



JHS

COLLEGE HANDBOOK

# ***QUICK REFERENCE PAGE***

Jasper High School Website: <http://jhs.jasper.k12.al.us/>  
Jasper High School Guidance: Go to above address and click on Quick Links, Guidance and Counseling,  
then College Handbook

Jasper City Board of Education Website: <http://jcs.jasper.k12.al.us/>

Jasper High School CEEB (School Code): 011540  
Parchment Electronic Transcripts: [parchment.com/u/registration/3987/account](http://parchment.com/u/registration/3987/account)

## **Join the Guidance and Counseling REMIND**

Class of 2025 text “@jhssr2025” to 81010

Class of 2027 text “@jhco2027” to 81010

Class of 2026 text “@jhjr2026” to 81010

Class of 2028 text “@jhco2028 to 81010



## **JHS GUIDANCE STAFF**

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## **JHS Administration**

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Assistant Principal, Mrs. Beth Kennedy / 221-9277 ext. 64030  
Assistant Principal, Mr. Jonathan Jordan / 221-9277 ext. 64022  
Assistant Principal, Mr. Patrick Darwin / 221-9277 ext. 64078

## **DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS**

**All transcript requests must be made two weeks in advance of your deadlines.  
Complete your application **EARLY**; the earlier, the better!**

**All juniors should have taken the ACT and/or SAT at least once by June. Check with the College you are planning on attending to see if they require the reading portion of the ACT.**

The college application process should be fun and exciting for you. Start now! Most colleges and universities will begin accepting applications for the following academic year during the late summer or early fall.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

QUICK REFERENCE PAGE .....	1
INTRODUCTION TO SENIORS .....	3
GLOSSARY .....	4
THE STATE OF COLLEGE ADMISSION .....	7
JUNIOR MONTH-TO-MONTH CALENDAR .....	8
SENIOR MONTH-TO-MONTH CALENDAR .....	9
RÉSUMÉS .....	10
CHOOSING A COLLEGE .....	13
THE APPLICATION PROCESS .....	17
COLLEGE VISIT AND INTERVIEWS .....	19
FINANCIAL AID .....	20
FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS SUMMARY .....	22
SCHOLARSHIPS .....	24
RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS, PARENTS, COUNSELORS, AND COLLEGES .....	25
RESOURCE INFORMATION FOR THE ARTS .....	27
GOING ONLINE .....	28
COLLEGE COMPARISON WORKSHEET .....	30
COLLEGE ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID WORKSHEET .....	31
NOTES .....	32

The time has come – remember way back in the spring of your eighth grade year when you were told how important the first three years of your high school career would be? Those three years have come and gone (almost) and whatever you did or did not do will come to help (or haunt) you during your senior year. If you will plan ahead, complete all of the required paperwork in a timely manner, and be a conscientious student, this life transition will be a fun and easy time for you. You must be responsible for your own destiny!

This *College Handbook* provides juniors, seniors, and their parents with information and guidance about the college selection and application process. You will find that this process presents meaningful challenges and opportunities. As you identify options and make a final college selection, you will gain valuable insights about your own interests and priorities. You will ask yourself many questions including, “Do I want to attend a large public university, or a small liberal arts, private college? What type of learning environment best suits me? Do I want to live in the middle of a city, or would I rather have the atmosphere of a small town? What do I want to do with my life?” There will be many people providing advice for your future; listen and learn, and do what is best for you.

The college selection process can help you grow and better understand yourself. College applications and essays offer a chance to assess yourself and to express that understanding in writing; interviews enable you both to learn more about a college and to present yourself as an articulate, memorable candidate. Consider your self-assessment, discuss your options with others, and learn to highlight your strengths.

Before you begin your senior year, check your transcript to verify that you have completed college admission requirements. If you are receiving an honors or advanced diploma, you will have completed the courses required by most colleges. This is especially important for athletes; you must be eligible for admission to a college even if you have been recruited by a coach.

Moving on to “finding the right college” – remember that a college’s suitability does not depend on its academic selectivity. Hundreds of colleges offer superb opportunities. Learn as much as you can about differences in curriculum, location, and campus atmosphere. Remember that your choice of a college does not define who you are, and it cannot make you into who you want to be. It will not guarantee success, and it cannot doom you to failure. Your personal growth can and will continue wherever you choose to go after you graduate. The purpose of the selection process is to find a college where you think you can be happy and productive.

This *College Handbook* should be used as a guide. It offers a wealth of “how-to” information and is an invaluable tool to help you to navigate the complicated college selection process. We are here to help you with this process.

# IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME!

## Definitions for “First Timers”

### KEY WORDS USED IN COLLEGE CATALOGUES

**ACT** – [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) – a placement and admissions examination program that helps students prepare and colleges plan for the transition from high school to college. The highest score possible is a 36, and the national average score is 21/22. You should check in with the college to which you are applying to see if they require the ACT writing assessment.

**Associate Degree** – two-year degree offered by community colleges with the opportunity to transfer the credits to a four-year university.

**Bachelor’s Degree** – degree earned for completing undergraduate college programs that normally take four years.

**Candidate Notification Date** – date the college/university will announce its decision on a student’s application for admission.

**Candidate Reply Date** – date by which students **MUST** notify colleges that have accepted them as to their plans for attending in the fall. This deadline is usually May 1.

**CEEB Number** – College Entrance Examination Board – also known as the High School Code -Jasper’s CEEB # is 011540.

**Common Application** – This admission application is accepted by over 200 colleges (which are listed on the application). Applicants complete one copy, duplicate as many copies as necessary and mail the copies to colleges that accept the “common app.” Some colleges that use the common app will send a supplemental form for completion by the applicant.  
[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).

**Cooperative Education** – (work study) – This is a college program which combines both work and study to earn a degree.

**CSS Profile** – College Scholarship Service Profile is a need analysis form SOME colleges require to determine if you are eligible for private (as opposed to federal or state) money.

**Deferred Admission** – Early decision applicant’s admission is deferred. The student’s application is put into the regular decision applicant pool for re-evaluation. This will happen with students who apply in the fall to Auburn University and do not have a 3.0 and a 22 ACT.

**Demonstrated Interest** – The number and quality of contacts you have had with the college. Colleges are interested in qualified students who have taken the time to return post cards and other mailings, visit, e-mail, and/or call.

**Early Decision / Early Action** – This can be very confusing! **Early Decision:** Student applies to a first choice college early in the fall of the senior year, usually by November 1. The student is bound to enter that institution if offered admission and must withdraw all other applications to other schools. The only circumstance whereby a student is permitted to withdraw from an early decision offer is if the student believes the financial aid award is insufficient. If deferred, or rejected, the student may submit applications elsewhere. **Early Action or Early Notification** requires that the student apply by an early date, but does not require applicants to withdraw other applications and make a commitment to attend. The early action plan is offered to allow students who have a first choice to complete the application process earlier. In either case, the key word is EARLY. Be aware of deadlines.

