

INDIVIDUAL GRADUATION PLAN PLANNING GUIDE



2025-2026 School Year

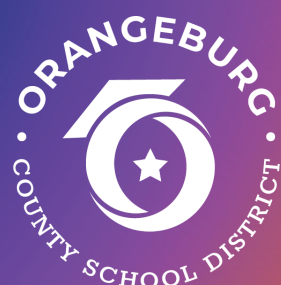

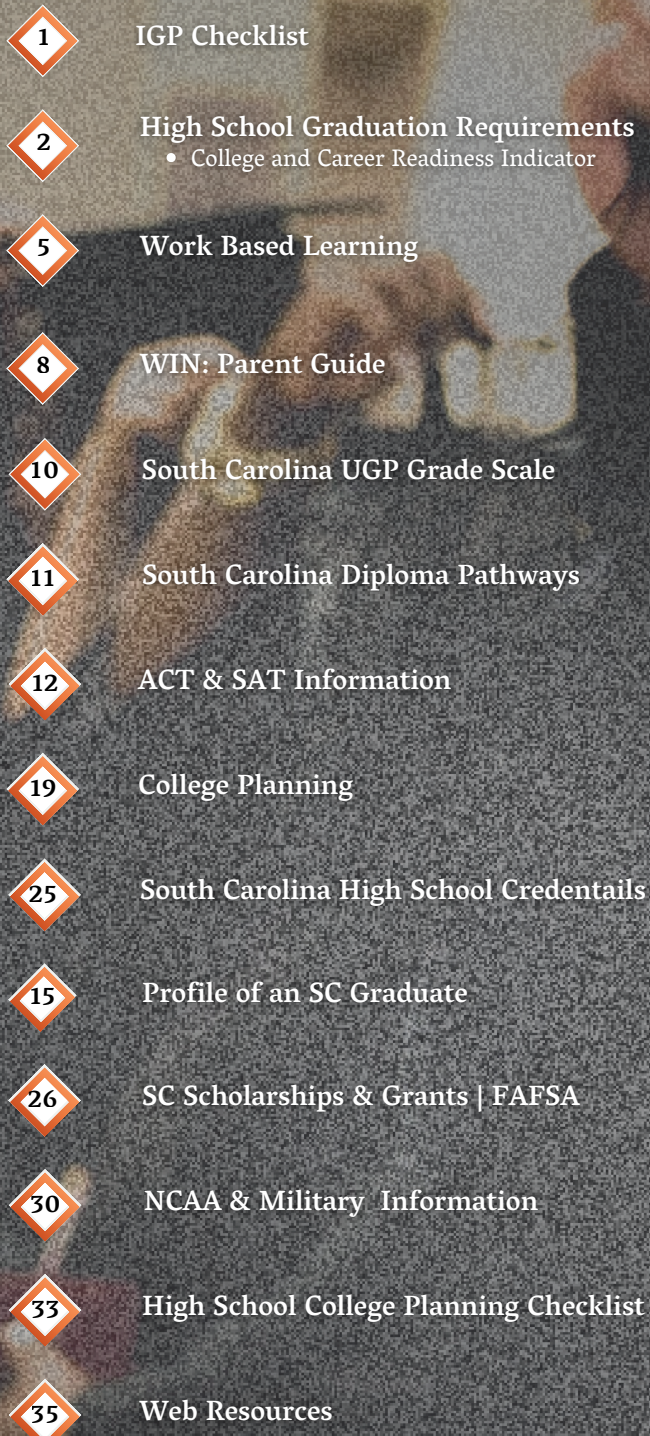


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IGP CONFERENCE CHECKLIST



Correct Legal Name:



Postsecondary Plans:

- 2 Year College
- 4 Year College

- Military
- Workforce Career Interest:



Reminder to Review:

- Current Schedule
- Class Rank
- Transcript

- GPA
- End of Course (EOC) Exams



Graduation Requirements:

South Carolina Diploma (Credit Requirements)

“Every Course Counts”



Additional Course Options:

- VirtualSC Courses
- Credit Recovery
- Edgenuity

- Summer School
- Other information in the eIGP

****ACT & SAT - You may qualify for a “fee waiver” based on qualifications. Ask your School Counselor for more information)****



Reminder to Review:

- PSAT
 - 2-year Colleges & Certificates:
- ACCUPLACER: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org>
 - 4-Year College:

- ACT: www.actstudent.org
- SAT: www.collegeboard.com
 - Workforce:
- WIN Assessment: <https://www.winlearning.com>
 - Military: --ASVAB: www.asvabprogram.com

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program



South Carolina Scholarship Programs:

- Hope
- Life
- Palmetto Fellows

- LTAP
- SC Needs-Based Grant Program --SC Commission on Higher Education --PACE Scholarship www.che.sc.gov



Financial Aid, Athletic and Military Information:

- Introduce FAFSA/Financial Aid - www.fafsa.ed.gov
- NCAA Eligibility Center - Student-Athletes t DI, DII or DIII Colleges www.eligibilitycenter.org Or www.2point3.org

- NAIA Eligibility Center -Student planning to play collegiate sports at <https://www.naia.org/landing/index>
- Military Academy Application Process & Nominations - <https://www.usa.gov/military>
- ROTC Scholarships: www.military.com



Financial Aid, Athletic and Military Information:

- SC Uniform Grading Policy
- SC Graduation Requirements - SC 4 Year College Entrance Requirements
- South Carolina Scholarship Programs - Importance of 3.0+

- NCAA/NAIA Eligibility Center
- Extended Learning Opportunities
- Resume Writing
- Interviewing
- Soft Skills



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Remember that College Admission Requirements and High School Graduation Requirements are not always the same!

***Beginning with the freshman class of 2025 – 2026 (Personal Finance Update)**

<https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/school-district-memoranda-archive/personal-finance/personal-finance-memo/#::-:text=In%20November%202022%2C%20the%20State, South%20Carolina%20High%20School%20Diploma>

***Science** - Two units must be taken in two different fields of the physical or life sciences and selected from among biology, chemistry, or physics. The third unit may be from the same field as one of the first two units (biology, chemistry, or physics) or from any laboratory science for which biology and/or chemistry is a prerequisite. Courses in earth science, general physical science, or introductory or general environmental science for which biology and/or chemistry is not a prerequisite will not meet this requirement. It is strongly recommended that students take physical science (taught as a laboratory science) as a prerequisite to the three required units of laboratory science outlined in this section.

