



## **PARENTS' & STUDENTS' GUIDE TO**

# **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS**



**2021 - 2022**

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Appendix A – Selecting a College

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# **Financial Aid Webinar**

**October 5, 2021**

**at 6:00 p.m.**

## **FAFSA Completion Webinar**

**November 11, 2021**

**at 6:00 p.m.**

**A link will be provided  
at a later date**

*These programs are for all West Shore School District  
families*

## I. INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a guide to college planning, decision-making, and placement. Used as a guide, it is especially helpful in providing ideas about the collection and analysis of admissions information. If you follow the procedures as suggested, the college entrance process will be less frustrating and frightening.

You are encouraged to take an active part in making decisions for your future. You will be much happier if you accept responsibility for your selections. Many individuals, however, within the District will be more than willing to help you clarify your options and recommend alternatives. Your counselor is ready to assist you every step of the way. Parents are also welcome and invited to utilize the District's counseling services when needed.

Stacy L. Thorpe  
Cedar Cliff  
School Counseling Dept. Chair

Aaron Walter  
Red Land  
School Counseling Dept. Chair

## II. COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTS

Students planning to further their education may be required to take college entrance examinations. These tests are used along with the high school record to predict a student's chance of success in college. Generally, the first test taken is the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Some colleges will require the SAT I of the College Board. Other colleges may prefer the American College Test (ACT). In addition, some colleges request Subject Tests which are used for admission and/or class placement.

Determining which tests are appropriate is each student's responsibility. It is most important that juniors review the college catalog or website for each college they are considering. Particular attention should be paid to the section on "Admissions Requirements."

Students need to create an account and then register online at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) for the SATs or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for the ACTs.

TEST	USE	REGISTRATION FORMS	WHEN
PSAT/NMSQT	National Merit Scholarships Estimate Performance on SAT	Junior Counselor's Office	Junior Year
CEEB SAT I: Reasoning Test	College Admissions	Online	Junior/Senior Year

Cedar Cliff High School has been approved as a testing center for the College Board Test (SAT I). All tests are given on Saturday. The ACT is administered at Harrisburg Area Community College or Cumberland Valley High School.

## **PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST/ NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFYING TEST (PSAT/NMSQT)**

### Purpose

The PSAT/NMSQT score is used to estimate performance on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I). It is a shortened version of the SAT I. In addition to estimating performance, the PSAT/NMSQT is the route of entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program and the National Achievement Scholarship program for Outstanding African American Students.

The PSAT/NMSQT provides information that can assist in planning future education. It gives students and parents an idea of the student's ability to handle college work. The student's performance on the test can be compared with a national group of students planning to enter college.

Another feature of the PSAT/NMSQT is the Student Search of the College Board. Students who participate in the service will receive information from colleges or other post-secondary institutions about education and financial aid opportunities.

### Description

The PSAT/NMSQT is a mostly multiple-choice test that measures developed verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities which are important for academic performance in college. The PSAT/NMSQT consists of two 25 minute critical reading sections, two 25 minute math sections and one 30 minute writing skills section. The test takes a total of two hours and ten minutes. An additional 20 minutes is needed for the completion of student information. Students may use a calculator for the math section.

The PSAT/NMSQT tests an individual's ability to reason with verbal and mathematical facts and concepts rather than to recall and recite them.

<b>Dates and Test Centers:</b>	Saturday, October 16, 2021	Red Land High School (ID 391-325)
	Saturday, October 16, 2021	Cedar Cliff High School (ID 390-527)
<b>Cost:</b>	Approximately \$35.00	
<b>Registration:</b>	School Counseling Office	

Students are advised to obtain a booklet entitled **Student Bulletin** which contains a sample test and information on scoring.

## THE SAT

In March 2016, the College Board introduced a new version of the SAT. The changes include an all new essay which is optional, no penalty for guessing and vocabulary that is used in high school classes. There will be four parts to the new SAT: Reading, Writing and Language, Math, and the optional SAT essay. The test will be 3 hours and 50 minutes with the SAT essay, or 3 hours without the essay. There will now be four answer choices per question. Get free, personalized practice for the SAT from Khan Academy at: [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat)

The SAT consists of three categories: Reading, Mathematics, Writing and Language. Each section is scored 200-800 points.

- Focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings that research has identified as most important for college and career readiness and success
- Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact
- Rights-only scoring (no penalty for guessing)

2021-22 TESTING DATES	
SAT I	Registration Deadline
October 2, 2021	September 3, 2021
November 6, 2021	October 8, 2021
*December 4, 2021	November 4, 2021
*March 12, 2022	February 11, 2022
May 7, 2022	April 8, 2022
June 4, 2022	May 5, 2022

\*Given at Cedar Cliff High School (Test Center: 39-172)

COST	SAT I Reasoning Test	\$55.00 (with essay)
		Language with listening add \$26
		All other subject tests add \$22
	Late Fee	Additional \$35.00

Students who receive free or reduced lunch can have the registration fee waived. See your counselor for details.

