

STEP UP TO COLLEGE

Preparing
Applying
Paying
Transitioning



PHILADELPHIA
FUTURES®

27th
EDITION

2016
2017

Find Your Fit

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PREPARE FOR THE SAT/ACT
PAGE 25

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Our Message to Students

“Post-secondary education plays a key role in building a strong workforce that will sustain the economic and social vitality of our city. Educating our citizens benefits all Philadelphians and the positive effects of this effort touch each of our neighborhoods.

We are grateful to Philadelphia Futures for publishing the *Guide*, which has helped thousands of young people in Philadelphia pursue their educational goals.”

Jim Kenney
Mayor
City of Philadelphia



“In the 21st century, a college degree is no longer a luxury. It is a necessity. Philadelphia Futures is committed to providing students with the resources necessary to be admitted to and succeed in college. We are most grateful to our funders who enable us to make the *Step Up to College Guide* available to all Philadelphia students. I encourage students to embrace all that the *Guide* has to offer and step into their future with confidence and optimism.”

Joan C. Mazzotti
Executive Director
Philadelphia Futures

Philadelphia's Guide to the College Preparation, Application, Admissions & Financial Aid Processes

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Welcome to the *Step Up to College Guide*



Saint Joseph's University

Step Up to College is published annually by Philadelphia Futures to accompany Philadelphia high school students and their families as they navigate the journey to college.

The *Guide* is designed to support students in grades nine through twelve,

and we encourage all high school students to become familiar with all that *Step Up to College* has to offer, including:

- The *Guide*'s step-by-step approach to becoming college-ready as well as college-bound;
- The interactive activities found in each section;
- The checklists located on pp. 54-58 geared to students in each grade in high school.

We also urge students to stay connected to Step Up to College throughout the year:

- Visit www.stepuptocollege.org
-  View the Step Up to College Video Series on YouTube /StepUpToCollege
-  Follow us on Twitter @StepUpToCollege
-  Like us on Facebook /StepUpToCollege
-  **And new this year,** download the free **Step Up to College mobile app** and access pages from the *Guide* whenever and wherever you find it helpful!

Step Up to College is distributed to high schools, libraries and community-based organizations throughout Philadelphia. Additional copies of the *Guide* may be obtained by contacting Philadelphia Futures at 215-790-1666, extension 425 or stepuptocollege@philadelphiafutures.org.

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WHY COLLEGE?

Making the decision to attend college is one of the most important decisions you will make — a choice that will impact the rest of your life and your family's future.

As you decide the right course for you, we invite you to meet four Philadelphia high school graduates who chose to go to college. Learn why they did so.

Jodie Chan

Assistant Director of Government Programs,
Office of Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Motivation High School '07

Rosemont College '11, B.A., Psychology

Rosemont College '16, M.S., Strategic Leadership

“I wanted to have new experiences and try new things. I met so many supportive role models in college who empowered me to step out of my comfort zone. I learned that you have to be open to everything, whether it's an obscure class or the newest club on campus. You have to jump in with both feet, and then step back and evaluate whether it's right for you. And that's what I did. By taking advantage of all that my college had to offer, I discovered my potential as a leader, which led me to my current position. I am proud of my decision to go to Rosemont College and where it has taken me.”



Melvin Pitts

Tax Analyst, Lincoln Financial Group

Benjamin Franklin High School '96

Penn State University '01, B.S.,

Accounting with minor in Business Law
Philadelphia University '12, M.S., Taxation

“If I hadn't gone to college, I would have gone right to work after high school, wherever someone would hire me.

But, I wanted more. I wanted a career that would not only provide financial independence, but also would be professionally and personally rewarding. Attending Penn State's Smeal College of Business introduced me to the field of accounting, opened doors for me and allowed me to find well-paying work. Ten years later, I went back to school for a master's degree to create more opportunity for myself. That gave me the edge I needed to pursue my current position at Lincoln Financial Group. College was the springboard to the life I wanted.”



Priscilla Nuñez

Clinical Nurse Educator, Women's and Children's Services,
Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia

Edison High School '03

Penn State University '08, B.S., Nursing

University of Pennsylvania '13, MSN, MPH

“My mother wanted a better life for her children. She didn't want us to struggle financially the way she did or to raise our children in the environment in which we grew up. Going to college allowed me to fulfill my mother's dream. By receiving our college degrees, my husband and I have changed the trajectory of our lives and our children's lives. College is now a given for our children. They will have a world of opportunity open to them, but we are hoping that they, too, will become Nittany Lions. I can't wait to see all that they will achieve.”

Terrance Williams

Fourth Grade Teacher, Bywood Elementary School, Upper Darby, PA

Overbrook High School '01

Gettysburg College '05, B.A., Sociology

Holy Family University '08, M.Ed.

“I wanted a career that would allow me to give back, but I wasn't sure what that career would be. I chose to attend Gettysburg College, a small liberal arts school that would give me the opportunity to explore a range of options. I also recognized that the scholarship offered by Gettysburg would allow me to graduate college without substantial debt, providing the flexibility to choose the career I wanted. At Gettysburg, I found my calling. Being a teacher in an urban school district allows me to help kids just like me. I love giving my students advice about college and the skills they will need to be successful.”



PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

IN THIS SECTION:

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and talents, pp. 7-8

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ACTIVITIES:

Career Self-Assessment, pp. 7-8

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Dickinson College

Becoming a successful college applicant and college student takes planning, vision and dedication. Understanding yourself, your goals and your options — and doing your best in high school — puts you in a position to make good choices about your future.

Assemble Your College Prep Team

Getting to and succeeding in college requires a team effort. One of your first steps on the path to college is building your team of trusted advisers — individuals who care about you and your future and who will support and guide you.

Who Should Be on Your Team?

- **Parents and guardians** can provide personal support.
- **Teachers** can offer academic support, help with your college application essay and write college recommendations.
- **Guidance counselors** will help you choose college prep classes, focus your college search and meet application requirements and deadlines.
- **Mentors** (this can be a coach, trusted family friend or program adviser) can offer advice and encouragement.
- **Family members and friends** who have attended college can share valuable insights.

A Special Message for Parents and Guardians: *Help Lead the Team*

You are essential to your child's preparation for college. Whether or not you went to college, supporting your child throughout this process and sharing your life experiences will make a big difference. The following tips will help you in this role:

- **Connect and stay in touch with your child's teachers.**
- **Reach out to your child's guidance counselor** to discuss required high school courses and suggested colleges.
- **Visit colleges with your child.**
- **Log on to the [NAViance](#) Family Connection** provided to students by the School District of Philadelphia (and other schools your child may be attending) to help make decisions about colleges, scholarships and careers.
- **Use this publication!** *Step Up to College* will guide you and your child through the college preparation, application and financial aid processes.

Assess Your Interests and Strengths

Getting to know yourself, identifying your passions, finding what energizes you — these are some of the most important steps in creating your future. Knowing yourself requires ongoing self-reflection — looking inside, asking questions and being open to exploring new ideas. By assessing your interests and strengths, you will be able to connect your talents and skills to college majors and career possibilities.

Activity: Career Self-Assessment

Use this worksheet to begin discovering and learning about your skills, interests and strengths.

A. First, list your high school academic courses. Next, write what you enjoy about your courses (what is interesting about the material and/or assignments). Then, note the areas in which you excel.

Course	What Do I Enjoy?	At What Do I Excel?
Example: Biology	Dissecting and learning about the body, like science	Working with others in a lab, note-taking

Which two or three academic courses do you enjoy the most?

What are your strongest academic skills?

B. Second, list your extracurricular activities (clubs, sports, volunteer activities, part-time jobs, internships) both in school and in your community. Next, indicate what you enjoy about each activity and ways you excel.

Extracurricular Activity/Employment	What Do I Enjoy?	At What Do I Excel?
Example: Acting in school plays	Expressing myself, performing for an audience	Public speaking, memorization, improvisation, time management

Which three extracurricular/employment activities do you enjoy the most and why?

What are your strongest non-academic skills (e.g., leadership, organization, teamwork, creativity)?

Activity: Career Self-Assessment (Continued)

Now take a look at how a sampling of skills, interests and talents might translate into college majors and careers.

If you like to:	You could major in:	This could translate into a career as a/an:
Draw, paint or take pictures	Art History, Visual Arts, Theater Arts, Graphic Arts	Art Therapist, Museum Curator, Landscape Architect, Photographer, Filmmaker, Art Appraiser, Interior Designer, Graphic Designer
Build things	Environmental Planning and Design, Mechanical or Civil Engineering, Architecture	Urban Planner, Landscape Architect, Building Inspector, Manufacturing Engineer, Architect, Design Engineer
Cook or bake	Business, Hospitality, Public Health, Nutritional Sciences	Chef, Dietitian, Event Planner, Food Buyer, Nutritionist, Food Service Manager
Exercise or play sports	Exercise Science and Kinesiology, Dance, Anatomy, Communications	Dance Therapist, Physical Therapist, Sports Event Coordinator, Athletic Director, Exercise Physiologist, Fitness Coordinator
Read or write	English, Writing, Education, Comparative Literature, American Studies	English Teacher, Editor, Journalist, Lawyer, Librarian, Advertising Executive, Critic, Writer, Paralegal, Communications Director
Speak or study languages	Foreign Languages, Linguistics, Audiology	Translator, Interpreter, Television Producer, Speech Pathologist, Editor, ESL or Foreign Language Teacher
Study math	Finance, Mathematics, Economics, Statistics, Logistics and Materials Management	Accountant, Actuary, Statistician, Math Teacher, Quality Control Specialist, Financial Analyst, Economist, Supply Chain Manager
Study science	Nursing, Environmental Sciences, Public Health, Biology, Chemical Engineering, Meteorology	Nurse, Physician's Assistant, Chemist, Pharmacist, Science Teacher, Toxicologist, Crime Lab Analyst, Biologist, Lab Technician, Ecologist, Meteorologist
Take care of people	Nursing, Education, Women's Gender Studies, Psychology, Social Work	Nurse, Midwife, Social Worker, Psychologist, Community Service Director, Physician's Assistant, Occupational Therapist, Guidance Counselor
Use or fix computers	Computer Science, Electrical or Computer Engineering	Web Designer, IT Specialist, Database Analyst, Technical Writer, Software Engineer, Computer Programmer, Aviation Electronics Engineer

Use the online resources listed below to further explore the college majors and career paths that may be a good fit for you:

- www.educationplanner.org
- www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- www.mynextmove.org.
- If your school provides NAVIANCE Family Connection, you also will have access to the following tools:
 - "Career Interest Profiler"
 - "Roadtrip Nation."

Be a Successful Student

Colleges want successful, involved students who care about school and their community. Become a well-rounded student, which shows your ability to balance academics with extracurricular and community activities.

Challenge Yourself Academically

Colleges want to see that students are willing and able to challenge themselves academically. To show your readiness for college-level work, choose the most demanding classes your high school offers and seek out enrichment programs:

- **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses** are college-level classes offered in high school. An AP exam is offered at the end of each AP course. A high score on this exam can qualify you for cost-saving college credits.
- **Dual Enrollment Programs** allow high school students to take classes at local colleges to earn high school and college credits. Ask your guidance counselor whether your school offers these programs.
- **Pre-College Summer Enrichment Programs** are offered on college campuses to help high school students learn more about subjects that interest them, while getting a taste of college life. Many programs offer financial assistance.



Community College of Philadelphia

Minimum Academic Requirements

While academic requirements vary among colleges, most four-year colleges require applicants to have:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of math
- 3 years of social studies
- 2-3 years of (lab) science
- 2-3 years of a foreign language.

Be Proactive about Academic Difficulties

Colleges do not seek perfection. They look for improvement throughout high school, especially during your junior and senior years. If you are having difficulty in a class, act quickly:

- Talk to your teachers about how you can improve your grades.
- Find out about tutoring options.
- Consider attending summer school to improve your grades.

Get Involved and Show Leadership

Volunteering, working or participating in extracurricular activities — while earning good grades — demonstrate your work ethic, commitment to the community and ability to manage your time.

- **Long-term participation** in activities, including sports, clubs, art and music, illustrates your interests and shows dedication and perseverance. Taking on a leadership role shows your willingness to be accountable for the success of the activity.
- **Volunteerism** indicates you care about your community and others.
- **Part-time jobs and internships** showcase your responsibility and introduce you to career options that fit your interests and talents.

Get Organized

Now is the time to develop the habits that will help you in high school and college. Master the following strategies:

Develop Good Study Habits

- **Learn to prioritize.** A test tomorrow is more important than an assignment due next week.
- **Take careful notes,** be sure to review them later — and then review them again.
- **Read, read, read!** To develop a strong vocabulary and prepare for college-level material, read every day.
- **Figure out where and when you work best.** Do you work better alone or in a group? Should your space be quiet, or do you enjoy background music? Experiment, and when you find something that works, stick with it.
- **Establish a daily routine for doing homework.** Begin with the most challenging tasks while you are most alert.

Manage Your Time

- **Use a planner** to keep track of assignments, college application deadlines and extracurricular activities.
- **Make a daily “To Do” list.** Prioritize your tasks and do the most important ones first.
- **Break long-term assignments into smaller chunks,** so they are easier to accomplish.
- **Practice self-care.** Get enough sleep and eat well to stay healthy and focused.
- **Develop the discipline to avoid digital distractions.** If your phone or social media distract you, turn them off, log out, or block an app until you complete your task.

Manage Your Online Reputation

College admissions representatives, coaches and potential employers check out applicants online. Remember: nothing you post on social media is private. Start protecting your online reputation now.

- **Check yourself out.** Type your name into a search engine and set up a Google alert for your name. Delete any unwanted content.
- **Think before you post.** Remember: what you post online is a reflection of who you are.
- **Set your privacy settings to “Friends only.”** Regularly check for changes to privacy rules.
- **Keep it clean.** Do not post inappropriate, offensive or embarrassing content or photographs.
- **Remove tags from embarrassing photos or posts.**
- **Choose your “Friends” carefully.** Block individuals who post inappropriate content to your feeds.



University of the Sciences

Set Personal Goals

You know what you want: to get into college, obtain your degree and start a career. The question is: how do you get there? Setting specific, well-defined goals will help you progress toward your dreams.

Organize Your Goals

Achieving your goals will be easier if you break them down into short-term, mid-term and long-term objectives:

- **Short-term goals** can be quickly accomplished in days or weeks.
- **Mid-term goals** will take more time, sometimes weeks and even months.
- **Long-term goals** can take months or even years to achieve.

Activity: Create Your Action Plan

Identify your goals and the steps you need to reach them. Be as specific as possible. Check your plan often to see how you are doing, celebrate your successes and make adjustments.

Short-Term Goals: Write down two short-term goals that relate to your college readiness (e.g., *get a B or better on next week's Spanish test*):

Goal 1: _____

Goal 2: _____

Write down specific steps (what, when, how) to achieve each goal (e.g., *prepare flash cards tonight after dinner, study one hour every day, study with classmates who do well in Spanish*):

Steps for Goal 1: _____

Steps for Goal 2: _____

Mid-Term Goals: Write down two mid-term goals related to preparing for college (e.g., *improve my math grade by at least one letter by the end of the school year*):

Goal 1: _____

Goal 2: _____

Write down specific steps (what, when, how) you will take to achieve each goal (e.g., *ask my teacher or counselor for help finding a math tutor, review problems I get wrong on tests with tutor or teacher*):

Steps for Goal 1: _____

Steps for Goal 2: _____

Long-Term Goals: Write down two long-term goals tied to your readiness for college and your future career (e.g., *study journalism in college*):

Goal 1: _____

Goal 2: _____

Write down specific steps (what, when, how) you will take to achieve each goal (e.g., *research college journalism programs online, work on the school newspaper, find an internship at a local newspaper*):

Steps for Goal 1: _____

Steps for Goal 2: _____

Create Your Resumé

Your resumé outlines your educational background, involvement at school and in the community, work history and achievements. It provides colleges and potential employers with important information about you in one organized document.

Write it Down

The easiest way to create your resumé is to start early, preferably in ninth grade, and update it each year. Your resumé should include the following information:

- **Contact information:** Include your name, home address, phone number and email address.
- **Education:** List the name and location of your high school and the date you expect to graduate (e.g., *Philadelphia High School, Philadelphia, PA, Class of 2017*).
- **Academic enrichment:** List the names of enrichment programs (school, after-school and summer) you have completed. Include the sponsoring organization and the dates you participated (e.g., *Philadelphia Environmental Initiative, August 2015*).