***EOC** - Gateway courses in English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies will be defined by the State Board of Education. EOCEP examination scores count 20 percent in the calculation of the student's final grade in gateway courses. Defined gateway courses currently include Algebra 1, Intermediate Algebra, Biology 1, English 2, and United States History and the Constitution, or courses with other names and activity codes in which the academic standards corresponding to these subjects are taught.



Credit Requirements	Entering Freshman Class Through 22-23	Entering Freshman Class 23-24 and Later
English Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics	4	4
Science	3	3
U.S. History and Constitution	1	1
Economics and Personal Finance	0.5	0.5
American Government	0.5	0.5
Other Social Studies	1	1
Physical Education or Junior ROTC or Marching Band with PE	1	1
Computer Science	1	1
World Language or Career and Technical Education	1	1
Personal Finance	0	0.5
Electives	7	6.5
Total	24	24

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS INDICATORS

Purpose of Indicator

To determine if students who are graduating from a high school are prepared for college or careers after graduating.

What This Means

If students graduating from a high school are prepared for college or a career.

College Ready

Scores a composite score of 20 or higher on the ACT;

Scores a composite score of 1020 or higher on the SAT;

Scores a 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam;

Scores a 4 or higher on an International Baccalaureate (IB) assessment Only higher learning (HL) exams may count; or

Completes at least six (6) credit hours in dual enrollment courses with a grade of C or higher.

Career Ready

Is a CTE completer and earns a national or state industry credential as determined by the business community; or

Earns a Silver, Gold or Platinum National Career Readiness Certificate on the state-approved career readiness assessment; or

Earns a scale score of 31 or higher on the ASVAB; or

Successfully completes a state-approved work-based learning program

PROFILE OF A SOUTH CAROLINA GRADUATE COMPETENCY STATEMENTS



READ CRITICALLY

I can make meaning from diverse media to better understand the world around me.



LEARN INDEPENDENTLY

I can develop a plan, monitor my progress, and persevere through challenges to achieve my goal.



EXPRESS IDEAS

I can communicate through diverse formats for a range of purposes and audiences.



NAVIGATE CONFLICT

I can develop skills, strategies, and emotional awareness while navigating conflicts with others.



INVESTIGATE THROUGH INQUIRY

I can explore questions and build knowledge through inquiry.



LEAD TEAMS

I can effectively lead teams with clarity, purpose, and care.



REASON QUANTITATIVELY

I can work with numerical data, solve problems, and construct mathematical solutions.



BUILD NETWORKS

I can initiate relationships with diverse individuals and networks for a purpose, and sustain relationships with authenticity and care.



USE SOURCES

I can assess the credibility of sources and synthesize my new learning to build knowledge.



SUSTAIN WELLNESS

I can support my own physical, emotional, and social health in order to live a healthy and productive life.



DESIGN SOLUTIONS

I can engage in a systematic design process to develop data-informed solutions to authentic design challenges.



ENGAGE AS A CITIZEN

I can participate in my community, build my civic knowledge, and take action to improve my community.

WORK BASED LEARNING

Information Provided by the South Carolina Department of Education Office of Career Readiness - September 2025

Overview

Education in South Carolina must be relevant, rigorous, and designed to provide every student with opportunities to transition successfully into future careers and lifelong learning. Work-based learning (WBL) connects classroom instruction to real-world application, enabling students to build academic knowledge, technical expertise, and employability skills while preparing to compete in a global economy.

The Education and Economic Development Act of 2005 (EEDA) requires that all South Carolina students in grades K–12 be afforded the opportunity to participate in a WBL experience. Federal legislation—including the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, 2015), and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)—further supports WBL as a program quality measure and allowable investment in student success.

South Carolina’s WBL system is built on collaboration among schools, districts, post-secondary institutions, employers, Regional Career Specialists (RCS), community organizations, and statewide partners. Together, these partnerships expand opportunities that prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand careers.

Building Quality Work-Based Learning Experience

WBL is a school-coordinated, structured, and sustained interaction between students (K–12) and business or industry partners in authentic worksite environments. These experiences provide students with firsthand exposure to workplace expectations while applying academic knowledge and exploring career goals and interests.

Partnership and advocacy from the business and industry community represent a vital investment in the state’s next generation of leaders and innovators.

State Approved Work-Based Learning Definitions

South Carolina recognizes multiple forms of WBL experiences, each designed to provide students with authentic, structured opportunities to apply academic knowledge, develop employability skills, and explore career pathways.

In addition, South Carolina has designated career-ready WBL qualifiers—registered apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, cooperative education, and internships—that meet the state’s “career ready” accountability indicators.

Apprenticeship (Career Ready Qualifier)

An earn-while-you-learn training model that combines on-the-job training, job-related education, and a scalable wage progression. Apprenticeship programs are typically administered in partnership with a technical college through dual enrollment courses and articulation agreements with participating districts.

- **Registered Youth Apprenticeship (Career Ready Qualifier)**

A registered program with the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration that combines education with hands-on training.

- **Youth Apprenticeship (Career Ready Qualifier)**

A structured program for students age 16 or older that combines classroom instruction with one to two years of paid, on-the-job training. Unlike Registered Youth Apprenticeships, these programs are not overseen by the U.S. Department of Labor ETA.

WORK BASED LEARNING

Cooperative Education (Co-Op) (Career Ready Qualifier)

A multi-term placement model in which students alternate between school and full-time work with a single employer. Co-Ops are traditionally postsecondary experiences but may qualify for high school students enrolled in dual enrollment coursework with a sponsoring postsecondary institution.

Internship (Career Ready Qualifier)

A progressive, school-sponsored experience that places students in real worksites to practice job-related skills and gain exposure to industry functions.

- Guided by a training agreement and evaluation plan between the school and worksite supervisor.
- Duration is typically 3–6 months; may or may not include compensation.
- Students may receive course credit depending on district policies; compensation and activities also vary.

Job Shadowing (On-site)

A short-term, school-coordinated career exploration experience in which a student observes an employee in a workplace setting.

- Typically lasts a few hours.
- Does not provide course credit.
- Distinct from classroom speakers or career fairs.
- Requires preparation, appropriate conduct, and post-activity reflection.

Job Shadowing (Virtual)

A virtual career exploration experience that provides access to students across the state, especially in rural areas. Quality indicators include:

- Virtual tours, interactive Q&A opportunities, and student reflection.
- Preparation, engagement, and reflection must be included.
- **MicroCareerBursts** is South Carolina's approved virtual job shadowing program, available free of charge to students and educators (see pg. 12 for access information). Districts can email info@microburstlearning.com for free setup.