## Registration

Registration is available online at: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). It is the student's responsibility to know what tests are required by their colleges, and the registration dates involved.

## AP EXAMS (Optional)

The *Advanced Placement Program* is a cooperative educational effort designed to provide students an opportunity to complete college-level studies while they are in high school. The Advanced Placement examinations are offered annually and give high school students an opportunity to demonstrate college-level achievement. The exams are administered during the weeks of **May 2 through May 14, 2022**. Although it is to a student's advantage to have taken an Advanced Placement course, it is not a prerequisite for participation in the testing program.

Exam registrations will begin in the Fall. Deadline to order without additional fee is October 29, 2021. Cost is \$96.00 per exam. Additional registration information will be provided by the AP Coordinator at each school.

Advanced Placement courses and examinations are offered in the following subjects:

Biology  
Calculus BC  
Chemistry  
English Language and Composition  
English Literature and Composition  
Government & Politics - US  
Macroeconomics  
Microeconomics

Music Theory  
Physics C: Mechanics  
Psychology  
Statistics  
US History  
World History

## AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING PROGRAM ACT

Some colleges require the ACT instead of the SAT I for college admissions and/or placement. The ACT includes tests in English usage, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning.

2021-22 TESTING DATES	
ACT Test Dates	Registration Deadline
October 23, 2021	September 17, 2021
December 11, 2021	November 5, 2021
February 12, 2022	January 7, 2022
April 2, 2022	February 25, 2022
June 11, 2022	May 6, 2022
July 16, 2022	June 17, 2022
<b>TEST CENTERS:</b>	Tests are locally administered at Harrisburg Area Community College and Cumberland Valley High School
<b>COST:</b>	\$60.00 (no writing)
To register online, visit ACT's website at: <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a>	
ACT plus writing option - \$85.00	

### III. YOUR COLLEGE SELECTION PROCESS

Higher education is expensive and requires a large investment in both time and money. As you decide what you want from college, examine both the way you picture yourself now and the way you would like to see yourself in the future. It is important you give thoughtful and careful consideration to your career goals and the best way to reach them. Your personality, interests, experiences, ambitions, and dreams should be a part of the choices you make.

#### Compiling a List through Self-Evaluation

Begin by determining your strengths, weaknesses, expectations, and goals. After completing your self-evaluation, consider the characteristics you require in a college and determine their importance to you.

**All students have access to an online tool called Naviance. This program will assist in career exploration, academic planning and college/career preparation.**

Counselors will be introducing Naviance to students in classrooms throughout the school year. Additional Web sites to explore post high school planning include: [www.EducationPlanner.org](http://www.EducationPlanner.org), and [www.CollegeBoard.org](http://www.CollegeBoard.org) You should develop a list of schools you would like to research more closely. After establishing your initial list,



additional references giving more detailed information on your choices should be used. If you eliminate those institutions which do not meet the criteria you established, you will reduce your list to a size that will be realistic in terms of contacting for more information, visiting campuses, arranging interviews, and submitting applications.

Appendix A will help you determine and evaluate your priorities and expectations. In addition, the chart will permit you to compare colleges you are considering.

When selecting colleges, you may wish to divide your choices into three categories: Reaching, Average for Me, Secure. This will help assure your acceptance while also allowing you to apply at a possibly more competitive school. In dividing the colleges into categories, compare your admission qualities with those expected by the individual schools.

**Reaching:** This college's entrance standards may seem a cut above your qualifications. The college mean rank will be in the fifth above yours and the mean SAT scores will be 40 to 100 points higher than yours. Factors other than academic record that may affect chances for admission could include an unusually strong letter of recommendation, your essay or statement of purpose, the high school reputation, a parent who is an alumnus, or extracurricular activities.

**Average for Me:** This should be a realistic choice of a college, one which has admissions criteria corresponding closely to your credentials. The mean rank and yours should be in the same fifth and your SAT scores should be within 40 points of those given as the mean by the college.

**Secure or "Safety"** This is a college with an admissions policy clearly making you acceptable with a margin to spare. This college may seem below your potential. Choose the college with care as you might go there; this may include a community and/or junior college.

A student's college choice must be made sincerely and realistically. Examine the advantages and disadvantages of each college. Although you will probably not find a "perfect college", you can determine which colleges have the most characteristics you desire. Weigh the strengths and weaknesses to find the one most likely to meet your needs.

Once you have narrowed the number of colleges, you will be ready to begin the process of applying for admission and financial aid.

## ASVAB Career Exploration Program

The *ASVAB Career Exploration Program* is an assessment tool to help students make career decisions. The focus of the program is to:

- Identify students' interests, skills and work-related values
- Match student interests and skills with occupations
- Learn where and how to get information on different careers
- Develop career decision-making skills

The key features of the *ASVAB Career Exploration Program* are:

- *ASVAB Career Exploration Guide* – includes a self-scored interest inventory and information about work values and occupations in line with student interests and skills. The guide has a series of activities that enable students to match their interests and skills with over 400 civilian and military occupations.
- *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)* – an aptitude test
- *Military Careers, Occupational Outlook Handbook and O\*NET Occupational Information System* – ways to use these career information resources

The *ASVAB* can help students confirm current college plans and identify other college options that may not have been considered. Having a good sense of career interests may help students when making decisions regarding a college major.