**FAFSA** – The Free Application for Federal Student Aid must be completed online, [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov), with information from the parents' prior year's tax return. Once completed you will receive an SAR (student aid report) that will explain your EFC (expected family contribution). If the costs of the college you select exceed the EFC, you may be eligible for financial aid in the form of loans, grants, and/or work/study.

**GPA** – Grade Point Average – The system uses ALL grades (9-12) and all courses to compute an overall or cumulative GPA. Many colleges will change our cumulative GPA to an academic GPA, which includes only English, math, social studies, science and foreign language grades.

**Liberal Arts Education** – a general education of humanities, science and technology considered a foundation for life. Liberal arts institutions may not offer as many advanced technical or scientific undergraduate opportunities as comprehensive universities.

**Matriculate** – to enroll in a college or university as a candidate for a degree.

**NCAA** – The National Collegiate Athletic Association Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse for college athletes. Students interested in participating in a sport while in college must complete this form at the end of their junior year. See Mrs. Dozier, registrar, for details.  
[www.naaclearinghouse.net](http://www.naaclearinghouse.net)

**Profile** – The high school profile is a demographical description of your high school and the academic characteristics of the most recent graduates. A profile is sent with college applications.

**Recommendations** – Letters written for you by teachers who know you well and in whose class you did well (usually junior year teachers). Ask for a letter of recommendation before you finish your junior year, as many teachers prefer to write their recommendations over the summer. They can give a copy of their recommendation to the counselor to place in your file for use in the fall with your applications.

**Rolling Admission** – Some colleges review applications for admission on a first-come, first-served basis. Notification of acceptance or rejection is usually a few weeks after all required components of the application have been received by the college. Most state-supported schools have rolling admissions. It is very wise to apply early, as they admit on a rolling basis and also give out some of their scholarship awards at the same time; when they run out of money, there are no more scholarships given, regardless of GPA and test scores.

**ROTC** – Reserve Officers Training Corps – This is a campus-based program in conjunction with the college and the Air Force ([www.afrotc.com](http://www.afrotc.com)), Navy (<http://www.navy.com/benefits/education/nrotc/>), and/or Army ([www.armyrotc.com](http://www.armyrotc.com)). Students enter college through a special admissions process and pay reduced college costs known as ROTC scholarships. Your high school does not have to offer an ROTC program for you to qualify for one of these scholarships. You may apply online.

**SAT I** – [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) – also a test for college admission. The highest possible score is 1600, with a national average of 1026. The new writing assessment may be required by some colleges and universities. Call the schools admissions office to see if they require it.

**SAT II** – subject tests which are required by selective colleges. These are one-hour individual tests in varied subjects which are given on the same test date as the SAT I. Three tests may be taken at one sitting.

**Selective Colleges** – are colleges that accept fewer students than apply. The degree of selectivity is dependent upon the number of applicants per seat a school receives. Highly selective colleges (or top tier colleges) may accept 30% or fewer applicants. Most require honor and AP courses.

**Test Center Code** – The most familiar ACT test center for Jasper students is at Bevill State Community College Jasper #000540 or Bevill State Community College Sumiton #047090. The most familiar SAT test center for Jasper students in Birmingham is Samford University #000161.

**Wait List** – Students who are not offered a place in the entering class by a college may be put on a Wait List. This means that the student met the criteria for admission and that the college may offer the student a spot in the entering class if enough other similar applicants decline admission.

# THE STATE OF COLLEGE ADMISSION

*From the National Association for College Admission Counseling*

**“Students MUST understand the importance given to college preparatory courses and standardized tests as factors in the admission decision. There will continue to be an increase in high school graduates and enrollments in postsecondary education. Economic factors have brought about changes in applications and in the admission offices. Both college marketing/research and Website information increase student and parent stress.”**

College enrollments have steadily increased for the past 40 years, potentially making the competition over space at some institutions more intense (Auburn University is a good Alabama example). Students can get caught up in the talk about “fit” – most students would fit in many different colleges; there is not just one “fit.” The top four factors in college admission are:

**Grades in college preparatory courses**  
**Standardized admission tests**  
**Grades in all courses**  
**Class rank**

“Tip” factors are the essay, extracurricular activities, counselor recommendations and teachers’ recommendations.

## THE COLLEGE PROCESS

The college process is a series of procedures designed to help the student gain admission to at least one college/university that meets the student’s abilities, needs, and interests. During this process students should go through a period of self-reflection to determine their interests, skills, aspirations, and values. Phone calls to colleges by parents are not recommended. If parents select colleges and process the applications, the student will end up at the best college for the parent! Students must have candid discussions with their families about college costs, geographical limitations, and preferred size of a college. This should be done before the actual application process begins for students so they know which schools their parents will not allow them to attend or cannot afford.

The college process is not a science, and it is not necessarily fair. Almost every college could admit two or more entering classes of qualified students. The selections they make are based upon making their campus the kind of learning environment defined in their mission statements and the qualifications demanded by their presidents and their Boards of Trustees. They strive to admit students who will not drown in the academic pressure of their campus, who will feel at home in the residence halls, and who will enjoy and participate in the extracurricular activities.

Just as technology has changed the methods of gathering admissions information – you can apply for most colleges on-line and some college e-mail their decisions – applications procedures change every year and every year the number of qualified applicants to competitive college’s increases. What has NOT changed is that the process should be an educational and enjoyable experience that leads to self-discovery and personal growth.

Students have the right to obtain information from colleges and universities concerning their admission and financial aid policies. They should be well informed of the policies and procedures concerning application fees, deposits, refunds, housing, and financial aid. Students **MAY** write to defer a response or a deposit on any offers of admission or financial aid until they have heard from all colleges and universities to which they have applied **OR** until May 1, whichever comes first.

The most important factors in admission are the quality of work done in courses that are challenging and rigorous, and the fact that students have taken advantage of the many opportunities offered both in and out of the classroom. Achieving a high test score does not guarantee a student admission to selective institutions. ***VERY IMPORTANT*** – (1) *Demonstrated interest* is a factor at many selective colleges (contact, visit, and research); (2) the date of your application is important – the earlier the better (when they have closed their admissions, it doesn't matter what your GPA and test score might be); (3) finishing high school with stronger grades than when you started. Your senior year is **NOT** the year to say, "I just want to have fun." Fun is good – you should have fun – but not at the expense of your education!

Almost every college counselor would tell you to apply to colleges in the following areas (and for those of you who "know" you want to go to a particular college and no other, and "know" you will be accepted, you may ignore this information):

- 1) Your "Reach" schools – your top choices – may be long shots. Choose two or three.
- 2) Schools which are "Realistic" – these schools offer what you would like to take, and you fit with their admission requirements. Choose two or three.
- 3) "Safety" schools – they have what you want, your chances for admission are very good, and you know you would be able to live with, and enjoy, this choice.