Mentoring

A long-term professional relationship between a student and an experienced business/industry employee who guides, instructs, and challenges the student.

- Typically lasts one year, with continued contact for an additional one to two years.
- Focuses on personal, interpersonal, and workplace skill development.
- Does not provide course credit.

School-Based Enterprise

A student-run simulated business created, managed, and operated within a school setting. Students plan, market, manage, and deliver products or services under teacher supervision.

- Provides experience in entrepreneurship and applied academics.
- May occur on or off school grounds.
- Examples: school coffee shop, catering service, printing business.

WORK BASED LEARNING

Service Learning

A community-based learning experience where students contribute to solving local problems while developing academic, workplace, and citizenship skills.

- Must follow the National and Community Service Trust Act (NACSTA) stages: Preparation, Action, Reflection, Celebration.
- Ongoing and structured (not one-time community service events).
- Typically non-credit, unless offered as a Service-Learning course.

Structured Field Study

A short-term, school-sponsored workplace visit designed for exploration and observation.

- Students observe job roles, ask questions, and learn about workplace expectations.
- Requires pre-visit preparation and post-visit debrief/reflection activities.





Career Readiness
Courseware &
Credentials

Parent Guide

Preparing World Class Learners for a Ready to Work South Carolina

Whether their path leads to the workplace, college, trade school, or military, WIN provides your child with the tools to prepare them for the road ahead.

In spring 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education announced a partnership with WIN Learning to prepare South Carolina public high school students with the "knowledge, skills, and opportunity to be college ready, career ready, and life ready for success." (South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 59, Chapter 18)

By partnering with WIN, the South Carolina Department of Education has implemented the instructional courseware for students to determine achievement in foundational readiness and essential life and career skills including creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, and collaboration and teamwork, which are part of the "Profile of a South Carolina Graduate" framework. By focusing on building the foundational skills and work habits or employability skills needed to be successful, your child will understand the need for these important skills in the workplace.

The South Carolina Ready to Work Credentials have been administered statewide, online and in paper form, to approximately 70,000 students and adults annually since the spring of 2018. Learn about the Ready to Work and Essential Soft Skills resources at <https://tinyurl.com/sc-courseware>.



Ready to Work and Essential Soft Skills Assessments

The South Carolina Ready to Work Credentials includes a combination of four valid and reliable assessments that are aligned to state/national standards for career and college readiness and workforce development system objectives.

WINReady toWorkAppliedMathematics

Assessment measures foundational workplace mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills.

WINReady toWorkLocatingInformation

Assessment measures comprehension and application of workplace graphics such as charts, graphs, tables, forms, flowcharts, diagrams, maps, and instrument gauges.

WINReady toWorkReadingforInformation

Assessment measures comprehension and critical thinking using written text including emails, web sites, letters, contracts, signs, notices, policies, and regulations.

WIN Essential Soft Skills Assessment

measures foundational work habits and employability skills that employers nationwide commonly define as essential to gain and maintain employment. including cooperating with others, resolving conflicts and negotiating, observing critically, and taking responsibility for learning.

Research shows that the foundational academic and employability skills taught and assessed by the Ready to Work Credentials are necessary for more than 85% of all jobs today. These skills are the basis for most career readiness jobs across the country providing national portability.

The Ready to Work and Essential Soft Skills Credentials are state certificates signed by the governor that your child can add to their portfolio. The credentials show that the learner has successfully mastered the foundational skills and that they are ready to work.

The Ready to Work assessments are scored on a scale from 3 to 7. The higher the scores, the greater his or her ability to perform more complex tasks and qualify for a broader range of jobs.

There are four **Ready to Work** skill levels:



PLATINUM: Level 6

Successfully pass a minimum of Level 6 in all assessments to be ready for 99% of jobs in the workforce. Occupations include: architect, chemist, geographer, anesthesiologist, and agricultural engineer.



GOLD: Level 5

Successfully pass a minimum of Level 5 in all assessments to be ready for 90% of jobs in the workforce. Occupations include: credit analyst, aircraft mechanic, medical transcriptionist, acute care nurse, and social worker.



SILVER: Level 4

Successfully pass a minimum of Level 4 in all assessments to be ready for 65% of jobs in the workforce. Occupations include: insulation installer, roofer, chef, pipe layer, flight attendant, and machinist.



BRONZE: Level 3

Successfully pass a minimum of Level 3 in all assessments to be ready for 35% of jobs in the workforce. Occupations include: construction laborer, electrician assistant, cement mason, and hygienist.

Your child will receive an individual score report with their results on each of the assessments and a Ready to Work Credential certificate.



We must look to develop a skilled workforce that has both the hard and soft skills necessary to succeed in today's global economy.

Essential Soft Skills is a proctored assessment composed of questions measuring entry-level work tasks and behaviors including cooperating with others, resolving conflicts and negotiating. The questions in this subject area present situations that the learner might encounter at work and possible actions that could be used to deal with the situation. Students must earn a scale score of 70 to pass. Your child will receive an a score report and the Essential Soft Skills Credential certificate.

South Carolina Career Readiness Test | Individual Score Report

South Carolina Ready to Work Assessments Results

ASSESSMENT	YOUR LEVEL SCORE	POTENTIAL RANGE	YOUR SCALE SCORE	POTENTIAL RANGE
Applied Mathematics	6	Levels 2-7	257	200-270
Reading for Information	5	Levels 2-7	255	200-270
Locating Information	4	Levels 2-8	237	200-240

CREDENTIAL STATUS Based on your scores, you earned a **SILVER** South Carolina Ready to Work Credential. **Date Credential Awarded** 04/30/2018

UNDERSTANDING THE ASSESSMENTS, SCORES, AND CREDENTIAL

Applied Mathematics Assessment: Measures student's ability to apply mathematical skills to solve real-world problems. Includes: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Includes: fractions, decimals, percentages, and ratios.

Reading for Information Assessment: Measures student's ability to read and understand text. Includes: identifying main ideas and supporting details, identifying text structure, and identifying text purpose.

Locating Information Assessment: Measures student's ability to locate and understand information. Includes: identifying text structure, and identifying text purpose.

Credential Status: The South Carolina Ready to Work Credential is earned for scoring a Level 3 or higher on all three assessments. Your Credential level is determined for the lowest of your three assessment scores. Refer to the Ready to Work Credential website for more information on the Ready to Work Credential.

