



COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

For Juniors

Meredith Rogers
College Counselor
mrogers@resh.org
773-775-6616 X117

Elisabeth Pilhofer
Counselor
epilhofer@reshs.org
773-775-6616 X120

Sheri Damery
Counselor
sdamery@reshs.org
773-775-6616 X135

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STUDENT CHECKLIST

A checklist of major activities to be completed during junior year include:

- A. Start setting long and short term personal and professional goals and identify what you are looking for in a school**
- B. Utilize Naviance and other helpful resources to develop a list of schools that meet your personal criteria**
- C. Take the ACT and/or SAT**
- D. Campus visits**
- E. Talk to college representatives**
- F. Check with the Athletic Director if you intend to pursue athletics at the collegiate level.**
- G. Develop a plan to finance your education**
- H. Attend College 101 and other college prep programs provided by Student Services**

A. Identify what you are looking for in a college

COLLEGE COMPARISON WORKSHEET

***Star the 3-4 criteria most important to you**

COLLEGE NAME			
LOCATION Distance from home			
ENVIRONMENT Type of school (2yr. 4yr.) School setting (urban, rural) State school/Private school Co-ed or female Religious affiliation Support services			
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS Deadline Tests required Average test scores, GPA Notification of acceptance			
ACADEMICS Your major offered Special requirements Accreditation Student-faculty ratio Typical class size			
COLLEGE EXPENSES Tuition, room & board Estimated total budget Application fee, deposits			
FINANCIAL AID Deadline Required forms % receiving aid Scholarships			
HOUSING Residence hall requirement Types and sizes Food plan			
FACILITIES Academic Recreational Other			
ACTIVITIES Clubs, organizations Greek life (sororities) Athletics, intramurals Other			
CAMPUS VISITS When Special opportunities			

B. Utilize resources to develop a list of schools

- Useful Websites:

- Naviance: **student.naviance.com/resurrection**
 - To search schools by specific criteria, go to “Colleges” → “Supermatch College Search”
 - To get more information on a specific school search under “Colleges” tab
 - Students will request transcripts and letters of recommendation through “Colleges I’m Applying to” section
- College Scorecard: **collegescorecard.ed.gov**
 - Provides the public with information on retention rates, average costs, average salaries after attending and typical debt ranges for specific colleges
- College Board: **collegeboard.org**
 - To search schools by specific criteria, go to top drop down menu and press “College Search”

- College Guidebooks:

- These individual reference books are updated on a regular basis in Student Services. Schools are listed by major or career curricula (physical therapy, restaurant management, etc.) Schools are also listed alphabetically by state.
- Individual school descriptions include:
 - ✓ address
 - ✓ size
 - ✓ cost
 - ✓ average ACT/SAT score
 - ✓ academic character
 - ✓ financial aid
 - ✓ admission requirements
 - ✓ student life

Barron’s Resources:

- *Best Buy in College Education – Eleventh Edition*
- *Guide to Most Competitive Colleges – Seventh Edition*
- *Profile of American Colleges*

College Board Resources:

- *Book of Majors*
- *College Handbook*
- *Getting Financial Aid*
- *Scholarship Handbook*

Peterson’s Resources:

- *Four-Year Colleges*

- *Nursing Programs*
- *Scholarship Grants and Prizes*
- *Sports Scholarships and College Athletic Programs*
- *Two-Year Colleges*
- *How to Get Money for College*

Wintergreen Orchard House Source Books:

- *College Admissions Data Index of Majors & Sports*

Other Resource Books:

- *The K & W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities – 13th edition*

- By the beginning of senior year, you should have a list of 4-6 schools that you are interested in (although this number depends on each individual student).
 - 1-2 reach schools, 2-3 match schools and 1-2 likely schools.

C. The ACT and/or SAT

Basic Test Information

Resurrection College Prep Code Number for All Admission Tests: 141-090

The ACT and SAT are college admissions tests. Both are accepted by all U.S. colleges and universities. Generally, the ACT/SAT scores, along with cumulative GPA and high school course rigor, provide information to colleges for admission decisions and merit based scholarships. Which test students take is a personal preference and the specific difference between the tests can be found on collegeboard.org.

Please note, there are many schools that make sending in a test score optional. You can get a list of these schools by searching “test-optional schools.” This is a good option if you believe your GPA is a much better indicator of your academic record than your test score.

ACT Information

www.act.org

All juniors take a practice ACT during the regular school day. They will receive a score report in the following weeks to prepare for a later ACT national test date. The upcoming dates are listed below. Resurrection College Prep is a test center for select dates. Students can register at whatever location is most convenient for them. The writing test is recommended but optional. Students can send their score to four schools, included in the price of registration. Most schools will take the highest score that is sent to them, so it is recommended you use the four included in the price of registration rather than sending them individually to schools for an additional price.

All national test dates, pricing, registration and testing guidelines are listed on their website www.act.org. The ACT suggests students take it one time their junior year and one time at the beginning of their senior year. Resurrection Student Services suggests juniors take the test at least once and a maximum of three times, starting with the April test date in their junior year. For more information on research regarding the ACT, please see the FAQ section of www.act.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline
December 8, 2018	November 2, 2018
February 9, 2019	January 11, 2019
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019
July 13, 2019	June 13, 2019

D. Campus Visits

- Campus visits are optional and completely up to the students and parents. Some students want to compare the feeling they get at different schools or explore different programs. It is suggested that even if you can't travel, you visit local colleges/universities to get an idea of what they like or don't like about a school. Campus visits can also wait until you know whether or not you get accepted. Some schools also offer train or gas vouchers for your travel-just ask their admissions office! All guided tours can be set up through the college's admission office websites or phone number.
- If you do visit campus, here is a suggest checklist:

CHECKLIST FOR A CAMPUS VISIT

- Call the Admissions Office to schedule a visit (if required)
- Meet with an Admissions Counselor
- Verify admission requirements
- Ask about financial aid opportunities
- Take a campus tour
- Investigate the academic program that interests you
- Attend a class
- Explore the area
- Talk with college students and faculty

E. College Reps

- College Admission Representative Visits
 - College admission representative visits are posted on the Schoology Group and Naviance
 - College rep visits are scheduled on most Mondays and Thursdays during seminar periods in Student Services
 - Meeting with a college representative at your school can increase your chances of being accepted to the college or university
- College Open Houses
 - Many colleges offer open houses for juniors and seniors. Open houses provide students with an opportunity to tour the campus, view college life, and see if this college is the right fit for you. Please visit college websites for more info.