## **JUNIOR MONTH – TO – MONTH CALENDAR**

### **MARCH - MAY**

- Register for the April ACT
- Watch for meaningful summer enrichment programs that may interest you
- Begin your college visits
- Explore your Early Decision / Early Action Options
- Take the April ACT
- Develop a resume

### **APRIL - JUNE**

- Plan a challenging senior year
- Register for the June ACT
- Be sure your resume is on file in the Career Center
- Continue your college search
- Arrange college visits and/or interviews during the summer
- Review your transcript

### **SUMMER**

- Do something EXTRAORDINARY!
- Rev up for college!
- Review for ACT retake
- Keep extracurricular and community service going
- Encourage parents to attend College Night in September
- Begin filling out applications

## SENIOR MONTH – BY – MONTH CALENDAR

### AUG/SEPT

- Be sure your resume is on file with your counselor
- Begin filling out applications
- Register for ACT (if needed)
- Finalize college list
- Remember your responsibilities if Applying Early Decision/Early Action
- Check website for college information
- Begin drafts of essays
- \*\*Plan college visits
- Attend College Fair in September
- Attend 2024 Nat'l College Fair at Civic Center
- Visit with college reps at your school
- Fill out Recommendation Letter "Brag Sheet"

### FEBRUARY

- Check / Apply for private scholarships (Listen to announcements/Visit the Career Center, Check email and JHS fb page)

### MAY

- Confirm housing plans
- Make sure to have turned in ALL scholarship award letters to Mrs. Whisenhunt

### OCTOBER

- Be aware of Early Decision/Early Action deadlines
- Submit Early Decision/Early Action applications by 10/1
- Update resume
- Take ACT (if needed)
- Work on college essays
- \*\*Plan college visits & interviews (remember a Thank You letter)

### DECEMBER

- Take ACT (if needed)
- Finish all applications and essays to selective colleges.
- Check all application deadlines

### MARCH

- Continue to check / apply for scholarships
- Submit additional information to colleges (new scores, grades, honors...etc which may help your admission/scholarship process)
- Turn in to Mrs. Whisenhunt ALL scholarship Award letters you receive

### SUMMER

- ENJOY YOURSELF! YOU'VE WORKED HARD AND YOU DESERVE IT!

### NOVEMBER

- Take ACT if needed
- Research scholarship sources throughout the year
- Submit FAFSA application

### JANUARY

- Submit FAFSA application
- Review transcript with mid-Year grades

### APRIL

- Review college responses and aid offers with your parents/guardians/counselors
- Make sure to withdraw from colleges you will not attend
- Turn in to Mrs. Whisenhunt ALL scholarship award letters

**\*\* You must always prearrange your absences with the attendance office three (3) days in advance for college visits and scholarship competition days.**

**OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS MUST BE SENT FROM YOUR HIGH SCHOOL THROUGH PARCHMENT. IF YOU PLAN TO TAKE YOUR TRANSCRIPT TO A COLLEGE, YOU MAY REQUEST YOUR OWN COPY THROUGH PARCHMENT OR SEE YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR. SCHOOL COUNSELORS CAN ONLY SEND UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS.**

**parchment.com OR <https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/3987/account>**

## RÉSUMÉ WRITING

All juniors should have a résumé before the end of the school year. English teachers will be working with the juniors to format and complete résumés as part of an English 11 classroom assignment. We strongly suggest that you use the resume builder in the Alabama Career Planning System (Kuder) at <https://al.kuder.com/landing-page>. Students have created a portfolio for which they have their own private username and password. If students have forgotten the username and password, there is a link where it can be emailed to the student.

Your résumé will be a valuable source of information for you, your teachers, and your counselors when you begin the application process. A résumé usually includes information that will not be included on official transcripts, such as community service activities, work experience, and extracurricular activities. You should include your social security number on your résumé for college records but delete it from your résumé for all other uses. Athletes may want to include height and weight in the Personal Data section. Students should keep a file listing all of their activities and awards, as well as copies of their report cards and news articles. This information may be used to prepare a résumé as well as in completing scholarship applications. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO DOCUMENT YOUR ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS.** High school student résumés should be completed in one to two pages and should include:

**Name, address, phone, email address, date of birth, (S.S. #)**

**Education – school (address and phone number), GPA, ACT/SAT scores**

**Honors and Awards**

**Leadership Positions**

**Extracurricular Activities**

**Community Service**

**Work Experience**

All of the above sections may not apply to you. Use only those which are appropriate to your achievements.

Athletes, artists, musicians, theater students, and students with many activities/awards may have special sections indicating their honors and awards in this specific area (and thus may end up with a two-page résumé).

Selective colleges usually require you to submit your senior schedule, which may be included in the Education section.

There are many ways to prepare a résumé. Yours should be neat, easy to read, and concise. This is another way for you to present yourself to others. A good example of a basic résumé follows on the next page.

## **Anita C. Scholarship**

1234 College Lane  
University, Alabama 22366  
Home Phone (205) 236-7778  
Cell Phone (205) 245-6665  
E-mail: [letmein@hotmail.com](mailto:letmein@hotmail.com)

<b>Education</b>	Jasper High School 1601 Highland Avenue Jasper, Alabama 35501
<b>Graduation Date</b>	May 2012
<b>GPA</b>	3.91
<b>Class Rank</b>	3/191
<b>Test Scores</b>	<b>ACT / April 2008</b> – Composite 28 (English-31, Math-27, Reading 23, Science 29) <b>SAT I / April 2008</b> – Verbal 530, Math 610
<b>Academic Achievements/Awards</b>	<b>National Honor Society</b> (10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>Birmingham News All-State Academic Team</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>Torch Invitational 2<sup>nd</sup> Place World History Winner</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vice President (12<sup>th</sup>)</li><li>- Food Closet Drive (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)</li></ul> <b>Beta Club</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>Buffalo Rock Student of the Week</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>Chemistry Merit Award</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Athletic Achievements/Awards</b>	<b>Jasper High School Basketball Team</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Team Co-Captain (10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>)</li><li>- Team Captain (12<sup>th</sup>)</li><li>- All Area Tournament Team Most Valuable Player (12<sup>th</sup>)</li><li>- All County Tournament Team Most Valuable Player (11<sup>th</sup>)</li></ul> <b>Jasper High School Baseball Team</b> (10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Pitcher (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)</li><li>- All County Tournament Most Valuable Player (12<sup>th</sup>)</li></ul> <b>Wendy's High School Heisman Finalist</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>Birmingham Post Herald Scholar Athlete</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>School Activities/</b>	<b>WHS Key Club</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Treasurer (10<sup>th</sup>)</li></ul>