Change: Students who score a 3 on all three assessments will receive a Bronze Ready to Work Credential. Students who score a 4 on all three assessments will receive a Silver Ready to Work Credential. Students who score a 5 on all three assessments will receive a Gold Ready to Work Credential. Students who score a 6 on all three assessments will receive a Platinum Ready to Work Credential.

Other: Students who score a 2 on all three assessments will receive a Bronze Ready to Work Credential. Students who score a 3 on all three assessments will receive a Silver Ready to Work Credential. Students who score a 4 on all three assessments will receive a Gold Ready to Work Credential. Students who score a 5 on all three assessments will receive a Platinum Ready to Work Credential.

Questions? Contact your school testing coordinator.

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South Carolina Career Readiness Test | Individual Score Report

STUDENT: BARKLEY HIGH SCHOOL, P. P. SIMMONS HIGH

South Carolina students typically take the South Carolina Career Readiness Test in their third year of high school. Aligned to the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate, the test measures student mastery of foundational employability skills. The test has four component assessments. Based on the resulting scores on each component assessment, the student may earn the state-sponsored South Carolina Essential Soft Skills Credential and/or the state-sponsored South Carolina Ready to Work Credential. Combined scores for all students are also used as an accountability measure of school district and individual school effectiveness in preparing students for high school graduation, college, and careers.

South Carolina Essential Soft Skills Assessment Results

ASSESSMENT	YOUR SCORE	POTENTIAL RANGE	YOUR SCALE SCORE	POTENTIAL RANGE
Essential Soft Skills	PASSED	PASSED / NOT PASSED	63	3-100

CREDENTIAL STATUS Based on your score, you earned a **South Carolina Essential Soft Skills Credential**. **Date Credential Awarded** 04/30/2018

UNDERSTANDING THE ASSESSMENTS, SCORES, AND CREDENTIAL

Essential Soft Skills Assessment: Measures student's ability to apply employability skills to solve real-world problems. Includes: identifying text structure, and identifying text purpose.

Your Score: Based on your score, you earned a South Carolina Essential Soft Skills Credential. Refer to the website for more information on the South Carolina Essential Soft Skills Credential.

Potential Range: Based on your score, you earned a South Carolina Essential Soft Skills Credential. Refer to the website for more information on the South Carolina Essential Soft Skills Credential.

For more information about the credentials or courseware, visit www.winlearning.com/sc-courseware.

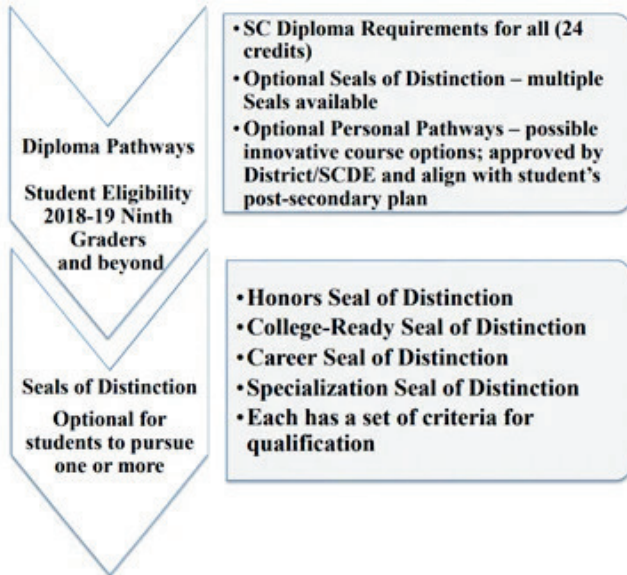
SC UNIFORM GRADING

The Uniform Grading Scale and policy governs courses that students take to earn high school diplomas. The Uniform Grading Scale requires that grades be recorded numerically and outlines the calculation to be used to ascertain a student's grade point ratio. A student may also receive WF for "withdrawn after deadline", or FA for "failure due to excessive absences."

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep Weighting	Honors Weighting	AP/IB/Dual Credit Weighting
100	A	5.000	5.500	6.000
99	A	4.900	5.400	5.900
98	A	4.800	5.300	5.800
97	A	4.700	5.200	5.700
96	A	4.600	5.100	5.600
95	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
94	A	4.400	4.900	5.400
93	A	4.300	4.800	5.300
92	A	4.200	4.700	5.200
91	A	4.100	4.600	5.100
90	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
89	B	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	B	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	B	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	B	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	B	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	B	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	B	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	B	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	C	2.900	3.400	3.900
78	C	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	C	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	C	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	C	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	C	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	C	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	C	2.100	2.600	3.100
70	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
69	D	1.900	2.400	2.900
68	D	1.800	2.300	2.800
67	D	1.700	2.200	2.700
66	D	1.600	2.100	2.600
65	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
64	D	1.400	1.900	2.400
63	D	1.300	1.800	2.300
62	D	1.200	1.700	2.200
61	D	1.100	1.600	2.100
60	D	1.000	1.500	2.000
59	F	0.900	1.400	1.900
58	F	0.800	1.300	1.800
57	F	0.700	1.200	1.700
56	F	0.600	1.100	1.600
55	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
54	F	0.400	0.900	1.400
53	F	0.300	0.800	1.300
52	F	0.200	0.700	1.200
51	F	0.100	0.600	1.100

