planning and paying for college.

Secrets to Winning a Scholarship is available through Amazon.com in both paperback and Kindle formats. Visit www.fastweb.com/scholarshipsecrets for more information.

Common Scholarship Application Mistakes

- Missing deadlines
- Failing to proofread the application
- Failing to follow directions, especially regarding essay length and the number of recommendations
- Omitting required information
- Applying for an award when you don't qualify
- Failing to apply for an award for which you are eligible
- Failing to tailor the application to the sponsor
- Writing a boring essay
- Writing an essay that may offend the reviewer
- Including exaggerations or lies on your application

Beware of Scholarship Scams

- If you have to pay money to get money, it's probably a scam.
- Never invest more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships or to apply for a scholarship.
- Nobody can guarantee that you’ll win a scholarship.
- Do not give out personal information like bank account, credit card or Social Security numbers.
- Beware of the unclaimed aid myth. The only money that goes unclaimed is money that can’t be claimed.
### Top Ten Most Unusual Scholarships
1. Scholarship for Left-Handed Students
2. Duck Brand Duct Tape Stuck at Prom Contest
3. David Letterman Telecommunications Scholarships
4. Zolp Scholarships
5. Patrick Kerr Skateboard Scholarships
6. Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year Award
7. National Marbles Tournament Scholarships
8. Klingon Language Institute Scholarships
9. National Beef Ambassador Program
10. Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarships

### Top Ten Scholarships for Age 13 and Under
1. National Spelling Bee
2. National Geography Bee
3. National History Day Contest
4. Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest
5. Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
6. Christopher Columbus Community Service Awards
7. Dick Blick Linoleum Block Print Contest
8. Gloria Barron Prize for Your Heroes
9. Patriot’s Pen
10. Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

### Top Ten Scholarships for Community Service
1. Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards
2. The Do Something Awards
3. Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarships
4. Discover Card Tribute Awards
5. Echoing Green Fellowships
6. The Heart of America Christopher Reeve Awards
7. Kohl’s Kids Who Care Program
8. Samuel Huntington Public Service Awards
9. National Caring Awards
10. Youth Action Net

### Top Ten Most Prestigious Scholarships
1. Marshall Scholarships
2. Rhodes Scholarships
3. Winston Churchill Scholarship Program
4. Harry S. Truman Scholarships
5. Henry Luce Foundation Scholarships
6. Morris K. Udall Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships
7. Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
8. Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships
9. Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest
10. National Merit Scholarship Corporation

### Top Ten Scholarships that Don’t Need an A
1. US Department of Education (Federal Student Aid)
2. AXA Achievement Scholarship Program
3. Horatio Alger Association Scholarships
4. Ayn Rand Institute
5. Girls Going Places Scholarships
6. Holocaust Remembrance Project Essay Contest
7. Americanism Essay Contest
8. AFSA National Scholarship Essay Contest
9. Red Vines Drawing Contest
10. Community Foundation Scholarships

### Key Scholarship Resources
- Fastweb Free Scholarship Matching Service: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- FinAid’s Scholarships Section: [www.finaid.org/scholarships](http://www.finaid.org/scholarships)
- Search for Scholarships on the Web: [www.finaid.org/webscarch](http://www.finaid.org/webscarch)
- Beware of Scholarship Scams: [www.finaid.org/scholarshipscams](http://www.finaid.org/scholarshipscams)
- Education Tax Benefits: [www.finaid.org/taxbenefits](http://www.finaid.org/taxbenefits)
Scholarship Scams Tip Sheet

How do I recognize a scholarship scammer?

A scammer:
- Indicates you won an award for which you didn’t apply
- Does not supply valid contact information
- Guarantees you will win an award
- Requires personal financial information (such as, credit card numbers or checking account numbers) to verify or hold a scholarship
- Charges a fee to apply for a scholarship

How do I recognize a legitimate scholarship services?

A legitimate service:
- Does not guarantee you will win an award
- Sends information about awards when you request it
- Makes contact information available upon request
- Should not direct you to a fee-based provider because they know that financial aid information is readily available for free

What if you suspect a scam?

