

The College Board's mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. We are a not-for-profit membership organization committed to excellence and equity in education.



The College Board thanks the students who shared their real-life stories for this brochure.

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## How Do You Get to College?

Here's a real-life look at college admissions.



"...trust me, early is better."

"The PSAT really helped..."

"You're not the only one going through it."

"...you only have to go through this once."

"My parents had zero saved for college..."



*"Start early. I've done it early and I've done it late, and trust me, early is better."*

**Marcus Austerfeld** is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis. He grew up in a suburb of Kansas City.

*"The PSAT really helped because it is so REAL. Going into the SAT, I felt like I kind of already knew what it was, so I felt more confident."*

**Jeanelle James** is a sophomore at Loyola University in Chicago, her hometown.

*"You're not the only one going through it. Millions of other kids go through it and survive."*

**Travis Sandoval** is a college sophomore majoring in film at the University of Texas in Austin. He grew up in Eagle Pass, Texas.

*"Keep in mind, you only have to go through this once. It's so pivotal in our lives—it's worth those hours it takes."*

**Nafisah Ula** is a freshman at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She grew up in Laramie, Wyoming.

*"My parents had zero saved for college and I want to go to a private college. That's really expensive, so I have been stressing about the money. I had to really make sure I got my scholarship applications in on deadline."*

**Denisse Gonzales** is a high school senior in Marietta, Georgia. She has applied for admission with a scholarship to both Emory University and one state college, and is waiting to hear.



*“Just get there!  
You’ll see college  
is amazing.”*

**Travis Sandoval**

*“College seemed a little scary. Like it would be an overwhelming amount of work, with huge classes and no help. That’s a misconception. Now I know college is amazing....Even if you’re scared of being in a big school, go to a smaller school because the experience is worth it.... And if you’re concerned about the financial part—you can get aid. Don’t worry about the loans, you can pay them back later. It’s worth it—the experience of living on your own and making your own decisions is worth it. And if you’re thinking that you don’t know what you’d do or study in college—you’ll figure it out when you get there. Just get there!”*



## With More Than 3,500 Colleges How Do You Choose the Right One for You?

Are you an okay student, at the head of your class, or somewhere in between? Like to party or chill out? Religious? Athletic? Artistic? Scientific? Once you start checking out colleges, you’ll find that they come in as many sizes, styles, and attitudes as the kids in your class. But, with more than 3,500 colleges and universities, how do you find the colleges that fit you best? Start by taking a look in the mirror and thinking about you—the kinds of classes you like, your favorite extracurricular activities, and the social scene that appeals to you most. Once you’ve taken a good look at yourself, it’s time to take a look at some schools. Use **College Search** on the College Board Web site to get started.

*“Now I understand why they make such a big deal about visiting.”*



# The SAT Preparation Center!™ Help Is Here!

If you’ve already ❶ taken the PSAT/NMSQT® and reviewed your personalized Score Report *Plus*, and ❷ taken a challenging courseload with a lot of reading and writing—you’ve already covered two of the three best ways to get ready for the SAT®! The third important way is to ❸ **get familiar with the test.**

## 3 Test Preparation Essentials

There’s no reason to go in cold when the College Board is here to help you get ready with free and low-cost SAT preparation tools. Visit the SAT Preparation Center™ at [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) today!



# FREE

At the SAT Preparation Center, you can download a FREE, full-length official SAT practice test! After you’ve taken it, review the free score and skills report with explanations for all the answers. You’ll also find loads of additional practice questions from the math, critical reading, and writing sections. And while you’re there, remember to sign up to receive the popular **SAT Question of the Day™** e-mails.

*Online Preparation Tools*

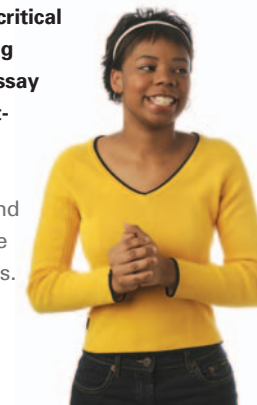
## Want Even More SAT® Study Tools?