SC DIPLOMA PATHWAYS

South Carolina Diploma Pathways Overview



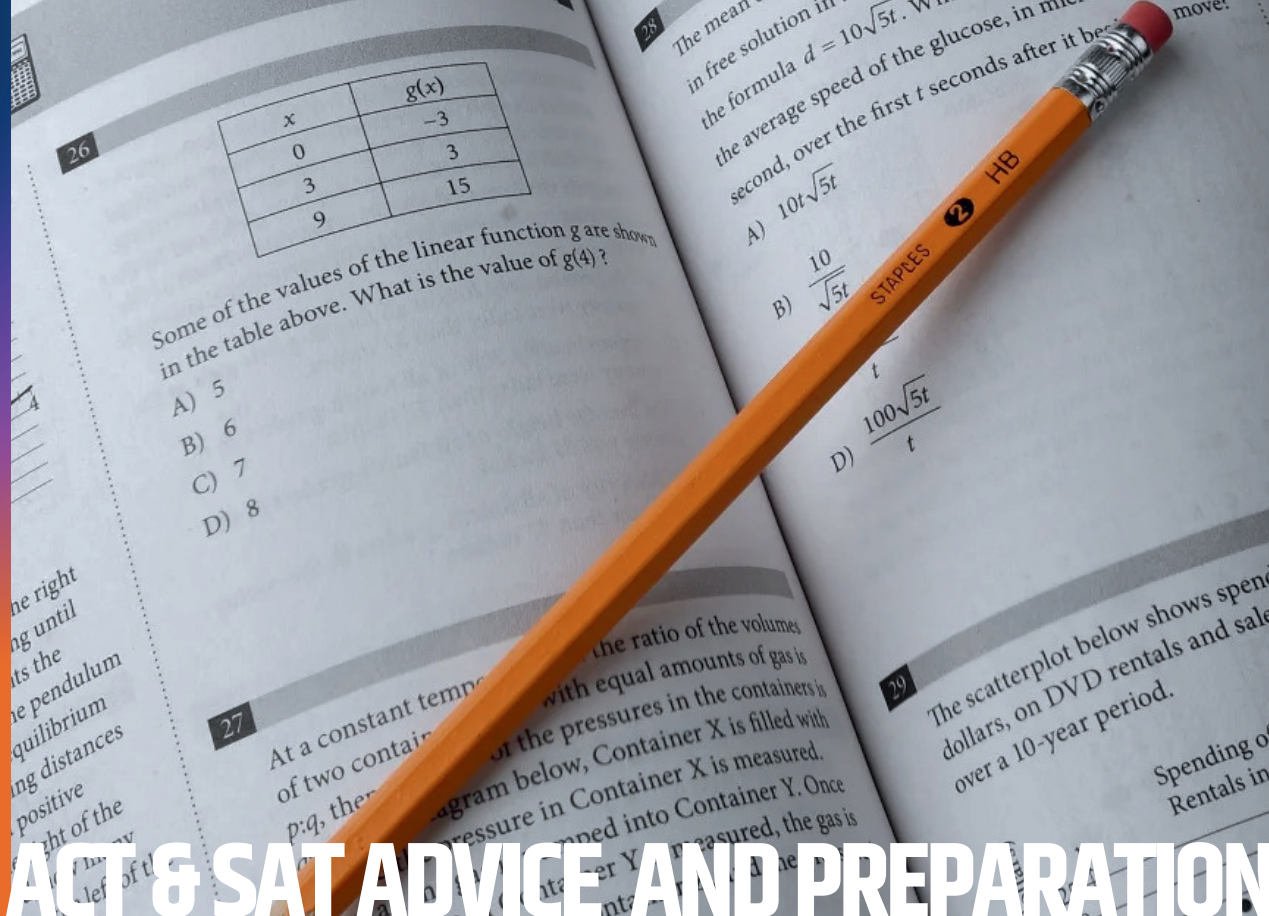
DIPLOMA PATHWAYS SEALS OF DISTINCTION TEMPLATE

Students shall meet all requirements for earning a South Carolina high school diploma to be eligible to earn any Seal of Distinction.
One or more Seals may be earned.

Consult District or School Curriculum Guides for more information regarding curriculum choices and requirements.

Honors Seal of Distinction	College Ready Seal of Distinction	Career Ready Seal of Distinction	Arts Specialization Seal of Distinction
UGP GPA 3.5 or higher	UGP GPA 3.0 or higher or ACT 20 or higher or SAT 1020 or higher Tests may be superscored	UGP GPA 3.0 or higher	UGP GPA 3.0 or higher
<p>English - 4 credits 2 at honors or higher level</p> <p>Math - Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, and a 4th higher level math requiring Algebra 2 as a prerequisite 3 at honors or higher level</p> <p>Lab Science - 3 credits 2 at honors or higher level</p> <p>Social Studies - 3 credits 2 at honors or higher level</p> <p>World Languages - 2 credits of the same language for students entering 9th grade in 2018–2019 3 credits of the same language for students entering 9th grade in 2019–2020 and beyond</p> <p>Advanced Coursework - 4 additional credits of honors or higher completed during the Junior/Senior years (the last 2 years prior to graduation)</p>	<p>English - 4 credits</p> <p>Math - Algebra 1 (or the equivalent of Algebra 1), Algebra 2, Geometry, and another higher level math</p> <p>Lab Science - 3 credits</p> <p>Social Studies - 3 credits</p> <p>World Language - 2 credits in the same language</p> <p>Fine Arts - 1 credit</p>	<p>Career and Technical Education (CTE) Completer with an industry recognized credential OR Silver or higher certificate on ACT WorkKeys or Level 3 Credential or higher on WIN SC Career Ready Test OR Completion of Career Ready Work-Based Learning (WBL) placement</p>	<p>4 credits in a single or multiple arts areas, 2 at the honors or higher level* AND Mastery on externally evaluated exam or performance task</p> <p>*If honors credit is not available for arts courses, student must complete four courses in a single art area</p>
		STEM Specialization Seal of Distinction	World Language Specialization Seal of Distinction
		UGP GPA 3.0 or higher	UGP GPA 3.0 or higher
		4 credits beyond required graduation courses in math, science, technology, and engineering; at least 2 at honors or higher level	4 credits in the same language OR a nationally normed proficiency-based language assessment score of “Intermediate Low” OR AP exam score of 3 or higher OR IB exam score of 4 or higher OR Cambridge AICE Language exam score of E or better before the senior year
		Courses may be in 1 area of STEM or across all 4 areas	
	Military Specialization Seal of Distinction		
	UGP GPA 3.0 or higher		
	4 credits in JROTC and an ASVAB score of 31 or higher		

Updated September, 2023



ACT & SAT ADVICE AND PREPARATION

The Basics of Preparing for the ACT or SAT

The Importance of Course work in Preparing for the Tests:

- The best way for a student to prepare for success on the ACT or SAT is to take academically rigorous and challenging courses in middle and high school.
- **ACT vs. SAT:** The best test for the specific student is the one on which he or she performs the best. Colleges treat the ACT and SAT equally. Students and parents should review testing results from the Pre-ACT, PSAT and ACT/SAT with a school counselor to determine which assessment may be the better choice.
- **Who Should Take the ACT or SAT?** All students DO NOT need to take the ACT or SAT. Students that are planning to apply to a two-year college can save time and money by taking one of the FREE college admissions assessments given at those schools.
- **Frequency of Testing:** Students should make a minimum of two attempts on the ACT and/or SAT in order to achieve the best score possible.
- **Timing of Testing:** Students should make their first attempt on the ACT or SAT no later than the spring of the 11th grade and be mindful of the deadlines for scholarships and college admissions.

