

# Preparing for the College Admission & Selection Process

Guidance Departments of Olentangy,  
Liberty & Orange High Schools  
Olentangy High School

# Preparing for the College Admission & Selection Process

Identify Career & College Interests

College admission factors

College testing programs

College planning and application timeline

# Identify Possible Career Paths to determine best post-secondary option

- Volunteer in the community.
- Talk to adults and ask questions about their careers. Ask about job shadowing/interning.
- Take elective courses in areas of potential interests.
- Mentorship, Teacher Academy and Service Learning Programs at the high school provide opportunities for internships in the community.
- Utilize the career exploration tools and assessments in Naviance (Strengths Explorer, Do What You Are, Career Interest Profiler).

# Considerations in choosing a college

- Identify type of education needed for desired degree/career path
- Compare and contrast admission requirements for your field of study/major at various universities.
- Identify most important factors: programs, cost, location, size, religious affiliation, athletics, clubs, etc.
- Start researching universities, colleges or other post-secondary institutions that offer the field of study that meets your needs.
- Explore honors and scholars programs at these universities-do they offer opportunities that promote your interests, or do they offer additional scholarships?

- Consider scholarship and financial aid opportunities at each university. Compare the factors that go in to the merit scholarships.
- Visit the university and program of interest and ask about accreditation for specific college majors.
- Meet with the college admission reps that visit the high school.
- Look at internship opportunities at the university.
- What are the housing requirements/opportunities?
- Compare your academic profile to the university's admitted freshman class profile (university website). In terms of acceptance, is this a safe school or a stretch school? What about the particular major of interest- what are the admission requirements (college websites)?

# Resources

- \* [collegeconfidential.com](http://collegeconfidential.com)
- \* [collegeportraits.org](http://collegeportraits.org)
- \* [nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)
- \* [Ohiohighered.org](http://Ohiohighered.org)
- \* [campustours.com](http://campustours.com)
- \* [ohiocareercolleges.org](http://ohiocareercolleges.org)
- \* Naviance Family Connection (link from OLSD)
- \* [collegedata.com](http://collegedata.com)
- \* [aicuo.edu](http://aicuo.edu) (Association of Independent Colleges & Universities)
- \* [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org)
- \* [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org)
- \* [Collegeboard.com](http://Collegeboard.com)
- \* [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org)

# What are the factors in college admissions?

- Academic preparedness demonstrated through college preparatory curriculum, grades , and test scores.
- The high school record #1 factor in college readiness
- “GRIT” another important factor if a student has faced adversity or overcome obstacles and continued to work diligently.
- Admission staff are looking for a variety of factors that highlight a student’s diversity, experiences, affiliations, activities and interests. Value is place on the depth and leadership in activities as opposed to number of activities.

# Admission Plans

- Open enrollment colleges: Must have high school diploma or equivalency. These include community colleges, regional campuses with transfer option, some private and public universities. Be aware that there are programs/majors in the open enrollment universities that have competitive admission processes. In order to declare any major you must have non-remedial test scores or fulfill remediation requirements.
- Moderately selective
- Highly selective



# NCAA Requirements

- \* **Students must first go to the NCAA and register with the eligibility center**
  - \* [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)
- \* **Continue to make sure your student is taking the courses to meet core course requirements**
- \* **When taking the ACT/SAT request test scores to be sent to the eligibility center (code is #9999)**
- \* **Student can request to have their transcript sent to the NCAA through Naviance at the end of the junior and senior years.**

# College Vocabulary

**Regular Decision**- traditional time frame for the college application/acceptance process. Every school's deadline is different.

- **Rolling Admission** – Students are accepted/denied as applications are received.
- **Early Decision**- Option for the application to be one “first choice” school. Application is early in the fall (Nov. 1) with an expected response in December. If accepted, you must withdraw your application from all other schools and attend this school in the fall. This option is binding.
- **Early Action**- option for application that can result in earlier acceptance. Students can choose more than one school to apply early. Some schools give first consideration of scholarships to early action applicants.
- \* **Common Application**- an online application that many colleges use. Most schools have a “supplement” application to the common app. The Common Application can be found at: [Commonapp.org](http://Commonapp.org)
- \* **Coalition Application**- is a NEW online application for applying to colleges. The Coalition Application can be found at: [coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](http://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org)

# Alphabet Soup

ACT

ACT

College Board

PSAT

SAT I

SAT II

AP

# Primary Resources

\*ACT

\*[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

\*College Board

\*[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

# College Admissions

- \* Just one piece of the process
  - Application
  - High School record (transcript)
  - Test scores
  - Resume
  - Other
    - \* Recommendations, interviews, auditions, portfolios, etc)

# ACT

- \* Measures educational development and college readiness
- \* Four sections
  - \* English, math, reading, science reasoning, and an optional writing test
- \* Approximately 4 hours with writing (8:00 am – 1:00 pm)
- \* Four sub tests and a composite (scored 1-36)
- \* Separate writing score (1-12)