- Save all of the forms you receive from the company
- Keep copies of written details about the offer and any correspondence, emails or other paperwork
- Make sure all materials are dated
- Take notes during seminars and phone conversations (record the date, time, phone number and the person’s name with whom you spoke)
- Include a detailed account of your conversation. Take a copy of all literature and correspondence concerning the scholarship to your school’s financial aid office, who can verify the organization is legitimate.

Report suspected scams to the following organizations:

National Fraud Information Center (NFIC)
Ph: 800-876-7060 Web: www.fraud.org

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
Ph: 877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)
Web: www.ftc.gov

State Attorney General’s Office
Visit your state’s Web site to obtain state attorney general’s contact information. Ask them about filing a complaint with the Bureau of Consumer Protection.

Better Business Bureau (BBB)
Ph: 703-276-0100 Web: www.bbb.org

US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)
Ph: 800-654-8896
Web: postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Popular (But False) Claims

“For a small fee, we’ll give you a list of scholarships.”
- Never spend money on a fee-based matching service. The biggest and best award databases are available for free on the Internet.

“We'll help you complete complicated forms.”
- Information about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other forms is available for free from your guidance counselor, your library and the U.S. Department of Education. You still have to fill out the same basic information for a fee-based service that you would for the FAFSA; how else would they get your information?
- Your college financial aid administrator and College Goal Sunday programs can help.
- For general financial aid or FAFSA related questions call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

“You are guaranteed a minimum of $1000 in awards.”
- A service can’t guarantee any scholarships because they have no control over the scholarship judges’ decisions.

“We have a 96% success rate.”
- These false success rates indicate the percentage of students they’ve successfully matched with the database, NOT the number of students who actually receive money.

“We’ll need a bank account and pin or credit card number to verify your information.”
- Your bank account and credit card information are confidential. A legitimate scholarship provider won’t ask for this information.

“We will do all the work for you.”
- To win a legitimate scholarship, you must submit your own applications, write your own essays and solicit your own letters of recommendation.

Financial Aid Seminars & Consultants

How do I protect myself from being scammed by a consultant or financial aid seminar?

Consultants
- When choosing to utilize the services of a consultant, consider their qualifications carefully. Find someone who has worked as a college financial aid administrator, Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Financial Planner (CFP).

Seminars
- Some seminars will indicate that their presentation is free and use high pressure tactics to get you signed up for their service, while only answering questions after you agree to pay a fee. Keep in mind that no one can find loopholes to help you save money. Don’t trust anyone who encourages you to do something unethical. If you falsify financial aid forms, you can end up with a $20,000 fine, be sent to prison or both. If you need help understanding the financial aid process, contact your financial aid office as soon as possible.
BVNW Scholarship Resources

Naviance Family Connection
https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=bvnwh
Click the Colleges tab and scroll down to the Scholarships and Money section. Click Scholarship List to see scholarships listed by BVNW Counselors. Click National Scholarship Search for finding scholarships based on personal search criteria.

Peterson’s Scholarship Search
Answer the four questions and click search. After the initial search you can filter results by your individual search criteria using dropdown menus on the left side.

College Board
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
Click each tab and fill in the information. Then, get your results and check for scholarships that might be a match.

FastWeb
http://www.fastweb.com/login
Login or become a member to find scholarship matches. Sells student's information. Give junk email account!

Scholarships 360
https://scholarships360.org/discover-scholarships/#results
You can just search the site, or you can enter an email address and have them send you one a day.

Scholarship Experts
http://www.scholarshipexperts.com/
Click on Get Started.

College Answer
www.collegeanswer.com
Click on Scholarship Search.

Scholarships.com
http://www.scholarships.com/
Click Get Started Now.

StudentAwards.com
http://www.studentawards.com/
Click on Sign Up!

SuperCollege
www.supercollege.com
Click on Start Your Scholarship Search.

CollegeFunds.net
http://www.collegefunds.net/
Click on Click Here to Begin Your Free Membership!