Before You Take the ACT or SAT You Should:

- Successfully Complete or Be Enrolled in the Following Classes:
 - English 1, 2, and 3
 - Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Algebra 3 or Pre-Calculus
 - Biology and Chemistry for the ACT as the SAT does not test on Science
- **Take Practice Tests** to become familiar with the test structure, content, and directions. (See web resource page for free practice test sites)
- **Enroll in ACT or SAT Preparation Courses or Workshops** either online or at your high school
- Use the pre-test tools and register for the tests at their websites
- **ACT** www.actstudent.org
- **SAT** www.collegeboard.com



What Can the ACT® Test Do for You?

The ACT is designed for your success. With a **shorter test** that gives you more time to think, and more ways to test, you can **maximize your score** and get into your dream school.

Show Colleges That You Are Ready To Succeed

More and more selective schools are realizing the value of test scores and again requiring them for admissions. An ACT score can show schools that you are prepared to tackle their curriculum from day one.

Test Less With Less Pressure

With fewer questions and shorter test times, you'll spend less time testing. You also get more time per question, so you'll feel less pressure to answer every question quickly.

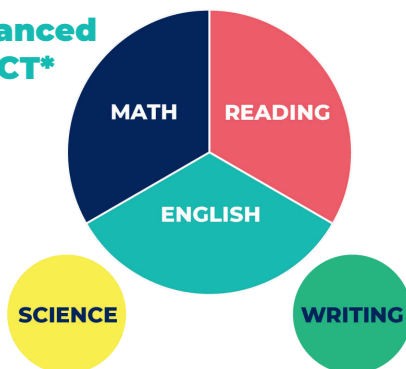
Wish You Could See Your Answers Alongside the Correct Answers After Taking a Test?

You can order your ACT My Answer Key for three test dates a year. See exactly what you got right and wrong so you can learn, improve, and do better next time. Find out more at act.org/actmyanswerkey.

Connect With Colleges and Scholarship Programs via ACT Recruit Me

[ACT Recruit Me](#) helps match you with colleges and other career-related resources aligned with your background and interests, with personalized information sent right to your inbox.

Enhanced ACT*



Choose Your Best Test Experience

Based on your needs and preferences, you can **focus on what matters** for your future, and don't stress about the rest. With the ACT, you can choose whether you want to show off your strengths in science and writing, or stick with English, math, and reading. The ACT also gives you the choice to **test on paper or on a computer**. Boost your confidence and test the way you find most comfortable. The choice is yours!

* Available for all ACT National testers September 2025, and Spring 2026 for ACT State & District testing.

How to prepare for the ACT

- Take challenging high school courses.
- Study hard using ACT test prep.
- Stay positive - ***you've got this!***

Visit act.org/prep to explore test prep options.

Go to actstudent.org for free resources:

- ACT practice questions.
- Testing tips for each subject.
- *Preparing for the ACT* downloadable test prep booklet.
- Test day checklist.

The ACT Can Help Save Money on Tuition

Your ACT score can increase your chances of earning scholarships that can fuel your future and help with college costs. Even schools that are test optional may still require or recommend an ACT score to qualify for merit awards.

Give Your Application an Extra Boost With the Optional Writing Test

Demonstrating your writing skills and ability to understand and explore ideas can help you stand out for competitive programs.

Sketch Out Your Educational and Career Plans in MyACT

Narrow down [college majors](#) and [career options](#) that align with your interests, and take the [ACT Interest Inventory](#) on MyACT.

Put Your Best Score Forward With an ACT Superscore

If you take the ACT more than once, your best subject score from each test will be used to create an official Superscore to showcase your best performance.



Interested in a STEM program?

The ACT is the only test where you can get a unique **STEM score**. If you choose to take the science section, you will receive a STEM score to measure your readiness for STEM-related majors.

Only the ACT Offers Support for English Language Learners

If you are enrolled in your school's English Learners (EL) program, you may qualify for additional support when taking the ACT. Work with your school counselor to request EL accommodations after you register.

The ACT Offers Fee Waivers for Eligible Students

Every student deserves the chance to chart their own course for success. If you have trouble paying for the ACT test, the ACT Fee Waiver Program can help with registration fees, test prep, and more. Check with your school counselor to find out if you are eligible to apply.

TESTING CALENDAR

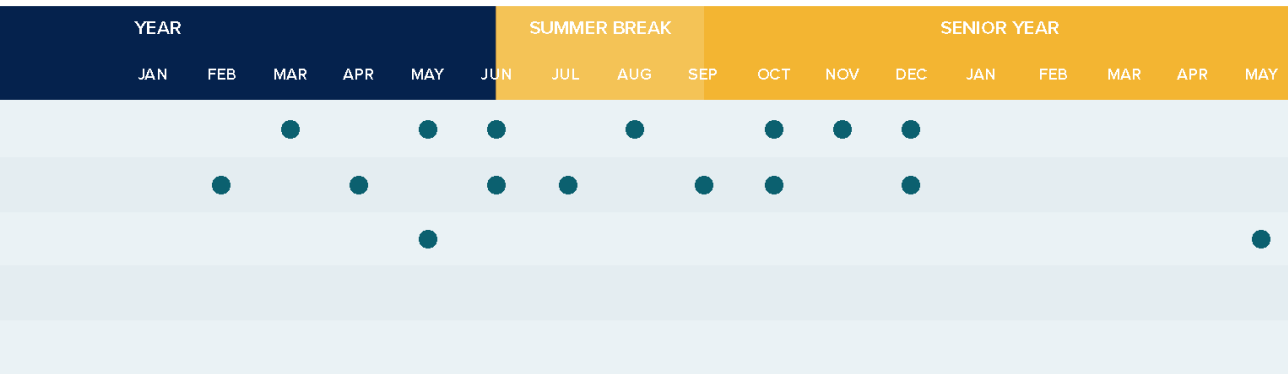
	SOPHOMORE YEAR										SUMMER BREAK			JUNIOR			
	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
SAT and SAT Subject Tests									●	●		●		●	●	●	
ACT											●		●	●		●	
AP									●								
PSAT		●												●			
Aspire and PreACT	Scheduled at school's discretion																

3 Common Timelines for Testing & Prep

Early

Students on this timeline take maximum advantage of the summer before 11th grade. Goals typically include a peak performance on the PSAT, closing out the SAT or ACT by spring of 11th grade, and banking 3–4 strong Subject Test scores. The goal of these students is to be completely done with testing by June of 11th grade.

