

Westlake High School

Guidance & Counseling Department

Presents:

College Night for Juniors



COLLEGE! Will I Get in Four Years from Now?

What are colleges looking for?

Know the most important factors for gaining admission, and compare them to what YOU are doing now, or will be doing throughout your four years of high school!

◊ A strong GPA

What it says to a college: *This student is conscientious and potentially capable of passing courses at our college.*

◊ A strong course load

What it says to a college: *This student has challenged him/herself with as many upper level courses he/she can handle, and has taken advantage of the resources offered by the school.*

◊ Strong SAT/ACT scores

What it says to a college: *This student has the innate and learned ability to handle college level courses and be successful, and not likely to fail and/or withdraw/drop out of school.*

(RETENTION RATE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO A COLLEGE'S IMAGE).

◊ Community Service

What it says to a college: *This is a caring and compassionate student that gives up his/her free time to help others in need. This student may have been exposed to others who are less fortunate than them and has decided to reach out, hopefully resulting in the ability to show empathy for others and an appreciation for those different from him/her.*

◊ Strong Involvement in Sports/Clubs/Activities

What it says to a college: *This student has made a contribution to his/her school and is a "do-er." He/she is likely to become involved in clubs and activities at our school too.*

◊ Part-time employment

What it says to a college: *This student may have a strong work ethic, holding a job for a significant period of time. This student has had valuable work experiences that may have taught him/her responsibility and how to get along well with others.*

◊ Strong counselor and teacher letters of recommendation

What it says to a college: *This student is being supported by people in the field of education and are putting their professional opinion in writing, therefore what they say holds a lot of weight and is taken seriously.*

◊ Perseverance/Overcoming Obstacles

What it says to a college: *This student has overcome adversity, or a significant obstacle in their young life; this proves he/she will not be quick to give up, or drop out, or fall to pieces when faced with challenges in college.*

◊ Demonstrated Interest towards the colleges

What it says to a college: *This student has taken the time to research a specific college and has networked with them through open houses, virtual events, campus tours and/or interviews; this affirms that they are a serious, qualified applicant who may likely end up attending if admitted.*

WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL
GUIDANCE & COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

ACT vs. SAT COMPARISON

ACT	SAT
Time: 3 hours, 30 minutes (with optional essay)	Time: 3 hours, 15 minutes No Essay
4 Sections: English, Math, Reading, Science Plus, an optional essay	4 Sections: Evidence-based Reading and Writing, Math w/out calculator, Math w/calculator
Score: 1-36 (based on an average of subsections scores, also 1-36) Optional writing score of 0-12, not included in overall composite score	Score: Out of 1600, 800 for Math, 800 for Evidence-based Reading & Writing Score:
Wrong answer penalty: No penalty	Wrong answer penalty: No penalty
Math content: Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2 & Trigonometry	Math content: Algebra, Data Analysis, some Geometry, Trigonometry, Algebra 2
Calculator: Permitted on whole test	Calculator: permitted for 37 questions but not for 20 questions.
General focus: Broad range of content and skills	General focus: In-depth analysis of evidence and content
Multiple Choice: 5 answer choices	Multiple Choice: 4 answer choices

Favorite Websites for College Research

College Search Sites

- 1) WHS Naviance – www.connection.naviance.com/westlakehs
- 2) College Board – www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- 3) Peterson's – www.petersons.com
- 4) N.A.C.A.C. – www.nacacnet.org
- 5) College Confidential – www.collegeconfidential.com
- 6) College Data – www.collegedata.com
- 7) Fast Web – www.fastweb.com
- 8) Unigo – www.unigo.com
- 9) Princeton Review – www.princetonreview.com
- 10) U.S. College Search – www.uscollegesearch.org

Financial Aid & Scholarship Websites

- 1) Free Application for Federal Student Aid – www.fafsa.ed.gov
- 2) Fastweb – www.fastweb.com
- 3) Scholarships.com – www.scholarships.com
- 4) Financial Aid – www.finaid.org
- 5) College Net – www.collegenet.com
- 6) Scholarship Monkey – www.scholarshipmonkey.com
- 7) Cappex – www.cappex.com
- 8) College Scorecard – www.collegescorecard.ed.gov
- 9) Student Aid – www.studentaid.ed.gov
- 10) NY State Higher Education – www.hesc.ny.gov

Additional Important Websites

- 1) Common application – www.commonapp.org
- 2) ACT – www.actstudent.org
- 3) College Board – www.collegeboard.com
- 4) SUNY – www.SUNY.edu
- 5) Test Optional Schools – www.fairtest.org
- 6) NCAA – www.ncaa.com
- 7) NCAA Clearinghouse – www.ncaastudent.org

CAMPUS VISITS

What to do.....