Cappex.com
http://www.cappex.com/scholarships
Click on Get Started Now!
Federal Student Aid
Scroll down to How do I find scholarships? And click the link for the free scholarships search tool. Enter your search criteria and click search.

MyScholly
www.myscholly.com
This website is a way to find and organize scholarships. There is also an app that you can use. Both the website and the app require a fee.

Scholarships4school search tool
www.scholarships4school.com

Financial aid
www.findaid.org

Unigo
www.unigo.com
Unique scholarships, search engine and cutting edge scholarship matching tools makes this an excellent resource for students to search for money.

Raise.me
www.raise.me.com
As early as 9th grade, students are able to earn scholarship money from partner colleges for academic and extracurricular achievements before they apply. These small scholarships that add up are called “micro-scholarships” and add up quick.
Testing
THE ACT AND SAT

While the ACT and SAT are very different tests, they both fulfill the same role in the college admission process. They are designed to provide college admissions officers with two things: a predictor of the first-year academic achievement in college, and a common yardstick to use in comparing students from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

About the ACT *ACT Registration and Test Dates can be found at: actstudent.org/*

The ACT assesses the knowledge and information learned in high school by focusing on subjects and skills taught in high school.

- The ACT includes 4 tests: Reading, English, Math and Science.
- The ACT offers an optional writing test.
- There is no penalty for wrong answers.
- The ACT questions are not in order of difficulty.
- The ACT is 175 minutes (plus 30 minutes for the optional writing test).
- English: 45 minutes for 75 questions, Math: 60 minutes for 60 questions, Reading: 35 minutes for 40 questions, and Science: 35 minutes for 40 questions.
- There are 1-36 points for each test, averaged together for a composite score.

About the new SAT *SAT Registration and Test Dates can be found at: https://www.collegeboard.org/*

The SAT emphasizes reasoning, knowledge and skills.

- The SAT includes: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Tests, Math and Essay (optional)
- There is no penalty for wrong answers.
- The SAT is 180 minutes, (230 minutes with optional essay)
- Reading: 65 minutes, Math: 80 minutes, Writing: 35 minutes: essay (optional) 50 minutes.
- Each test receives a score of 200-800, the total SAT score is calculated by the adding Reading/Writing score to the math score. The optional essay score is reported separately.

The ACT or the SAT?

The most important answer to the “ACT or SAT?” question is to check with your target schools about their requirements. Although the majority of colleges in the United States now accept both the ACT and SAT test results, you should always make sure you know the requirements of your target schools.

Depending on your particular strengths and weaknesses, you may perform better on one test than the other. As a result, many students starting the college admission process are now considering both the ACT and SAT to figure out which test provides a better showcase for their abilities. Results from previously taken practice ACT and PSAT’s may be helpful in determining a preference as well.
ACT Test Taking Tips

The ACT is a widely used college admission standardized test. It has four mandatory subject tests: English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science. There is also an optional Writing test which some colleges require.

General Tips

- Answer the questions you find easiest first. Come back to the others later.
- Don’t spend more than a minute or two on any question.
- As you work on a section, keep track of how much time remains. (It’s a good idea to bring a reliable watch.)
- Answer every question. There is no penalty for guessing.
- Be careful to mark only one answer choice per question.
- Write in the test book in any way that will help you.
- Consider all answer choices before you choose one. Use the process of elimination to narrow your choices.

English Section Tips

- Consider the writing style used for each section. The correct answer choice will be the one that works best with the writing style used.
- When asked a question about something that is underlined, consider how the underlined portion fits with the rest of the section.
- Examine each answer choice to see how it differs from the others.
- For items that include “No Change” as an answer choice, choose this as your answer only if you are sure none of the other answer choices are correct.
- Reread the underlined portion with your answer choice to be sure it is correct.

Reading Section Tips

- Read the passage carefully before you read the questions.
- Focus on the main ideas in the passage. Underline these. Don’t get lost in the details.
- Try to identify how ideas in the passage are connected.
- Refer back to the passage as you answer each question.