There is no relationship between taking the *ASVAB* and Selective Service registration. *ASVAB* information is not made available to the Selective Service system.

Registration for the *ASVAB* begins in October and continues through early November. The *ASVAB* is typically administered in mid-November.

## IV. APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS

### Types of Applications

In general, there are two types of application requirements. One is the application cutoff and stated reply date. You have until a certain date to apply. All applications are reviewed at the same time. All students are then notified of the decision at the same time. The other is the rolling admissions system. In rolling admissions, there is usually a deadline for the application but the applications are processed as they are submitted and the supporting documentation is received. Under this plan, it is advantageous for the student to apply early in the senior year; therefore, at a rolling admissions institution,

an application will be processed when the application, the transcript, the SAT or ACT scores, and the recommendations are received. As soon as the application is processed, the students will be notified of the admission decision.

Early decision programs are those in which the student does not want to attend college until after he or she has finished the twelfth grade but wants a decision on acceptance before January of the senior year. Most early decision programs require a student to complete his or her application procedure by early November. Some require a commitment to attend that school and the student must withdraw all other applications. The student is usually notified by late December.

### Completing the Application

Most students should apply for admission during the fall of their senior year although it is very important to verify all deadlines with the college's admissions office.

### **Application Procedures:**

As you prepare to apply to post-secondary schools, you will need some general and detailed information. Please follow the instructions listed below for submitting college or scholarship applications.

### Important Points:

1. Applications take approximately 1-2 weeks for your counselor to process.
2. Applications are processed in the order they are received.
3. All Official Transcripts must be requested through Naviance.
4. The student is responsible for knowing all deadlines.
5. The CEEB code for RLHS is 391-325 and for CCHS is 390-527.
6. Scholarship information is available on Naviance.
7. Allow coaches, employers, etc. **two weeks** to write letters of recommendation. Include a resume and transcript. Follow up with a thank you note.
8. If a personal essay is required, please consult a teacher for proofing and editing.
9. Testing scores (SAT, ACT, AP) **will not** appear on the transcript. It is up to the student to send these scores to the colleges from their College Board or ACT account.
10. Teacher recommendation letters are requested through Naviance. Students should speak to their teachers in person before making their request via Naviance.

## Online Applications

1. Complete the application on-line at the college website. Application fees can also be submitted online. Fees can range from \$35-\$75. Some colleges offer fee waivers to eligible students.
2. Some schools offer a “**Common Application**” which is completed only once, but can be sent to numerous schools. Separate application fees will be applied. Students create an account at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org), however transcripts and teacher recommendations are requested through Naviance.

It is helpful to develop a file for each college to keep your catalogs, applications, letters and records organized and accessible. Also, it is recommended that you put together a log of necessary application steps. **Appendix B** provides a log sheet to help with your organization. Additionally, all college applications will be tracked in your Naviance account.

## V. VISITATION AND INTERVIEW

### College Visits

The best way to learn more about a college is to visit the campus before applying. Most visits can now be scheduled on-line at the college website. If possible, plan to visit a college during the academic year, when students are in residence and classes are in session. Many colleges schedule regular campus tours conducted by student representatives. Some colleges will also arrange for you to spend the night in student housing if you write or phone in advance. If you plan to combine your campus visit with an admissions interview, be sure to call or email the admission’s office and set up an appointment before you arrive.

During the visit, walk around campus until you have a feeling for its size and atmosphere. Find out about the things that are important to you. You might be interested in how old or new the buildings and facilities are, how crowded the classrooms are, how large is the dormitory space, and what recreational facilities exist.

Plan to visit the student center, the cafeteria, and the library. Talk to students wherever you go. Ask about the social life on campus, student life-styles, and anything else that might help you decide if you would be comfortable at the college. Check bulletin boards to find out about student activities and cultural events. Try to attend some classes and meet with students and faculty in the area that interests you. Ask about specific course requirements, program flexibility, average study time, and academic pressures.

Schools now offer virtual touring so be sure to access the colleges’ websites for details.

Freshmen and sophomores are allowed 2 visitations each year. Juniors and seniors are allowed up to six (6) days of excused absences for college visitations. At least one (1) day prior to a college visit, students should submit a completed College Visitation form to the main office.

### The Interview

Some colleges require or recommend an interview or audition. Whether required or not, it is to your benefit to set up an interview. This interview is your chance to express your background, your interests, and goals, and why you are interested in that specific college. An interview can be very important at private or more competitive institutions. The interview is also your opportunity to assess the college. For this reason, an on-campus interview is best, but most colleges will arrange for you to be interviewed near your home if you live far from the college. Be prepared with your own questions. You can use this opportunity to get the information you need about a college to make your decision.