**Leadership**

- Secretary (11<sup>th</sup>)
- President (12<sup>th</sup>)
- Adopt a Stream (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- Teddy Bear Drive (10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>)
- Habitat for Humanity (12<sup>th</sup>)

**Senior Class Favorite (12<sup>th</sup>)**

**Student Council (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)**

- President (12<sup>th</sup>)
- President Elect (11<sup>th</sup>)
- Activities Director (10<sup>th</sup>)
- Special Olympics Helper (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- Angel Tree Project Chairman (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

**AMICI Peer Helper Organization (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)**

- Big Brother/Big Sister Mentoring (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) / 20 hours a month

**Community Activities**

**Member of First Baptist Church (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)**

- Youth Chapel and Bible Study Musician (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Project (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

**Toys for Tots Helper (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)**

**Jasper County Humane Society Volunteer (11<sup>th</sup>) / 8 hours a month**

**Work Experience**

- |                  |  |                             |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Landscape</b> | <b>Jasper, Alabama</b>                                   | <b>May 2008-August 2009</b> |
| -                | Prepared, designed and planted flower beds and shrubbery |                             |
| -                | Installed sprinkler and drainage systems                 |                             |
| <b>Jacks</b>     | <b>Jasper, Alabama</b>                                   | <b>May 2006-August 2007</b> |
| -                | Worked Cash Register                                     |                             |
| -                | Greeted Customers  |                             |

**Major Goals**

To major in Landscape Design and start my own landscaping business

# FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A COLLEGE

## COLLEGE CHARACTERISTICS

### Academics

More than anything else, you go to college to get an education. The type of academic atmosphere and variety of courses offered should be considered when choosing a college.

Colleges can be ranked according to the selectivity of their admissions. For example, some colleges accept only students with a 3.2+ GPA and high ACT (29) or SAT I (1200+) scores. These institutions are considered selective in their admissions. Other colleges simply require graduation from high school, or lower SAT/ACT scores. These colleges have less stringent admissions standards, and some have open admissions.

You should try to match your academic abilities to the college's admissions standards. If you are a very good student, then a highly selective college may offer you the right degree of challenge and stimulation. If your record has been weak, a less selective college may best fit your needs.

Also, colleges offer a variety of majors or courses of study. If you are fairly certain you want to major in business, for example, you should check the business department of colleges you are considering. If you are unsure of what your major will be, then look for an institution that has a wide variety of majors.

### Size

Colleges range in size from 150 to 80,000+ students. There is a great difference between attending a small institution (1,000-2,000), usually referred to as a college, and a large one (30,000-50,000), usually referred to as a university. Small colleges offer you more personal involvement, a community atmosphere, and small classes (from 5 to 20 students). Large universities tend to be more impersonal, allow you to be more anonymous, and offer class sizes of anywhere from 20 to 350 students. **You should ask yourself the following:**

Will I feel closed in and trapped at a small college?

Will I welcome the personal, friendly atmosphere a small college affords?

Will I feel lost and overwhelmed at a large institution?

Will I feel more independent and free at a large university?

Will I want large or small classes? Would I like to have a lot of interaction with my instructors during class or would I prefer a large, more impersonal style of instruction?

Will I want a campus that offers sororities and fraternities, as do many of the larger colleges and universities?

Are the athletic facilities important to me? (Generally, the large universities offer the greatest range of athletics and facilities.) Size **does** make a difference.

## **Atmosphere**

Colleges, just like any group of people working and living together, create their own atmosphere. Each college has a particular atmosphere or environment that affects the performance and satisfaction of each student there. Some factors that go into creating a college's atmosphere are as follows:

- Personal or impersonal handling of student questions, concerns, and scheduling
- An academic or less serious mood among the students and their approach to responsibilities
- Whether the school is single sex or coeducational

The type of atmosphere a college offers can best be discovered by reading the current catalog carefully, consulting websites, and of course, by visiting the campus and talking to as many people as you can.

## **Cost**

Obviously, a major factor to consider is the cost of attending a college. The total cost for a year, as computed by the college financial aid office, includes tuition, fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses. Total costs do vary widely.

While cost is undoubtedly important, don't limit your choice of colleges to only those you can afford without financial assistance. Many of the more expensive private schools have solid financial aid programs, which cover varying amounts of cost, depending on your financial need. A good plan would be to choose several colleges, including one you can afford and several for which you need aid. We encourage every student to apply to any of the state colleges within the state. Although financial aid may seem uncertain at times, limiting prospective colleges on a cost basis alone may exclude some excellent colleges from your list.

## **Location of the College**

Many reasons dictate why the location of the college may be important to you. You should always consider the expense of travel, the need for independence versus the desire to stay near your family, and the effects of living in a particular climate.

When you consider the location of a college, think about the campus setting. The physical environment of the college you attend may be important to you. Some people prefer the social, cultural, and economic activities of a large city or metropolitan environment, while others prefer to be near the ocean, mountains, or countryside. A major metropolitan area can offer many benefits, but a student must adjust to the life-style of a big city. A college or university that is located in the heart of a city is often comprised of multi-storied classroom buildings and highrise dormitories. Other colleges and universities have rural settings located many miles from the nearest metropolitan areas. In addition, many institutions are located close to, but not in, large cities. Your choice of a location and campus setting should ultimately include those institutions where you will be most comfortable living for the next two to four years of your life.

## Student Body Type

A student body can be comprised of all men, all women, or both men and women. Dorm privileges, social activities, and extracurricular involvement will vary according to student populations.

## Specific Characteristics to Consider When Choosing a Career, Vocational/Business School

Many students will find that a specialized school (vocational, business, technical, or career) fulfills their needs much better than a two-year or four-year college. Investigation of job opportunities will reveal numerous occupations which require training. Students interested in a career-oriented education should consult their counselor about schools to explore, write for catalogs, and follow through with a visit to the school. Specialized schools generally do not require an examination like to SAT or ACT. Many will recommend that the test be taken at the school for placement purposes. All career-focused schools require a transcript of the student's record, and often teacher and counselor recommendations.

## MILITARY CAREER OPTIONS

### Should I go into the Armed Services?

The Armed Services are one of the major employers in the nation. It is also a major source of educational training and preparation for entry-level jobs. There are numerous job-training opportunities in the military for both men and women. If you would like to travel or earn good wages immediately, the military service may be for you. Representatives from all the services are available to give you information about career training and/or educational opportunities. If you are concerned about the information that you are receiving or contacts that are being made by your recruiter, see your guidance counselor.

Recruiting officers of all branches of the armed services visit the high schools regularly. If you are interested, speak with your counselor to set up an appointment. You can also seek additional information from the recruiting offices in your area or the College Admission Office.

### Service Academies and ROTC Scholarship Programs

While all juniors should begin exploring all post-graduation educational programs, those interested in the Service Academies and the ROTC scholarship programs must begin as soon as possible to insure that they receive full consideration.