Arcadia University

- **Extracurricular and volunteer activities:** List the clubs, sports teams, arts programs, community service experiences, etc., in which you are involved. Add leadership roles and dates of participation. Highlight special accomplishments (e.g., *Varsity Basketball Team, Co-Captain, 2015* • *Neighborhood Community Garden, Volunteer, 2014–2015* • *School Newspaper, Sports Editor, 2014–Present*).
- **Honors and awards:** List any honors you have received during high school. Include the sponsoring organization, award title and date received (e.g., *Honor Roll, each semester, 2013–Present* • *Young Scientists of Philadelphia, Award for Excellence, 2014*).
- **Work experience and internships:** List any jobs you have held during high school. Include the company's name, your title, dates of employment and key responsibilities (e.g., *Joe's Coffee Shop, Waiter, June–August 2015*).
- **Skills:** Include additional skills or training that might be interesting to a college or a prospective employer, such as languages spoken, computer skills or specialized training (e.g., *Fluent in Mandarin* • *Proficient in desktop publishing programs* • *Certified in first aid*).

Resumé Writing Tips

Your resumé is serious business:

- Be authentic. Do not embellish the truth or include anything that is inaccurate.
- Use complete names of programs, businesses and awards.
- Do not use a cute, funny or inappropriate email address.
- Keep it active with strong verbs such as *participated in, organized, created, led* and *received*.
- List your most recent experiences first. Include dates.
- Proofread and edit your resumé and ask others to review it.
- Do not list your references.
- Limit your resumé to one page.

Now you are ready to create your resumé by using the format and additional tips offered on the following page.

Julio Ruiz

4515 Locust Street, Apt. 5
Philadelphia, PA 19139
215-555-1212
JulioRuiz@gmail.com

Use your formal name and a larger font to make it stand out.

Use a professional email address that identifies you.

EDUCATION

Expected Graduation June 2017 **Commonwealth High School, Philadelphia, PA**

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

September 2014–Present **Philadelphia Futures — Sponsor-A-Scholar Program**

- Attend academic enrichment classes from September through June
- Participate in summer academic programming
- Attend monthly Communications Club and Film Series meetings

Vary the font size to emphasize section headings.

June 2016

Temple University Summer Owls Leadership Program

- Completed two communications courses led by Temple professors
- Facilitated a 10-student group of community service volunteers

Bullet point details. Describe your role in a phrase using action verbs.

EXTRACURRICULAR AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

2016–Present **The Gazette**, Editor, Commonwealth High School Newspaper

2016–Present **The Fusion**, Assistant Editor, Commonwealth High School Yearbook

July 2016 **Democratic National Convention**, Media Room Volunteer

2013–2016 **The Gazette**, Features Writer, Commonwealth High School Newspaper

2013–2014 **Representative Dwight Evans**, Campaign Volunteer

Organize your resumé with consistent formatting.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2013–Present **Honor Roll**, Commonwealth High School

2016 **High School Excellence in Journalism Award**, Finalist

2015 **High School Democrats Commitment Award**, Recipient

WORK EXPERIENCE

May 2014–Present **The Westside Weekly**, Philadelphia, PA

Intern

- Proofread articles
- Take photos at community events

June–August 2014 **Representative Dwight Evans**, Philadelphia, PA

Communications Intern

- Documented calls for assistance from constituents
- Wrote press releases

Use full, proper names throughout for awards, job titles, places you worked, etc.

OTHER SKILLS

Digital photography

Proficient in Microsoft Office: Word, PowerPoint, Excel

Use a basic, easy-to-read font, such as Arial or Times New Roman.

Making the most of college visits, p. 20

College Fit Comparison, pp. 22-23



Choosing the college that is the best fit for you is critical to your success and happiness in college and your career. Now is the time to understand all of the options, do your research and start to narrow your choices.

- **Academic:** Your academic fit is a school that matches your academic profile — your high school GPA and SAT/ACT scores will be similar to those of accepted students. It will offer majors and courses that interest you and provide opportunities that are attractive to you, such as study abroad, internship and co-op programs, or the opportunity to do research with a faculty member.

- **Social:** Your social fit is a school that fits your personality and preferences — a school where you will feel comfortable and fulfilled. To find your social fit, you will look at a school's culture and characteristics, such as location, size, diversity, extracurricular and athletic offerings, and school spirit.
- **Financial:** Finding your financial fit means you will be able to afford the total cost of earning your degree. Tuition costs vary by school, so it is important to research a range of schools. **No college is your dream school if you cannot afford to go there.**

Gwynedd Mercy University



How I Found My Fit!



Tya'ron Hawkins

William W. Bodine High School '16
Drexel University '21

I had many good options for college, but I chose Drexel. The Liberty Scholarship, the prospect of doing a co-op and its location made Drexel the perfect fit for me.

Esther Flavien

Philadelphia High School for Girls '16
Lafayette College '20

I knew a small liberal arts college was what I wanted and when I walked onto the campus of Lafayette College, I knew it was for me. The campus is beautiful and I love the small school feel.



Shane Harris

Northeast High School '14
Penn State University '18

I wanted a big school with all that goes along with it. For students in Pennsylvania, nothing beats Penn State. WE ARE PENN STATE!

William Ruan

Central High School '16
University of the Sciences '20

My search was narrow and focused on my intended major: pharmacy. I was excited to be accepted to the University of the Sciences, which is well known for preparing students for careers in healthcare and the sciences.



Gabriella Gueits

Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls '16
Dickinson College '20

I wanted to have the opportunity to experience living outside of Philadelphia. Dickinson's location is perfect for me and for my family. Dickinson also has a strong study abroad program, which was a great draw for me.

Understand Your Options: Types of Colleges and Universities

There are close to 5,000 colleges and universities in the United States. More than 100 of them are in the Philadelphia region. Schools can be broken down into several categories, including public and private schools, four-year and two-year schools, and colleges and universities. Schools may fit into more than one category.

To determine your college fit, it is important to understand the differences between types of schools and the merits of each as they relate to your circumstances.

Public Institutions

Public institutions are supported primarily by state and local funds and usually offer lower tuition rates than private universities, especially for in-state residents.

Options to Explore:

Pennsylvania's 14 state universities, including Bloomsburg University, Kutztown University and West Chester University; and four state-related universities: Lincoln University, Penn State University, Temple University, University of Pittsburgh

To learn more about Pennsylvania's state universities, visit www.passhe.edu.

Private Institutions

Private institutions are supported primarily by tuition and private contributions. Private colleges and universities cost more than public institutions, but may offer more scholarships or grant aid.

Options to Explore: Arcadia University, Dickinson College, Drexel University, Gwynedd Mercy University, Lehigh University, Saint Joseph's University, University of Pennsylvania, University of the Sciences, Villanova University

Public vs. Private

Four-Year Colleges or Universities

- Students earn a bachelor's degree in a wide range of academic areas.
- Graduates enter the job market or pursue an advanced degree.
- Students choose from a wide variety of activities, clubs and athletic events.
- Most offer campus housing.
- The cost of a four-year school can be substantial and will vary significantly by school, but financial aid can make it affordable.

Options to Explore: Arcadia University, Dickinson College, Drexel University, Gwynedd Mercy University, Haverford College, Lehigh University, Penn State University, Saint Joseph's University, Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, University of the Sciences, Villanova University

Four-Year vs. Two-Year

Two-Year Colleges

- Students receive an associate degree or a certificate focusing on a specific career.
- Graduates enter the job market or transfer to a four-year college.
- Students' choices of clubs and athletic events may be limited.
- Most do not offer campus housing; however, some private colleges have housing available.
- Tuition at a two-year school is often less than tuition at a four-year institution. In addition, pursuing an associate degree allows students to enter the job market in less time than if students earn a degree at a four-year institution.

Options to Explore: Community College of Philadelphia, Harcum College, Manor College

Universities

Often very large institutions, universities award bachelor's, graduate and professional degrees. They are often made up of smaller colleges, including colleges of business, arts and sciences, nursing, education and engineering. They also are centers for research. Universities offer students the widest choice of majors.

Private universities cost more than public ones, but often have more funding available for financial aid.

Options to Explore: Arcadia University, Drexel University, Gwynedd Mercy University, Lehigh University, Penn State University, Saint Joseph's University, Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, University of the Sciences, Villanova University

Liberal Arts Colleges

Relatively small, liberal arts colleges are private schools, which offer majors in areas such as literature, history, languages, economics, science and math. They are characterized by small class size and access to professors.

Liberal arts colleges are more expensive than public universities, but often can provide more financial aid.

Options to Explore: Dickinson College, Gettysburg College, Haverford College, Lafayette College

University vs. Liberal Arts College

Specialized Colleges

Specialized colleges focus on the needs and interests of a specific group of students. Specialized schools can be public or private, so their cost and the amount of financial aid they offer vary.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were founded to educate African American students. Today they are open to everyone.

Options to Explore: Hampton University, Howard University, Lincoln University

Women's Colleges enroll only (or mostly) women. Most are small liberal arts colleges.

Options to Explore: Bryn Mawr College, Cedar Crest College, Moore College of Art and Design

Arts Colleges and Universities prepare students for careers in the visual and performing arts. Courses of study include acting, art history, fashion design, film, music and photography.

Options to Explore: Moore College of Art and Design, The University of the Arts

Religiously Affiliated Colleges and Universities were founded based on principles of a religious faith. The founders' religious beliefs may be historical only, or may be closely aligned with the school's academic programs and campus life.

Options to Explore: Gwynedd Mercy University, La Salle University, Saint Joseph's University, Villanova University

Need2Know

Be Cautious about For-profit Institutions

Most colleges are not-for-profit institutions, which means any extra money is reinvested into the school's facilities and programs. For-profit colleges are run by private businesses, at least in part to earn money for the business owners. Carefully research a college's accreditation on its website or on the Department of Education website in the state in which the college/institution is located. For-profit institutions may leave you with a large amount of debt that can outweigh your earning potential. Be sure you understand your financial commitment!

Activity: Find Your Fit

Use this chart to identify the characteristics you are looking for in a college. As you learn more about what colleges offer and visit different schools, you can note any changes in your preferences. For each question, choose all answers that fit.

Academic Fit

My Goal

- ☐ Bachelor's degree (4 years)
- ☐ Associate degree (2 years)
- ☐ Certificate in a specific subject area or skill (1-2 years)

My Interests

Major(s):

Specific course(s):

Certificate area or specific subject area (2-year program)

Pre-professional program (pre-dental, pre-medicine)

Academic Supports I May Need

- ☐ Tutoring
- ☐ Support for a learning difference
- ☐ Writing center

I Am Comfortable In

- ☐ Very large classes (201+)
- ☐ Large classes (101-200)
- ☐ Mid-size classes (51-100)
- ☐ Small classes (1-50)

Opportunities I Want

- ☐ Honors programs
- ☐ Internship/co-op (employment in jobs related to my major)
- ☐ Undergraduate research
- ☐ Study abroad
- ☐ Other _____

Social Fit

Preferred Setting

- ☐ City
- ☐ Suburbs
- ☐ Small town/rural area

Preferred Location

- ☐ In/near Philadelphia
- ☐ __ hour(s) drive of Philadelphia

Housing Preference

- ☐ Live on campus
- ☐ Live off campus
- ☐ Live at home/commute to class

Preferred Student Body Size

- ☐ Small (< 3,000)
- ☐ Medium (3,000–10,000)
- ☐ Large (10,001–25,000)
- ☐ Very large (>25,000)

Ideally, Other Students Would

- ☐ Be similar to me in background
- ☐ Come from diverse backgrounds
- ☐ All be the same sex as me
- ☐ Mostly be the same religion as me
- ☐ Other _____

Preferred Campus Activities

- ☐ School spirit and sporting events
- ☐ Fitness and wellness activities
- ☐ Active campus life on weekends
- ☐ Greek life (sororities/fraternities)
- ☐ Lots of clubs
- ☐ Specific club/activity _____
- ☐ Other _____

Personal Supports I Care About

- ☐ Multicultural Center
- ☐ Women's Center
- ☐ Counseling Center
- ☐ LGBT Center

Financial Fit

To Pay for College, I Will Need

- ☐ Need-based aid (aid based on my financial situation)
- ☐ Merit-based aid (aid based on academic achievements, special talents, etc.)
- ☐ Work-Study/On-campus job
- ☐ To attend part-time

Determine Your Priorities

Of All of Your Answers, Which Characteristics Are Essential?

(List all that apply.)

Which Characteristics Matter, But Are Not Essential?

(List all that apply.)

Narrow Your College Search

Now that you have identified what matters to you, use these strategies and resources to research colleges and universities that will fit you best.

Do Online Research

Use the internet to learn about and compare colleges:

- **Big Future by The College Board** profiles colleges and sets up searches based on your choices.
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search
- **Campus Tours** takes you on virtual visits to thousands of campuses and provides college maps.
www.campustours.com
- **College Greenlight** searches colleges based on your preferences and locates scholarships, with a focus on first-generation and underrepresented students.
www.collegegreenlight.com
- **College Navigator** searches for colleges based on your preferences.
www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator
- **I'm First** celebrates students who are the first in their family to attend college through an online community. The site searches for and offers profiles of colleges that support first-generation college students. www.imfirst.org
- **College Websites** offer specific details about all aspects of fit. Most colleges have social media pages you can follow. Many offer student blogs that provide different perspectives about campus life and programs.

Attend College Fairs

College fairs bring admissions officers from many colleges and universities together in one location. These fairs give you the opportunity to ask questions that will help you determine if a school is a good fit for you.

Philadelphia National College Fair

Sunday, October 30, 2016

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Pennsylvania Convention Center

Hundreds of colleges from across the country attend this fair. Register and learn more at:

www.nacacnet.org.

Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling (PACAC)

Check the PACAC website at www.pacac.org/college-fairs for information about the locations and dates of free college fairs.

Need2Know

Individuals with Disabilities

Make sure the schools that interest you fit your needs by researching the support services they offer. Search school websites for 'student services,' 'students with disabilities' or 'disability services.' Ask admissions officers about these services at college fairs and set up a meeting with the appropriate school office when you visit.

Drexel University



Several weeks before your visit:

Go online to research the college's admissions process.

Register for a tour, open house and admissions session. Ask if you can sit in on classes or stay overnight in a dorm. If you have a disability, ask to meet with student services to learn about accommodations.

Get the student perspective. Read the school's newspaper online and check out its social media.

Plan how you will get to campus. Build in extra time. Tours and open houses will start without you!

Visit Colleges

The best way to decide if a school is a good fit is to visit. Try to visit two colleges a year during high school. When possible, visit while school is in session — not during breaks — so you can meet students and get a feel for campus life. The best place to meet students? The dining hall! Plan ahead, and get the most from college visits with these tips.

During your visit:

Take the entire tour and ask questions. Be engaged with tour guides and representatives of the school.

Try to get a feel for the campus and its community during free time. Eat in the dining hall or student center. Walk around campus and the surrounding community. If possible, go to a campus sporting event or performance.

Talk to students.

Ask questions about their experiences with campus life, activities and classes.

The week before your visit:

Print your visit schedule and a campus map.

Ask where you can park if you will be driving.

Decide what to wear. Dress to make a good impression, but wear comfortable shoes. You will be walking a lot on campus.

Make a copy of the questions on p. 21.

Bring them with you, along with a notebook and pen or use the SUTC mobile app.



After your visit:

Record your thoughts. Write down your impressions in a notebook. Use the same notebook to write about your visits, so you can compare schools or record your impressions on the SUTC mobile app.



Need2Know → Diversity Visitation and Fly-in Programs

Between 50 and 100 colleges host free or low-cost visitation programs for students from diverse backgrounds. These visits give students a taste of campus life and often include a chance to attend classes, meet professors, stay in a dorm and attend social activities. Many of these programs take place in the fall and require a special application, so you must plan ahead to participate during your junior or senior year. For a list of schools offering a fly-in program, visit <http://bit.ly/2aYkl5v>.

To learn if a particular college has a fly-in program, visit its website.



Temple University

Activity: Questions to Ask on a College Visit

Asking questions will help you decide if a college is a good fit. Below are sample questions to ask admissions directors, tour guides and students during college visits and at college fairs. Make a copy of this page for each college visit and bring a notebook in which to write down the answers or use the SUTC mobile app.

College/University: _____ Date: _____

I spoke with: _____

Questions to Ask Admissions Representatives

General Questions

- ☐ How diverse is the student body?
- ☐ What academic assistance resources are available?
- ☐ What kind of academic advising is available to help students choose classes and a major?
- ☐ Does the school help students find internships?
- ☐ What kinds of career services and employment resources are available?
- ☐ What percentage of students graduate in four years?
- ☐ What is the academic profile of the average admitted student? ACT/SAT score? GPA/class rank?
- ☐ What is the average class size? Are classes taught by teaching assistants (as opposed to professors)?