# PSAT

- \* Administered to all Olentangy Juniors on **October 11!**
- \* Practice SAT I
- \* Measures **reading, math, and writing skills**
- \* Provides prediction on SAT I
- \* Serves as qualifying test for **National Merit Scholarship** competition (when taken junior year)
- \* **Semi-Finalist Status** is determined by the selection index (SI), or composite score, of all 3 sections
- \* Cut-off score for semi-finalist status is determined by the college board and is typically the top ½ of 1% of all 11th grade PSAT takers across the state and nation
- \* 2 hours 45 minutes
- \* Scores between 320-1520 (SAT out of 1600 because test is more challenging)

# SAT

Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-No wrong-answer penalty</li><li>-Score out of 1600<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Math: 800</li><li>-Evidence-based Reading/Writing: 800</li></ul></li><li>-Subscores/insight scores available</li><li>-Optional Essay scored separately</li></ul>
Anatomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-1 Evidence-based Reading/Writing test</li><li>-1 Math test</li><li>-1 Essay test (optional)</li><li>-4 answer choices for multiple choice</li></ul>
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-3 hours (or 3 hours 50 minutes w/ writing test)</li></ul>
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Available in print &amp; digitally</li><li>-Fewer questions w/ greater focus on in-depth analysis of content/evidence</li></ul>
Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Optional</li><li>-50 minutes</li><li>-Tests reading/writing/analysis skills</li><li>-Scored separately</li></ul>



# SAT II Subject Tests

- \* Measures students' knowledge and skills in particular subject
- \* Required by some of the **highly selective** colleges
- \* There are **20** SAT II
- \* Students should take SAT II upon completion of their highest level course in that subject
- \* 1 hour long, up to 3 SAT II may be taken on test day

# Advanced Placement (AP)

- \* Used for placement and/or award of credit hours
- \* Not used for admissions
- \* 34 exams
- \* Administered first two weeks of May (National Schedule)
- \* End of AP course exam
- \* [www.apcentral.collegeboard.org](http://www.apcentral.collegeboard.org)

# FAQ:

## *Do all colleges require standardized test for admissions?*

- \* Most colleges do require either ACT or SAT I
- \* Growing number of test optional colleges
- \* FairTest: National Center for Fair & Open Testing maintains a list of test optional colleges at [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)
- \* Additional tests (SAT II) maybe required these will be more highly selective schools

# FAQ:

## *When should I take the ACT/SAT I?*

- \* The testing companies recommend testing during the sixth semester
- \* Retesting should be late in junior year

### Note:

This February, Olentangy will offer a free opportunity for JUNIORS to take the ACT during the school day. This does not include the **writing portion**.

# FAQ:

## *How do I register for ACT, SAT I, SAT II?*

- \* Students register for these tests online, through a student account
- \* Students must upload a picture of themselves on the registration form
- \* Students receive and send scores through their student account

# FAQ:

## *How do colleges receive my test scores?*

- \* Students may request on the test registration form that their results be forwarded to 4 colleges
- \* Students may want to wait and forward their tests scores when they apply. This is done through their online account
- \* Students and their parents control their test results - the high school does not transmit test scores

# FAQ:

*Should I take these tests more than once?*

- \* Many students choose to retake the ACT and/or SAT
- \* Student may retake these test as often as they like
- \* Research suggests that results are not likely to improve without significant preparation

# FAQ:

## *Which test should I take?*

- \* It's completely up to you. Rest assured that colleges will accept both tests equally
- \* Pick the exam that suits you best: Research is the first step in choosing which standardized assessment is right for you



# FAQ:

## *Should I register for the optional ACT/SAT Writing test?*

- \* YES –at least once!
- \* Although most colleges aren't using it for admissions purposes, they may use it for placement purposes, or specific programs within the college may require it for admission

# FAQ:

*If a student takes both the ACT and SAT I and/or retakes either/both tests, how do colleges decide which score to use?*

- \* Most colleges use the student's highest score from a single administration
- \* Some colleges will “super score” by combining the highest sub scores from multiple administrations
- \* Admission practices vary significantly, so students should check with admission offices

# FAQ:

## *How do colleges use ACT and SAT scores?*

- \* The primary use of test scores is in the admission formula
- \* Many colleges also use the test scores for placement purposes
- \* Another common use of test scores is in scholarship decisions

# 2017-2018 ACT Test Dates

## 2017-2018 Test Dates (National)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 9, 2017	August 4, 2017	August 5-18, 2017
October 28, 2017	September 22, 2017	September 23-October 6, 2017
December 9, 2017	November 3, 2017	November 4-17, 2017
February 10, 2018*	January 12, 2018	January 13-19, 2018
April 14, 2018	March 9, 2018	March 10-23, 2018
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 5-18, 2018
July 14, 2018*	June 15, 2018	June 16-22, 2018