- **The first step** in securing an appointment to one of the academies is to write and ask for a pre-candidate questionnaire. The spring of your junior year is the time to begin the process: Addresses are as follows:

Admission Office US Military Academy West Point, NY 10996	Admission Office US Air Force Academy USAF Academy, CO 80840	Admission Office US Coast Guard Academy New London, CT 96320
Admission Office US Naval Academy Annapolis, MD 21402	Admission Office US Merchant Marine Academy Kings Point, NY 10024	

**The second step** is writing to each of your senators and to your congressman and asking to be considered as one of their nominees. In this letter you should indicate your first, second, third, and fourth choices of academies. Please remember this is strictly a guide; however, your letter should contain ALL information included in this guideline. A separate letter must be sent to each senator and representative to whom you apply.

<b>REQUEST FOR CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION TO A MILITARY ACADEMY</b>	
Date _____	
<b>The Honorable</b> _____ <b>United States Senate</b> <b>Washington, DC 20510</b>	<b>The Honorable</b> _____ <b>or United States House of Representatives</b> <b>Washington, DC 20510</b>
<b>Dear Senator/Congressman:</b>	
<b>I desire to attend the _____ and to be commissioned in the class entering in July 20__.</b> <b>The following data are furnished for your information:</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	_____
<b>Permanent Address:</b>	_____ _____
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	( ) _____
<b>Temporary address and telephone number (if different from above):</b>	
	_____ _____ ( ) _____
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	_____
<b>High School:</b>	_____
<b>Social Security Number:</b>	_____
<b>Names of Parents:</b>	_____
<b>I have/have not requested that a pre-candidate file be initiated for me at the Admission Office.</b>	
<b>Sincerely,</b> <b>John Doe</b>	

ROTC scholarship programs involve a competitive application process as well. In addition to the written application, candidates must undergo a physical examination, formal interview, and a physical abilities test. The first step in the process is to request an application, either from the guidance office or from a local recruiter. This should be done during the spring of your junior year.

US Army phone	205-221-5423	US Navy phone	205-387-1879
US Air Force phone	205-221-4603	US Marines phone	205-221-7520
US Coast Guard phone	800-438-8724		

# THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

## STEPS IN APPLYING FOR COLLEGE

- 1. Request your transcript through [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com)** Sending transcripts will be free for current students until your final transcript. There will be no need for envelopes, stamps or addresses. Parchment is a completely secure platform used by the majority of colleges and universities in the US. During course registration this spring, all juniors were offered the opportunity to be guided through the set-up of an online account with [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com). You chose your own user id and password. However, we strongly suggested you use the same one you use to sign onto the computer at school. We will not have access to this. Follow the on-screen instructions for retrieving user id and/or password if lost. **Any questions or issues with Parchment should be referred to and return it to Mrs. Dozier.** Your transcript includes all semester grades and your cumulative grade point average and rank in class. Official transcripts are prepared by Mrs. Dozier and uploaded to Parchment's database, then accessed by the college; however, no OFFICIAL transcript may be sent on your behalf unless we have a transcript request from Parchment properly filled out and signed.
- 1. Send ACT Scores not already sent when you took the ACT.** ACT scores must be sent directly from ACT. You may send by logging onto your account at [www.myact.org](http://www.myact.org). There is a cost to send scores to schools other than the ones you listed when you took the test.
- 2. Consult the college web site** and apply online if possible. This is what most colleges require today.
- 3. Obtain application forms** from any school that may **not** be using online application. It is advisable to do so during the summer preceding your senior year or as soon as possible after your return to school in the fall of your senior year.
- 4. Limit your number of applications.** A non-refundable application fee of \$25 to \$75 is usually required for each application. Pay careful attention to deadline dates. Some colleges allow waivers for the application fee. Contact that school's admissions counselor to determine that particular school's process.
- 5. Recommendation Letters** When it comes to applying for scholarships and other selective programs, letters of recommendation are an important part of the process. While we wish that we knew each one of you as well as your parents, peers and teachers do, sadly there are more than 420 unique individuals to each one of us. So, we hope that this process will give us the information that we may be lacking in writing a recommendation letter that will describe you in the best light possible. If you follow the directions and complete your information as required, your college application process will be smoother and completed in a timely manner.

The following needs to be completed ASAP and returned to the recommendation packet collection box in the Career Center: (PRINT neatly using a black ink pen, or scan and complete on your computer.)

1. Complete your Personal Profile Form and attach a copy of your resume.
2. Have a good friend complete the Peer Recommendation Form.
3. Have your parent/guardian complete the Parent Insights Form.
4. Put your name, teacher's name and counselor's name on the Teacher Evaluation Form and give it to an academic teacher who knows you well. Ask your teacher to return the form to your counselor's mailbox. If your teacher prefers, she may download it from the server.

This information will be kept on file and is essential in helping us write any type of recommendation for you. Without this information on file, it may not be possible to write a thorough letter on your behalf.

The following two forms need to be completed **each time** you need a letter and/or transcript.

5. Fill out the Recommendation Letter Request Form to your counselor.
6. Fill out the Transcript Request from Parchment.com.

**ALL FORMS ARE DUE TO THE CAREER CENTER 5 DAYS BEFORE LETTER IS DUE TO BE PICKED UP OR MAILED.**

## **THE COLLEGE ESSAY**

Some colleges require a college essay. The essay is important – to you and to the college. According to one admission director, “It makes the facts in the student’s folder come alive for us. Because it is the student’s personal statement, no single piece of admission evidence gets as much attention and provokes as much discussion.”

The essay is your opportunity to take charge of the information the college receives about you, and to provide information that does not appear in grades, test scores, and other materials. It allows you to reveal your intelligence, talent, sense of humor, enthusiasm, maturity, creativity, expressiveness, sincerity, and writing ability – traits that count in the admission evaluation. Have your English teacher edit your essay.

There are books on writing your college essay in the Career Center library available for check out.

**None of the above should be completed by a parent. Application/Scholarship materials and request for transcripts must be made by the student.**

# THE COLLEGE VISIT AND INTERVIEWS

## SUGGESTIONS FOR COLLEGE VISITS

Some colleges require an interview as part of the admission process. Whether or not an interview is required, it is still important for you to visit the college at which you may spend four years of your life. The visit or interview may help you in your selection of a college or to verify your choice. Appointments for college tours and interview with admission officers may be arranged through the college admission office.

### **When making an appointment for a college visit, keep the following suggestions in mind:**

1. If possible, plan time when high school is not in session but college is.
2. In your inquiry, request a definite date and time.
3. Request an alternate time if this is inconvenient for the admission office.
4. Unavoidable delays require a telephone call to the admission office.
5. Secure a copy of an unofficial transcript from the high school guidance office. Take a copy of your unofficial transcript and a copy of your résumé to give to the admission representative(s) who meets with you.