Questions to Ask College Representatives:

(via www.collegeboard.org)

1. What makes your college unique?
2. What academic programs is your college most known for?
3. Where do kids hang out on campus?
4. What happens on weekends—are there things to do on campus or in town, or do most kids go home?
5. Are fraternities and sororities a big part of campus life?
6. What are the housing options for freshmen?
7. Do many students live off campus?
8. What are the most popular clubs and activities?
9. What's the surrounding area like? Is it easy to get around?
10. What are the most popular majors?
11. What support services are available (academic advisers, tutors, etc.)?
12. Are there opportunities for internships?
13. Is there job placement help for graduates?
14. Are any big changes in the works that I should know about?

F. Athletics

- Please check with our Athletic Director, Eddie Kane, if you plan on playing NCAA or NAIA level sports in college. You will have to register for eligibility on ncaa.org/eligibility

G. Develop a plan to finance your education

- Financial aid is primarily obtained from the following four sources you will complete senior year:
 - Federal Government (FAFSA)
 - State Government (FAFSA)
 - Directly from colleges and universities
 - Private organizations

- Scholarship information and applications sent directly to Resurrection are primarily private aid programs, such as independent community, religious, ethnic, or fraternal organizations.
- Check professional associations, parent/guardian places of employment, unions, and websites for possible sources of financial aid. Scholarship applications generally have very specific requirements and the deadlines to apply vary greatly.
- Scholarship opportunities are listed on Naviance and Schoology during senior year. Additional scholarship opportunities can be found on the websites below.
- FAFSA will become available Oct. 1st of your senior year
- Most financial aid is distributed directly from the college. Colleges decide how much and in what form the money is given. They usually require the family to submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or CSS Financial Aid Profile to document the financial need. The FAFSA and CSS are known as “need analysis” forms and require both student and parent assets and income.
- “Need” is defined (according to the CSS and FAFSA analysis) as the difference between what it costs to attend a particular school and what you and your family can afford to pay toward the cost. Since the cost varies from college to college, you may be eligible for different amounts of financial aid at each institution.
- You will not know the actual cost of attendance until you complete the college application, FAFSA or CSS Profile, and applicable scholarship applications

Check out these scholarship websites senior year!

<http://connection.naviance.com/resurrection>

- Click on Scholarship Match and Scholarship List under the “colleges” tab
- www.fafsa.ed.gov Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- www.fastweb.com scholarship search, financial advice
- www.collegezone.com Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- www.gocollege.com planning, finance, terminology, advice
- www.finaid.com financial aid service, scholarship search

H. Attend College 101 and other college prep programs provided by Student Services

- Ms. Rogers will hold classes throughout second semester to help guide students through the college application process. These classes will be conducted during seminar. The following topics will be covered:
 - Finding the Best Fit College
 - Financial Aid Overview
 - Resumes
 - The College Essay
 - The ACT
 - College Admission Trends
- Other events related to college will be communicated via Schoology

Admission Guides:

OPEN - All high school graduates are accepted into the school's enrollment until capacity is reached.

TRADITIONAL - The majority of freshmen who are accepted are in the top 50% of their high school graduating class.

SELECTIVE - The majority of freshmen who are accepted are in the top 25% of their high school graduating class.

HIGHLY SELECTIVE - The majority of freshmen who are accepted are in the top 10% of their high school graduating class.

MOST SELECTIVE – The majority of freshmen who are accepted are in the top 5-10% of their class with a very rigorous curriculum (Ivy League, Notre Dame, Stanford, Duke, Northwestern, University of Chicago, etc.).

GLOSSARY

- **COMMON APPLICATION FORM:** A standard college admission application form designed to facilitate the application process for college applicants and high school counselors; accepted by over 500 private colleges and universities.
- **DEFERRED ADMISSION:** A practice of allowing an accepted candidate to postpone enrollment at college, usually for a period of an academic term or year.
- **EARLY ACTION:** An application preference allowing students to apply and be notified of an admission decision well in advance of the regular notification date. If accepted, the student is not committed to enroll.
- **EARLY DECISION:** An application that permits students to apply and be notified of an admission well in advance of the regular notification date. Applicants agree to accept an offer of admission and, if accepted, to withdraw their applications from other colleges. THE ACCEPTANCE IS BINDING.
- **EFC:** Expected family contribution
- **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):** The free federal form completed by students applying for Pell Grants, student loans, and federal college-based aid. It establishes a single estimate of a student's or family's ability to pay for higher education and is generally available from high school guidance offices.
- **NEED-BASED AID:** Financial aid based on ability to pay.
- **MERIT-BASED AID:** Based on individual achievements and talents
- **OPEN ADMISSION:** An admission policy granting acceptance to all secondary graduates without regard to academic record, test score results, or additional qualifications.
- **ROLLING ADMISSION:** Applications are reviewed as they are received and applicants are notified as decisions are made.
- **SAR:** Student Aid Report, sent to student and colleges indicated on the FAFSA, states the EFC