About Student Life

- ☐ What systems are in place for student safety?
- ☐ Are there safety escorts in the evening for students?
- ☐ How accessible is public transportation?
- ☐ Can students have cars on campus? Is parking free?
- ☐ Are there stores and restaurants within walking distance or close to public transportation?
- ☐ Is student housing guaranteed for all freshmen students? For all four years? What other housing options are available?
- ☐ Do fraternities, sororities or sports teams play a major role in campus life?
- ☐ What clubs and student activities are available on campus? How do you start a new club?

Financial Aid Questions

- ☐ What percentage of students receive financial aid?
- ☐ What is the size of the average aid package?
- ☐ What kinds of jobs or Work-Study are available on campus?
- ☐ How can students learn about scholarships, grants, Work-Study and other forms of financial aid?

Questions to Ask Students

General Questions

- ☐ What do you like best about the school, and what do you think could be improved?
- ☐ Is tutoring available?
- ☐ Has your adviser been helpful?
- ☐ Do you feel connected to your teachers, and are they accessible/supportive/helpful?
- ☐ Do you find the student body diverse?
- ☐ What is the climate for students of color (or any group to which you belong)?
- ☐ Is the career center helpful and how?
- ☐ Have you done an internship, and did the school help you find it?

About Student Life

- ☐ Do you feel safe on campus?
- ☐ How do you get to school?
- ☐ Is public transit convenient?
- ☐ Can students park on campus?
- ☐ Do you feel comfortable in the neighborhood?
- ☐ Do most students live in the dorms or commute?
- ☐ Do many students leave on weekends?
- ☐ Is campus busy or empty on weekends?
- ☐ What do students do on campus during the weekend?
- ☐ What do students do with their free time (e.g., study, explore the town, participate in clubs, socialize with friends)?
- ☐ How is the food on campus? Are there many different options?

Notes

Activity: Philadelphia Futures Fit Form

Fill out a Philadelphia Futures Fit Form for every college you are considering to compare how well each school fits you academically, socially and financially.

College/University: _____ Location: _____ Acceptance Rate: _____%

Exploring Academic Fit

- Which majors offered at this college appeal to you? _____
- What academic opportunities (study abroad, research opportunities, honors program, etc.) interest you? _____
- Does the college have any notable rankings that are important to you? _____
- Which courses offered within your intended major interest you? Why? _____
- Which academic supports (writing center, tutoring, etc.) that the college offers are important to you? _____
- What is the college's student-to-teacher ratio? _____ What is its average class size? _____
- How does this class structure align with your academic needs? _____
- Compare your SAT/ACT scores to the average scores for admitted students:

My Scores:	_____	_____	_____
	SAT – Math	SAT – Critical Reading	ACT – Composite
Average Admitted Student Scores:	_____	_____	_____
	SAT – Math	SAT – Critical Reading	ACT – Composite
- Compare your GPA to the average GPA for admitted students: My GPA: _____
Average Admitted Student GPA: _____
- How does your academic profile (standardized test scores and GPA) compare to those of admitted students?

☐ Well above the average
☐ Above the average
☐ Matches the average

☐ Below the average
☐ Well below the average
- I have checked the [NAVIANCE](#) Scattergram for this school. ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unavailable
- What is this college's graduation rate? _____%

Exploring Social Fit

- What is the college's setting? ☐ Urban ☐ Suburban ☐ Rural
- How large is the college? ☐ Extra-Large ☐ Large ☐ Medium ☐ Small
- What type of college is it? (note all that apply) ☐ State ☐ State-related ☐ Private ☐ Liberal Arts ☐ HBCU
☐ Community College ☐ Two-year Private ☐ For-profit
- What clubs, events and activities at this college interest you? Why? _____
- What is the college's surrounding area like? What does it offer students? _____

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

IN THIS SECTION:

Components of a college application, p. 24

Standardized tests (SAT/ACT), pp. 25-28

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ACTIVITIES:

Brainstorm and Write Your Essay, p. 34

Revise and Proofread Your Essay, p. 35

Track Your College Applications, p. 36



Your application is your chance to distinguish yourself. Preparing a strong application takes time and hard work. By breaking down the process into manageable steps, you will be able to complete each step fully and on time and present your best self.

The Components of a College Application

Beginning to think about and work on your application early will make the process more manageable. A typical college application package requires some or all of the following:

Standardized Test Scores

Start now to prepare for the SAT and ACT, pp. 25-28

Application Form

Identify the required forms for the schools in which you are interested, p. 31

Application Fee

Learn about options for paying the fee that must accompany your application, p. 31

Letters of Recommendation

Learn the techniques for obtaining powerful recommendations, p. 32

Personal Interview

Be ready to present your best self, p. 32

High School Transcript

Understand the procedure for having your transcript sent from your high school, p. 32

Essay

Find your voice and convey your personality, values and achievements, pp. 33-35

Standardized Tests: The SAT and ACT

Most colleges require you to submit scores from standardized admissions tests. Preparing in advance for these tests can have a big impact on your scores. Remember: test scores are just one part of your application and will be viewed together with your grades and activities.

The Tests: Which to Take?

The ACT and SAT are both timed tests, which measure students' academic readiness for college. Changes to the SAT in March 2016 have made the tests more similar. Both tests are accepted at all four-year colleges in the U.S.

Most students take the SAT or ACT (or both) during their junior and/or senior years of high school. Many take them multiple times to try to improve their scores. It is wise to take them at least twice. Your English or math teacher, or your guidance counselor, can help you decide which test is a better fit for your learning style. You also can try sample questions from each test to determine the test with which you are most comfortable.

- For free practice SAT tests, visit: www.khanacademy.org/sat.
- For free practice ACT tests, visit: <http://www.act.org> and select "Test Prep."

Comparing the SAT and ACT

	SAT	ACT
Format	Three required sections: • Reading • Writing & Language • Math The essay is optional. Check out sample writing prompts at: https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sample-questions.	Four required sections: • English • Mathematics • Reading • Science The writing section is optional. Check out sample writing prompts at: www.actstudent.org/writing.
Scoring	A perfect score is 1600. • Scores range from 400 to 1600 on the required sections and are the total of points scored on: ◦ Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (200-800) ◦ Math (200-800) • The optional essay is scored separately. • Learn more about SAT scoring: https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/scores.	A perfect score is 36. • Scores range from 1 to 36, which is the average of the four required sections. • The average score that colleges use is called a Composite Score. • The optional writing section is scored separately. • Learn more about ACT scoring: www.actstudent.org/scores/understand.
Length	Three hours, plus an additional 50 minutes for the essay.	Two hours and 55 minutes, plus an additional 40 minutes for the writing section.

Additional SAT Assessments

The College Board, which administers the SAT, offers several other important standardized tests.

PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST) assesses reading, math and writing skills, and provides practice for the SAT.

- **Why take it:** Your report provides feedback about your test results and customized SAT study plans. In addition, your score on the PSAT/NMQST could qualify you for a National Merit Scholarship or other scholarship programs.
- **When to take it:** In the fall of 9th and/or 10th grade. Check with your school to see when the test will be administered. To learn more, visit: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>.

SAT Subject Tests measure your knowledge of specific subject areas. There are 20 SAT Subject Tests within five subject areas: mathematics, English, languages, history and science. Each multiple-choice test is one hour long.

- **Why take them:** Most selective colleges require you to take at least two SAT Subject Tests. For the majority of colleges, they are optional.
- **When to take them:** As soon as possible after finishing your class in that subject area. If you are considering applying Early Decision (p. 29), you should aim to take your SAT Subject Tests before December of your senior year.

To learn more, visit: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests>.

Need2Know → Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities are eligible for accommodations on both the SAT and ACT, as well as the PSAT and SAT Subject Tests. Learn more about eligibility requirements and how to request accommodations at www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities or at <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/taking-the-test/services-for-examinees-with-disabilities.html>.

What is “Test Optional”?

Close to 1,000 colleges have chosen to place less emphasis on standardized test scores. Some no longer require standardized tests; others exempt students who meet certain academic standards, such as a specific GPA or class rank.

If you take the SAT or ACT at least twice and believe your score does not indicate your college readiness, consider whether applying test optional is a good choice for you. Remember: check each school’s definition of “test optional” and make sure applicants who apply test optional are still considered for merit-based financial aid. For more information about schools that allow you to apply test optional, visit: www.fairtest.org/university/optional.



Lehigh University

Register on Time

2016-2017 SAT Test Dates

Register for the SAT online, by phone or by mail.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (ADDITIONAL FEE REQUIRED)	
		Mail (Postmark Deadline)	Online or Phone
October 1, 2016	September 1, 2016	September 13, 2016	September 20, 2016
November 5, 2016	October 7, 2016	October 18, 2016	October 25, 2016
December 3, 2016	November 3, 2016	November 15, 2016	November 22, 2016
January 21, 2017	December 21, 2016	January 3, 2017	January 10, 2017
March 11, 2017	February 10, 2017	February 21, 2017	February 28, 2017
May 6, 2017	April 7, 2017	April 18, 2017	April 25, 2017
June 3, 2017	May 9, 2017	May 16, 2017	May 24, 2017

2016-2017 ACT Test Dates

Register for the ACT online or by mail.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (ADDITIONAL FEE REQUIRED)
September 10, 2016	August 7, 2016	August 19, 2016
October 22, 2016	September 16, 2016	September 30, 2016
December 10, 2016	November 4, 2016	November 18, 2016
February 11, 2017	January 13, 2017	January 20, 2017
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017	March 17, 2017
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017	May 19, 2017

Reporting Your Scores

You must officially report your scores to colleges through the testing agency (*i.e.*, the College Board for the SAT, or the ACT). Each time you register for either test, you will receive four free score reports. Additional score reports cost \$12 per college for the SAT and \$12 per college for the ACT.

If you take the SAT or ACT more than once, the College Board and ACT allow you to choose which set of scores you wish to report, although some colleges require you to submit all of your test scores. Many colleges “superscore” your results, meaning they combine your best score from each section of the test to give you your highest possible score.

Learn more about your score reporting options:

SAT: <https://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-score-choice>

ACT: www.actstudent.org/scores/send.

Prepare Yourself to Do Your Best

Knowing what to expect — test format, directions, etc. — will help you do your best on standardized tests, as will studying and practice. Use these resources to learn about the SAT and ACT, access practice tests and work on trouble areas:

- **Test prep books** explain the sections of each test and the topics covered and offer test-taking strategies and practice tests. ACT and the College Board publish official prep books available at libraries, or for purchase.
- **Test prep classes** give you hands-on help. Course fees may vary, so ask your guidance counselor or search online for a course within your budget. Check out: Kaplan Test Prep, www.kaptest.com; and The Princeton Review, www.princetonreview.com.
- **Online test prep courses** can cost less than classroom courses. The College Board, ACT and NAVIANCE offer online test courses. Personalized online test prep also is available from Peterson's. www.petersons.com.
- **Free test prep resources** are available online. The College Board teamed up with Khan Academy to offer video tutorials and practice tests. www.khanacademy.org/sat. For additional resources, visit: www.majortests.com and www.number2.com.
- **Word lists and homemade flash cards** will help you build your vocabulary. One helpful site is www.majortests.com/word-lists.
- **Your friends** also can be your study partners. Form a weekly study group with friends to prepare together.

Test Costs and Fee Waivers

The SAT with essay costs \$57 (\$45 without essay). The ACT with essay costs \$58.50 (\$42.50 without writing). Eleventh and twelfth grade students whose family income qualifies can apply for fee waivers to take the tests and report their scores to colleges for free. Ask your guidance counselor if you qualify. Learn more at:

SAT: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/fees>

ACT: www.actstudent.org/faq/feewaiver.html.



Drexel University

Be Ready for Test Day

Follow these tips to do your best on test day:

- **Do not cram the night before.** Get a full night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast.
- **Get directions to the test center in advance.** If you are unfamiliar with the location, take a practice run to make sure you know where you are going. Remember: most public transit changes its schedule on weekends. Arrive at least 20 minutes early on test day.
- **Bring your admission ticket, three sharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers, photo ID and an approved calculator with extra batteries.** Computers, tablets, cell phones and other electronics are not allowed. To learn more about what to bring on test day and what qualifies as an acceptable calculator, visit:
SAT: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
ACT: www.actstudent.org/testprep/taking.
- **Stay positive and relaxed.**

Understand College Admissions Options

Generally, there are four options for college admissions. The option you select will impact when your application is due, when you find out if you are accepted and your ability to choose a school based on how much financial aid it offers.

Options and deadlines vary by schools, so carefully research the schools to which you are interested in applying:

OPTION 1: Regular Decision

Regular Decision is the most common admissions option and allows you to apply to as many schools as you like and compare financial aid packages. Applications are typically due between November and February. Decisions arrive between March and April.

OPTION 2: Rolling Admissions

Rolling Admissions applications are evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis, until the school fills its freshman class. You will receive an admissions decision within four to eight weeks of applying. Rolling Admissions allows you to apply to as many schools as you want and to compare financial aid packages. Most universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education use Rolling Admissions.

OPTION 3: Early Action

Early Action allows you to apply early to — and hear back sooner from — your first-choice school. Applications are usually due in early to mid-November. Early Action is nonbinding, meaning it does not commit you to attend the school. It does tell the school you are very interested.

OPTION 4: Early Decision

Early Decision is an option reserved only for the school you are certain is your best fit — academically, socially and financially. When you apply Early Decision, you promise you will attend the college if admitted and withdraw all other applications. Early Decision lets you show your commitment to a school by applying by an Early Decision deadline (often November 1 or 15, and sometimes January 1 for an additional Early Decision II deadline). Most schools provide decisions four to six weeks later.

Early Decision and Financial Aid

If you are accepted Early Decision and the *estimated* financial aid package offered by the college at the time of your acceptance does not make that school affordable for you, you may forfeit your admission and apply to other colleges.

Compare Admissions Options

Factors to Consider	Regular Decision	Rolling Admissions	Early Action	Early Decision
Allows you to compare financial aid packages	X	X	X	
You hear back quickly		X	X	X
Tells a school it is your first choice				X
Does not require you to commit to one school	X	X	X	
Increases your chance of acceptance, IF you are a strong candidate				X
If you wait too long, all spots may be filled		X		

Finalize Your College List

Experts recommend that you apply to between five and eight colleges where you can be happy. Discuss what you have learned and how you feel about each school on your list with your College Prep Team and your guidance counselor.

Be Realistic

Be realistic about your academic profile: your GPA, class rank and standardized test scores tell a school a lot about you. Schools will compare your academic profile to that of admitted students to assess your potential for success at their institution.

Segment Your List

Organize your list into three groups: reach schools (two), target schools (two to four), and likely admit schools (two). All of these should be schools you would be excited to attend.

- **“Reach” schools** are colleges where your chance of being accepted may not be as high as at other institutions.
- **“Target” schools** are strong matches, based on your academic profile, financial aid needs and social preferences.
- **“Likely admit” schools** — sometimes called “safety” schools — are colleges where your test scores, GPA and class rank meet or exceed those needed for admission.



Pennsylvania State University

Activity: Your College List

Reach Schools

- 1: _____
- 2: _____

Target Schools

- 1: _____
- 2: _____
- 3: _____
- 4: _____

Likely Admit Schools

- 1: _____
- 2: _____



Lehigh University

Complete and Submit Your Applications

You have determined your fit, researched and visited colleges, taken the SAT or ACT, selected your schools and now you are in the home stretch. It is time to complete and submit your applications.

Identify Which Application to Use

Some colleges have their own applications while others rely on one of a number of standardized applications. Be sure to research the applications required by the schools on your list.

The Common App

This application is used by more than 700 colleges and universities. It allows you to apply to up to 20 schools using a single online application. To learn about requirements, deadlines and supplementary materials (e.g. additional essays) required by member colleges, visit: www.commonapp.org.

The Common Black College Application

This application allows you to complete and submit a single application to 42 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). www.eduinonline.com.

Public College and University Applications

These schools often use specialized applications which can be found on their websites. If you intend to apply to a Pennsylvania state college or university, check out the following:

- **Community College of Philadelphia:**
www.ccp.edu/getting-started/admission-process
- **Pennsylvania's 14 State Universities:**
<https://secure.applynow.passhe.edu>
- **Temple University and Lincoln University:**
www.commonapp.org/how-apply
- **Penn State University:**
<http://admissions.psu.edu/apply/>
- **University of Pittsburgh:**
<https://oafa.pitt.edu/apply/>

New! The Coalition Application

The **Coalition Application** is being accepted this year by 58 members of **The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success** including Bryn Mawr College, Penn State University, Swarthmore College and the University of Pittsburgh. **The Coalition** is a partnership among close to 100 colleges dedicated to increasing access and affordability of college for diverse students. It provides a single platform of online tools to simplify the college application process. To learn more about the Coalition and determine if the Coalition App is a good choice for you, visit: www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/.