Mathematics Section Tips

- Work out the problem before looking at the answer choices. When done, choose the answer choice that matches your answer. If none match, redo the problem.
- Don’t overly rely on your calculator. Some problems are best worked out manually. Some don’t even require calculation.
- The questions focus much more on reasoning than on calculation. If you find yourself doing complicated calculations, you’re probably on the wrong track.
- Make sure your answer choice makes sense. A calculation error can lead you to a wrong answer choice.
- Check your work.

Science Section Tips

- Given the complexity of the passages, it may help to make some simple notes as you read them.
- Cross out irrelevant information.
- Don’t be overly concerned with any technical terminology. Technical terms usually have little to do with the correct answer choice.
- Be watchful for conflicting viewpoints in some of the passages.

Writing Section Tips

- Organization of your response is very important. Use a five-paragraph essay that includes an introduction, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Plan your response before you begin to write it.
- Stay with the topic throughout your response.
- Vary your sentence structure and word choices.
- Use specific examples wherever possible.
- Write legibly.
- If you have time, check your grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling.

These tips can help you get the most out your knowledge, skills, and abilities when you take the ACT.

See our other study skills resources at www.how-to-study.com
and don’t forget to visit www.mangrum-strichart.com to learn about our study skills programs and online tutoring.
Feel free to link to our site. Give credit to www.how-to-study.com whenever you print and distribute material from this site.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Princeton Review</td>
<td><a href="https://district.bluevalleyk12.org/Pages/Home.aspx">https://district.bluevalleyk12.org/Pages/Home.aspx</a></td>
<td>Extended Workshops - 12 hours test taking strategies</td>
<td>$299.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Search bar – ACT or SAT</td>
<td>Regular workshops – 6 hours</td>
<td>$99.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.k-state.edu/admissions/act.html">http://www.k-state.edu/admissions/act.html</a></td>
<td>Offers 5 hours of test prep instruction at various locations in KS.</td>
<td>$50.00 p/student includes materials, instruction and lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC Tutors</td>
<td><a href="http://www.abctutors.com">www.abctutors.com</a></td>
<td>Varies depending on student/family needs</td>
<td>Varies depending on program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Nannies &amp; Tutors</td>
<td><a href="http://www.collegenanniesandtutors.com/overlandpark">https://www.collegenanniesandtutors.com/overlandpark</a></td>
<td>Varies depending on student/family needs</td>
<td>Varies depending on program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lorri Haffield, 6801 W. 121st #118, OP, KS 66223 913-754-3633</td>
<td>Often offers free practices tests</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Groden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:AGroden@PersonalTestPrep.com">AGroden@PersonalTestPrep.com</a></td>
<td>Approximately 8 hours of instruction and full length practice test given at end of sessions. **offers private tutoring as well</td>
<td>$495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaplan Test Prep</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Binnie.kirk@kaplan.com">Binnie.kirk@kaplan.com</a></td>
<td>Offers various type of sessions for ACT/SAT prep</td>
<td>Starts at $499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get Smarter Prep</td>
<td><a href="http://www.getsmarterprep.com">www.getsmarterprep.com</a></td>
<td>Various courses offered</td>
<td>$1250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9300 W. 87th Ter. OP, KS 66212 913-322-3400</td>
<td>Standard ACT – 22 hours of instruction, 3 practice tests. Ideal for students scoring 17-25 range. *Must have a baseline score See website for more info.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free test prep</td>
<td><a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a> [<a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a> (SAT)]</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.actstudent.org/onlineprep">http://www.actstudent.org/onlineprep</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Click Testing &amp; Education Reference on right side of page. Click College Test Prep tools drop down menu and select.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enroll in ACT semester prep class fall/spring of 10th or 11th grade in building</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvan Learning Center</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sylvanlearning.com">www.sylvanlearning.com</a></td>
<td>Strategies class</td>
<td>$999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9165 W. 133rd St. OP, KS 913-681-1141</td>
<td>24 classroom hours</td>
<td>Often offers free practices tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 hours of Practice Tests with 2 hours of review</td>
<td>**offers private tutoring as well</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micah Margolies</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmargolies@hbha.edu">mmargolies@hbha.edu</a></td>
<td>16 hours of small group (less than 10) or add 6 hours of individual tutoring Practice Tests with results for either option</td>
<td>$480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>913-220-1854</td>
<td></td>
<td>$720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Athletics
NCAA/NAIA
Division I Academic Standards

Division I schools require you to meet academic standards for NCAA core courses, core-course grade-point average (GPA) and test scores. The standards are changing for students who enroll full time for the first time at a Division I school on or after August 1, 2016.