### Preparation

A college interview is a two-way street. It is an opportunity for the college to get to know the student and for the student to get additional information about the college. Students must be knowledgeable about the school before going to an interview. Some chances for admission have been lost because a student did not familiarize himself with basic information about the school size, cost, majors, admission requirements, etc. A thorough review of the website should provide this basic information. A few hints in preparation for a visit are:

1. Schedule an appointment well in advance of the date you want to go. Most visitations can now be scheduled online at the college's website.
2. When you make the appointment for an interview, indicate if you want a tour of the campus and/or a meeting with the financial aid officer. Indicate if your parents will accompany you. Some colleges also like to interview parents.
3. Dress conservatively and neatly.
4. Maintain eye contact with the interviewer and show sincere interest.
5. Be honest about yourself, your interests, background, information, etc. Admit if you do not know something.
6. Before arriving for the interview, compose some relevant and pertinent questions about the college.
7. Be prepared for both a structured and unstructured-type interview.

8. Smile, relax, show a sense of humor, and be yourself. Try not to be nervous.

### Questions, Questions, Questions

College interviewers are professionals who interview hundreds of applicants like you. Be prepared to give crisp, well-thought-out answers during the interview. A list of typical questions you may be asked would include:

1. Why did you apply to this particular school?
2. How did you hear about this school?
3. What other schools are you applying to?
4. Why did you select your particular major?
5. What were your major activities, interests, etc., in high school?
6. What contributions can you make to this school?
7. What do you see as your strengths and weaknesses?
8. What books have you read in the past year?

You should also be prepared to ask questions about the school which may need further clarification. This would indicate your interest in gaining the information necessary to make a decision about your future. A list of typical questions you may want to ask would include:

1. What are the academic requirements and your chances for admission?
2. What programs are available for financial aid?
3. When does a student declare a major?
4. What programs are available besides the traditional set of majors offered?
5. What guarantee of housing is given to students after the first year?
6. What percentage of students goes on to graduate and attend professional schools?
7. What programs are available for career planning and job placement?
8. Do students have access to computer terminals twenty-four hours a day?

After the interview, evaluate what you have learned by comparing and contrasting all facets of the college with similar colleges. Write a brief personal thank you note to the person who interviewed you. This will leave the interviewer with a positive impression of you and it could make a difference in your selection as one of the freshmen to be enrolled.

### Meeting With College Representatives at Cedar Cliff/Red Land

Each fall, many representatives of colleges visit the high schools. The visits are announced via the public address system and on Naviance. Students in grades 10-12 must sign on Naviance. These are very informal group sessions, lasting approximately 30 minutes. You may have many questions or you may choose to simply listen to what the representative has to say about the college. These meetings allow you to learn a great deal about many different kinds of colleges and we encourage students to attend.

Students are responsible for any classroom work missed while attending these sessions.

Visits for Fall 2021 will both be virtual and in-person, so please pay attention to how representatives have scheduled appointments.

## **VI. FINANCIAL AID**

Currently, higher education can cost anywhere from \$5,000 to over \$60,000 per year. Because of spiraling costs, most colleges have over 50% of their students on some kind of financial aid. Much of the financial assistance awarded to those seeking higher education is being granted on the basis of financial need. Competitive scholarships for which you compete with others on the basis of merit, however, continue to be available and counselors can assist students in finding information on such scholarships. Because the two kinds of awards are so different, they are separated for discussion below.

### Financial Aid and Verification of Need

Financial need scholarships are awarded on the basis of the ability of the family to pay for a student's post-secondary education. Most of the agencies granting such aid request information about the financial needs of each applicant's family.

You should complete the appropriate financial aid forms required by the colleges considered. These applications are available on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Most forms cannot be completed prior to October 1st of the senior year, but should be completed as soon as possible after that date.

### Competitive Scholarships

Competitive scholarships include those awarded for special skills in such areas as athletics, music and art, as well as those awarded for academic accomplishments and ability. Several steps that will help in locating and/or qualifying for such scholarships follow:

1. As a junior, take the PSAT/NMSQT to compete for the National Merit Scholarships.
2. Email the financial aid office of each college in which you are interested and ask for information on competitive scholarships.
3. Review the scholarship list posted on Naviance for applications throughout the senior year.
4. There are a variety of free internet scholarship search sites. For example: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) or [www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org)
5. Contact the personnel office of parents' employers and ask if scholarships are available.
6. Contact your pastor for information concerning church-sponsored scholarships.

A lack of money should not stop you from attending the school of your choice. Financial assistance is available from many sources. The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency ([www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org)) has a wealth of information pertaining to college planning and funding opportunities. All post-secondary schools have financial aid officers who are experts in the financial aid process. These officers can furnish information about costs, assistance available, application procedures and deadlines, as well as other related matters.

## **VII. STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION**

Colleges and universities vary widely in their criteria for admission; however, most have minimum high school requirements and tests which must be taken prior to acceptance. As mentioned previously, to be certain that you meet all the requirements, you must consult an updated website for the college you are researching.