Submit Your Application Online

Applying online is now the common practice. To simplify the process:

- **Learn what is required** by each college on your list.
- **Create an online account** to begin each application. Use an email address with your full name to clearly identify yourself, such as Julio.Ruiz@gmail.com.
- **Note your username and password** for each college on the College Application Tracking Worksheet on p. 36.
- **Print a copy of each application** and hand write a draft before completing the application online.
- **Follow directions carefully** and answer all questions.
- **Hit "Save" often** and back up your work on a hard drive or flash drive, or by printing it out.
- **Spellcheck and proofread** several times before hitting the "Send" button.
- **Log into your account** at each college to ensure your application was received and is complete.
- **Check your email and online college portals** often to check your application status.

Need2Know

Application Fee Waivers

The average college application fee is \$41, however many colleges will waive that fee based on family income. Talk to your college guidance counselor about whether you are eligible for a fee waiver and how to request one.

Request Your Transcript

Your high school transcript is a compilation of all of your courses and grades. Be sure to request that your transcript be sent to every school to which you are applying. Check your portal at each of these schools to make sure it was received. Some colleges will ask to see your first semester, senior year grades as part of their decision process. Sending your transcripts can be arranged with your guidance counselor.

Ask for Letters of Recommendation

Most colleges require letters of recommendation from your guidance counselor and at least one teacher. Your guidance counselor will write about your overall performance and achievement in high school, and your teacher will talk about the type of student you are in the classroom. Many colleges will allow you to submit additional recommendations from individuals who know you from the community, such as a supervisor, coach, community group leader (scout leader, etc.) or spiritual leader. These are called supplemental recommendations.

Steps to Obtaining Recommendations

- Request recommendations from teachers from academic classes — English, math, science, foreign language, social studies — you took your junior or senior year. Teachers who know you well can write the most effective recommendations.
- If you have a special interest, such as photography, art, drama or music, consider asking that teacher for a supplemental recommendation. Submit no more than two supplemental recommendations. Never submit a recommendation from a family member or friend.
- To ensure that your “recommenders” know enough about you to write a robust recommendation, provide each person with a copy of your resumé. Talk with them about your strengths, any challenges you have encountered or overcome, and why you want to attend each college.
- Request recommendations at least one month before they are due.
- Once your recommendations have been submitted, check your college portals to make sure they have been received. Then, write a thank you note to each person who wrote a recommendation for you. Also, remember to let these people know when you receive your acceptances.

Use NAVIANCE eDocs

Through NAVIANCE eDocs, you can electronically ask for recommendations, request transcripts, and track when both are sent. NAVIANCE eDocs simplifies the process, but does not take the place of meeting with each adult who is writing a recommendation or sending a personal thank you.

Schedule an Interview

Many liberal arts colleges and some universities allow you to interview with admissions staff. This is a chance to make yourself stand out, by talking about your experiences, and interests and why you want to attend their school. Follow these tips to make the most of each college interview:

- Research the college in advance and be ready to talk about why it is a good fit for you.
- Be prepared to answer questions about your high school and extracurricular activities, why the college interests you and what you can contribute as a student.
- Your interviewer will likely finish by asking if you have any questions. Prepare one or two thoughtful questions in advance, but be ready to think on your feet if those questions have already been answered.
- If possible, conduct a mock interview with an adult on your College Prep Team before your actual interview.
- Dress appropriately — business casual or business attire — and arrive early.
- Promptly send a thank you note to your interviewer. If he or she is your admissions officer, stay in touch with additional questions and updates about your accomplishments. Use this opportunity to form a relationship.
- Find more tips at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/interviews>.

Write Your College Essay

The college essay — or personal statement — lets you tell your story in your own words. This is your opportunity to express who you are beyond your grades and test scores.

Know Your Audience

- Your essay is intended to demonstrate your writing skills. Give yourself enough time to craft your essay, proofread and edit it, and show it to several other people. Start it at least one month before it is due.
- Admissions officers read hundreds — sometimes thousands — of essays each year. The way to stand out is to write honestly and authentically about yourself.
- Know that admissions officers are looking for students who can and will succeed at their school. Your essay should convince them you are a student they want to accept — someone who will be a good fit for their school.
- There is no ‘right’ topic to write about or right voice to use. The best topic to write about is one that matters to you and conveys what makes you a unique applicant. The best voice is yours — be yourself, use language that feels comfortable to you and tell your story.



Community College of Philadelphia

Conquer the Blank Page

Getting started is the hardest part. Follow these steps to write a strong essay:

- **Brainstorm topics**, letting ideas flow. Use the activity on p. 34 to help jumpstart your essay.
- **Organize your ideas** in an outline.
- **Allow your first draft to be just that — a first draft.** Do not stress about it. Just write and know you will revise it later.
- **Take a break from writing** and then return to your draft. Reread and revise it. Be creative in telling your story — start with an anecdote or find a way to relate your story back to the college.
- **Look for unnecessary words** that do not add to your story. Make sure your details matter and are not just taking up space. The best essays make every word count.
- **Allow time to continue developing your story.** Focus on the content first and save grammar and spelling for later. For help, see “Revise and Proofread Your Essay” on p. 35.
- **Ask for honest feedback** on your essay from your College Prep Team.
- **After each draft, set your essay aside for a day or two**, then reread and revise.
- **Proofread for grammar, formatting and typos.** Read it out loud to hear how it sounds. Print it out to catch mistakes missed on the screen. Ask someone else to proofread your essay to catch any errors you may have missed. Read it one more time to make sure your grammar and spelling are perfect.

Need2Know

Essay Topics to Avoid

- Anything controversial, such as politics and religion, which could offend the reader.
- Your admiration for a role model, family member or celebrity. The essay should be about you.
- A traumatic experience, such as the illness or death of a family member or friend, unless you write about how it affected you and the resilience you gained from the experience.

Activity: Brainstorm and Write Your Essay

Using a prompt from the Common App, this activity demonstrates the process for brainstorming your response to your chosen essay prompt.

Prompt

Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community or family.

Choose Your Theme

Relate each theme listed in the prompt — culture, community and family — to yourself. Then choose the theme that connects most powerfully with you.

Culture (e.g., I prepared for and celebrated my *quinceañera*):

Community (e.g., I chose a new group of friends who were focused on college when I entered high school):

Family (e.g., I spent a summer living and working in Puerto Rico on my grandparents' farm):

Reflect Upon Your Theme

Connect your theme with the attributes that make you a strong candidate, by reflecting upon how it shaped you.

1. How does your theme define you?

2. Are there specific ways your theme changed you?

3. How does your theme — and the story you told about it — reflect the unique contributions you could make to a college or university?

Tell Your Story

Now, on a separate piece of paper or using your computer, compose a story that gives insight into who you are and how your theme has shaped you — your strengths, abilities, passions and dreams. Remember, this is a personal statement, not an academic essay.

Find the complete list of 2016-2017 Common App essay prompts at <http://www.commonapp.org/whats-appening/application-updates/common-application-announces-2016-2017-essay-prompts>.

Activity: Revise And Proofread Your Essay

This activity helps you revise your essay to prepare it for submission. When you have finalized the content and organization, use the proofreading tips to polish your writing. Poor grammar and poor spelling are the easiest ways to send the wrong message to college admissions officers.

Content

Have I fully answered the essay prompt?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Some prompts are multi-faceted. Be sure your essay addresses the prompt in full. If you need to more fully meet the essay's specific requirements, write down what you need to add.

Is my writing original?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Plagiarism is submitting someone else's work or ideas as your own. It is a serious offense and can jeopardize your college admission.

Does my essay express my individuality?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Your essay should reflect your individual traits and experiences. Which paragraphs communicate your distinct qualities? Which need more work?

Have I written for my audience?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Will your essay capture an admissions officer's attention? Is the topic appropriate for your audience? Which details are most interesting? Could you improve any content to make it more engaging?

Proofreading Tips

- Read through a printed copy of your essay to better catch typos and grammatical or formatting errors.
- Do not rely upon Spellcheck. It may not catch words that are spelled correctly but misused in your essay.
- Read your essay out loud. You will catch mistakes and awkward phrases. If you learn better by listening, ask someone to read your essay aloud to you.
- Take breaks between each round of writing and revising.
- Ask a member of your College Prep Team to proofread your essay. Others will often catch errors you miss even after several readings.

Style And Organization

Is my tone appropriate?

☐ Yes ☐ No

It should be positive and professional.

Did I write from a personal perspective?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Since a college application essay is a personal statement, use the first-person point of view (*i.e.*, I, me, my).

Is my language appropriate?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Remember your audience and avoid slang and casual language. Do not show off with fancy words. Use clear, specific language. Choose strong, descriptive words over vague words, such as "things," "many" and "great."

Is my organization effective with an engaging introduction, a relevant middle and a strong finish?

Are my transitions well-defined?

☐ Yes ☐ No

An appealing story often begins with an anecdote or statement that makes the main point. It can continue in order of importance or chronology.

Is my essay the right length?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Good writing makes your point in as few words as possible. Check your word count against the application's instructions, (*e.g.*, the Common App gives you a 650 word limit for your essay).

Activity: Track Your College Applications



This activity will help you organize your applications. Fill in as many details as possible — due dates, dates completed and account names and PINs. If something is not applicable, write N/A in the box. You will find space for four college applications. Make a copy of this chart if you are applying to additional schools.

	College A	College B	College C	College D
School Name:				
Application Deadline:				
Preparing				
Created online account				
Requested letters of recommendation				
Requested SAT/ACT scores be sent				
Requested SAT Subject Test scores be sent				
Requested high school transcript be sent				
Scheduled interview				
Sent thank you note to interviewer				
Completed and proofread essays				
Applying				
Made copies of all application materials				
Completed, signed and sent application form				
Sent essays				
Sent supplemental materials				
Paid fee or submitted fee waiver				
Requested mid-year grades be sent				
Established a contact in admissions office				
Verified receipt of all application materials				
Financial Aid				
Created FAFSA FSA ID and password/PIN				
Submitted FAFSA (and CSS, if needed)				
Established a contact in financial aid office				
Received financial aid award details				
Tracking and Acceptance				
Admissions notification received: <i>admitted/denied</i>				
Accepted offer of admission and sent deposit (By May 1, unless Early Decision)				
Requested final high school transcript be sent				
Requested AP scores be sent				

Adapted from "The College Board College Application Checklist."

	FAFSA	College A	College B	College C	College D
Username					
Password/PIN					

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

IN THIS SECTION:

- The cost of attending college, pp. 37-38
- Myths and reality about financial aid, p. 39
- Types of financial aid, pp. 40-41
- Finding scholarships, p. 42
- The FAFSA, pp. 44-45
- Understand your financial aid package, pp. 46-47
- How to close your financial aid gap, p. 49

ACTIVITIES:

- Search For Scholarships, p. 43
- College Cost Calculator, p. 48



University of Pennsylvania

A critical part of finding your fit is selecting a college you can afford. This section demystifies the direct and indirect costs of attending college, the financial aid available to offset those costs, and how to access that aid.

The Cost of Attending College

Most students and their families know about the cost of tuition, room and board, but many do not realize there are additional costs associated with going to college. When choosing your college fit, you must consider all of these costs.

The Direct Costs of College

The direct costs of college include the cost of **tuition and fees** (what you will pay to take classes), plus **room and board** (housing and food). The “direct” costs of attending college will appear on your bill. The chart on p. 38 shows the estimated direct costs, or “sticker prices,” for a sampling of schools in Pennsylvania.

The Indirect Costs of College

In addition to the direct costs of attending college, there are additional “indirect” costs that will not appear on your bill, but must be considered when calculating your total cost of attendance. Indirect costs may include:

- **Textbooks and school supplies**
- **Transportation to and from college**
- **Computer and accessories**
- **Personal expenses** including clothing, toiletries, laundry, phone, internet, entertainment, etc.
- **Dorm necessities** such as bedding, towels, desk lamp, etc.
- **Meals and parking** for commuters.

College “Sticker Prices”

	2016 Estimated Costs	
	Tuition and Fees*	Room and Board*
Pennsylvania Public and State-Related Institutions (in-state resident)		
Penn State University (University Park)	\$17,500	\$11,900
Temple University	\$16,270	\$10,600
Bloomsburg University	\$10,150	\$8,910
Private Four-Year Institutions		
Lehigh University	\$48,320	\$12,690
University of Pennsylvania	\$51,460	\$14,540
Saint Joseph’s University	\$42,840	\$14,450
Two-Year Institutions		
Community College of Philadelphia (depends on number of credits and choice of credits)	\$5,260	N/A
Harcum College	\$22,760	\$9,300

*Amount shown may vary depending on such factors as course fees, major, meal plan and dorm accommodations.

Financial Aid 101

Few students can afford to pay for college on their own. Financial aid is intended to make college affordable for everyone.

- **Financial aid can be merit-based or need-based.** Merit-based aid is awarded in recognition of a student’s academic achievement, talents or special skills. Need-based aid is awarded based on a family’s ability to pay for college. The majority of aid provided by colleges and universities is need-based.
- **There are many sources of financial aid.** Financial aid is provided to students by the federal government, the state in which the student lives, the college to be attended by the student and other public and private institutions.
- **Some forms of financial aid must be repaid while others do not have an obligation of repayment.** Your financial aid ‘package’ may include a combination of both types of aid.

Need2Know → FAFSA4Caster

The federal government provides a tool — the FAFSA4Caster — which you or your parents can use at any time to estimate your eligibility for federal financial aid. Beginning to think about how you will pay for college as early as possible will help you plan and find your fit. Visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate>.

How Financial Aid is Determined

- **Students interested in receiving financial aid must fill out and submit the FAFSA** — Free Application for Federal Student Aid (pp. 44-45) — which gives colleges information about your family’s financial situation. Some colleges also require you to complete the CSS/Financial Aid Profile (p. 46).
- **As you complete your FAFSA, you will be directed to the PHEAA website to complete the online State Grant Form (SGF)** to apply for state grants.
- **Within three to five days of completing your FAFSA, your Student Aid Report (SAR)** will be available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you submit your FAFSA by mail, it will take longer.
- The SAR summarizes the information you provided in your FAFSA and shows your **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**. Your EFC is the amount you and your family are expected to be able to pay toward college.
- **The FAFSA and SAR are used by colleges to determine your financial need** applying the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Cost of Attendance} \\ &- \text{Expected Family Contribution} \\ &= \text{Financial Need} \end{aligned}$$

Schools do not, however, guarantee to meet your entire financial need.

The Myths and Reality of Financial Aid

Myth: I cannot afford to attend college.

Reality: Scholarships, grants, loans and Work-Study make college affordable for many students. See pp. 40-41 to learn more about the different types of financial aid.

Myth: Since public universities have lower tuition than private colleges, I should not consider applying to a private university.

Reality: Many private colleges and universities offer comprehensive financial aid packages to low-income students, often making them more affordable than public institutions. Learn more about a college's financial aid policies on its website.

Myth: Financial aid is free money that does not have to be paid back.

Reality: While financial aid includes grants and scholarships which do not have to be paid back, it also includes loans, which must be paid back with interest, and Work-Study, which must be earned. Most financial aid packages are a combination of the various types of aid.

Myth: The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the maximum amount I will pay, regardless of where I go to school.

Reality: Your EFC, as determined by the FAFSA, is a guideline used by colleges to determine your financial need and build your financial aid package. Few students pay the exact figure determined to be their EFC. Many students find it necessary to pay more than their EFC to cover the gap between their financial aid award and the total cost of attendance.

Myth: My parents won't pay for my college, so I can declare myself independent to get financial aid.

Reality: There are strict federal, state and institutional policies to determine a student's dependency status for financial aid purposes. A student cannot simply choose to be considered as an independent student.

Myth: My grades aren't high enough to qualify for financial aid.

Reality: Most federal aid is based on financial need, not academic achievement. Learn more about financial aid eligibility on the Federal Student Aid website: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility>.

Myth: The cost of college isn't worth it. Taking student loans will ruin my chance to be financially stable.

Reality: Quite the opposite. Student loans can be a good investment in yourself, if you borrow wisely. College graduates earn significantly more than those without a college degree. Learn more about federal student loans at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans>.



Types of Financial Aid

There are four basic types of aid: grants, scholarships, Work-Study and loans.

Grants

Grants are a highly desirable type of aid because they do not need to be repaid. To be eligible for most grants you must submit the FAFSA. The most common grants awarded to Pennsylvania residents include:

Federal Pell Grants are awarded based on financial need. The maximum Pell Grant for the 2016-2017 academic year is \$5,815.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOGs) are awarded to students with the greatest financial need. The maximum grant is \$4,000 a year. The amount you are awarded depends upon other aid you receive and your financial need. Schools have limited FSEOG funds, so submit your FAFSA early.