	May/June of 10th Grade	Summer between 10th and 11th Grades	Fall of 11th Grade	
Early	Take Subject Tests as appropriate. Take diagnostic SAT and ACT to plan for preparation.	Begin preparation geared toward the October PSAT and fall ACT or SAT.	Take October PSAT. Take ACT or SAT.	
Traditional	Take Subject Tests as appropriate.	Begin foundational preparation in the summer with the ultimate goal of a winter or spring ACT or SAT.	Take October PSAT. Foundational work allows additional preparation to fit into a busy junior calendar.	
Deferred	Take Subject Tests as appropriate.		Take October PSAT. Take diagnostic SAT and ACT to decide on a course of preparation. Junior PSAT results can provide a guideline but are not available until December. Map out a schedule to prepare for the February or April ACT or the March or May SAT. Preparation typically begins in October or November.	



Traditional

Prep in the summer before 11th grade is moderately paced and foundational, designed to lighten the intensity of prep during the school year. This steadfast approach to prep culminates in the spring and leaves room for the competing priorities of junior year.

Deferred

This timeline intentionally allows students to defer the testing process in favor of other summer activities and a focus on getting 11th grade classwork off to a great start. Rigorous prep for the SAT or ACT falls in winter/spring of 11th grade and may continue into the following summer prior to final testing in fall of 12th grade.

	Early Spring of 11th Grade	May/June of 11th Grade	Summer/Fall of 12th Grade
	Consider repeating ACT or SAT and having admission testing completed prior to APs, finals, and Subject Tests.	Take Subject Tests as appropriate.	Focus on college applications. Additional preparation and testing only as needed.
	Take the ACT or SAT for the first time.	Take Subject Tests as appropriate. Consider repeating ACT or SAT and having admission testing completed prior to the summer and college applications.	Focus on college applications. Additional preparation and testing only as needed.
	Take the ACT or SAT for the first time.	Take Subject Tests as appropriate. Consider repeating ACT or SAT and having admission testing completed prior to the summer and college applications.	Focus on college applications. Additional preparation and testing only as needed.

ACT VS. SAT TESTING

	ACT	SAT
Type of Test	Standardized college admissions test	Standardized college admissions test
Sections	The ACT Test includes sections in: -English -Math -Reading *Optional writing section *Optional Science section	The digital SAT is composed of two sections: -Reading and Writing -Math (Calculator allowed)
Length	English: 35 minutes Math: 50 minutes Reading: 40 minutes Writing (optional): 40 minutes Science (optional) 40 minutes	Reading and Writing: 64 minutes Math (with or without Calculator): 70 minutes
Penalty for wrong answers?	No, you won't lose points for wrong answers, so don't leave any blank. Your scores will be based on the number of questions answered correctly.	No, you won't lose points for wrong answers, so don't leave any blank. Your scores will be based on the number of questions answered correctly.
Scoring Method	1 - 36 for each subject, which is averaged. The highest possible score is 36.	400 - 1600 with 1600 the highest possible score. The total score can range from 400-1600.
Cost	The basic ACT test costs \$68, which includes sending scores to four colleges. The ACT with the writing section is \$93. Some students may be eligible for fee waiver.	The SAT reasoning test costs \$68, which includes sending scores to four colleges. Some students may be eligible for fee waiver.
Saturday Test Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● September 6, 2025 ● October 18, 2025 ● December 13, 2025 ● February 14, 2026 ● April 11, 2026 ● June 13, 2026 ● July 11, 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● August 23, 2025 ● September 13, 2025 ● October 4, 2025 ● November 8, 2025 ● December 6, 2025 ● March 14, 2026 ● May 2, 2026 ● June 6, 2026
Are you required to submit scores to colleges?	No. Students can choose which schools will receive their scores and which scores the schools will see.	No. Students can choose which schools will receive their scores and which scores the schools will see.
How can I prepare?	www.act.org https://www.princetonreview.com/college/free-act-practice-test https://www.kaptest.com/act/free/act-free-practice-test https://www.prepscholar.com/	www.collegeboard.com https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice https://www.khanacademy.org/digital-sat https://www.prepscholar.com/ https://www.princetonreview.com/college/free-sat-practice-test
Website	www.act.org	www.sat.org



COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS



ACT[®]

The ACT is an achievement test with four core sections (english, math, reading and science) and an optional writing section. ACT test questions are directly related to what students learn in most of their high school courses.



SAT[®]

The SAT covers core content areas deemed essential for success in college – reading, mathematics, writing and language. The SAT is connected to the College Board's earlier grade college-readiness assessments, such as the PSAT, which work together to provide an ongoing grade-level picture of a student's progress.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT APPLYING EARLY

If you find a college that you're sure is right for you, consider applying early. Early Decision and Early Action plans allow you to apply early (usually in November) and get an admission decision early (usually by Dec. 15).

Early Decision plans are binding

You agree to attend the college if it accepts you and offers an adequate financial aid package. You can apply to only one college for Early Decision. You may also apply to other colleges through the regular admission process, but if you're accepted by your first-choice college early, you must withdraw all other applications.

Early Action plans are non-binding

While the college will tell you whether or not you're accepted by early January, you have the right to wait until May 1 before responding. This gives you time to compare colleges, including their financial aid offers, before making a decision. You can also apply Early Action to more than one college.

Single-Choice Early Action is another option offered by a few colleges

This plan works the same way as other Early Action plans, but candidates may not apply early (either Early Action or Early Decision) to any other school. You can still apply for regular admission to other schools and are not required to give your final answer of acceptance until the regular decision deadline.

If you need financial aid, Early Decision might not be a good idea

You shouldn't apply under an Early Decision plan if you think you'll be better off weighing financial aid packages from several colleges later in the spring. While you can turn down an early acceptance if the college is unable to meet your need for financial aid, "need" in this context is determined by formulas, not by your family.

Single-Choice Early Action is another option offered by a few colleges

More than 400 colleges offer an Early Decision plan, an Early Action plan, or both; but that is less than 20 percent of all colleges.

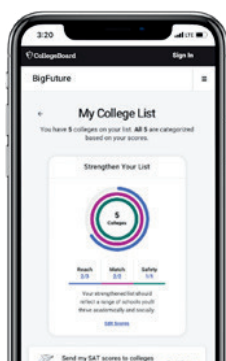
Get advice from your school counselor before applying Early Decision. While it may seem appealing to get the process over with early, it might be too soon to know that you've made the right college choice.