If You Enroll BEFORE August 1, 2016
To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first full-time year at a Division I school, you must graduate high school and meet ALL the following requirements:

1. Complete 16 NCAA core courses:
   • Four years of English;
   • Three years of math (Algebra 1 or higher);
   • Two years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it);
   • Two years of social science;
   • One additional year of English, math or natural/physical science; and
   • Four additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy.

2. Earn at least a 2.0 GPA in your core courses.

3. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale.

If You Enroll AFTER August 1, 2016
To be eligible to practice, compete and receive athletics scholarships in your first full-time year at a Division I school, you must graduate high school and meet ALL the following requirements:

1. Complete 16 NCAA core courses:
   • Four years of English;
   • Three years of math (Algebra 1 or higher);
   • Two years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it);
   • Two years of social science;
   • One additional year of English, math or natural/physical science; and
   • Four additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy.

2. Complete 10 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before the start of your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, you may not repeat or replace any of those 10 courses for GPA improvement.

3. Earn at least a 2.3 GPA in your core courses.

4. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale for students enrolling on or after August 1, 2016.

What is a SLIDING SCALE?

The NCAA Eligibility Center uses a sliding scale to balance your test score and core-course GPA. If you have a low test score, you will need a higher core-course GPA to be eligible. If you have a low core-course GPA, you will need a higher test score to be eligible.

See the Division I

How to plan your high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement:

4 x 4 = 16

4 English courses (one per year)
+ 4 math courses (one per year)
+ 4 science courses (one per year)
+ 4 social science (and/or additional) courses (one per year)
Core-Course Timeline

If you plan to attend a Division I school, you must complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If you graduate high school early, you must still meet the NCAA’s core-course requirements.

If you graduate high school on time and plan to attend a Division I school, you may complete one additional NCAA core course within one year of your graduation date to meet core-course requirements or improve your GPA. You may complete the additional core course at a school other than the high school from which you graduated, but check before you take the course so it appears on the schools list of NCAA-approved courses. You must also submit an official transcript from the new school with grade and credit for the additional core course.

Academic Certification Decisions

In order for you to receive an academic certification, you must have a final transcript with proof of graduation, transcripts from all other high schools attended, test scores, no open academic tasks and be on a Division I school’s request list.

Once a certification has been completed, you will receive one of the decisions in the box below if you are being recruited by a Division I school.

What If I Don’t Meet the Division I Standards?

If You Enroll BEFORE August 1, 2016
If you enroll full time at a Division I school before August 1, 2016, and you have not met all the Division I academic standards, you will be nonqualifying and may not practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship in your first year of college. You should contact the compliance office for options and any next steps.

If You Enroll AFTER August 1, 2016
If you enroll full time at a Division I school after August 1, 2016, and you have not met all the Division I academic standards, you may not compete in your first year at college. However, if you qualify as an academic redshirt, you may practice during your first term in college and receive an athletics scholarship for the entire year. The academic redshirt qualification is only for students who enroll full time in college after August 1, 2016.

To qualify as an academic redshirt, you must graduate high school and meet all the following academic standards:

1. Complete 16 core courses;
2. Earn a 2.0 GPA in your core courses; and
3. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale for students enrolling on or after August 1, 2016.

Qualifier

You may practice, compete and receive athletics scholarships during your first year of enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

Academic Redshirt

For those enrolling at a Division I school on or after August 1, 2016, you may receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of enrollment and may practice during your first regular academic term but may NOT compete during your first year of enrollment. You must pass either a fourth quarter or nine semester hours in order to practice in the next term.