If it is at all possible, make arrangements to stay overnight in the dormitory. You can get a good sense of the student body by eating in the college snack bar or cafeteria.

Attending several classes is also an excellent idea. **BE SURE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS IN ADVANCE.**

## SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK AT THE COLLEGE VISIT

Visit the college while it is in session so you will be able to talk not only with the admission officer, but also with the students who attend the college. Some questions you might wish to have answered are as follows:

1. Generally, what sizes are classes? For freshmen? For upperclassman?
2. What kinds of cultural, sports, literary activities are offered on campus?
3. Must one join specific organizations to be a part of campus life, or is there room to be included in others?
4. What percentage of students remain on campus during weekends?
5. What kinds of living accommodations are there?
6. Are intramural sports available?
7. What percentage of students receive financial aid?
8. How much importance is placed on social activities and other extracurricular activities?
9. What is the institutional policy for reporting security incidents?
10. What support services are available to students?

## QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKED DURING A COLLEGE VISIT

1. How did you first hear about this college?
2. What are your career goals?
3. What are you interested in majoring in?
4. What kinds of things do you do outside of school? What do you think are your academic strengths and weaknesses?

5. How familiar are you with this college?
6. What are your priorities in selecting a college?
7. How would you describe your high school?
8. What is the most significant contribution you have made to your school?

### **COLLEGE VISIT FOLLOW UP**

1. Make notes on the college as soon as possible after the visit
  - a. Likes
  - b. Dislikes
  - c. Name and title of interviewer (get a business card if possible)
  - d. Important points to remember
  - e. Answers to questions
2. Write a letter of appreciation
  - a. This shows thoughtfulness, courtesy, and maturity.
  - b. It reinforces the admission officer's memory of you as an individual.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Many families are understandably concerned about meeting rising college costs. Any candidate for admission to college should apply for financial aid if his or her family feels that they may not be able to pay the entire cost. Early in the senior year students should be sure to check the financial aid deadlines and the forms required by each college they are considering. Students should pursue all sources of financial aid; counselors and college financial aid officers can offer the important suggestions and advice. We will have a financial aid workshop for parents and students early in January.

It is now a graduation requirement, set by the Alabama State Department of Education, for seniors to complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Career Coach and counselors will assist you with this submission, if needed. The online application can be found at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov). Comprehensive instructions are provided for completion of the form. Income and expense items correspond with Internal Revenue (IRS) references and definitions. Many colleges require the FAFSA be completed before students can register for their college classes.

### **DEFINITION OF NEED**

Colleges review the information you provide to determine your family contribution and financial need. The family contribution includes a parent contribution, a student income contribution, and student contribution from assets and/or benefits. Your family's income, assets, debts, family size, and extenuating circumstances are considered when determining the family contribution. Parents with special or unusual circumstances should discuss their situation with the financial aid officer at the colleges to which their sons/daughters are applying.

Financial aid is the difference between what it will cost a student to attend a college and the family contribution. After your financial need has been determined, most colleges will award financial aid as a "package." The package may include a combination of scholarship or grant (money that does not have to be paid back), loan (to be paid back after the student leaves college), and campus employment (money earned while in the school and sometimes related to the student's field of study).

## SOURCES AND PURPOSES OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

There are two types of financial aid – need-based and merit based. Need-based forms of financial aid comprise the major portion of assistance available for post-secondary education. Eligibility for need-based aid is determined by the difference between the cost of attendance and the family contribution. Merit-based aid is generally given to students in recognition of special skills, talent and/or academic ability.

There are two types of need-based assistance – grant aid and self-help. Grant aid does not have to be repaid and does not require a service commitment. Self-help assistance includes loans (which require repayment) and employment (a part-time job usually within the institution). There are primarily four sources of grant aid and self-help—federal, state, institutional, and private.

The federal government is the largest single source of student financial aid funds. The programs include Federal Pell Grants, Federal Stafford Student Loans/Federal Direct Student Loans, and Federal Parent Loans for Undergraduates Students/Federal Direct Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students. Other sources include three campus-based programs—Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Federal Perkins Loans (formerly National Direct Student Loans), and Federal Work-Study. Institutions are allocated funds for each of the campus-based programs. The amount of funds for the Pell Grant and campus-based programs are determined **annually** by Congress.

State sources of aid are usually administered through a state agency and include grants/scholarships, loans, and work. The regulations and application procedures vary for each state. The Alabama Student Loan Program may be reached at <http://www.kheaa.com/website/kheaa/home> or at 1-800-721-9720.

Institutional sources of aid are provided and controlled by the institution. They may include grants/scholarships, loans, and campus employment.

Private sources of aid are derived from community organizations, foundations, professional associations, corporations, community lending institutions, and parents' employers. Need is usually considered, but other factors may be considered when determining your eligibility. A separate application is usually required for these programs. The information concerning many of these scholarships will be posted on the Jasper High School Website (click on Guidance/Senior Information in left index) <http://jhs.jasper.k12.al.us/>

Many colleges also provide a variety of payment plans and loan options for parents. Your parents should consult with the financial aid office of the school to which you are applying for details.

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS**  
**CHECK DEADLINES CAREFULLY FOR ALL PROGRAMS**

(For more information you may go to: <http://whs.jasper.k12.al.us>/click on guidance/senior info.)

<b>TYPES OF AID</b>	<b>AID PROGRAMS</b>	<b>WHO IS ELIGIBLE?</b>	<b>AMOUNT OF AWARD</b>	<b>HOW AWARDED?</b>	<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>
<b>GRANTS &amp; SCHOLARSHIPS</b> Money that does not have to be paid back.	<b>FEDERAL:</b> Federal Pell Grant	US citizens or eligible non-citizens attending an approved postsecondary institution as an undergraduate and has not already obtained a bachelor's degree	The amount is based on a federal formula that applies to all students and varies annually.	Based on financial need	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
	Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)		Determined by institution	Based on financial need and funds available to the college. Priority given to most needy Pell Grant recipients.	
	<b>STATE:</b> Alabama	Residents of Alabama attending an institution in-state. Need-based	Varies by institutions	Based on financial need. Priority given to most needy Federal Pell Grant recipients.	File the FAFSA
		Alabama residents attending private institutions in Alabama. Not need-based.	Varies annually; set by state	Must prove residency; not need-based	
	<b>INSTITUTIONAL:</b> Depends on the college	Check with the Financial Aid Office of the colleges to which you are applying.		Varies	File the FAFSA
	<b>PRIVATE:</b>				Complete the FAFSA and in some cases an institutional application.
				Applications available from eligible institutions.	