Pennsylvania State Grants are awarded by PHEAA (Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency) and are based on financial need. To qualify, you must submit your FAFSA by May 1. To learn more, visit: www.pheaa.org/funding-opportunities/state-grant-program.

The Chafee Education and Training Grant Program awards grants to undergraduates who are ‘aging out’ of the foster care system and are Pennsylvania residents. For more information, visit www.pheaa.org and search “Chafee.”

Institutional Grants are offered by many colleges based on academic merit, area of study and/or financial need. The amount of these grants and the criteria for receiving them will vary by school.

Scholarships

Scholarships are given to reward special talents, celebrate academic achievement, and support individuals with financial need or unusual life circumstances. Like grants, scholarships are highly desirable, because they do not have to be repaid. Strategies for researching scholarships include:

- **Begin your research** early so you understand the grades and attributes you will need to be a strong candidate.
- **Seek scholarships that match your strengths**, whether they are academic, athletic, creative or based on community service.
- **Ask your parents or guardians if their workplace offers scholarships** to the children of employees.
- **Look into organizations in which you and your family are involved.** Many faith-based organizations, civic associations and unions offer scholarships.
- **For help finding scholarships for which you might be eligible, see p. 42.**

Federal Work-Study

Federal Work-Study helps students with financial need pay for their education by providing a part-time job on or off-campus. Work-Study is awarded as part of your financial aid package, so you must fill out the FAFSA to qualify. It is available to full and part-time students.

If you receive a Work-Study award, you will be responsible for accessing your school’s database of jobs and interviewing for those that interest you. Most schools offer a wide range of options. Students are guaranteed to earn at least the federal minimum wage and are paid directly by their school.

Loans

A loan is money you borrow and must repay with interest over a specific period of time. For this reason, loans are the least desirable type of financial aid. That said, many students receive loans as part of their financial aid package.

Loans are offered by the federal government and by private banks and financial institutions.

- Federal student loans, offered by the government, are preferable to private loans as they generally offer lower, fixed interest rates, and repayment does not begin until after you graduate. Repayment of private loans may begin as soon as the money is borrowed.
- You must complete the FAFSA to apply for all federal loans. Private loans require a loan application.
- To learn more about the difference between federal and private loans, visit: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans>.

The most common types of college loans include:

Federal Direct Loans are available to all students enrolled at least half-time and feature low interest rates and several repayment options. These loans can be “subsidized” or “unsubsidized.”

- **Subsidized loans** are based on financial need. The government subsidizes (pays) the interest on your loan while you are in school and for a grace period of six months after graduation.
- **Unsubsidized loans** are not based on financial need. You will be charged interest from the time you borrow the money until the loan is paid off.

Federal Perkins Loans provide up to \$5,500 a year at a 5% interest rate, to help students from low-income families. You must be enrolled at least part-time at one of approximately 1,700 participating schools to receive this aid. These funds are limited and do run out, so submit your FAFSA early.

Federal Direct PLUS Loans can be taken out by **parents** of dependent college students to help pay for educational expenses not covered by other financial aid. Parents must undergo a credit check. Like unsubsidized loans, interest is charged on PLUS loans while you are in college.

If your parents are ineligible for a PLUS loan due to a poor credit history, your college’s financial aid office may be able to certify you to receive more Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans.

Learn more about Federal Student Loans at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans>.

Private Student Loans

Loans from private institutions are available to pay college expenses, based on your credit history. Private loans usually have higher interest rates than government loans and less favorable repayment terms. Accordingly, you and your family should consider taking out a private loan only if you have exhausted all other loan options and know you will be able to meet repayment obligations. While all students are eligible to receive federal loans, private student loans may require a co-signer.

Understand Your Loan Obligations

Student loans can help you invest in your future; they can also limit your choices after graduation. You must understand fully the impact of the financial obligation you are assuming.

- Use the loan repayment calculator at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans> to project monthly payments and learn more about repayment plans.
- The consequences of not paying your student loan can severely affect your credit rating far into the future, making it difficult for you to buy a car, purchase a home or obtain a credit card.

Learn more about managing your loans: www.aessuccess.org/manage; and the dangers of defaulting on student loans: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/default>.

Find Scholarships

Hundreds of scholarships offer aid to a wide range of students. Use the resources offered below to search for scholarships for which you might be eligible.

Scholarship Search Engines

The easiest ways to track down appropriate scholarships is by using a search engine. Take some time to explore the following local databases:

School District of Philadelphia:

www.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/scholarships

Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable:

www.collegepreproundtable.org/scholarships.html

Philadelphia Foundation:

www.philafound.org/scholarships.

Additional national scholarship search engines can be found on p. 60.

National Scholarships

Check out these national scholarships and see if you are a good fit:

Coca-Cola First Generation Scholarship:

www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org

Gates Millennium Scholarship: www.gmsp.org

Hispanic Scholarship Fund:

<http://hsf.net/en/scholarships>

Horatio Alger Scholarship: www.horatioalger.org

I'm First Scholarship: www.imfirst.org/scholarships

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship

Program: www.jkcf.org/scholarships

Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship:

www.jackierobinson.org

United Negro College Fund Scholarship:

<https://scholarships.uncf.org>

Need2Know

Avoid Scholarship Scams

Never use scholarship services that charge a fee. Legitimate search engines are intended to help you save money and do not charge for this service.

Local Scholarships for Philadelphia Students

Scholarship(s)	Amount	Eligibility
Drexel Liberty Scholars Program http://bit.ly/2a40M8B	Full Drexel tuition and fees. Renewable annually.	Must be graduating from a Philadelphia high school and meet income requirements.
GSK Opportunity Scholarship http://bit.ly/2bnSIGX , search for "GSK Opportunity Scholarship."	Up to \$5,000 annually for four years; may be applied to tuition, fees, books, and materials not covered by other financial aid. Renewable annually.	Must be a Philadelphia resident who has overcome adversity and who is enrolling in a Pennsylvania state or state-related school or a community college.
The Mayor's Scholarship Program at the University of Pennsylvania http://bit.ly/2bey8IR	Up to 100% of tuition and fees at Penn, depending upon financial need. Renewable annually.	Must be graduating from a high school in Philadelphia, Bucks, Delaware or Montgomery county, with financial need and planning to attend Penn.
Philadelphia Education Fund Last Dollar Scholarships http://bit.ly/1YuielR	\$200-\$5,000 when a family's expected family contribution together with the student's financial aid package do not meet the cost of attendance.	For high school graduates who have participated in the Philadelphia Education Fund's College Access Program and/or attended select partner high schools.
PhillySEEDS Scholarship Program www.phillyseeds.com	\$1,000-\$5,000.	Open to Philadelphia Housing Authority residents.
The Richard A. Ash Scholarship Fund http://bit.ly/2bnSIGX , search for "Richard A. Ash Scholarship Fund."	From \$1,000 up to 90% of tuition, books and fees. Renewable annually.	For Philadelphia residents with financial need; special consideration is given to applicants who have overcome a major obstacle.
Urban League of Philadelphia Community Scholars Program http://bit.ly/2ap93cB	\$1,000-\$5,000.	Check the website for application forms and eligibility criteria.

Activity: Search For Scholarships

Find at least two scholarships for which you qualify based on your **ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE** or **FINANCIAL NEED**. List them here, along with key information about the scholarships. Discuss these opportunities with your College Prep Team.

	Scholarship #1	Scholarship #2
Name of Scholarship		
Amount		
Deadline		
I am eligible for this scholarship because:		
Can this scholarship be renewed each year?		
Additional Notes:		

Find at least two scholarships for which you qualify based on your **BACKGROUND, INTERESTS, SKILLS** or **SPECIAL NEEDS**. List them and key information here. Discuss these possibilities with your College Prep Team.

	Scholarship #3	Scholarship #4
Name of Scholarship		
Amount		
Deadline		
I am eligible for this scholarship because:		
Can this scholarship be renewed each year?		
Additional Notes:		

If you find more scholarships for which you qualify, copy this page to track all scholarships opportunities.

The FAFSA

Everyone who wants to receive financial aid for college must fill out the FAFSA — the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is your key to receiving grants, Work-Study, loans and even some scholarships.

The U.S. Department of Education uses the FAFSA to determine how much you and your family will be expected to contribute toward your education. Pennsylvania uses it to consider you for state grants. Colleges use it to put together your financial aid package.

The FAFSA can seem daunting. Use the information and tips on these two pages to help you navigate the FAFSA.

Big Changes to the 2017-2018 FAFSA

Students can file their FAFSA three months earlier than in past years.

- The 2017-2018 FAFSA may be filed as early as October 1, 2016. This change is important, as some aid is given out on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date your FAFSA is filed.
- Students and families will provide tax information from two years prior (*i.e.*, tax filings for 2015 will be used when filing the 2017-2018 FAFSA).

For more information about changes to the FAFSA, visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/2017-18-fafsa-updates-students-parents.pdf>.



Gwynedd Mercy University



Seven Steps to Conquer the FAFSA

- 1. Choose your filing method.** There are three ways to complete your FAFSA:
 - Complete the form online at www.fafsa.ed.gov (this is the recommended filing method).
 - Download a PDF of the form from www.studentaid.ed.gov/resources, complete it and submit it by mail.
 - Request a paper copy of the FAFSA by calling 1-800-433-3243, complete it and submit it by mail.
- 2. Set up your Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID).**

Log on to www.fafsa.ed.gov and click on the link to create a FSA ID. During the set-up process you will be prompted to:

 - Select a username and password.
 - Enter your email address, name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information and challenge questions and answers for security purposes.
 - Review your information, and accept the site's terms and conditions.
 - Confirm your email address using a secure code, which is sent to the email address you entered when you created your FSA ID.
- 3. Organize your paperwork.** You will need the following documents and information:
 - Your Social Security number
 - Your alien registration number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
 - Your driver's license number (if you have one)
 - The most recent federal income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned by you and your parents
 - Records of 2015 untaxed income (such as social security, public assistance) for you and your parents (if applicable)
 - The most recent bank statements for you and your parents, and records of investments (if applicable)
 - Your FSA ID, which you will use to sign the forms electronically.

4. Follow these tips in completing the FAFSA:

- The IRS Data Retrieval Tool is the easiest way to provide your tax data. This tool electronically imports tax return information from the IRS to the FAFSA. Follow the prompts within the FAFSA to use this tool.
- You may designate up to 10 colleges to which you would like your online FAFSA sent (on the paper version, you may list up to four colleges). List a college in Pennsylvania first in order to be considered for state aid.

5. Submit your FAFSA as early as possible after October 1.

- Since some financial aid is limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, the sooner you submit your FAFSA after October 1, the sooner it will be processed. Submitting the FAFSA early will put you in the best position to receive the maximum amount of financial aid for which you may be eligible.
- Be mindful that some colleges and universities have deadlines for filing the FAFSA. Check for any FAFSA deadlines at each school to which you are applying.

6. Prepare to provide income verification.

You may be asked to verify the income information which you provided on the FAFSA by supplying copies of documentation, including an income tax transcript. Check your mail and email frequently for any follow-up communications related to the FAFSA and respond promptly. (Note: if you use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool discussed above, you are less likely to be asked to provide verification).

7. Review your Student Aid Report (SAR).

Three to five days after you submit your FAFSA signed with your FSA ID, your Student Aid Report (SAR) will be available online. Your SAR summarizes the information you provided on your FAFSA and lists your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

- If you filed your FAFSA online with a valid email address you will receive an email message containing a secure link to your SAR. Without a valid email address it can take up to two weeks for the SAR to arrive via U.S. mail.

Free Help with Your FAFSA

There are a number of ways to get help filing your FAFSA:

- Call 1-800-730-8913 (TTY) to ask a question.
- Visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> for detailed instructions.
- Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov/contact for Frequently Asked Questions and contact information.
- Learn about free FAFSA filing “Help Events” at <https://www.pheaa.org/college-planning/fafsa/help-events.shtml>.
- Access a computer to fill out your FAFSA at school, your local library or at a FAFSA Help Event.

Need2Know**Accuracy is Critical**

As you apply for financial aid, there will be many forms to complete which require full disclosure of your family's financial information. Families all across the country will be answering the same questions. Make sure that all information is accurate and complete. Withholding data or providing inaccurate information will jeopardize your ability to receive financial aid.

Community College of Philadelphia



The CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE

About 300 colleges and scholarship programs require applicants to fill out the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE in addition to the FAFSA.

- To determine if your school requires the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and to access a copy of the Profile and for tips on filing, visit: <http://css.collegeboard.org>.
- Once submitted, the College Board will send your PROFILE to the schools and scholarship programs you list.
- The cost for sending your report to one school or program is \$25. Additional reports cost \$16 each. Fee waivers are available if you meet income eligibility requirements. The College Board will notify you that you qualify for a fee waiver after you complete the application.

Need2Know → Special Circumstances

The FAFSA and CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE do not take into account every financial situation. If your family has a special circumstance that needs explanation, reach out to your school's financial aid officer to explain. Some examples of special circumstances are high medical costs not covered by health insurance, recent loss of a job, or the disability of a family member. The school will likely ask you to put this information in writing and may consider it in your final financial aid award.



Temple University

Your Financial Aid Package

Understand Your Financial Aid Package

Meet Jamal Williams, a hypothetical student who will be attending Futures University, a fictitious state-related university in Pennsylvania.

The total cost for Jamal's first year at Futures University is \$32,420, calculated as follows:

Tuition:	\$19,820
Room and Board:	\$8,800
Books and Supplies:	\$1,500
Personal Expenses:	\$2,300
TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE:	\$32,420

Jamal filed his FAFSA in October 2016, and received notice of his financial aid package from Futures University in March 2017.

Review Jamal's financial aid award letter and the accompanying notes on p. 47 to become familiar with how the components of a financial aid package fit together.

Compare Your Financial Aid Packages

From each college to which you are accepted, you will receive a financial aid award letter similar to the letter Jamal received from Futures University. Your financial aid award letter can be accessed on your college portal and may also arrive in the mail.

Each financial aid package you are offered will be unique — and will likely include a combination of grants, loans, Federal Work-Study and scholarships. Use the College Cost Calculator on p. 48 to compare the cost of attending the schools to which you were accepted and the financial aid offered by each school. By making this comparison you will identify the school that is the best financial fit for you.

FUTURES UNIVERSITY

March 24, 2017

Jamal Williams
5456 Pecan Street
Philadelphia, PA 19139

Dear Jamal,

Congratulations on your admission to Futures University!

Based on the information you submitted on your FAFSA, you are eligible to receive the following financial aid for the 2017–2018 school year. Changes in your enrollment, housing, residency, financial or other information may result in adjustments to this offer. Please let us know as soon as possible about any changes in your status while at Futures University. Further, to maintain eligibility for the Dean's Scholarship, you must earn a GPA of 3.25 or above each semester at Futures University.

In order to receive payment of your aid, you must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress. If a Pennsylvania State Grant is listed below, it is only an estimate until PHEAA sends you an official award notice.

TYPE OF AID	FALL 2017	SPRING 2018
Dean's Scholarship	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Federal Pell Grant	\$ 2,887	\$ 2,887
Pennsylvania State Grant	\$ 1,856	\$ 1,856
Pennsylvania Foundation Scholarship	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
State University Scholarship	\$ 350	\$ 350
Federal Perkins Loan	\$ 550	\$ 550
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Federal Work-Study	\$ 500	\$ 500
Total	\$ 14,393	\$ 14,393

Total Aid for Academic Year 2017–2018 = \$28,786

Sincerely,



Tyler Jones
Director of Financial Aid

Understand the Numbers

The total cost of attending Futures University is **\$32,420** for the 2017–18 academic year. The school is offering Jamal **\$28,786** in financial aid, including **\$6,600 in loans** that must be repaid. Jamal and his family will need to contribute **\$3,634** toward his college education for the 2017–18 academic year. If Jamal's family does not have this money available, his parents can apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan or a private loan.

Pay Careful Attention to Total Debt

Loans must be repaid. Futures University is offering Jamal **\$6,600** in loans for his freshman year. If he graduates college in four years and receives the same amount in loans each year, he will owe **\$26,400** when he finishes school. In addition, if his family takes out a loan to cover the difference between Jamal's financial aid award and the cost of attending Futures University, they will owe an additional **\$14,536** in loans. Combined, that means Jamal and his parents will owe **\$40,936** when he graduates from college. They will be legally obligated to pay back that money, **plus interest**.

Activity: College Cost Calculator



Use this worksheet to compare the costs of the colleges to which you were accepted and the financial aid offered by each of the schools. Understanding your complete financial aid package is critical when selecting the college you will attend.

