Whitesboro High School
Junior College Preparedness Packet 2025

COUNSELING COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER

Inspire • Cultivate • Empower

Christopher O'Neil
Director of Pupil Personnel Services
(315)266-3240
coneil@wboro.org

Amy Ambrose
School Counselor
(315)266-3246
aambrose@wboro.org

Margo Testa
School Counselor
(315)266-3241
mtesta@wboro.org

Daniel Everson
School Counselor
(315)266-3244
deverson@wboro.org

Christa Nigro
School Counselor
(315)266-3243
cnigro@wboro.org

Juniors	***11th Grade***
Counselor:	**Student's Last Name:**
Mrs. Nigro	Aceto-Cook
Ms. Ambrose	Coonrod-Jackson
Mrs. Testa	Jellencich-Perras
Mr. Everson	Phelps-Zalatan

COLLEGE ADMISSION TIMELINE

Spring/Summer (prior to senior year):

- Begin research process for colleges of interest and add them to your Schoolinks account
- Campus Visitations- make appointments through the college Admissions Office to schedule a campus tour and consultation
- Research college admissions requirements
- Register for SAT/ACT if required for college admission- our high school will be offering the SAT in June and November of 2025. Be sure to check college websites for their admissions requirements.

September:

- Senior Conferences begin- student ranks and GPA's will be available this month
- College Representatives begin High School Visits- check the calendar for visitation in the Counseling, College & Career Center
- Continue researching colleges, visiting campuses and requesting interviews
- Register for the November SAT and October ACT
- Begin making requests for teacher and counselor letters of recommendation, allowing school personnel at least two weeks advance notice. Complete student activity sheet and provide to your recommenders. You also need to add them to your Schoolinks account to submit.

October:

- Attend College Night held Tuesday October 7, 2025 at SUNY Poly
- Apply for financial aid (FAFSA) beginning October 1st
- SAT/ACT exams are given at other local schools
- **Be aware of College Application Deadlines**

November:

- SAT exams are administered at WHS
- Early Decision Deadlines begin
- Start submitting college applications
- Continue campus visits
- **Be aware of College Application Deadlines**

December:

- College Applications should be submitted
- SAT/ACT exams are given at other local area schools

February-April:

- College Admission decisions generally mailed out at this time
- Financial Aid Letters generally mailed out at this time

May: Tuition and housing deposits are typically due at this time

SAT - ACT Information & Dates
Whitesboro H.S. School Code
for both tests is:
335960
Test Prep Opportunities

Test preparation available on the SAT and ACT websites and at:
College Advisory Service: http://patgildersleeve.com/test-prep
MVCC: www.mvcc.edu
Khan Academy at SAT, free test prep and info: https://www.khanacadademy.org/sat

SAT Registration - http://sat.org/register

2024-2025 Test Dates	U.S. Registration Deadlines	
	Regular	Late (a fee applies)
October 5,2024	September 20, 2024	September 24, 2024
*November 2, 2024	October 18, 2024	October 22, 2024
December 7, 2024	November 22, 2024	November 26, 2024
March 8, 2025	February 21, 2025	February 25, 2025
May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025	April 22, 2025
*June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025	May 27, 2025

ACT Registration - www.actstudent.org

2024- 2025 Test Dates	Registration Deadline: Regular	Registration Deadline: Late (a fee applies)
September 14, 2024	August 9, 2024	August 25, 2024
October 26, 2024	September 20, 2024	October 7, 2024
December 14, 2024	November 8, 2024	November 22, 2024
February 8, 2025	January 3, 2025	January 20, 2025
April 5, 2025	February 28, 2025	March 16, 2025
June 14, 2025	May 9 2025	May 26, 2025

*** Tests offered at Whitesboro High School** **** Whitesboro CEEB Code: 335960**

If you are a student who receives testing accommodations, please see your school counselor as you must apply to the testing website prior to registering for the test.

Admission Decisions: What Counts

Help your students understand what really matters to colleges

There's no magic formula when it comes to college admission decisions. So how do you advise students on admission factors when they vary so widely from one college to the next?

A college's statistics should never be taken as rules for admission, though. Students should know that many factors influence admission decisions, including:

- Courses taken
- Grades received
- Class rank
- Standardized test scores
- Personal statements and essays
- Recommendations
- Extracurricular activities
- Interviews

Courses and grades

A student's grades in college-preparatory classes remain the most significant factor in college admission decisions.

Highly selective colleges look for students who:

- Complete core academic requirements.
- Take more challenging classes, even though they may have slightly lower grades than they'd achieve in lower-level courses.
- Enroll in several college-prep or college-level courses (such as AP®) and perform well.
- Take four years of a world language, showing evidence of academic discipline and challenge.