Nonqualifier

You will not be able to practice, receive an athletics scholarship or compete during your first year of enrollment at a Division I school.

Early Academic Qualifier

If you meet specific criteria after six semesters, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division I.

Minimum SAT combined score (math and critical reading) of 900 or minimum ACT sum score of 75, and a core-course GPA of 3.00 or higher in a minimum of 14 core courses.

1. Three years of English;
2. Two years of math;
3. Two years of science;
4. Two additional years of English, math or science; and
5. Five additional core courses in any area.

A final high school transcript is required to be submitted to the NCAA Eligibility Center after high school graduation for all early academic qualifiers.
# Division I Worksheet

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine your academic status after you graduate. Remember to check your high school's List of NCAA Courses for the classes you have taken. Use the following scale:

- A = 4 quality points
- B = 3 quality points
- C = 2 quality points
- D = 1 quality point

## English (4 years required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: English 9</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>(.5 x 4) = 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total English Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Quality Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Mathematics (3 years required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Algebra 1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td>(1.0 x 3) = 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Mathematics Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Quality Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Natural/physical science (2 years required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Natural/Physical Science Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Quality Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Additional year in English, mathematics or natural/physical science (1 year required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Additional Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Quality Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Social science (2 years required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Social Science Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Quality Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Additional academic courses (4 years required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Quality Points (multiply credit by grade)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Additional Academic Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Quality Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Core-Course GPA (16 required)

Beginning August 1, 2016, 10 core courses to be completed prior to the seventh semester and seven of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Quality Points</th>
<th>Total Number of Credits</th>
<th>Core-Course GPA (Total Quality Points/Total Credits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Division II Worksheet

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring the progress of your student-athletes in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. Remember to use your high school’s list of NCAA-approved courses for the classes students have taken.

Use the following scale: A = 4 quality points; B = 3 quality points; C = 2 quality points; D = 1 quality point.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH (3 YEARS REQUIRED)</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: English 9</td>
<td>.50</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>(.5 x 4) = 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ENGLISH UNITS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATHEMATICS (2 YEARS REQUIRED)</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Algebra 1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>(1.0 x 3) = 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL MATHEMATICS UNITS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE UNITS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDITIONAL YEARS IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS OR NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (3 YEARS REQUIRED)</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ADDITIONAL UNITS</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOCIAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE UNITS</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COURSES (4 YEARS REQUIRED)</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC UNITS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL QUALITY POINTS FROM EACH SUBJECT AREA / TOTAL CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
<th>CORE-COURSE GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NAIA Eligibility Center at PlayNAIA.org determines eligibility of all first-time NAIA student-athletes

The NAIA Eligibility Center, at PlayNAIA.org, is responsible for determining the NAIA eligibility of first-time student-athletes. Students must have their eligibility determined by the NAIA Eligibility Center, and all NAIA schools are bound by the center’s decisions.

Every student interested in playing sports at NAIA colleges for the first time needs to register online with the NAIA Eligibility Center. This applies to high school seniors and transfers from both two- and four-year colleges.

What information will I need to provide? You’ll create a personal profile with the basic facts about your academic history and sports participation to date.

- You’ll need your current contact information, previous residences and addresses, high schools attended and history of your sports participation during and after high school graduation.
- When you register for the ACT or SAT, include the NAIA Eligibility Center (9876) on the list of places test scores should be sent.
- Ask your high school counselor to send the NAIA Eligibility Center a final official transcript that verifies high school graduation, class rank and cumulative grade point average.

What are the costs?
Registration for students from the U.S. and Canada is $70; the international student fee US$120. Transfer students pay $90. This is a one-time nonrefundable registration fee and includes all services of the NAIA Eligibility Center.

The registration fee will be waived for students with demonstrated need. If you receive a fee waiver for the ACT or SAT test or qualify for the federal free or reduced-cost lunch program, contact your high school counselor, who can provide confirmation of your eligibility for a fee waiver to the NAIA Eligibility Center. Transfer students can qualify for a fee waiver based on receipt of a minimum of $4,500 in Federal Pell Grant funds.