Factors mentioned most frequently by colleges as playing an important role in their admissions decisions include the following: academic performance in high school (as indicated by school grade average and class rank); college board test scores; pattern of high school subjects completed; recommendations, and personal qualifications such as motivation, special skills or abilities, leadership capabilities, community or church involvement; and good moral character. Compare your own achievements in these areas with the college's stated requirements. Note that the more competitive the college, the more likely it is to consider personal qualifications in admissions decisions. The contact you have with an admissions officer through your interview, essay, and recommendations can increase your chances of being admitted to an institution.

### Acceptance

Waiting to hear from the college or colleges of your choice is sometimes the hardest part of the college selection process. Even after you have heard from the colleges, you still may face some difficult decisions. Some of the most common problems students encounter at this stage are:

#### *If You Are Accepted By More Than One College:*

If you applied and are accepted to several colleges, you have to decide which to attend. You may already know your order of preference, but if you are still unsure, you may have to go through the decision-making process again; clarifying your objectives, getting additional information, and talking to your parents and counselors. Don't be surprised if all your efforts at deciding leave you with two or more colleges that seem to offer equal prospects.

#### *If You Hear From Your Second-Choice College First:*

Your final decision can be complicated if you have to respond to your second or third choice college before you have heard from your first-choice college. Often that



response includes a substantial first payment of a tuition fee or dormitory charge. If this happens to you, ask your counselor for help in deciding on a course of action. Some students are able to get a reply date extension. In this way, it is possible for a student to hear from all of the colleges before making a decision. Others solve the problems by making the required first payment to the second-choice college as a kind of insurance premium to cover the possibility of rejection by the first-choice college.

### Final Comments

As you move into the spring of your senior year, you will have to make a final college choice. Keep in mind that your careful study and preparation to this point have focused your attention on one or more colleges that offer the best mix of opportunities, given your preference and needs. Your information may point clearly to one school or may require that you choose among several schools, all of which offer a high possibility of meeting your major needs. You may have to weigh the opportunities offered by a higher cost school against the greater financial burden you would have to carry there. Keep rethinking your goals and plans, and evaluate your options at each college. Talk them over with your counselors and your parents.

If you have done your homework to this point, you will have maximized your chances for selecting a college which meets your needs and preferences. Notify in writing all the colleges, to which you have applied, of your final decision. Turn your attention to the task of preparing yourself for the college you have chosen. Learning as much as you can beforehand about life at the college will help you get off to a good start when you reach the campus. Determine what you will have to do to take advantage of the many opportunities that college offers you.

Now that you are nearing the end of the college planning process, you can look forward to a new phase in your life. In many ways, you may be on your own for the first time. New freedoms will bring new responsibilities - among them the responsibility of ensuring the quality of your own education.

A good education will not just be given to you. You must work at it. Although college offers a rich assortment of educational resources, you will have to prepare yourself in order to take advantage of them. If you are aware of the unique educational opportunities your college offers, you can begin to benefit from them as soon as you arrive on campus. The pursuit of knowledge is an active process. It is up to you to determine the kind and quality of education you receive. Your own curiosity, hard work, and perseverance will make the difference.

## VIII. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Grade 10

1. Investigate career information either online or by job shadowing.
2. Analyze the courses you should take in high school that will prepare you for the career(s) you are considering. If you are not certain about a career, a general college-prep curriculum will be suitable for most college majors.
3. Review College websites.
4. Consider taking the PSAT in October or the ACT/PLAN in spring.
5. Obtain a pass to meet with college representatives who visit the high school.
6. Schedule an appointment with your high school counselor to discuss your post high school plans.
7. Visit one or more colleges during the summer before the junior year.

### Grade 11

1. Continue to examine career possibilities and the education requirements for the career which interests you. Job Shadow.
2. Take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) in the fall. This is a preview of the SAT I. The PSAT is used to determine winners of National Merit Scholarships.
3. Find out about college admission procedures by thoroughly examining college websites and/or Naviance.
4. Take the American College Test (ACT) or SAT I in the winter or spring.
5. Talk with your teachers and counselor about taking the Advanced Placement examination. Registration is through your AP teacher.
6. If you want to attend one of the Military Service Academies or apply for an ROTC scholarship, begin the application process in the spring.
7. List the colleges which interest you and try to visit one or more colleges during the spring and summer.
8. Learn more about specific colleges by meeting with college representatives who visit your high school.

9. Plan your senior schedule carefully. Select a full academic program. Check the college entrance requirements again to be sure you are meeting them all.
10. Complete and submit the NCAA Athletic Eligibility Form at the conclusion of the junior year. Register online at: [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)
11. See your high school counselor for continued post high school planning.