Class rank: Although still reviewed by many colleges, class rank has declined in significance as many private and religious schools have eliminated student ranking.

Test scores

Standardized test scores remain important at many colleges. Examinations such as the SAT and SAT Subject Tests™, or the ACT, allow colleges to compare students from across the country.

Essays

Personal statements and essays are both a measure of writing ability and a window into each student's background. Admission officers want to hear an original voice in the student's own words. For a successful essay, encourage students to get to the point quickly and personalize their writing through specific examples.

Recommendations from counselors and teachers

At selective colleges, strong school support in the form of recommendations from counselors and faculty members has become more important than ever. These **recommendations should be highly specific,** describing not just each student's love of learning, but the ways in which the students have demonstrated that they can

- Add to the classroom experience.
- Challenge themselves.
- Attempt original projects.

Extracurricular activities

Evidence of extracurricular activities is important to the admission process, and **depth of involvement is more impressive than breadth.** Students can achieve this if they

- Focus on a limited number of interests.
- Document long-term involvement with organizations.
- Highlight activities related to a major or career goal.
- Show leadership skills and ability.

Source: Collegeboard.org

SCHOOLINKS FOR JUNIORS

Instructions for searching for colleges, starting a *favorites list* and procedures for adding to your application list.

COLLEGE SEARCH

1. Log into your SchooLinks account.
2. Once logged in, there are tabs located to the left of your screen. Click on the *Colleges* tab, then *School Search.*
3. Use the search filters to adjust your college preferences
   **2yr or 4yr *Major *Location *Size of school*
4. Click on each individual school to view specific information regarding the institution. When you find a school that you might potentially be interested in, click on the *heart* icon. This will move the school to your *favorites* list.

*When you *heart* a school you will be asked to write a word or click on a word provided as to why you are interested in the school.

5. When you begin applying to schools next year, you will move your schools from the *favorite* list to *final* list. Click on the *final* list tab and you can either add them from your *favorites* or type the name of the school in the search box.

*When you add the school, you will be asked to choose from the options of "likely," "target," or "reach." While determining this, you will want to base your selections on how well you meet the school's admissions requirements and how interested you are in each institution.

When you begin applying for colleges (after July 1st), you will need to create a Common Application account (for four-year college applications) and then link your account to SchooLinks. You will be requesting transcripts and letters of recommendation through SchooLinks, not through Common App.

CAREER SEARCH

Click the *Careers* tab on the left side of your screen and then select *Career Center*. Here, you can type in career interests, watch videos, and learn about the average salary, job outlook, education and training of your career of interest.

There are 6 different ways to search for careers in the Career Center:

1. Using the search bar
2. From the Career Center homepage (regional)
3. By Career Cluster
4. By Hot Careers
5. By Favorited Careers
6. Exploring all careers
7. Searching through Military Careers

Unsure of your career and/or college interests? Click on the *Activities* tab on the left side of your screen, then click *Assessments*. There are a series of assessments that you can complete to explore how your interests match up with career options based on you goals, skills, likes, and learning style.

Common Application Help Sheet

Create an account by going to www.commonapp.org. Make sure to use your personal email when creating your account

General Information

- Only questions with an asterisk (*) next to them are required
- A green check mark indicates a section has been completed
- Instructions and tutorials are available on the right hand side of every page
- Application Requirements



- **Dashboard** - a summary view of all of your colleges on the Common App
- **My Colleges** - college-specific questions, recommendations and FERPA, and where you will submit individual applications
- **Common App** - information that will go to every college on your list on the Common App
- **College Search** - add colleges to your Common App in this tab
- **Financial Aid Resources** - learn about financial aid and scholarships

LINK YOUR COMMON APP WITH SCHOOLINKS

To log into schoolinks.com account use your school email address. Your password is something you personally made. If you forgot your password hit the "forgot password" button.

It is mandatory to link your Common App account with your SchooLinks account so counselors and teachers can send supporting documents (transcripts and recommendation letters) to your Common App schools.

- In order to be completely connected you need to complete these three things on your Common App:
  a. Add at least one college to your Common App
  b. Enter Whitesboro High School as your high school under **Education**
  c. Complete the FERPA waiver under **My Colleges → Recommenders and FERPA**
- On SchooLinks, go to **Colleges → College Applications** and click **Connect** (blue button in the left hand corner)



- Follow the prompts on the screen to connect your accounts

It is recommended that students use **only the Common Application** to apply to four-year colleges. Using other methods, such as the SUNY Application or college-specific applications will result in a more lengthy linking process to the SchooLinks program.

For Community Colleges:

- Check the college website for the application. Both Herkimer County Community College and Mohawk Valley Community College use their own free application. Most community colleges have a free application available on their website.
- It is your responsibility to notify your counselor to mail in your transcript
- Community colleges typically do not require students to submit a college entrance essay or letters of recommendation, unless students are seeking admission to a specialty program (i.e. Nursing, Respiratory Care, Radiologic Technology, and Surgical Technology programs).