1. **CALL** for an appointment several weeks prior to your visit. Have several dates in mind.
2. **ARRIVE PROMPTLY. DRESS APPROPRIATELY.** This means neatly! It is not good to overdress. Be yourself.
3. **BRING** an *unofficial transcript* to the interview. You can obtain one from the Guidance Office. See your counselor or a secretary. **ASK** for it **SEVERAL DAYS** in advance, please.
4. **BE PREPARED** for your interview with several questions. Ask about topics pertinent to your situation. Do not ask questions that are answered in the catalog or view book.
5. **TAKE** the campus tour. See **ALL** facilities. (i.e. Freshman Dorms!) Sit in on a class, if possible. Some schools will arrange for overnight stays in a dorm. This is the best way to get a feel for the college.
6. **DO** include your parents.
7. **SPEND AS MUCH TIME** on the campus as possible. Ask several students (other than the tour guides) what they think of "their Alma Mater!"
8. **SEND A "THANK YOU" NOTE** to the Admissions Counselor who interviewed you.
9. A valid document of your college campus visit to account for your absence should be turned into the Attendance Office.
10. **Be sure to also take advantage of the many virtual visit options available on college websites including virtual tours, info sessions etc...**
11. **ANY QUESTIONS**, see your Counselor!

CAMPUS VISIT CHECKLIST

Are you ready for your trip? Consider the places you may want to visit while on campus. Of course, it would take more than a few days to visit all these centers of college activity, and not all of them may be significant to you. However, you should be familiar with every place where you can get information about the prospective choice. Decide which of these are of interest to you before you arrive on campus. In most cases, the admissions officer will help you arrange to speak with college personnel at each activity center.



- ACADEMIC ADVISING OFFICE
- ADMISSIONS OFFICE
- ART GALLERIES
- ATHLETIC FACILITIES
- AUDIOVISUAL CENTERS
- BOOKSTORE
- CAREER PLACEMENT OFFICE
- CLASSROOMS AND LECTURE HALLS
- COMPUTER FACILITIES
- DORMITORIES
- EATING FACILITIES
- FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
- FRATERNITY AND SORORITY HOUSES
- HEALTH CENTER
- INFORMAL GATHERING PLACES
- LANGUAGE LABORATORIES
- LIBRARY
- MUSIC PRACTICE ROOMS
- RADIO AND TV STATIONS
- RELIGIOUS CENTERS
- SCIENCE LABORATORIES
- STUDENT CENTERS
- STUDENT COUNSELING OFFICE
- THEATRICAL FACILITIES

CAMPUS VISIT NOTES WORKSHEET

Name of College: _____ Date of Visit _____

Names of people I met: _____

Academic Offerings: How is the curriculum structured? What are the strongest programs? Are there rigid requirements? What are the offerings in your field of interest? Who teaches most of the classes? What study abroad programs are offered? How available are internships? What support services are available?

Campus Facilities: What was the appearance of the campus? Are facilities up to date and accessible? Where has the college spent its money? ...on classrooms?...athletics?...dormitories?...library?...technology?

Location: What are the pluses and minuses of the college's location? What's there to do off campus? How is campus security? Is traveling convenient/affordable?

Social Life: What is the social life on campus? And off? Is it intellectually and culturally alive? Do the clubs and activities offered appeal to you? Is there an active Greek life? What opportunities are there to be involved in athletics?

Student Body: If you visit in the summer, be sure not to judge a college by just one tour guide. If you visit when classes are in session, what impressions did the students leave you with? Are they outgoing and friendly? Do they seem happy?

Your Overall Impressions: _____

Questions you still want answered: _____

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

Steps to take, Grade by Grade...

Get Ready. Get Set. Go!

Grade 9

- Ask your counselor for a list of your high school's NCAA core courses to make sure you take the right classes.

Grade 10

- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org.

Grade 11

- Check with your counselor to make sure you will graduate on time with the required number of NCAA core courses.
- Take the ACT or SAT and submit your scores to the NCAA using code 9999.
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Grade 12

- Finish your last NCAA core courses.
- Take the ACT or SAT again, if necessary, and submit your scores to the NCAA using code 9999.
- Complete all academic and amateurism questions in your NCAA Eligibility Center account at eligibilitycenter.org.
- After you graduate, ask your counselor to submit your final official transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.