\*\*Our special thanks to Clyde Jasper and the Vanderbilt University Financial Aid staff for their assistance in compiling this financial aid information

**REMINDER: CHECK DEADLINES CAREFULLY FOR ALL PROGRAMS**

<b>TYPES OF AID</b>	<b>AID PROGRAMS</b>	<b>WHO IS ELIGIBLE?</b>	<b>AMOUNT OF AWARD</b>	<b>HOW AWARDED</b>	<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>		
<b>LOANS</b> Money to be paid back after a student leaves college	<b>FEDERAL:</b> Federal Perkins Loan (formerly NDSL)	US citizens or eligible non-citizens attending an approved postsecondary institution at least half time	Determined by institutions	Based on financial need and funds available to the college	Complete the FAFSA and submit the applicable application(s). Federal Stafford and PLUS applications are available from local banks; Federal Direct Loans require promissory notes provided by institutions.		
	Federal Stafford Student Loan (formerly GSL) or Federal Direct Student Loan			Stafford Loans are either subsidized (need-based; interest paid during enrollment) or unsubsidized (interest charged to student from disbursement).			
<b>LOANS</b> Repayment begins 60 days from disbursement	Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (FPLUS) or Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students	Parents of dependent students who are attending a participating postsecondary institution at least half time	Amount may not exceed cost of attendance less financial aid awarded. Variable interest up to 9% maximum for new borrowers.	Unsubsidized			
<b>WORK</b> Money earned while in school to cover a portion of college costs	<b>FEDERAL</b> Federal Work-Study Program (FWS)	US citizens or eligible non-citizens attending an approved post-secondary institution at least half time	Hourly rate cannot be less than minimum wage. Maximum earnings allowed determined by participating college.	Based on financial need and funds available to the college	Complete the FAFSA and indicate a preference for work.		
	<b>STATE</b>						
	<b>INSTITUTIONAL</b>						Varies by institution

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## WHAT ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS?

**Most** scholarships and financial aid are obtained directly from the Office of Financial Aid of the college or university a student selects. The College Admission Office will assist students in filing the appropriate applications for college and university scholarships, as well as community-based scholarships. It is the students' responsibility to secure and implement the application process for scholarships. Researching scholarship opportunities at universities as well as Internet services can be rewarding. Generally, a student who wants to be considered for a merit-based scholarship should submit an application for admission by November 1. To be safe, each student seeking scholarships should check with individual colleges and universities for deadlines, scholarship applications, and audition/portfolio dates.

Our students receive approximately 25 scholarships from community resources. Most of these are awarded in the spring. Advertisements for local scholarships are done through the guidance department website. Specific questions about local scholarships should be directed to the Career Center.

**IMPORTANT!!** Every year students have questions concerning deadlines for accepting scholarships. A student has the right to request an extension on a decision deadline set by a school which offers a scholarship. Generally, May 1 is as long as any college must give to accept their offer. An example of a letter requesting additional time to make a decision is as follows:

Dear Financial Aid Officer:

I would like to request an extension of the deadline for acceptance of the scholarship that was offered to me this year. I will need until May 1 to make my decision.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Good

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE AND COLLEGE ADMISSION OFFICE

Jasper High School also has a scholarship committee approved by the principal. Teachers from each grade level and from each academic department serve on this committee.

The scholarship committee serves several purposes. A major responsibility is to screen students who have applied for scholarships and to judge scholarship competitions. The committee considers many factors in the previewing process. Grades, test scores, school activities, community service, and financial need may be relevant in reaching decisions. If students have received other scholarship money, this factor may be considered if appropriate. Scholarship donors may establish additional guidelines for the committee. Some scholarships require that only one representative or a limited number of representatives from our school be submitted for competition. In such cases, the scholarship committee acts upon those applicants

who wish to be considered by the scholarship program and chooses the student(s) who will go on to further competition. The committee also assists community organizations in selecting applicants to be interviewed. The college admission office staff is not included in any scholarship recipient selection.

**IMPORTANT: The Jump Start scholarship is provided by the City of Jasper. Any Jasper High School student who has a 2.5+ GPA, graduates from Jasper High School, turns in an application along with a résumé to BSCC will receive this wonderful scholarship. This scholarship is available for the freshman year at Bevill State Community College and will cover a portion of the tuition, depending on the amount of funding available.**

## **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS, PARENTS, COUNSELOR, AND COLLEGES**

### **WHEN YOU APPLY TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, YOU HAVE RIGHTS**

#### **Before you apply:**

- You have the right to receive factual and comprehensive information from colleges and universities concerning their admission, financial costs, aid opportunities, practices and packaging policies, and housing policies. Prior to applying you should be fully informed of policies and procedures concerning application fees, deposits, refunds, housing, and financial aid. If you consider applying under an early admission/early action decision plan, you have a right to complete information from the college about its processes and policies.

#### **When you are offered admission:**

- You have the right to wait to respond to an offer of admission and/or financial aid until May 1.
- Colleges that request commitments to offers of admission and/or financial assistance prior to May 1 must clearly offer you the opportunity to request (in writing) an extension until May 1. They must grant you this extension, and your request may not jeopardize your status for admission and/or financial aid. (This right does not apply to candidates admitted under an early decision program.)

#### **If you are placed on a “wait list” or “alternate list”:**

- The letter that notifies you of that placement should provide a history that describes the number of students on the wait list, the number offered admission, and the availability of financial aid and housing.
- Colleges may require neither a deposit nor a written commitment as a condition of remaining on a wait list.
- Colleges are expected to notify you of the resolution of your wait list status by August 1 at the latest.

## **WHEN YOU APPLY TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES YOU HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Before you apply:**

- You have a responsibility to research and understand the policies and procedures of each college or university regarding application fees, financial aid, scholarships, and housing. You should also be sure that you understand the policies of each college or university regarding deposits that you may be required to make before you enroll.

### **As you apply:**

- You must complete all material that is required for application, and submit your application on or before the published deadlines. You should be the sole author of your applications.
- You should seek the assistance of your college admission counselor early and throughout the application period. Follow the process recommended by your high school for filing college applications.
- It is your responsibility to arrange, if appropriate, for visits to and/or interviews at colleges of your choice.

### **After you receive your admission decisions:**

- You must notify each college or university that accepts you whether you are accepting or rejecting its offer. You should make these notifications as soon as you have made a final decision as to the college that you wish to attend, but not later than May 1.
- You may confirm your intention to enroll and, if required, submit a deposit to only one college or university. The exception to this arises if you are put on a wait list by a college or university and are later admitted to that institution. You may accept the offer and send a deposit. However, you must immediately notify a college or university at which you previously indicated your intention to enroll.
- If you are accepted under an early decision plan, you must promptly withdraw the applications submitted to other colleges and universities and make no additional applications. If you are an early decision candidate and are seeking financial aid, you need not withdraw other applications until you have received notification about financial need.

