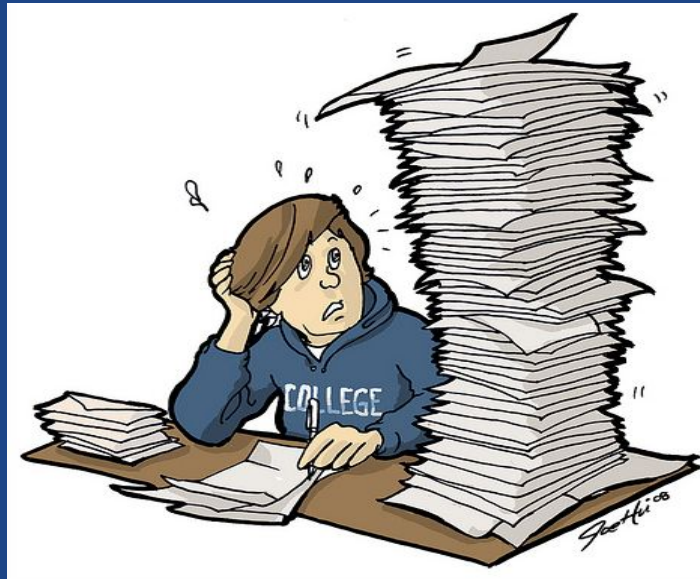


# COLLEGE NIGHT PRESENTATION

November 23, 2020



# AGENDA

- Discuss junior year “to do list”
- ACT Prep
- College Searches and Naviance
- Types of colleges and admission requirements
- Financial aid & Scholarships
- Senior year “to do” list

## **JUNIOR YEAR TO DO'S**

- ✓ Continue to study hard and strengthen your GPA
- ✓ Check admission requirements to plan for sr year
- ✓ Take PSAT - Jan. 26th- Link in Schoology- Cost is \$17
- ✓ Prep for ACT – College Entrance Exam

ACT Exam at Cooper March 2nd

- ✓ Review College & Career Center calendar to meet with admission reps from various colleges- virtual for now



# ACT Test Prep

**Packets:** Download at [www.actstudent.org/testprep](http://www.actstudent.org/testprep)

**Online:** *ACT Academy-*

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/act-academy.html>

*Kaplan-* <https://www.kaptest.com/act/free/act-practice>

*Study Point-* <https://www.studypoint.com/>

**Classes:** [www.advantageprep.net](http://www.advantageprep.net)

**Books:** Hennepin County Lib & Digital Books- [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org)

# ACT/SAT Differences



## Scoring:

ACT ranges from 1-36

MN average=21.4

SAT ranges from 400-1600

MN average=1284



## Content:

ACT includes Science Reasoning, SAT does not

ACT math includes more content and SAT includes more critical thinking and problem solving

# ACT and SAT Similarities



➔ College Entrance Exams both universally accepted across the U.S.

➔ Approximately 4 hours in length w/writing section

➔ Similar Cost. Both offer fee waivers to students on free/reduced lunch.

Great Article Comparing the 2--

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/act-vs-sat>

# NCAA Student Athletes

For Division I and II colleges

Register at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)



Ms Ritter: NCAA counselor

Make appt with Ms Ritter to review academic eligibility requirements

# How to Begin Your College Search



- ✓ Review your Career Interest Profiler results in Naviance to identify career fields. Do Supermatch Search
  - 1. Go to <https://chs.rdale.org>
  - 2. Go to Quicklinks (top right side) and click on Naviance
  - 3. Click on student and “Continue with Clever”
  - 4. Career Interest Profile and Supermatch are great options to help in the search process
  - 5. Add colleges of interest to your “Colleges I’m thinking about” list.



# Naviance College Search

The screenshot shows the Naviance College Search website. At the top, a teal navigation bar contains links for Home, Courses, Colleges, Careers, About Me, and My Planner. Below this is a dark blue banner with the text "t SuperMatch ?". A secondary navigation bar includes links for Admission, Diversity, Institution Characteristics, Cost, Student Life, and Athletics. A dropdown menu is open from the "Colleges" link, showing three options: "COLLEGES Home" with a house icon, "COLLEGES I'm thinking about" with a heart icon, and "COLLEGES I'm applying to" with a graduation cap icon. Below the dropdown, a "Saved Search" section is visible, followed by a "Must Have" section with the text: "A **Must Have** is anything you absolutely need to be happy and successful." To the right of this text is a "Start Over" button. The bottom of the page features a row of "Academic Match" and "Pick Your Path" sections.

Home Courses Colleges Careers About Me My Planner

t SuperMatch ?

Admission Diversity Institution Characteristics Cost Student Life Athletics

COLLEGES Home

COLLEGES I'm thinking about

COLLEGES I'm applying to

Saved Search

Start Over

**Must Have**

A **Must Have** is anything you absolutely need to be happy and successful.