	College A	College B	College C
School Name:			
Direct Costs (Billed Expenses)			
Tuition	\$	\$	\$
Housing/Room	+\$	+\$	+\$
Meal Plan/Board	+\$	+\$	+\$
General Fees	+\$	+\$	+\$
Health Insurance (if required)	+\$	+\$	+\$
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	= \$	= \$	= \$
Indirect Costs (Out-of-Pocket Expenses)			
Transportation	\$	\$	\$
Books and Educational Expenses	+\$	+\$	+\$
Personal Expenses (toiletries, phone bill, clothes, etc.)	+\$	+\$	+\$
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS	= \$	= \$	= \$
Financial Resources			
Financial Aid: Grant & Scholarship Assistance*			
University Scholarship(s)	\$	\$	\$
Federal Pell Grant	+\$	+\$	+\$
Federal SEOG Grant	+\$	+\$	+\$
PHEAA Grant	+\$	+\$	+\$
Other Scholarship(s)	+\$	+\$	+\$
TOTAL GRANT & SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE	= \$	= \$	= \$
Loan Assistance			
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$	\$	\$
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	+\$	+\$	+\$
Other Loan(s)	+\$	+\$	+\$
TOTAL LOAN ASSISTANCE	= \$	= \$	= \$

* **Work-Study** amounts are **not** factored into these calculations because you receive this funding **only after** you work the allotted hours. These funds can be used to offset the indirect costs noted above.

College Cost Calculator

TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$	\$	\$
MINUS TOTAL GRANT & SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE	-\$	-\$	-\$
EQUALS AMOUNT NEEDED BEFORE LOANS	= \$	= \$	= \$
MINUS TOTAL LOAN ASSISTANCE	-\$	-\$	-\$
EQUALS CASH GAP IN DIRECT COSTS	= \$	= \$	= \$
PLUS TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS	+\$	+\$	+\$
EQUALS TOTAL CASH GAP (Amount needed to pay Direct and Indirect Costs)	= \$	= \$	= \$

Tips to Close Your Financial Aid Gap

Many students find that their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is not realistic or that their EFC and financial aid awards do not cover their total college costs. In those cases, students can be left with an unmet need or “gap” to fill.

Check out the following eight strategies for managing the gap:

- 1. Appeal your financial aid offer.** If your financial aid offer falls short or your financial situation has changed, contact a financial aid officer at your college. Explain your situation and ask for a review of your financial aid package in an email to your financial aid counselor.
- 2. Apply for additional scholarships and grants.** Application deadlines vary, so do not assume that deadlines have passed. See p. 42 and p. 60 for help in finding scholarships.
- 3. Consider attending a community college for two years before transferring to a four-year college to complete your degree.** This is considered a smart fiscal strategy by many experts, because it reduces the total cost of your bachelor’s degree by thousands of dollars and can significantly lower your debt.
- 4. Research your college’s payment plan.** Many colleges allow you to pay tuition in installments.
- 5. Revisit Federal Work-Study options.** If you did not indicate interest in Federal Work-Study on your FAFSA, contact your financial aid office to see if you are eligible. Look at your college’s website to find out what positions are open.
- 6. Get a part-time job.** Many students work while in college. Search for employment opportunities that also will allow you to stay on top of your school work.
- 7. Become a resident assistant or community assistant.** These jobs in college residence halls can provide free room and board, which can save you up to 50% of your cost of attending college. While you are saving money, you also will be developing communication and leadership skills, and building your resumé. These positions are often not available until your sophomore year.
- 8. Reduce your expenses.** While you cannot control tuition, fees, room and board, you can control your other costs. Look for places to cut back, such as eating out, entertainment and cell phone usage. Then create a reasonable budget and stick to it.



University of Pennsylvania

BECOMING A COLLEGE STUDENT

IN THIS SECTION:

- Selecting your college, p. 50
- On-campus support, p. 51
- Freshman orientation, p. 52
- Purchasing your textbooks, p. 52
- Taking care of yourself, p. 53
- Managing your money, p. 53



Villanova University

Make the Right Fit Decision

Understand Your Letters of Acceptance

Share your letters of acceptance with your College Prep Team, and note the following details of your acceptance:

- **Were you extended an offer of acceptance or were you accepted conditionally?** If you were accepted conditionally, you will need to meet specific criteria to be fully accepted, such as successfully completing summer coursework — called a “bridge program” — prior to your freshman year.
- **Were you waitlisted?** If you were waitlisted, you may not receive a final decision until late spring or just before the fall semester begins. If you were waitlisted at your first-choice school, contact the admissions office and send new information that will support your application, such as final grades or news about an honor you received. Talk to the admissions office about your chances of acceptance. Waitlists are unpredictable, so send a deposit to your next choice college to ensure you have a spot in the fall.

Congratulations! You have made it through the college admissions process, and you are about to become a college student. Choosing your college and transitioning to college life represent a new level of independence and responsibility that can be both exciting and anxiety producing. This section will guide you through your final choice, your summer tasks and freshman year experiences.

Make Your Choice

To make the most informed decision when choosing the college you will attend, you need to truly understand your academic, social and financial fit.

- **Review your responses to the Find Your College Fit activity on p. 18 and the Philadelphia Futures Fit Form on pp. 22-23.** Which of the schools that has admitted you is your closest fit?
- **Financial fit must be a key factor.** Can you afford to attend the college based on the financial aid package offered? Use the College Cost Calculator on p. 48 to compare the financial aid packages offered by the schools that accepted you. **If you cannot afford to attend a school, then it is simply not the right fit.**

Need2Know → National Candidates Reply Date

May 1 is National Candidates Reply Date. Under the guidelines of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), you have until that day to accept or decline all offers of admissions with the exception of Early Decision admittance and NCAA athletic scholarship programs. Do not miss this deadline!

Summer Checklist

You will be expected to take important actions over the months leading up to your arrival on campus. Check your mail, email and school portal regularly to stay on top of these tasks.

- ❑ **Housing and Meal Plan:** If you will be living on campus, you may be asked to complete a housing questionnaire to help identify a good roommate match. Some schools may allow you to choose your own roommate. Make sure to carefully choose your housing option and meal plan, based on your specific needs.
- ❑ **Course Selection:** The timeline and method for choosing freshman courses vary by school. Follow instructions carefully to ensure you get the courses you need and want.
- ❑ **Summer ‘Kick-off’ Event:** Many schools host home-town kick-off events for students and their families. Look for an email invitation, so you can meet other incoming students and alumni from Philadelphia.
- ❑ **Work-Study:** If you are doing Work-Study, find out about campus employment opportunities. Apply for positions before school starts for the greatest selection.
- ❑ **Academic Placement:** Many colleges require placement testing in such subjects as math and writing. If the testing determines that you need to take developmental courses, be aware that these courses do not count as credit toward graduation and may prolong your time in college.
- ❑ **Community College of Philadelphia Placement Exam:** All students enrolling at Community College of Philadelphia must take a placement exam. Register on your MyCCP account: <http://www.ccp.edu/getting-started>.

On-Campus Support

Colleges have an array of support services to help you succeed. Become familiar with these resources and take advantage of all they have to offer.

- **Academic Support Services** provide tutoring, academic workshops and study-skills support for all students.
- **Campus Security** maintains safety on campus. Each school will have a different system, from emergency (blue) call boxes to phone apps (such as Rave Guardian) and escorts for students. Learn what your school offers and reach out to campus security if you feel unsafe or need help in any situation.
- **Multicultural Services** builds an inclusive community on campus and develops connections between students of different cultures, backgrounds and identities.
- **Residence Life** helps ensure students’ smooth transition to campus life, which includes all issues related to campus housing.
- **Student Health and Counseling** provides health care and mental health counseling services for students. They can help with anything from feelings of depression or homesickness to flu shots and colds.
- **The Writing Center** offers students help with any aspect of their writing, from specific assignments to general writing skills. Successful students find writing centers to be a vital resource throughout their college careers.



Pennsylvania State University

Transition to College

As a college student, you will be expected to take charge of your own education, health, and emotional and social well-being. This will require you to be organized and disciplined, and to become your own advocate.

Attending Freshman Orientation

Orientation immerses you in college life. You will begin to make new friends, become familiar with the campus and services, and perhaps even meet your academic adviser and register for your classes. You also will get your student ID, purchase your textbooks and finalize any unresolved issues. Some schools schedule orientation over the summer, others just prior to the start of the semester. Be sure to participate in all orientation activities.

Setting Up Your Dorm Room

Shop carefully. Your college should provide you with a list of items needed for your dorm and detailed rules about what you may and may not bring into the dorm. If you will have a roommate, talk about sharing some items, such as a printer, mini-fridge or rug. One thing is for sure: space is limited, so do not bring more than you need.

Purchasing Your Textbooks

Each course syllabus will tell you what textbooks the professor expects you to have and whether you need to bring them to class. These books can cost between \$500 and \$1,000 each semester if you purchase them new. Many students save money by renting their books or buying them used. Follow these tips to shop wisely:

Renting Books

Several e-merchants rent textbooks, including [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [BarnesandNoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com) and [textbookrentals.com](https://www.textbookrentals.com).

- **Pay attention to delivery dates.** You need your books by the first day of classes.
- **Check the shipping costs,** as they can undercut savings.

- **Get the right edition of your book.** Books are identified by an ISBN number, and each edition has a different ISBN.
- **Know the return policy.** If you change your schedule during the drop/add period, the campus bookstore will likely return all of your money. Online stores may not.

Buying Used Books

Your campus bookstore may have a limited supply of used books for sale. Several e-merchants also sell textbooks, often at a lower cost. If you purchase from an e-merchant, as with renting books online, watch delivery dates and shipping costs, and be sure to get the right edition.

Need2Know → Students with Disabilities

Colleges are prepared to meet the needs of students with a range of disabilities, but you must advocate for the accommodations you will need. Reach out to your school's office of disability services to discuss the process for submitting documentation of your disability and scheduling any evaluations that are needed.

Be Responsible

Learn to Juggle

Your college schedule will be very different from your high school schedule. In college, you will attend only a few hours of class each day, but you will be expected to work and study many hours outside of class. On campus, distractions will be plentiful, from parties to sporting events to every club imaginable. Follow these tips to balance work and fun:

- **Use a planner** to manage your classes, assignments and activities. Plan ahead for upcoming assignments, tests and long-term projects.
- **Use your syllabus** — the class guide each professor hands out or posts online — to navigate each class. Look at it every day. Note: syllabi can change over the course of a semester. Look for changes in assignments and due dates.

- **Finish reading assignments prior to class** so you can participate. Many professors grade on participation, and research shows that students who participate learn more in class.
- **Attend class regularly** and take detailed notes.
- **Take advantage of online resources.** Many professors post their notes and study guides online.
- **Form or join a study group** to review class material with your fellow students.

Manage Your Money

Now is the time to learn about banking, budgeting and credit cards to help you manage your finances. The choices you make now will help you create a solid financial foundation.

Types of Bank Accounts

Banks offer several types of accounts to meet their customers' needs. The most common accounts include:

- **Checking accounts** provide easy access to your money for everyday purchases by using checks or a debit card. When you open your account, ask about a free student account and make sure you will not be charged a fee if you do not have a minimum balance in the account.
- **Savings accounts** accumulate interest on funds that you have saved for the future.

Credit Cards

Use credit cards with caution. When you use a credit card, the bank or company that issued it lends you money to make a purchase and requires you to pay it back with interest. Many credit card companies offer accounts to college students, and many college students get into financial trouble by accumulating debt they cannot pay back.

It is generally best to avoid getting a credit card until after you have graduated from college and are working full-time. If you must have a credit card during college, only charge what you can pay back in full each month. Once you carry a balance (by not paying what you owe in full each month), you will be charged interest, which will increase your debt significantly and quickly.

Learn more about smart money management at college: www.smartaboutmoney.org.

Take Care of Your Health

Making smart choices about your health and well-being is crucial to your success in college and growth into adulthood. Your actions now will set the course for your future.

- **Know the dangers of alcohol.** Pressure to participate in activities involving alcohol can be strong on some campuses. Getting caught with alcohol puts your education at risk. In addition, alcohol-related incidents are a leading cause of injury and death among college-age students. Remember: the legal drinking age is 21.
- **Do not use illegal drugs.** Most colleges have a zero tolerance policy for the possession or use of drugs. Do not socialize with students using illegal drugs, or you may find yourself in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- **Be responsible about sexual activity.** If you decide to engage in consensual sex, visit your campus health center for guidance and resources. Unfortunately, campus sexual assault remains a significant concern at most schools. It is most prevalent when drugs and alcohol are involved. To learn more about protecting yourself and others from sexual assault, visit: <http://bit.ly/2a9AGnE>.
- **Fit exercise into your schedule.** Working out can help you blow off steam, stay centered and keep your spirits up. College fitness centers offer a broad range of fitness activities from weight training to yoga to kick boxing and rock climbing.
- **Get your eight hours.** Getting enough sleep will keep your brain sharp, help you see things more clearly and stay healthy. Plan ahead so you do not end up pulling all-nighters to meet your deadlines.
- **Watch what you eat.** Most cafeterias offer a vast selection of foods at each meal to meet a breadth of dietary restrictions, from gluten-free to vegetarian. Working within your own dietary restrictions, choose a balanced diet to energize you and avoid freshman weight gain.
- **Seek help quickly for any concerns about your physical and/or mental health,** including stress. The campus health and counseling center is available to you.

CHECKLISTS

Stay on track throughout high school with these checklists to help you prepare for college.

9th and 10th Grade Checklist

Planning for college begins as soon as you enter high school. Use this checklist to stay on track as you strengthen your academic profile, explore your interests and build the support you need to become a strong college applicant.

Start Planning

- ☐ Use a planner to track your assignments, test dates and extracurricular activities, and to organize and prioritize your work.
- ☐ Create a college file to save all your notes, correspondence and important paperwork.
- ☐ Begin to build your resumé (pp. 12-13).
- ☐ Find out if you have access to [NAVIANCE](#) Family Connection through your school and learn how it can help you through the college admissions process.

Assemble Your College Prep Team

- ☐ Talk to your parents or guardians about your college plans (p. 6). Begin to research colleges together.
- ☐ Meet with your guidance counselor and teachers. Discuss your post-high school goals and plans together. Ask about college prep programs in which you might participate.

Prepare Financially

- ☐ Start learning about financial aid and ways to pay for college (pp. 37-49).
- ☐ Begin to save money for college expenses. It is never too early to start saving. Visit www.360Financialliteracy.org.
- ☐ Explore the College Board's tools and webinars about topics such as college savings and tuition tax credits: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents>.
- ☐ Visit www.EducationPlanner.org provided by PHEAA to learn about educational costs and student aid.

Challenge Yourself Academically

- ☐ Make sure you are enrolled in the most challenging academic courses available at your school.
- ☐ Investigate opportunities to take part in college preparation or academic enrichment programs (p. 59).
- ☐ Learn about Philadelphia Futures' Sponsor-A-Scholar and College Connection Programs and how they can help you reach your goal of earning a college degree (back cover).
- ☐ Read books and newspapers to build your vocabulary and knowledge base.

Learn about Standardized Tests

- ☐ Take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) as practice for taking the SAT (p. 26). Ask your guidance counselor about PSAT scheduling at your school.
- ☐ It is never too early to start preparing for the SAT or ACT (p. 28).

Explore Opportunities and Interests

- ☐ Join clubs or teams that interest you and take on leadership roles.
- ☐ Begin to explore different careers (pp. 7-8).
- ☐ Explore the "Roadtrip Nation" interview archive via [NAVIANCE](#) Family Connection for videos of people who have turned their interests into their life's work.
- ☐ Research volunteer jobs and internships in fields that interest you.
- ☐ Visit colleges with your parents or guardians (pp. 20-21). Try to visit two schools each year, preferably when students are on campus.



Junior year is the busiest year for college planning. You can take control of the process by staying on schedule. Use this timeline to meet your deadlines. Remember to check this document at least once a month.

September

- ☐ Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure you are enrolled in the most challenging academic courses available to you.
- ☐ If you have not taken the PSAT, ask your guidance counselor for information about PSAT scheduling at your school.
- ☐ Stay involved in extracurricular activities and take on leadership roles, if possible.

October/November

- ☐ Attend information sessions with college representatives who visit your high school.
- ☐ Attend free college fairs, including the Philadelphia National College Fair on October 30, and Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling's Regional College Fairs throughout the year (p. 19).
- ☐ Continue talking with your parents or guardians and your College Prep Team about your college plans.
- ☐ Attend a workshop with your parents or guardians to learn about the financial aid process.
- ☐ If necessary, confirm your citizenship status with the U.S. Social Security Administration (800-772-1213 or www.ssa.gov). Your citizenship status will determine your eligibility for federal and state financial aid.