## Grade 12

1. Visit your high school counselor in the fall and keep your counselor informed of your plans. Ask questions because the counselor can aid you in exploring possibilities about admission to college, scholarships, financial aid, as well as your career choice.
2. Complete each college application and the financial aid forms before deadline dates. **This is your responsibility.**
3. If you need to submit recommendations from your teachers along with your college application, decide which teachers to ask. Request the letter of recommendation in person and then send the request via Naviance. Let the teachers know the deadline date and be sure to allow the teachers at least two weeks.
4. Visit any additional colleges you may have decided to consider.
5. In October or November, re-take any SAT I or ACT tests. If you are seeking admission to a college which requires other tests, see your counselor. ***All SAT and ACT scores must be sent to the college FROM the testing agency directly. They will not appear on your transcript.***
6. During the winter/ spring, revisit colleges which have accepted you if you are not certain which college you want to attend.
7. After deciding which college you are going to attend, respond to each offer of admission.
8. Let your counselor know about your decision.
9. Take any Advanced Placement examinations for which you are prepared.

## June - Graduation

Request that a final transcript be sent to your college through your Naviance account.

We trust that your high school experiences have been pleasant and valuable. Our sincere best wishes for a happy and successful future.

## **IX. COLLEGE ADMISSIONS GLOSSARY**

Many books contain glossaries of commonly used terms. These terms vary from college to college. Specific college catalogs are your best source of information. Following are some commonly used terms:

**ACCREDITATION:** Recognition by an accrediting organization or agency that a college meets certain acceptable standards in its educational programs, services, and facilities. Regional accreditation applies to a college as a whole and not to any particular programs or courses of study.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT:** Admission or assignment of a freshman to an advanced course in a certain subject on the basis of evidence that the student has already completed the equivalent of the college's freshman course in that subject.

**ASSOCIATE DEGREE:** A degree granted by a college or university usually after the satisfactory completion of a two-year, full-time program of study, or its part-time equivalent.

**BACCALAUREATE or BACHELOR'S DEGREE:** A degree received after the satisfactory completion of a four-year, full-time program of study (or its part-time equivalent) at a college or university.

**AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING PROGRAM ASSESSMENT (ACT):** Test battery of the American College Testing Program, given at test centers in the United States and other countries on specified dates throughout the year. It includes tests in English, mathematics, reading, and natural sciences reasoning. The composite score referred to in some colleges' descriptions is the average of a student's scores on these four tests.

**CANDIDATES REPLY DATE AGREEMENT (CRDA):** A college subscribing to this agreement will not require any applicants offered admission as freshmen to notify the college of their decision to attend (or to accept an offer of financial aid) before May 1 of the year the applicant applies. The purpose of the agreement is to give applicants time to hear from all the colleges to which they have applied before having to make a commitment to any one of them.

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP SERVICE (CSS):** A service of the College Board that assists post-secondary institutions, the federal government, state scholarship programs, and other organizations in the equitable distribution of student financial aid funds. By measuring a family's financial strength and analyzing its ability to contribute to college costs, CSS need analysis services offer a standardized method of determining a student's need.

**CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE:** PROFILE is a program of the College Scholarship Service. Many colleges and scholarship programs use the information collected on PROFILE to help them award non-federal student aid funds. Applications are available on-line at [www.profileonline.collegeboard.com](http://www.profileonline.collegeboard.com)

**DEFERRED ADMISSION:** The practice of permitting students to postpone enrollment for one year after acceptance to the college.

**EARLY ADMISSION:** The practice of some colleges of admitting certain students who have not completed high school - usually students of exceptional ability who have completed their junior year. These students are enrolled full-time in college.

**EARLY DECISION:** Early decision plans are offered to applicants who are sure of the college they want to attend and are likely to be accepted by that college. An early decision application is initiated by the student, who is then notified of the college's decision earlier than usual - generally by December 15 of the senior year.

**FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA):** A financial information collection document of the College Scholarship Service used by parents of dependent students or independent students to supply information about their income, assets, expenses, and liabilities. The CSS uses this information in estimating how much money a family is able to contribute to a student's college expenses. This can be used to apply for a Pell Grant.

**GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM (GSL):** A federal program that lets a student borrow money for educational expenses directly from the banks and other lending institutions (sometimes the colleges themselves).

**NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY:** Standards were developed in response to a disturbing number of college athletes who were not succeeding academically in college. Established by the President's Academic Reform Movement of 1982, the overall goal of Initial Eligibility was to expand the focus beyond athletes to student-athletes. The NCAA recognized that the freshman year is especially challenging. In addition to new studies and a new environment, student-athletes spend time and energy in competition.

Starting in 1986, before a student could participate in athletics his or her freshman year at an NCAA Division I or II institution, minimum academic requirements would have to be met. It should be noted that these Initial-Eligibility Standards relate to athletics only. They have no bearing on admission to college. Extensive research showed that the best predictor for academic preparedness - and success - was a combination of test scores and grade-point average in core courses. It was determined that these core courses would be academic in nature and prepare the student for collegiate academic challenges. (See Appendix C)

**NEED ANALYSIS FORM:** A financial information collection document used by parents of dependent students to supply information about their income, assets, expenses, and

liabilities. Independent students file these forms for themselves. The information is then used to estimate how much money a family or student is able to contribute to a student's college expenses. In many cases a single analysis form is the only document that students need to submit to be considered for all types of institutional, state, and federal financial aid.