USEFUL LINKS

SchooLinks
https://www.schoolinks.com/

Careers in the Military
https://www.careersinthemilitary.com/

NCAA Eligibility Center
https://www.ncaa.org/

Scholarships
https://www.fastweb.com/
https://www.scholarships.com/

Unions & Apprenticeships

IBEW Local 43 (supplies skilled labor to over 40 contractors in the Syracuse, Utica & Oswego areas)
https://www.ibew43.org/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1

LIUNA Laborers' Local Union #35 (training and apprenticeship programs)
https://www.nysliuna.org/apprenticeship-programs/liuna-laborers-local-union-35/

UA LOCAL 112 (Plumber and Pipefitters Union)
https://www.ualocal112.org/

Utica Civil Service Commission
https://www.cityofutica.com/departments/civil-service/index

The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) for Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local Union #2 (Utica)
https://dol.ny.gov/bricklayers-lu2-utica-april-18-2023

Advanced Degree College Searches

Graduate, Masters and Doctoral programs- searchable database
https://www.gradschools.com/

Occupational Therapy
https://www.aota.org/en/education-careers/find-school.asox

Pharmacy
https://www.aacp.org/

Physical Therapy
https://www.apta.org/

Physician Assistant
https://www.arc-pa.org/

How Financial Aid Works

Finding student aid can seem overwhelming when you're trying to get ready for college or career school. The U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid is here to help you get the money you need to pay for your education.

Start



1 Start Planning Early

Plan how to pay for college or career school before you start. Ask school counselors and the financial aid office about state, school, and nonprofit grants and scholarships you can apply for. Be sure to meet application deadlines. Many states have limited funds, so understand your state's requirements and apply early to be eligible for as much aid as possible.

It's time to apply for federal student aid.

2 Fill Out the FAFSA® Form

Before each year of college or career school, apply for federal student grants, work-study funds, and loans with the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form. Your college or career school uses your FAFSA data to determine your federal student aid eligibility. Many states and schools use FAFSA data to award their own aid.



StudentAid.gov

Visit StudentAid.gov/fafsa

Each fall, the FAFSA form is available for the next school year. Make sure to fill out and submit the FAFSA form each year you are in college or career school. It's best to fill it out as early as you can because state aid may be limited. When you complete the FAFSA form, you'll need to provide personal, financial, and federal tax information. Each contributor on the FAFSA form must provide their consent and approval to retrieve and disclose federal tax information for the student to be eligible for federal aid.

FAFSA Submission Summary

After you submit your FAFSA form, you'll receive your FAFSA Submission Summary, which has the information you included in your form. Review it and make corrections if needed.

3 Aid Offer

Your aid offer explains the combination of federal student grants, loans, and work-study funds a school offers you. The offer might also contain state and institutional aid. If you receive aid offers from multiple colleges or career schools, you should compare them and decide which school is best for you.



Your FAFSA form helps your school determine the types of federal student aid you are eligible to receive.

Types of Federal Student Aid

As the largest provider of financial aid, we provide grants, loans, and work-study funds.

Grants

Grants are funds that do not have to be repaid.

Loans

A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest.

Work-Study

A work-study job gives you an opportunity to earn money to pay your educational expenses.

4 Receiving Aid

Every year, each school determines its own schedule for disbursing (paying out) aid, partially determined by when you submitted all required paperwork. Your college or career school has a financial aid office to help guide you along the way.



Beyond Education

5 Graduate and Start Repayment

As you prepare to graduate, get ready to repay your student loans. Choose a repayment plan that's best for your goals. Income-driven repayment plans base your monthly payment amount on your income and family size.

If you start falling behind on your payments, contact your loan servicer to discuss repayment options.



HOW TO GET FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE



MAKE SURE YOU GET AS MUCH FINANCIAL AID AS POSSIBLE BY FOLLOWING THESE STEPS.

Right Now: Create your FSA ID

This is required prior to completing the FAFSA and only takes a moment.

Go to studentaid.gov/help/fsa-id
You'll need your Social Security number (SSN) (if applicable) and your own email address to create an FSA ID.

After December 1: Complete your FAFSA Go to fafsa.gov

Students will need:

- Parent first and last name
- Parent e-mail
- Parent date of birth
- Parent social security number (if they have one)

NYS Financial Aid

NYS residents should link directly from the FAFSA summary page to complete the TAP application. For more information on NYS financial aid, including the NYS DREAM Act, go to hesc.ny.gov

Want a little help?

Financial aid can feel confusing. We get it. To learn more and join a free virtual workshop for expert guidance, visit suny.edu/cost.

SUNY