December/January/February

- ☐ Meet with your guidance counselor to identify colleges that may be a good fit for you.
- ☐ Begin your fit research (pp. 22-23).
- ☐ Choose your 12th grade classes with your guidance counselor, carefully making sure you will have enough credits to graduate and that they meet college admissions requirements.
- ☐ Start preparing for the SAT or ACT (p. 28).
- ☐ Enroll in an SAT or ACT prep course or utilize online test prep materials (p. 28).

March/April

- ☐ Register for the May or June SAT, or June ACT and SAT Subject Tests (pp. 25-27).
- ☐ Register and prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) Exams, if applicable.

May/June

- ☐ Take the SAT or ACT.
- ☐ Take SAT Subject Tests for the courses you have recently completed, if required by the colleges in which you are interested (p. 26).
- ☐ Take applicable Advanced Placement (AP) Exams.
- ☐ Ask the 11th grade teachers with whom you have good relationships to write college recommendation letters on your behalf (p. 32).
- ☐ Before the school year ends, obtain a copy of the *Step Up to College Guide Summer Supplement*. Visit: www.StepUpToCollege.org.

July/August

Follow the steps outlined in the *Step Up to College Guide Summer Supplement*:

- ☐ Prepare to take the SAT or ACT (p. 28).
- ☐ Understand your admissions options for college (p. 29).
- ☐ Do college fit research (pp. 22-23).
- ☐ Visit colleges (pp. 20-21).
- ☐ Begin the application process (pp. 31-32).
- ☐ Start to draft your college application essay (pp. 33-35).
- ☐ Research options for paying for college (pp. 37-49).
- ☐ Stay connected to Step Up to College digital media resources (p. 2).

Senior year is an exciting, busy time in the college admissions process. Keep up with your schoolwork as you balance your academic responsibilities with the college application process. Use this checklist to stay on track.

August/September

- ☐ Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure you will have enough credits at the end of the year to graduate and that the credits meet college admissions requirements.
- ☐ Update your resumé, highlighting accomplishments, work experience and awards. Provide a copy to teachers who will write letters of recommendation for you (pp. 12-13).
- ☐ Finalize your list of colleges and universities, and check their application requirements.
- ☐ Continue working on your applications, planning to meet all deadlines (p. 36).
- ☐ Register for the fall SAT or ACT, if you would like to improve your scores (p. 27).
- ☐ Register for fall SAT Subject Test(s), if required at the colleges to which you are applying (p. 26).
- ☐ Research scholarship opportunities and request application materials (pp. 42-43).
- ☐ Work with your parents or guardians to gather the financial documents and materials necessary for filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (pp. 44-45).
- ☐ Apply for an FSA ID; go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and select "FSA ID." Keep your login information in a safe place. You will need to refer to it often (see p. 44).
- ☐ Use the FAFSA4caster to estimate your eligibility for need-based financial aid. Visit: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate>.
- ☐ Watch for your Student Aid Report (SAR), which will be available online within three to five days after you submit your FAFSA online, or will arrive by mail several weeks after you submit your FAFSA by mail. Check your SAR for any errors and make the necessary corrections (p. 45).
- ☐ Determine whether the colleges which interest you require the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE on www.collegeboard.org, by searching each school's website or by calling the school's financial aid office. If necessary, submit the CSS (p. 46).
- ☐ Attend a financial aid workshop with your parents or guardians.
- ☐ Visit as many of your potential colleges as possible (pp. 20-21).
- ☐ Meet with college representatives who visit your high school.
- ☐ Attend free local college fairs including the Philadelphia National College Fair on October 30, and Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling's Regional College Fairs throughout the year (p. 19).
- ☐ Take the SAT or ACT.
- ☐ Check all college application deadlines and submit your materials and fees on time. Remember: the application deadline for Early Admission and Early Decision is usually around November 1 or 15. Use the College Application Tracking Worksheet to stay organized (p. 36).
- ☐ Make copies of all documents you send by mail or submit online and place them in your college file.
- ☐ Follow up with colleges to make sure your Early Action, Rolling Admissions and Early Decision application materials were received.
- ☐ Confirm your citizenship status with the U.S. Social Security Administration (800-772-1213 or www.ssa.gov), if you are unsure.

October/November

- ☐ The FAFSA will be available October 1. Complete and submit the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov or www.studentaid.ed.gov/PDFfafsa or 1-800-4-FED-AID) to apply for state, federal and institutional grants and loans.

December

- ❑ Take the SAT or ACT, if you want to try to raise your score.
- ❑ Remind your teachers and counselors of the deadlines for submitting your college recommendations for regular admission.
- ❑ If you were accepted Early Decision, check the deadline for acceptance and meet that deadline.

January

- ❑ Continue to meet application deadlines for regular admission.
- ❑ Confirm that all of your college admissions materials have been received by each school to which you applied.

February

- ❑ Write thank you notes to those people who wrote recommendation letters on your behalf.
- ❑ Continue to research and apply for scholarships (p. 42).

April

- ❑ Maintain organized files of all admissions and financial aid correspondence that you send and receive.
- ❑ Analyze your offers of admission and financial aid packages carefully (pp. 46-48).
- ❑ Identify a financial aid contact at each college where you have been accepted. Check in with that person if you have any questions. Request a review of your financial aid offer if it does not meet your financial need or a new situation has developed impacting your ability to pay for college.
- ❑ **Choose your college and accept its offer of admission before the National Candidates Reply Date, May 1. Send in any required deposits and paperwork.**

May/June

- ❑ Take applicable Advanced Placement (AP) Exams and request that your scores be sent to the college you will be attending.

- ❑ Make sure your guidance counselor sends your final transcript to your selected college.
- ❑ If your acceptance offer includes a summer bridge program, register on time.
- ❑ Work with your parents or guardians to apply for Federal Direct PLUS Loans (Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students) and other private loans, if necessary. If your parents are not eligible for a Parent PLUS Loan, inform your college's financial aid office, so it can authorize you for additional Federal Direct Loans (p. 41).
- ❑ Visit PHEAA at www.pheaa.org to make sure the correct college is listed to receive a state grant.
- ❑ Review your financial aid award from the college you will attend and accept or decline each loan or grant individually.
- ❑ Visit www.studentloans.gov to complete your Loan Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note for any federal loans noted on your financial aid award letter.
- ❑ Review all bills for tuition, room and board, as well as other correspondence from your school's financial aid office. Follow all directions carefully and meet deadlines for payment.
- ❑ Create a realistic budget for indirect college costs, such as books, phone usage, computer needs and travel expenses.

July/August

- ❑ Regularly check your college portal, email and mail to meet all deadlines for class registration, orientation registration, tuition and room and board payments, placement testing, and housing requests.
- ❑ Check on your medical insurance coverage at school and provide any information your college needs, such as your vaccination records.
- ❑ Contact the bursar's office to set up a payment plan, if necessary.
- ❑ Contact your future roommate(s) and discuss what you will need to bring for your dorm room.

Parents and guardians: whether or not you are a college graduate, you are an essential member of your child's College Prep Team. Working together from ninth grade through the transition to college is important for your child's success. This checklist will guide you through each stage of the college admissions process.

Preparing for College

- ☐ Create an environment at home that is conducive to doing schoolwork.
- ☐ Talk with guidance counselors and teachers about your child's college plans and ask how you can support his or her path to college.
- ☐ Learn about Philadelphia Futures' Sponsor-A-Scholar and College Connection Programs, and how they can help your child reach his or her goal of earning a college degree (back cover).
- ☐ Enroll your child in an SAT or ACT preparation course and/or find online test prep tools (p. 28).
- ☐ Talk with your child about making good personal decisions, which will support his or her goal of attending college (pp. 9-10).
- ☐ Find out if you have access to **NAViance** Family Connection through your school and learn how it can help you through the college admissions process.

Applying to College

- ☐ Do college research together to identify schools that fit your child's needs academically, socially and financially.
- ☐ Attend college fairs and visit colleges with your child (pp. 19-20).
- ☐ Be aware of deadlines for college applications and financial aid forms. Put deadlines on a family calendar.
- ☐ Help your child with applications by proofreading them and keeping paperwork organized.
- ☐ Make copies of all documents sent by mail or submitted online and place in a college file.
- ☐ Look through the mail each day for admissions notices and materials and information about financial aid.

Paying for College

- ☐ Involve your child in discussions about financing his or her college education.
- ☐ Attend financial aid workshops and do research online (pp. 37-49).
- ☐ Open a Pennsylvania 529 College Savings Plan account. Learn more at <http://www.pa529.com/>.
- ☐ Use the FAFSA4caster to estimate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), <https://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate>.
- ☐ Help your child research scholarships (pp. 42-43).
- ☐ Help your high school senior complete and submit the FAFSA as close to October 1 as possible (pp. 44-45).
- ☐ Help your child organize financial aid and scholarship materials.
- ☐ **Remember: a college is not your child's "dream school" if it is not a financial fit for your family.**

Transitioning to College

- ☐ Make sure your child keeps current with mail and email the summer before college, for instructions related to housing, billing, medical forms, etc.
- ☐ Talk with your child about responsible behavior regarding sex, drugs and alcohol.
- ☐ Talk with your child about managing expenses at college (p. 53).
- ☐ Encourage your child to use on-campus resources, such as tutoring, the health center and the counselling center (p. 51).
- ☐ The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects your child's privacy, but denies you access to financial, healthcare or educational information about your child from his or her college. Your child must sign a waiver to grant you access to college bills, transcripts and/or health information. Look for information about these matters in the materials sent to you by your child's school or on its website.

RESOURCES AND PARTNERS

IN THIS SECTION:

Local college prep programs, p. 59
 Online resources, p. 60
 Contact information for colleges and universities, pp. 61-62
 College profiles, pp. 63-65



Saint Joseph's University

Local College Prep Programs

There are many organizations in Philadelphia that help college-bound high school students and their families as they prepare for and apply to college. The list below is only a small sampling of the available programs and services.

 Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia	www.breakthroughphilly.org 215-261-6705
Community College of Philadelphia Advance at College	www.ccp.edu/advanceatcollege 215-751-8933
 free LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA	https://libwww.freelibrary.org/collegeprep/ 215-686-5372
 College Access Program	www.philaedfund.org/cap 215-665-1400
 SUMMER SEARCH HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE SOAR.	www.summersearch.org/philadelphia 215-399-4906
 WINS Women In Natural Sciences	www.ansp.org/education/programs/wins 215-299-1064

You are not alone on your journey to college. There are a wealth of resources available to support your post-secondary goals. These resources will help you navigate high school, prepare for and apply to college, and transition to campus life.



- Community College of Philadelphia TRIO Upward Bound
www.ccp.edu/site/academic/adult_services/trio.html
215-751-8780
- Gwynedd Mercy University Upward Bound
www.gmercyu.edu/about-gwynedd-mercy/upward-bound
215-646-7300, ext. 398
- Harcum College Upward Bound
www.harcum.edu and search for "Upward Bound"
610-526-6151
- Temple University Math Science Upward Bound
<http://education.temple.edu/upwardbound>
215-204-7653
- University of Pennsylvania High School Upward Bound
www.vpul.upenn.edu/eap/ub
215-898-3185

Online Resources

The following websites are important resources as you navigate the college admissions process. Refer to the sites often by saving them in your online favorites.

College Searches and Planning

ACT Education & Career Planning: www.act.org

Big Future: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Campus Explorer: www.campusexplorer.com

Campus Tours: www.campustours.com

College Greenlight: www.collegegreenlight.com

College Navigator:

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/

Going2College: www.going2college.org

I'm First: www.imfirst.org

Financial Aid

American Education Services: www.aessuccess.org

FAFSA: www.fafsa.ed.gov

FastWeb: www.fastweb.org

Federal Student Aid: www.studentaid.ed.gov

FinAid: www.finaid.org

Pennsylvania 529 College Savings Program:

www.pa529.com

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency:

www.pheaa.org



Dickinson College

National Scholarship Search Engines

Cappex: www.cappex.com/scholarships/

Chegg: www.chegg.com/scholarships

The College Board: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

CollegeNET: www.collegenet.com

College Scholarships.org:

www.collegescholarships.org

Free-4U: www.free-4U.com

Niche: <https://colleges.niche.com/scholarships/>

Peterson's: www.petersons.com

Raise.me: www.raise.me

Sallie Mae: www.salliemae.com/plan-for-college

Scholarship Monkey: www.scholarshipmonkey.com

Scholarships.com: www.scholarships.com/main.aspx

Scholly: www.myscholly.com

Unigo: www.unigo.com/scholarships

For Parents and Guardians

- The Parent and Family Portal from the School District of Philadelphia can help you track your child's academic progress, test scores and attendance: www.philasd.org.
- NAVIANCE Family Connection, provided by the School District of Philadelphia and other schools, can help in making decisions about colleges, scholarships and careers.
- The College Board offers tools and webinars on topics such as financial aid, college savings and tuition tax credits: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents>.
- The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) provides online tools to help with the transition from high school to college: www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/.
- Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) provides EducationPlanner.org to educate parents about college planning, educational costs, the college admissions process and student aid: www.educationplanner.org/parents/.

College Sampling

The following list includes contact information for many colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and a selection of historically black colleges and universities.

Pennsylvania State and State-Related Institutions

School	Location	Telephone	Website
Bloomsburg University	Bloomsburg, PA	570-389-4316	www.bloomu.edu
California University	California, PA	800-412-0479	www.calu.edu
Clarion University	Clarion, PA	800-672-7171	www.clarion.edu
East Stroudsburg University	East Stroudsburg, PA	877-230-5547	www.esu.edu
Edinboro University	Edinboro, PA	888-846-2676	www.edinboro.edu
Indiana University	Indiana, PA	800-442-6830	www.iup.edu
Kutztown University	Kutztown, PA	610-683-4060	www.kutztown.edu
Lincoln University	Lincoln University, PA	800-790-0191	www.lincoln.edu
Lock Haven University	Lock Haven, PA	570-484-2011	www.lhup.edu
Mansfield University	Mansfield, PA	800-577-6826	www.mansfield.edu
Millersville University	Millersville, PA	717-871-4625	www.millersville.edu
Pennsylvania State University	University Park, PA	814-865-5471	www.psu.edu
Shippensburg University	Shippensburg, PA	717-477-1231	www.ship.edu
Slippery Rock University	Slippery Rock, PA	724-738-2015	www.sru.edu
Temple University	Philadelphia, PA	888-340-2222	www.temple.edu
University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA	412-624-7488	www.pitt.edu
West Chester University	West Chester, PA	610-436-3411	www.wcupa.edu

Private Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania

School	Location	Telephone	Website
Albright College	Reading, PA	800-252-1856	www.albright.edu
Arcadia University	Glenside, PA	877-272-2342	www.arcadia.edu
Bryn Mawr College	Bryn Mawr, PA	610-526-5152	www.brynmawr.edu
Cabrini College	Radnor, PA	610-902-8552	www.cabrini.edu
Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh, PA	412-268-2082	www.cmu.edu
Chestnut Hill College	Philadelphia, PA	215-248-7001	www.chc.edu
Dickinson College	Carlisle, PA	717-245-1231	www.dickinson.edu
Delaware Valley College	Doylestown, PA	215-489-2459	www.delval.edu
Drexel University	Philadelphia, PA	215-895-2400	www.drexel.edu
Eastern University	St. Davids, PA	717-565-1950	www.eastern.edu
Franklin & Marshall College	Lancaster, PA	877-678-9111	www.fandm.edu
Gettysburg College	Gettysburg, PA	717-337-6100	www.gettysburg.edu
Gwynedd Mercy University	Gwynedd Valley, PA	800-342-5462	www.gmercyu.edu
Haverford College	Haverford, PA	610-896-1350	www.haverford.edu
Holy Family University	Philadelphia, PA	215-637-3050	www.holyfamily.edu
Immaculata University	Immaculata, PA	610-647-4400	www.immaculata.edu
Lafayette College	Easton, PA	610-330-5100	www.lafayette.edu
La Salle University	Philadelphia, PA	215-951-1500	www.lasalle.edu

Institutions listed in **bold type** are partners with Philadelphia Futures in the publication of *Step Up to College*.