These policies are endorsed by the National Association of College Admission Counseling and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. If you think that your rights have been denied, you should contact the college or university immediately to request additional information or the extension of a reply date. In addition, you should contact the College Admissions Counselor immediately and ask her to notify the president of the state or regional affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counseling. If you need further assistance, send a copy of any correspondence you have had with the college or university and a copy of your letter of admission to: **Executive Director, NACAC, 1631 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2818.**

## RESOURCE INFORMATION FOR THE ARTS

[www.artschools.com](http://www.artschools.com) – a free college search engine that lists over 1,300 visual arts programs worldwide. On the home page, the site offers a number of instructive essays about applying to college.

[www.musicschoolsearch.com](http://www.musicschoolsearch.com) – to help choose a college-level music school.

[www.collegelookup.com](http://www.collegelookup.com) – career training needs/top career fields.

[www.nfaa.org](http://www.nfaa.org) – National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts.

High School seniors (17+ years old) are eligible to apply to the NFAA's Arts Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS) program. Simply applying provides the opportunity to qualify for scholarships and the chance to be named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. This is for the areas of dance, jazz, film and video, music, photography, theater, visual arts, and voice.

Art school is real college! Finding the right performing or visual arts program is a unique and individual decision. There are many different types of schools offering a quality education in the arts.

Four-Year Colleges/Universities: For those who want a broad liberal arts curriculum. The ability to switch majors is a very useful safety net for those who aren't 100% certain of their choices.

Four-Year Performing and Visual Arts Schools: Generally offer art instruction with a liberal arts program of study. All degrees are art-related. Most of these schools have the words "Art" or "Design" in their names.

Conservatories: Professional schools designed to preserve and perfect the knowledge of the performing arts, generally without the traditional liberal arts curriculum. For the most part, conservatories are looking for polish from a prospective student.

Vocational/Technical Colleges: Aimed at teaching a student exactly what he or she needs to know to get a job in a particular field. The goal is to make students marketable in the workplace the very day they graduate.

## GOING ONLINE

Those with even rudimentary computer skills can access VALUABLE college data and details in minutes via the Internet: For families without computer access in their homes, students can go online at public libraries and/or in the high school media center.

*U.S. News and World Report* publishes *America's Best Colleges* each year and the publishers offer information regarding college choices. Regarding "Helpful Web Sites for Applicants," it offers the following information:

### COMPREHENSIVE GUIDES

**"Getting In" Your Guide to Higher Education in Alabama.** Provided by the Alabama Student Loan Program and KHEAA: [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com)

**Campus Tours, LLC:** [www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com)

Virtual tours of various colleges, webcams, campus maps, college videos, movies, and pictures.

**Next Step Magazine:** [www.nextstepmagazine.com](http://www.nextstepmagazine.com)

**Peterson's Education & Career Center:** [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

Campus news, advice on writing application essays, and an engine for college searches.

**The College Board:** [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

A lot of useful information about campus visits, interviews, and other parts of the college search process. Downloadable applications for over 800 colleges and a solid, comprehensive search engine. There is also an abundance of information on the SAT.

**U.S. News College and Careers Center:** [www.usnews.com/college](http://www.usnews.com/college)

College rankings, advice from high school counselors and financial aid experts, a comprehensive college search engine, and college links galore.

## COLLEGE SEARCH SITES

**College Net:** [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com) cool-looking site with an enormous searchable database of schools, plus links to the colleges. Search variables include state or region, majors, and tuition. The lack of a selectivity variable, however, means it may be tough to narrow the field.

**College View:** [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com). One of the most detailed search engines on the Net, with wide-ranging criteria that include diversity, field of study, religious affiliation, athletics, special programs, and services for the disabled.

## FINANCIAL AID

**FAFSA on the Web:** [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov). Interactive Web version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

**FastWEB:** [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). A free, searchable scholarship database that enables you to locate sources of financial aid suitable for you.

**Financial Aid Information Page:** [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org). Rich offerings on everything from scam alerts to scholarship searches.

**Free College Search & Financial Aid Resource:** [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

**Scholarship Search:** [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

**Natl. Assoc. of Student Financial Aid Administrators:**  
[www.nasfaa.org/ParentsStudents.asp](http://www.nasfaa.org/ParentsStudents.asp)

## TEST PREP

**ACT:** [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

**College Zone:** [www.kaplan.com](http://www.kaplan.com). Extensive links to colleges and universities. Advice on interviews and admission.

**The Princeton Review:** [www.PrincetonReview.com](http://www.PrincetonReview.com). A good search engine with a wide array of variables, including location, academics, sports, student life, and housing.

## College Comparison Worksheet

<b>COLLEGE NAME</b>			
<b>LOCATION</b> • distance from home			
<b>SIZE</b> • enrollment • physical size of campus			
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> • type of school (2 yr., 4 yr.) • school setting (urban, rural) • location & size of nearest city • co-ed, male, female • religious affiliation			
<b>ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS</b> • deadline • tests required • average test scores, GPA, rank • special requirements • notification			
<b>ACADEMICS</b> • your major offered • special requirements • accreditation • student-faculty ratio • typical class size			
<b>COLLEGE EXPENSES</b> • tuition, room & board • estimated total budget • application fee, deposits			
<b>FINANCIAL AID</b> • deadline • required forms • % receiving aid • scholarships			
<b>HOUSING</b> • residence hall requirement • availability • types and sizes • food plan			
<b>FACILITIES</b> • academic • recreational • other			
<b>ACTIVITIES</b> • clubs, organizations • Greek life • athletics, intramurals • other			
<b>CAMPUS VISITS</b> • when • special opportunities			

# College Admission and Financial Aid Logs

College \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE ADMISSION LOG	FINANCIAL AID LOG
<p><b>Application Deadline and Fees:</b> Date _____ \$ _____</p> <p><b>Application Form:</b> Requested from college <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____ Submitted to college <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____</p> <p><b>Other Steps Required:</b> Tests required or recommended _____ - Test registration completed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____ - Test taken <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____ - Results forwarded to college <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____ Necessary high school courses completed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes High school transcript submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____ References submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____ Interview completed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____</p> <p><b>College Reply:</b> Expected reply date _____ College decision _____ Contact person _____</p> <p><b>Follow-Up Required:</b> 1. _____ Date _____ 2. _____ Date _____ 3. _____ Date _____ 4. _____ Date _____ 5. _____ Date _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>College Admissions Office Notified of Your Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Special Notes:</b></p>	<p><b>Application Deadline:</b> Date _____ \$ _____</p> <p><b>Application Form:</b> Requested from college <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____ Submitted to college <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____</p> <p><b>Need Analysis Forms:</b> Which one(s): _____ Forms completed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____ Results forwarded to college <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____</p> <p><b>College Reply:</b> Expected reply date _____ College decision _____ Contact person _____</p> <p><b>Follow-Up Required:</b> 1. _____ Date _____ 2. _____ Date _____ 3. _____ Date _____ 4. _____ Date _____ 5. _____ Date _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>College Admissions Office Notified of Your Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Date _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Special Notes:</b></p>