# 2017-2018 SAT Test Dates

Test Date	Normal Deadline	Late Registration*	Online Score Release
August 26, 2017	July 28, 2017	August 15, 2017	September 14, 2017
October 7, 2017	September 8, 2017	September 22, 2017	October 27, 2017
November 4, 2017	October 6, 2017	October 20, 2017	November 23, 2017
December 2, 2017	November 3, 2017	November 17, 2017	December 21, 2017
March 10, 2018**	February 9, 2018	February 23, 2018	March 29, 2018
May 5, 2018	April 6, 2018	April 20, 2018	May 24, 2018
June 2, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 18, 2018	June 21, 2018

*\*The late registration deadline is one week earlier if you are registering by mail.*

*\*\*Regular SAT only.*

# Transitioning to Post-Secondary

\* Identify post-secondary options early:

- ❖ Military
- ❖ Technical/trade school
- ❖ Community college
- ❖ Regional campus-transfer option
- ❖ Four year university
- ❖ Gap year

# College Planning Timeline

## Freshmen/Sophomore

- Look for university sponsored summer programs that introduce possible careers, and take advantage of opportunities to visit college campuses.
- Take the career interest profiler and utilize the career exploration tools in Naviance Family Connection
- Sophomores can meet with visiting college admission representatives at their high school.
- Attend college fairs-Columbus Suburban in September.
- Sophomores attend the DACC presentation and consider the field trip to the DACC in the fall.
- Talk with adults about their careers.
- Attend January academic planning meeting with your counselor.
- When scheduling, stay on the college track while exploring interests through electives.

# College Planning Timeline

## Junior

- Meet with your counselor in September to learn about college testing and post-secondary planning, and in January for academic planning.
- Take PSAT /NMSQT in October (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)
- Mid-year take the ACT with **writing** and/or the SAT I. Complete preliminary testing by June. Determine need for SAT Subject Tests.
- Meet with college representatives visiting your high school throughout the fall.
- If applicable, register for the NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse ([eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org)).
- If interested in a military academy, meet with your counselor and attend a local informational meeting.
- Visit universities, take tours, attend university open houses and college fairs.
- Utilize the college search tools in Naviance Family Connection.



# College Planning Timeline

Senior

Sept.-Oct.

- Meet with your counselor in September to learn more about the college application process.
- Keep your senior year curriculum strong!
- Continue to research, visit colleges, and meet with college reps that visit the high school in order to narrow your college selections.
- Begin to look at applications so you can start writing the essays.

# College Planning Timeline

Senior

Sept.-Oct.

- \* NEW this year FAFSA application will be available Oct. 1!
- Be AWARE of application and scholarship deadlines-Watch out for Nov. 1 !
- Know if you are applying Regular Decision, Early Decision, Early Action
- Register and retake the ACT/SAT or SAT Subject Tests by December (last opportunity to meet Feb. deadline dates).
- Determine the need for a letter(s) of recommendation.

# College Planning Timeline

Senior

Nov.-Dec.

- Finalize college list and complete applications.
- Attend a financial aid workshop at either the Suburban College Fair or meet with a financial aid representative at a university.
- Gather information on scholarships:
  - Fastweb.com
  - Finaid.org
  - Fafsa.ed.gov
  - Cappex.com
  - Highfivescholarships.com
  - Meritaid.com
  - Naviance Family Connection
  - University websites

# College Planning Timeline

Senior  
Jan.-Feb.

- \* Finish last minute applications!
- \* Continue to gather information on scholarships.
- \* Complete the FAFSA, Jan. 1- Feb. 15, you may use previous year's tax information to estimate, then update later.
- \* Keep grades strong. You may need to send mid-year transcripts.

# College Planning Timeline

Senior

March-May

- \* If necessary, update FAFSA figures.
- \* Finalize all secondary college visits
- \* Continue scholarship search-most local ones now available on Naviance Family Connection.
- \* Final college decisions and financial award letters arrive by April 1st
- \* College deposit is required by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- \* Find out what happens next:
  - \* Orientation, Housing, Scheduling, Placement Exams

# Closing Thoughts

- Keep the process in perspective
- Set realistic goals
- Work together as a family
- Students must take ownership
- Discuss finances openly
- Start early and meet all deadlines
- RELAX AND ENJOY THE RIDE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

# Future Parent Meeting Dates

**September 24th 2017** – Columbus Suburban College Fair  
@1:00-3:30 PM Otterbein College

**October 4, 2017**- College Fair for Students with Learning Differences  
@ 6:30-8:00 PM- Gahanna Lincoln HS

**October 5, 2017**- Financial Aid Workshop  
@ 7:00PM- Orange HS

**November 9, 2017**- Educational Options  
@ 7:00 PM- Orange HS

**December 7, 2017** – College Credit Plus  
@ 7:00 PM – Liberty HS