

Planning for College & Technical School

Important Things to Remember

During Your Senior Year:

- Take challenging classes (science, math, IB/AP classes, Running Start classes at YVCC)
- Try different electives (at your school or YV Tech)
- Stay involved in sports, clubs and the community
- Don't miss deadlines (Senior Project, High School & Beyond Plan, Scholarships, College Admissions, Financial Aid, etc)!

Do you meet the extra requirements for entrance into a 4 year college?

- Taken at least 3 years of math (through Algebra 2)
 - * Algebra 2, Chemistry, Physics or math-based CTE course must be taken during your Senior Year
- Taken at least two years of biology, chemistry, physics or applied physics
 - * Western Washington University and University of Washington require one year of algebra-based chemistry or physics.
- Taken 2 years of the same foreign language
- Taken the SAT or ACT test

ACT

(Given @ West Valley High School)

Vs.

SAT

(Given @ Ike)

(for 4 year schools only)

★ Subjects Tested: English, Math, Reading, Science (+ optional Writing)

★ Accepted nationally

★ Curriculum-based: tests knowledge you've acquired through subjects taught in high school. It measures your readiness for college.

★ No penalty for incorrect answers

★ All multiple-choice

★ Basic Fee: \$34.00

★ Writing Essay: Optional (add \$15.50)

★ Total Test Time: 2 hours 55 minutes
(+ the optional writing test)

★ Perfect score: 36

★ Register online @
www.actstudent.org

★ Subjects Tested: Critical Reading, Math, Writing

★ Accepted nationally

★ Reasoning based: measures critical thinking skills students need for academic success in college; allows students to demonstrate their analytical & problem-solving abilities regardless of formal instruction

★ Penalty for incorrect answers

★ Math grid-ins (student writes in answer)

★ Basic Fee: \$49.00

★ Writing Essay: Mandatory

★ Total Test Time: 3 hours 45 minutes

★ Perfect score: 2400

★ Register Online @
www.collegeboard.com

Paying for College

- Talk honestly as a family about how you will pay for college
- Save your money (from your job, allowance, gifts, etc)
- Apply for scholarships
- Apply for federal student aid using the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - * Must be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen with a valid social security number
 - * must be registered for Selective Services (males only)

The FAFSA Process:

- Fill out the online form **beginning January 1st** using parent & student tax information submitted last spring @ www.fafsa.ed.gov (DO NOT wait until you file your 2011 taxes!)
- Make sure you meet deadlines (each college is different) * *College Bound Scholarship students must submit FAFSA online by 2/1!*
- Receive financial aid packages from schools where you are accepted (grants, scholarships, work study and/or loans)

To get scholarships...

- You must apply all year long!
- Be involved at school (clubs, sports) and in the community (clubs, sports, church, work, volunteering, etc)
- Use search engines like thewashboard.org & fastweb.com
- Go to the Counseling Center often for updates (bulletin boards, paper bulletins, school website)

ASVAB

(Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery)

- Entrance test to enlist in the US Military
- Covers eight areas including science, word knowledge, mathematics, and mechanical comprehension.
- Given at the high schools in February
- Practice tests available @ www.Military.com

COMPASS Test

(for 2 Year Schools only)

- Evaluates reading, math & writing skills for placement in college classes
- Untimed test (about 3 hours long)
- Available @ YVCC (\$15.75)
- Practice tests available @ www.act.org/compass

TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

- ★ Take or Retake SAT/ACT (for 4 year schools)
- ★ Request Recommendation letters
- ★ Apply for scholarships
- ★ Visit Colleges
- ★ Start college applications
- ★ Check with counselor if you are on-track for graduation

DECEMBER – FEBRUARY

- ★ Submit College Applications
- ★ Complete the FAFSA
 - * must be in by 2/1 for College Bound Scholarship Students
- ★ Apply for Scholarships

MARCH-JUNE

- ★ Take the Compass test (for 2 year schools)
- ★ Take the ASVAB test (for military entrance)
- ★ accept financial aid & admissions offers
- ★ Apply for Scholarships

To apply for a college or technical school, you will need:

(varies by school)

- Application (usually online)
- Application Fee
- Recommendation letter(s)
- Transcript
- Class rank
- SAT/ACT scores
- Essays

Running Start

Students take classes (part-time or full-time) for both high school and college credit at YVCC

The Process:

- Fill out an application from the website (www.yvcc.edu) or your counselor.
- Take the Compass test @ YVCC (schedule an appt. @ 574-4738; \$15.75 test fee)
- After you meet Compass test score requirements, meet with your school counselor
- Questions? Contact Skye Field @ sfield@yvcc.edu or 574-4971

Tips For Parents:

- Listen to your child (their goals, dreams, fears)
- Tell your child about your expectations (regarding grades, going to college, etc)
- Check your child's grades often using Skyward Family Access
- Keep in touch with your child's counselor and teachers
- Make sure your child pays their fines! If your child has fines, they cannot get their transcript, graduation tickets or diploma!