Academic Match Pick Your Path

## College Search Continued...



- ✓ Take formal tours of 3-5 college campuses-- virtual tours are available on most sites now

[https://admissions.tc.umn.edu/visit/index.html#virtual\\_visit](https://admissions.tc.umn.edu/visit/index.html#virtual_visit)

- ✓ Talk to students about the college and life on campus
- ✓ Think about factors that are important to you
- ✓ Meet with department faculty when in person



## Local Technical Colleges



- ▶ Prepares you for a specific career  
you can complete in 1-2 years and enter  
the workforce



- ▶ Tuition range \$5,200-5,900
- ▶ Eligibility-High School Diploma
- ▶ Accuplacer test

## Local Community Colleges

- ▶ Provides general coursework for transfers to a 4 year college
- ▶ Provides specific career pathways to complete with 1-2 years training
- ▶ Tuition range \$5,200-5,900
- ▶ Eligibility: High School Diploma
- ▶ Accuplacer Test



# Minnesota Public 4 Year Colleges

- ▶ Bachelor/advanced degrees
- ▶ On-campus living
- ▶ Tuition range \$8,000-15,000
- ▶ Eligibility: B average (2.8-3.0 range)
- ▶ ACT scores of 21 or SAT scores of 1060

\*Some colleges are test optional





## Private 4 Year Colleges

- ▶ Bachelor/advanced degrees
- ▶ On-campus living
- ▶ Tuition range \$22,000-57,000
- ▶ Religious affiliation
- ▶ Eligibility: B average (2.8-3.0 range)
- ▶ ACT scores of 21 or SAT scores of 1060

\*Some colleges test optional

# Private College Requirements

- Letters of recommendation
  - Choose 2 academic core teachers who know you well.  
Only needed at specific private colleges
- Essay
  - Spend a great amount of time on this piece
- Interview
  - Selective colleges may require or encourage this





# Build Your Resume

Include....

Education, including GPA

Achievements/Awards

Job History

Clubs/Organizations/Athletics

Hobbies

Volunteer Work





# College & Career Center Resource



**Room 211**

# ESSAY TIPS

1. **Think small:** Find a story or event in your life that really meant something to you.
2. **Write first, edit later:** You can always cut back if it's too wordy
3. **It's all in the details:** Create a sense of time, place & setting
4. **Entertain:** Is it fun to read?

# FINANCIAL AID

## FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- Application opens on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> of SENIOR YEAR  
(use your taxes from prior-prior year- 2020)

## Why should you fill it out?

- Grants - federal and state grants offer money based on financial need that doesn't have to be paid back (FREE MONEY)
- Loans - money that helps pay for college but has to be paid back. Federal loans are generally offered at a lower rate than private loans.
- Scholarships - colleges and universities offer scholarships of varying amounts that don't have to be paid back (FREE MONEY)
  - Merit Based - these are based on your grades and test scores
  - Athletic - Division I and II offer these based on athletic ability
  - Need based - these are based on your financial need

# HELPFUL HINTS

- Use 2020 tax information starting on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> of senior year to start your FAFSA!
- More scholarships, grants, & work study available! (DEADLINES VARY!!)
- Use the IRS Data Retrieval tool if taxes were completed online!



# HELPFUL HINTS

## *Calculating Your Financial Need*

**Cost of Attendance (COA)\***

**– Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)\*\***

**= Financial Need**

\*COA- how much it will cost you to go to school  
(ie- tuition, room & board, book fees)

\*\*EFC- a number that determines students' eligibility for federal student aid

**Finaid.org has calculators to get an idea of your EFC**



## DID YOU KNOW??

- A school's financial aid staff can consider circumstances such as unusual medical expenses, tuition expenses, or unemployment and can adjust your COA or some of the information used to calculate your EFC.
- *Contact the college or university's financial aid office directly in these special situations!*

# FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES



- **Financial aid packages** - release of financial aid packages will vary much more due to the earlier opening date of Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Compare** financial aid packages to see which college offers the best package to you
- **Universal deadline** - May 1<sup>st</sup> to determine which college you will attend
- Most 4 yr. colleges have a **May 1<sup>st</sup>** housing deposit deadline - but verify with your colleges!

# **MERIT SCHOLARSHIP TIPS**

**Merit scholarships is where the money is.**

- Not just for “A” students
- Many awards emphasize leadership or school involvement
- Nearly all colleges offer merit aid scholarships
- The average merit scholarship is \$5,000
- Many awards can be renewed year after year
- Schools that are more expensive may be affordable with merit-based scholarships.





# SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

- **Naviance**- contains a list of all scholarships Cooper receives (local and national)
- **Fafsa.gov** - Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- **Getreadyforcollege.org**- MN Office of Higher Ed website that helps guide MN families
- **Fastweb.com**- Private scholarships
- **Myscholly.org** - Scholarship matching
- **Finaid.org** - Free student resource for learning about all types of financial aid
- **Raise.me**- a platform that helps 9-12th gr students prepare for college by earning scholarships for their HS achievements (UMD, Mankato, Gustavus, 250+ more)

# SENIOR YEAR TO DO LIST

## Fall Senior Year

- ☐ Visit more schools and finalize your college choices
- ☐ Complete Applications (3-5 schools)
- ☐ National College Fair @ Mpls Convention Center
- ☐ Retake ACT (if necessary)
- ☐ FAFSA - opens October 1
- ☐ College Application Week at Cooper (last week of October)

## Winter Senior Year

- ☐ FAFSA Completion Night (during a winter conference night)
- ☐ Complete FAFSA (if not already done)
- ☐ Stay on track w/ grades and extracurriculars

## Spring Senior Year

- ☐ Decisions! (May 1 is the traditional deadline)
- ☐ Request final transcript to be sent to college attending

# TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. Help your student understand the college search process
2. Encourage your student to explore college options
3. Be in the "back seat" - and not the driver - of the college search process
4. Be open to dialogue and responsive to questions
5. Be aware of deadlines and fees due
6. Provide positive outlook if your student is denied



ANY QUESTIONS???