Go for it with these options from the official test maker:

**The Official SAT Online Course™.** It’s personalized, comprehensive and it’s the only online course developed by the test maker. And since it’s accessible 24/7, you set the schedule! There are **18 interactive lessons, 3 official practice tests, and 600+ practice questions**—all with complete answer explanations. Plus, you’ll get immediate, computer-generated scores for your practice SAT essays.

**The Official SAT Study Guide: For the New SAT™.** Build your confidence and your understanding of the new SAT using the only book of practice tests created by the test maker. The study guide includes **8 official SAT practice tests, plus detailed descriptions of the math, critical reading, and writing sections, sample essay questions, and test-taking approaches.**

You’ll also receive free online score and skills reports for the book’s practice tests.



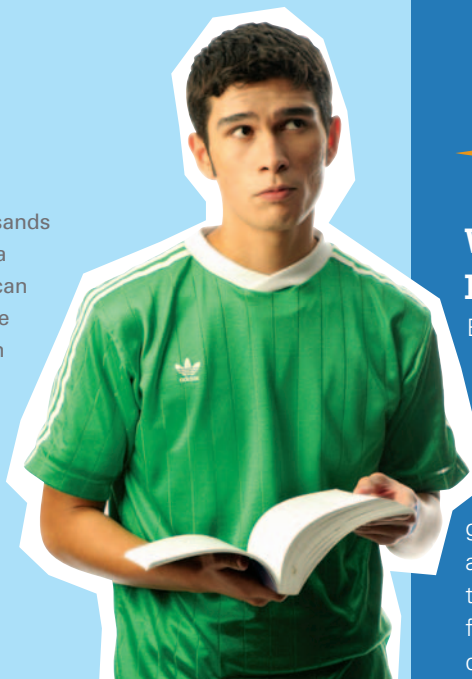


## Find a school that fits

Just CLICK on **"For Students"** to get everything you want to know about planning for and finding a college, the application and financial aid process, and College Board tests—including online registration!

Once you're in the "For Students" section of the Web site, click on **"College Search"**. It's a great starting

point for researching colleges. College Search takes your list of preferences, sorts through thousands of schools, and comes out with a list of good matches. Then you can find out more details about those schools in books, online, or from your school counselor.



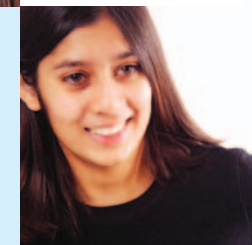
"The hardest part was applying for financial aid and scholarship programs."

### Wondering How to Pay for College?

Everyone does! But college can be affordable—whatever your family's income, wherever you live. Did you know that the majority of kids who go to college get some kind of financial aid to cover the gap between the cost of college and what their families can afford to pay? More than \$105 billion in financial aid went to college students last year, and most of it was based on need. So it's possible that the less money your family has, the more you can get! See how financial aid works at **"Pay for College"** at collegeboard.com. And check out all the different kinds of financial aid that are out there—from scholarships you don't have to pay back, to low-cost loans and "work-study" plans (a.k.a. student employment).

*"I started the application process insanely late..."*

Nafisah Ula



*"... my parents thought I was on top of it, but I wasn't. My high school counselor really helped a lot. Whenever I had a question, I'd go to her. And she'd say to me, okay, you're behind, but you can catch up....I found the application process was overwhelming....but it helped me switch from a high school mentality to a college mentality because it was about making decisions that affect the rest of my life....College is not what I expected....it's a huge cultural shift. I'm not in the minority—everyone is experiencing the same thing. Freshman year is crazy, it's great."*

# www.collegeboard.com

2 million kids visit every month!

## Get Realistic About College

# COST\$

Click on **"Pay for College"** and use this one-stop resource to learn about the latest on college costs, scholarships, financial aid, education loans, and college financing. Help yourself to tools like the **College Financing Calculator, Scholarship Search, and Online Loan Applications.**

# Register

## for the SAT Online

**Save your seat!** Get all the information you need about the College Board's tests—including **test dates and fees** for the SAT Reasoning Test™, SAT Subject Tests™, PSAT/NMSQT, AP®, and CLEP®. Use the registration link to sign up for the SAT and get your admission ticket e-mailed to you immediately. When the time comes, you can also **view your SAT scores** and send them to colleges right from this site.