Private Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania (Continued)

School	Location	Telephone	Website
Lehigh University	Bethlehem, PA	610-758-4361	www.lehigh.edu
Lycoming College	Williamsport, PA	570-321-4000	www.lycoming.edu
Moore College of Art and Design	Philadelphia, PA	215-965-4015	www.moore.edu
Muhlenberg College	Allentown, PA	484-664-3200	www.muhlenberg.edu
Philadelphia University	Philadelphia, PA	215-951-2800	www.philau.edu
Rosemont College	Rosemont, PA	610-526-2966	www.rosemont.edu
Saint Joseph's University	Philadelphia, PA	610-660-1267	www.sju.edu
Susquehanna University	Selinsgrove, PA	570-372-4260	www.susqu.edu
Swarthmore College	Swarthmore, PA	610-328-8300	www.swarthmore.edu
Thomas Jefferson University	Philadelphia, PA	215-503-8890	www.jefferson.edu/university
The University of the Arts	Philadelphia, PA	215-717-6049	www.uarts.edu
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, PA	215-898-7507	www.upenn.edu
University of the Sciences	Philadelphia, PA	888-996-8747	www.usciences.edu
Ursinus College	Collegeville, PA	610-409-3200	www.ursinus.edu
Villanova University	Villanova, PA	610-519-4000	www.villanova.edu
Widener University	Chester, PA	1-888-widener	www.widener.edu

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

School	Location	Telephone	Website
Clark Atlanta University	Atlanta, GA	800-688-3228	www.cau.edu
Delaware State	Dover, DE	800-845-2544	www.desu.edu
Hampton University	Hampton, VA	800-624-3328	www.hamptonu.edu
Howard University	Washington, DC	800-822-6363	www.howard.edu
Morehouse College	Atlanta, GA	404-215-2632	www.morehouse.edu
Morgan State University	Baltimore, MD	800-332-6674	www.morgan.edu
Spelman College	Atlanta, GA	800-982-2411	www.spelman.edu
Tuskegee University	Tuskegee, AL	800-622-6531	www.tuskegee.edu
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	Princess Anne, MD	410-651-6410	www.umes.edu
Virginia State University	Petersburg, VA	800-871-7611	www.vsu.edu

Two-Year Colleges in Pennsylvania

School	Location	Telephone	Website
Bucks County Community College	Newtown, PA	215-968-8000	www.bucks.edu
Community College of Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA	215-751-8010	www.ccp.edu
Delaware County Community College	Media, PA	610-359-5000	www.dccc.edu
Esperanza College of Eastern University	Philadelphia, PA	215-324-0746	esperanza.eastern.edu
Harcum College	Bryn Mawr, PA	610-526-6147	www.harcum.edu
Manor College	Jenkintown, PA	215-576-6564	www.manor.edu
Montgomery County Community College	Blue Bell, PA	215-641-6530	www.mc3.edu
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology	Lancaster, PA	800-842-3832	www.stevenscollege.edu

Institutions listed in **bold type** are partners with Philadelphia Futures in the publication of *Step Up to College*.

Our Partners in Your College Success

Philadelphia Futures gratefully acknowledges the generosity and valued partnership of our *Step Up to College Guide* sponsors. These institutions demonstrate their dedication to making a college education accessible to all students by underwriting this vital resource.

ARCADIA UNIVERSITY

www.arcadia.edu

Admissions:
1-877-ARCADIA

 /arcadia.university
 @ArcadiaBound
 @ArcadiaU
 @ArcadiaAdmiss
 youtube.com/user/ArcadiaUnivNews

Location: Glenside, PA 19038

Campus Setting: Suburban

Undergraduate Population:
2,500

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 13:1

Average Class Size: 16

Open House Dates: September 25, October 16, November 12, December 4

A Feature Unique to Arcadia: With more than 130 programs in 15 countries to choose from, all Arcadia students have opportunities for extraordinary international experiences. Programs vary from a year of study at foreign institutions to courses that include a week-long excursion. There's a reason Arcadia has been ranked #1 in the nation for study abroad six years in a row! Also, we have a castle!

Dickinson

www.dickinson.edu

Admissions:
800-644-1773

 /Dickinson
 @DickinsonCol
 @dickinsoncollege
 youtube.com/user/DickinsonCollege

Location: Carlisle, PA 17013

Campus Setting: Suburban

Undergraduate Population:
2,308

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 9:1

Average Class Size: 15

Open House Dates: September 19, October 12, November 11

A Feature Unique to Dickinson: Dickinson has one of the nation's strongest programs in global education, with majors/certificates in international business & management, international studies, foreign languages and security studies as well as study abroad. Dickinson also is a national leader in sustainability education, empowering students to connect their classroom learning with campus operations, and resources such as the College's 50-acre organic farm and civic engagement.

Community College of Philadelphia

www.ccp.edu

Admissions:
215-751-8010

 /CCPedu
 @CCPedu
 @CCPedu
 youtube.com/user/ComCollegePhila

Location: Philadelphia, PA 19130

Campus Setting: Urban

Undergraduate Population:
31,239

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 30:1

Average Class Size: 22

Open House Dates:
www.ccp.edu/openhouse

A Feature Unique to CCP: Our 50th Anniversary Scholars Program enables eligible Philadelphia high school students to pursue an associate's degree at the College at no cost for tuition and fees. Students need to satisfy placement requirements, enroll for at least 12 credits in a degree program and apply for financial aid. Costs unmet by financial aid will be covered if students meet program requirements.

Drexel UNIVERSITY

www.drexel.edu

Admissions:
1-800-2-DREXEL
or 215-895-2400

 /DrexelAdmission
 @DrexelAdmission
 @DrexelAdmission
 youtube.com/DrexelUniv

Location: Philadelphia, PA 19104

Campus Setting: Urban

Undergraduate Population:
16,464

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 9:1

Average Class Size: 25

Open House Dates: October 8 and 9, November 5 and 6

A Feature Unique to Drexel: Drexel Co-op, our world-renowned cooperative education program, allows students to apply in-class learning to six-month periods of work experience in their field of choice. Drexel Co-op can be completed at over 1,700 employers in 35 states and 45 countries.



Gwynedd Mercy
University

www.gmercyu.edu

Admissions:

800-342-5462

/GMercyU

@GMercyU

@GMercyU

youtube.com/channel/
UCsLo8rJbAAI7jJDfwELu8Dg

Location: Gwynedd Valley,
PA 19437

Campus Setting: Suburban

Undergraduate Population:
2,000

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 10:1

Average Class Size: 19

Open House Dates: October 12,
2016; November 12, 2016;
April 22, 2017

A Feature Unique to Gwynedd Mercy: “The small class sizes make professors much more accessible than at other universities. Gwynedd Mercy University can really change somebody’s life.” — Joshua Carson, Finance ’16



PennState

www.psu.edu

Admissions:

215-246-3500

/psuadmissions

@psu_admissions

@psuadmissions

youtube.com/psuadmissions

Location: 20 campuses

Campus Setting: 20 undergraduate campuses across the state

Undergraduate Population:
Varies by campus

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 16:1

Average Class Size: Varies

Open House Dates:
admissions.psu.edu/
pennstate/visit

A Feature Unique to Penn State: Whether it’s deciding what to study from among more than 160 majors and choosing a campus that’s right for you to being a part of a community of more than 70,000 undergraduate students and building a network with the help of more than 630,000 living alumni, Penn State gives you the options and opportunities to be a part of something big.



LEHIGH
UNIVERSITY

www.lehigh.edu

Admissions:

610-758-3100

/lehighadmissions

@lehighadmission

@lehighu

youtube.com/user/
lehighuofficial

Location: Bethlehem, PA 18015

Campus Setting: Suburban

Undergraduate Population:
5,034

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 10:1

Average Class Size: 28

Open House Date: October 21

A Feature Unique to Lehigh: Lehigh, recognizing that solving world problems requires an understanding of different fields and their intersections, encourages students to study and make connections across multiple fields — including art, humanities, science, business, and engineering. Students can earn degrees like Integrated Business and Engineering or take a class such as Hip Hop Theatre. They are also pursuing answers to open-ended questions in collaboration with peers and faculty mentors through the Mountaintop Experience.



SAINT JOSEPH'S
UNIVERSITY

www.sju.edu/magis

Admissions:

610-660-1300

/sjuadmissions

@SJUAdmissions

@saintjosephs

@sjuadmissions

youtube.com/sjuvideo

Location: Philadelphia, PA 19131

Campus Setting: Urban/Suburban

Undergraduate Population:
4,805

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 14:1

Average Class Size: 23

Open House Dates: October 2
and 23, 2016; April 30, 2017

A Feature Unique to Saint Joseph's: Saint Joseph's University is Philadelphia's Jesuit University. We are distinctly a Catholic, Jesuit University. Jesuit is about being called to do more, like studying alongside your professor to develop a new water filtration system for those in need of clean water, like providing social media skills to not-for-profit companies, or working in our Kinney Center for Autism Education & Support to provide a safe learning environment for kids with autism. We strive to open a whole world of opportunity to make life better — not just for ourselves, but also for others.



www.temple.edu

Admissions:

215-204-7200

/templeu

@admissionstu

@admissionstu

youtube.com/c/temple
university

Location: Philadelphia, PA 19122

Campus Setting: Urban

Undergraduate Population:

26,000 on Main Campus, 37,000
total (including all campuses)

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 14:1

Average Class Size: 25-30

Open House Dates: October 8
and November 6

A Feature Unique to Temple: Study abroad in Temple Rome or Temple Tokyo (actual Temple University campuses) for the summer, a semester or the full academic year.



www.usciences.edu

Admissions:

215-596-8810, 888-996-8747

USciencesAdmission/

@USciencesAdmit

@USciencesAdmit/

youtube.com/user/usciences

Location: Philadelphia, PA 19104

Campus Setting: Urban

Undergraduate Population:

2,200

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 10:1

Average Class Size: 38

Open House Dates: Fall Open
Houses available in October,
November and December

A Feature Unique to USciences: University of the Sciences offers a small, close-knit community with the resources of a large university. Students have opportunities to participate in undergraduate research starting during their first year, second semester. USciences offers degree programs and career preparation for many of the most in-demand fields in science and healthcare. 95% of our graduates are employed or accepted for graduate school within six months of graduation, and our graduates are ranked top 10 in the nation for average salary after graduation.



www.upenn.edu

Admissions:

215-898-7507

/PreviewingPenn

@PreviewingPenn

@previewingpenn

youtube.com/user/
univpennsylvania

Location: Philadelphia, PA 19104

Campus Setting: Urban

Undergraduate Population:

10,000

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 6:1

Average Class Size: 25

Open House Dates:
www.admissions.upenn.edu/visit

A Feature Unique to Penn: Penn meets 100% of demonstrated financial need for four years with an exclusively grant-based aid package.



www.villanova.edu

Admissions:

610-519-4500

/villanovau

@villanovau

@villanovau

youtube.com/villanova
university

Location: Villanova, PA 19085

Campus Setting: Suburban

Undergraduate Population:

7,191

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 12:1

Average Class Size: 22

Open House Date:
September 11

A Feature Unique to Villanova: Villanova's Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition is the cornerstone of an academic community where students learn to think critically, act compassionately, and succeed while serving others. The University's rigorous academic experience, rooted in the liberal arts, forms an environment in which students and professors are partners in learning. The Villanova community is dedicated to providing a personalized experience that fosters every student's intellectual and spiritual well-being. As part of their education, students are encouraged to enrich their own lives by working for those in need. Through academic and service programs, students use their knowledge, skills and compassion to better the world around them.



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www.villanova.edu



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Admissions
-Philadelphia Outreach

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NETWORK



LEHIGH
UNIVERSITY

Bethlehem, PA
lehigh.edu/admissions



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by Going Beyond The Classroom.”**

—The Princeton Review, 2015

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www.upenn.edu



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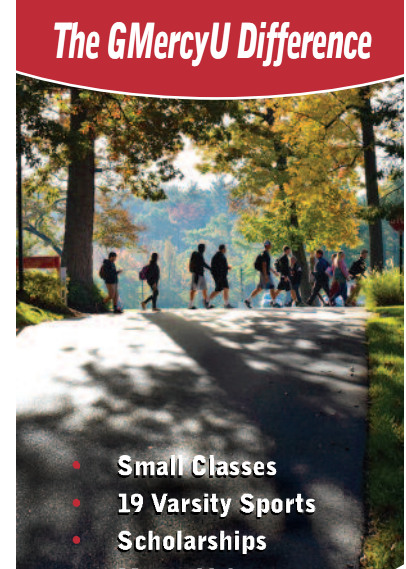
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arcadia.edu/Discover16
 1-877-ARCADIA • admiss@arcadia.edu

Dickinson

P.O. Box 1773
 Carlisle, PA 17013
 800-644-1773

www.dickinson.edu

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gmercyyu.edu

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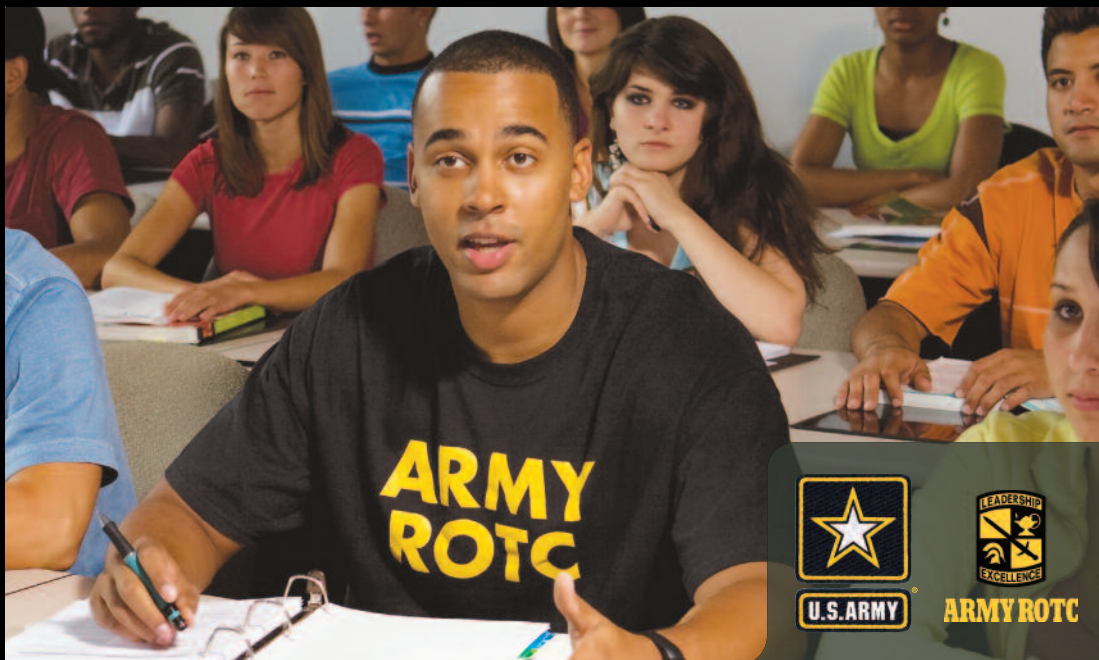
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At Drexel, we believe in getting started **today, not tomorrow**. Your education will mirror the needs of the ever-changing world. And after gaining professional experience before graduation, you'll have confidence in your career path.

Get started today:
drexel.edu

 **Drexel UNIVERSITY**





ARMY ROTC

**START YOUR JOURNEY.
START PUSHING YOURSELF EVEN FURTHER.
START A NEW EXPERIENCE.
START BUILDING YOUR CAREER.
START MOLDING YOUR STRENGTHS.
START AHEAD OF THE CROWD.
START DISCOVERING NEW TALENTS.
START STRONG.**

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Sponsor-A-Scholar is a comprehensive, individualized college access and success program serving promising students attending Philadelphia's public high schools. Eligible students enter the program in ninth grade and receive the support, resources and opportunities they need to be admitted to and succeed in college.

Sponsor-A-Scholar is currently accepting students in the High School Classes of 2019 and 2020.



College Connection offers personalized guidance to support the college success of qualified students attending Philadelphia's public, public charter and parochial high schools. Students enter the Program in eleventh grade and must meet academic and income requirements to be admitted. Students have access to a range of resources and one-to-one support to help them navigate the college admissions process, transition to college and earn their degrees.

College Connection is currently accepting students in the High School Class of 2018.



Outreach Futures brings Philadelphia Futures' expertise in supporting the college aspirations of first-generation-to-college students to the Philadelphia community. Philadelphia Futures works with community partners to offer customized programming, workshops and resources to Philadelphia high school students and their families as they navigate the college admissions process.

Outreach Futures is currently accepting requests for the 2016-2017 academic year.



The Ellis Trust for Girls provides financial resources for high school girls living in low-income, single-parent homes to help them prepare for postsecondary success. Girls attending Philadelphia's public and public charter schools may apply for grants to fund enrichment activities. Girls attending parochial and independent schools may apply for tuition assistance.

Applications from girls attending public and public charter schools are accepted on a rolling basis. The 2017-2018 application for parochial and independent school girls will be available in January 2017.

PHILADELPHIA FUTURES

For more information about Philadelphia Futures' programs and services, visit www.philadelphiafutures.org or call 215-790-1666.



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