**OPEN ADMISSION:** The college admissions policy of admitting high school graduates and other adults generally without regard to conventional academic qualifications, such as high school subjects, high school grades, and admissions test scores. Virtually all applicants with high school diplomas or their equivalent are accepted.

**PELL (BASIC) GRANT PROGRAM:** A federally sponsored and administered program that provides grants based on need to undergraduate students. Congress annually sets the dollar range. A Pell Grant cannot exceed \$1,800 per year, but Congress can set a lower ceiling. Students apply directly to the federal government; the FAFSA can be used to apply for a Pell Grant, formerly the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program (BEOG). Pending legislation could affect this program.

**PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AGENCY DOCUMENT (PHEAA):** A need analysis form used by Pennsylvania residents to establish eligibility for state aid. It is sometimes used to award institutional and campus-based federal aid and can be used to apply for a Pell Grant.

**PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST/NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFYING TEST (PSAT/NMSQT):** A shorter version of the College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test administered by high schools each year in October. The PSAT/NMSQT aids high schools in the early guidance of students planning for college and serves as the qualifying test for scholarships awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

**RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC):** Programs conducted by certain colleges in cooperation with the United States Air Force, Army, and Navy. Local recruiting offices of the services themselves can supply detailed information about these programs, as can participating colleges.

**ROLLING ADMISSIONS:** An admissions procedure by which the college considers each student's application as soon as all the required credentials, such as school records and test scores, have been received. The college usually notifies applicants of its decision without delay.

**SAT I:** The College Board's test of Critical Reading, Writing and Mathematical reasoning abilities, given on specified dates throughout the year at test centers in the United States and other countries. Required of substantially all applicants by many colleges and sponsors of financial aid programs.

# DIVISION I ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

College-bound student-athletes enrolling at an NCAA Division I school need to meet the following academic requirements to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in their first year of full-time enrollment.

## Core-Course Requirement

Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>MATH</b> (Algebra I or higher)	<b>NATURAL/ PHYSICAL SCIENCE</b> (Including one year of lab, if offered)	<b>ADDITIONAL</b> (English, math or natural/physical science)	<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL COURSES</b> (Any area listed to the left, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)
4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year	2 years	4 years

## FULL QUALIFIER

- Complete 16 core courses.
  - Ten of the 16 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester (senior year) of high school.
  - Seven of the 10 core courses must be in English, math or natural/physical science.
- Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.300.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching the core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale (see back page).
- Graduate high school.

## ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.000.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching the core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale (see back page).
- Graduate high school.

### Full Qualifier

College-bound student-athletes may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

### Academic Redshirt

College-bound student-athletes may receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment and may practice during their first regular academic term, but may NOT compete during their first year of enrollment.

### Nonqualifier

College-bound student-athletes will not be able to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

### International Students

Please review the [international initial-eligibility flyer](#) for information and academic requirements specific to international student-athletes.

Click [here](#) for Division II academic requirements.



# Test Scores

If a student plans to attend an NCAA Division I college or university in the 2019-20 or 2020-21 academic years, use the following charts to understand the core-course GPA he or she will need to meet NCAA Division I requirements.

A combined SAT score is calculated by adding critical reading and math subscores. An ACT sum score is calculated by adding English, math, reading and science subscores. A student may take the SAT or ACT an unlimited number of times before he or she enrolls full time in college. If a student takes either test more than once, the best subscores from each test are used for the academic certification process.

When a student registers for the SAT or ACT, he or she can use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of **9999** to send their scores directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores on transcripts **CANNOT** be used in an academic certification.

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE			DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*	Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*
3.550	400	37	2.750	810	59
3.525	410	38	2.725	820	60
3.500	430	39	2.700	830	61
3.475	440	40	2.675	840	61
3.450	460	41	2.650	850	62
3.425	470	41	2.625	860	63
3.400	490	42	2.600	860	64
3.375	500	42	2.575	870	65
3.350	520	43	2.550	880	66
3.325	530	44	2.525	890	67
3.300	550	44	2.500	900	68
3.275	560	45	2.475	910	69
3.250	580	46	2.450	920	70
3.225	590	46	2.425	930	70
3.200	600	47	2.400	940	71
3.175	620	47	2.375	950	72
3.150	630	48	2.350	960	73
3.125	650	49	2.325	970	74
3.100	660	49	2.300	980	75
3.075	680	50	2.299	990	76
3.050	690	50	2.275	990	76
3.025	710	51	2.250	1000	77
3.000	720	52	2.225	1010	78
2.975	730	52	2.200	1020	79
2.950	740	53	2.175	1030	80
2.925	750	53	2.150	1040	81
2.900	750	54	2.125	1050	82
2.875	760	55	2.100	1060	83
2.850	770	56	2.075	1070	84
2.825	780	56	2.050	1080	85
2.800	790	57	2.025	1090	86
2.775	800	58	2.000	1100	86

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

\*Final concordance research between the new SAT and ACT is ongoing.



## DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

College-bound student-athletes enrolling at an NCAA Division II school need to meet the following academic requirements to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in their first year of full-time enrollment.

### Core-Course Requirement

Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>MATH</b> (Algebra I or higher)	<b>NATURAL/ PHYSICAL SCIENCE</b> (Including one year of lab, if offered)	<b>ADDITIONAL</b> (English, math or natural/physical science)	<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL COURSES</b> (Any area listed to the left, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 year	2 years	4 years

### FULL QUALIFIER

- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.200.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching the core-course GPA on the Division II full qualifier sliding scale (see back page).
- Graduate high school.

### PARTIAL QUALIFIER

- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.000.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching the core-course GPA on the Division II partial qualifier sliding scale (see back page).
- Graduate high school.

### Full Qualifier

College-bound student-athletes may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

### Partial Qualifier

College-bound student-athletes may receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of enrollment and may practice during their first year of full-time enrollment at a Division II school, but may NOT compete.

### Nonqualifier

College-bound student-athletes will not be able to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

### International Students

Please review the [international initial-eligibility flyer](#) for information and academic requirements specific to international student-athletes.

Click [here](#) for Division I academic requirements.



## DIVISION II

### FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE

Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*
3.300 & above	400	37
3.275	410	38
3.250	430	39
3.225	440	40
3.200	460	41
3.175	470	41
3.150	490	42
3.125	500	42
3.100	520	43
3.075	530	44
3.050	550	44
3.025	560	45
3.000	580	46
2.975	590	46
2.950	600	47
2.925	620	47
2.900	630	48
2.875	650	49
2.850	660	49
2.825	680	50
2.800	690	50
2.775	710	51
2.750	720	52
2.725	730	52
2.700	740	53
2.675	750	53
2.650	750	54
2.625	760	55
2.600	770	56
2.575	780	56
2.550	790	57
2.525	800	58
2.500	810	59
2.475	820	60
2.450	830	61
2.425	840	61
2.400	850	62
2.375	860	63
2.350	860	64
2.325	870	65
2.300	880	66
2.275	890	67
2.250	900	68
2.225	910	69
2.200	920	70 & above

## DIVISION II

### PARTIAL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE

Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*
3.050 & above	400	37
3.025	410	38
3.000	430	39
2.975	440	40
2.950	460	41
2.925	470	41
2.900	490	42
2.875	500	42
2.850	520	43
2.825	530	44
2.800	550	44
2.775	560	45
2.750	580	46
2.725	590	46
2.700	600	47
2.675	620	47
2.650	630	48
2.625	650	49
2.600	660	49
2.575	680	50
2.550	690	50
2.525	710	51
2.500	720	52
2.475	730	52
2.450	740	53
2.425	750	53
2.400	750	54
2.375	760	55
2.350	770	56
2.325	780	56
2.300	790	57
2.275	800	58
2.250	810	59
2.225	820	60
2.200	830	61
2.175	840	61
2.150	850	62
2.125	860	63
2.100	860	64
2.075	870	65
2.050	880	66
2.025	890	67
2.000	900	68 & above

## Test Scores

If a student plans to attend an NCAA Division II college or university in the 2019-20 or 2020-21 academic years, use the following charts to understand the core-course GPA he or she will need to meet NCAA Division II requirements.

A combined SAT score is calculated by adding critical reading and math subscores. An ACT sum score is calculated by adding English, math, reading and science subscores. A student may take the SAT or ACT an unlimited number of times before he or she enrolls full time in college. If a student takes either test more than once, the best subscores from each test are used for the academic certification process.

\*Final concordance research between the new SAT and ACT is ongoing.

## APPENDIX A

### SELECTING A COLLEGE

CHARACTERISTICS	YOUR PREFERENCE	A	B	C	D	E
<b>SIZE</b> Enrollment.						
<b>LOCATIONS</b> Distance from home; Type of community.						
<b>PUBLIC OR PRIVATE</b> (Religious Affiliation).						
<b>ADMISSIONS SELECTIVITY</b> Caliber of students accepted.						
<b>MAJORS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE</b> When must you declare a major?						
<b>JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES</b> Success rate.						
<b>COST AND FINANCIAL AID</b>						
<b>CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT AND ACTIVITIES</b> 1. Housing 2. Athletics 3. Social Life 4. Library						
<b>OTHER:</b>						

## APPENDIX B

### COLLEGE ADMISSION LOG

STUDENT'S NAME	NAME OF COLLEGE			
CHECK AND LIST DATES WHERE APPLICABLE				
<b>TESTS</b> 1. Required and Date Taken. 2. Recommended and Date Taken.				
<b>APPLICATIONS</b> 1. Requested 2. Received 3. Submitted.				
<b>INTERVIEW REQUIRED</b> 1. Completed				
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> 1. To Whom Submitted and Date				
<b>COLLEGE REPLY</b> 1. Date Expected 2. Date Received				
<b>COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICE NOTIFIED OF YOUR DECISION</b> 1. Acceptance Deadline				