Do I need to register with the NAIA Eligibility Center if I’m registering with the NCAA?
Determining if you meet eligibility requirements for NAIA eligibility is separate from NCAA eligibility certification. The NAIA and NCAA are two separate associations, with two different sets of rules and certification processes.

PlayNAIA.org connects you with NAIA schools
As an optional part of the NAIA Eligibility Center registration process, students can participate in the NAIA Connections Service. This unique feature allows you to create a customized Sport Resume highlighting your sports accomplishments, positions, events and honors. Use the search to find NAIA schools that offer your sport, the type of college (location, number of students, public or private) and the academic areas that interest you. Then indicate which schools you want to connect with, and we’ll send your Sport Resume directly to them. NAIA coaches and admissions representatives will get in touch with you – and you’ve started the conversation about opportunities to play sports in college!

Early decisions for high school seniors
Students, who have completed their junior year of high school and have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale and the minimum test scores required (18 ACT or 860 SAT), may obtain an eligibility determination before graduating from high school. Those students will need to request that their official transcripts after their junior year be sent to the NAIA Eligibility Center and contact ACT or SAT to have their test scores sent directly.

NAIA Eligibility Center
Phone: 816-595-8300
Toll free: 866-881-6242
Email: ecinfo@naia.org
Hours: Monday–Friday
8:30 am to 5 pm Central

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL IN COLLEGE SPORTS™
National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics • 1200 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106 • 816.595.8000 • NAIA.org • PlayNAIA.org • page 4
Do I meet the freshman eligibility requirements?

If you will graduate from a U.S. high school this spring and enroll in college this coming fall, the requirements are simple. An entering freshman must:

- Be a graduate of an accredited high school or be accepted as a regular student in good standing as defined by the enrolling institution and
- Meet two of the three following requirements. If as an entering freshman you do not meet at least two of the three standards, you cannot participate in athletics for the first full year of attendance (2 semesters, 3 quarters, or equivalent).

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. TEST SCORE REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>2. HIGH SCHOOL GPA REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>3. CLASS RANK REQUIREMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieve a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 860 on the SAT.</td>
<td>Achieve a minimum overall high school grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.</td>
<td>Graduate in the top half of your high school class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tests must be taken on a state, national or international testing date; scores must be achieved on a single test. The SAT must be achieved on the Critical Reading and Math sections only. The Writing score cannot be used. You must pass the standardized test prior to the term in which you want to participate in athletics.

When registering for the tests, students should indicate the NAIA code “8876” to have their scores sent directly to the NAIA Eligibility Center.

Learning disabilities. Students with diagnosed learning disabilities, who do not meet the freshman eligibility requirements, may have their academic profiles reviewed by the NAIA National Eligibility Committee at the request of an NAIA institution.

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What if I didn’t attend a U.S. high school?

The criteria for alternative high school experiences and those outside of the U.S. are determined as follows:

**GED Students — must meet two of the three**

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<tr>
<td>Achieve a minimum of 18 on the ACT or 860 on the SAT.</td>
<td>GED students are recognized as having met the GPA requirement.</td>
<td>(Not applicable)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Home Schooled Students**

**TEST SCORE REQUIREMENT** — Home school students who have a 20 on the ACT or 950 on the SAT are considered to have met the freshman eligibility requirement.

If a home schooled student completes a home schooling program conducted in accordance with the laws of the student’s state of residence, but does not meet the test score requirement, a home school waiver may be requested from the NAIA Home School Committee.

**International Students — must meet two of the three**

Graduates of high schools outside of the United States or one of the U.S. territories.

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<td>Graduate in the top half of your high school class.</td>
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</table>

International students must provide their academic records in both the language of issue as well as a certified, word-for-word English translation. See the NAIA Eligibility Center requirements for more on submitting international academic records.

Note: For detailed information about the process for international students, please see the NAIA Guide for the International Student-Athlete.