PLAN FOR COLLEGE

3 Steps for Students to Plan for College on BigFuture

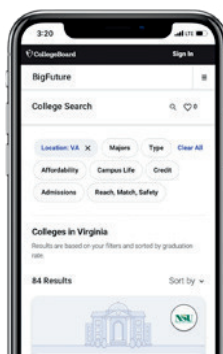


Powered by College Board, BigFuture® is the free online planning guide that helps all students take the right first step after high school. Informed by student and educator feedback and with detailed information provided by thousands of colleges, BigFuture simplifies the college and career planning process.



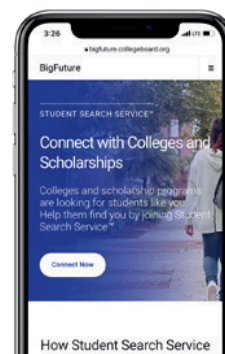
1. Take a Quiz. Get Personalized Options.

Students answer a series of questions about college preferences (e.g., GPA range, intended major, institution type, and college setting) and get a personalized list of recommended colleges.



2. Explore Over 3,600 College Profiles With Credible Information.

Students can search and filter profiles with rich content about campus life and admissions provided by the colleges themselves. They can save schools to their college list and sort by reach, match, or safety based on SAT® score.¹



3. Connect with Colleges Through Student Search Service.

Student Search Service™ is the way thousands of colleges and scholarships connect with more than five million students. On average, students contacted by colleges through Student Search receive 29% more college admission offers than similar students who aren't in Student Search.²



PREPARE STUDENTS TO SUBMIT THEIR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- Check out the [Ultimate Guide to Writing Your College Essay](#) with videos and articles provided in partnership with Khan Academy®.

¹ The categorization is based on the average score range (25th to 75th percentile of test scores) of last year's first-year class. As students build balanced lists of colleges, it's important to consider a range of factors, including location, cost, size, and majors offered. Together, these help students determine which colleges are an overall good social, financial, and academic fit.

² All Access. (2021). New Research Links Student Search Service Participation to More College Admission Offers. Retrieved March 13, 2023, from <https://allaccess.collegeboard.org/new-research-links-student-search-service-participation-more-college-admission-offers>

Learn more at bigfuture.org.



BigFuture™ College Search Worksheet

The collegesearchisaboutexploringwhoyouare and whatyou wantandthen finding colleges that will match your interests. This worksheet matches the categories on BigFuture College Search. Explore these criteria and enter them on BigFuture to help you find colleges that are fit for you.

Location

I am interested in colleges in the following states/territories:

I want to be within this distance from zip code _____

- 2 miles (walking distance)
- 20 miles (short drive)
- 50 miles (moderate drive)
- 200 miles (long drive)
- 500 miles (short flight)
- 2000 miles (long flight)

I am interested in colleges outside the U.S. in the following countries: _____

Major

I am interested in the following major(s):

Type

College Level

- 4-Year (Bachelor's degree)
- 2-Year (Associate's degree, Certificates)

College Type

- Public
- Private

Special Mission

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
- Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)
- All-Women
- All-Men

Study Options

- Distance learning
- Double major
- English as a Second Language
- Honors Program
- Weekend college

Religious Affiliation

I am interested in colleges with the following religious affiliation(s):

Campus Life

Size

- Less than 3,000 students
- 3,000 to 8,999 students
- 9,000 to 14,999 students
- More than 15,000 students

Setting

- Urban (located in cities)
- Suburban (in small cities, large towns, residential areas)
- Rural (near farms, wilderness areas, in small town)

Start your college search at BigFuture bigfuture.org

© 2023 College Board.

Sports

I am interested in colleges with the following sport(s):

Activities

I am interested in colleges with the following activities:

Campus Services

- Alcohol/substance abuse counseling
- On campus day care
- Services for low-income students
- Services for minority students

Disability Support Services

- Blind/visually impaired
- Deaf/hard of hearing
- Learning disorders
- Speech or communication disorders
- Wheelchair accessibility

Affordability

Financial Need Met

- 65% or more
- 75% or more
- 90% or more
- 100%

Application Fees

- Application fee waivers offered
- Free to apply

Aid for International Students

- I am interested in colleges that offer aid for international students.

Credit

- I am interested in colleges that offer placement or credit for AP exams.
- I am interested in colleges that offer credit for CLEP exams.
- I am interested in colleges that accept transfer credits from a 2-year college.

Admissions

SAT Range (from 400 to 1600)

GPA Range (0 to 4.0)

Acceptance Rate

- Most selective (0 to 10% accepted)
- Very selective (10 to 25% accepted)
- Selective (25 to 50% accepted) Less
- selective (50 to 90% accepted) Not
- selective (90 to 100% accepted)

Open Admissions

- I am interested in colleges with open admissions.

Application Deadline

- More than a month
- Less than a month
- Less than a week

Application Types Accepted

- Common App
- Coalition App
- Universal College App

GED

- I am interested in colleges that accept a GED.

Reach, Match, Safety


SAT score _____ GPA _____ ACT score _____

Show me:











- Reach schools
- Match schools
- Safety schools

Senior Year Success Guide








Senior year is exciting—but it’s also one of the busiest times of your life! Between schoolwork, activities, and special events, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed. The key to success is **staying organized, meeting your deadlines, and not waiting until the last minute.**


 **Tip:** Your **School Counselor** and **Career Specialists** are here to help. Meet with them often and check the Scholarship Booklet (posted on your school and district websites) so you don’t miss opportunities.

Before the New Year

-  Pick your intended major (or narrow it down)
-  Create your list of potential colleges
-  Prepare for early admission (if applying)
-  Begin scholarship searches
-  Write and submit scholarship essays & applications
-  Draft college admission essays (if needed)
-  Take or retake SAT/ACT
-  Request letters of recommendation
-  Submit college applications
-  Get FAFSA info ready to file

After the New Year


-  File FAFSA & other financial aid forms
-  Follow up with your colleges
-  Send fall semester grades
-  Compare financial aid offers
-  Keep applying for scholarships
-  Make your college decision
-  Keep grades strong—colleges still check!

 **Remember:** Deadlines are EVERYTHING. Missing one can cost you scholarships, admissions, or financial aid.

Important for Senior Males (Ages 17–18)

When you turn 18, the law requires you to register with the **Selective Service**. Failing to register may prevent you from getting student loans, job training, government jobs, and even a driver’s license in many states.

 Register at your local post office or online: <https://www.usa.gov/selective-service>

 **Bottom Line:** Senior year is packed—but YOU’VE GOT THIS! Stay organized, meet your deadlines, and take every step toward building the future you’ve worked for.

SC Colleges & Universities

Freshman Class Profiles

College/University	Location	Average GPA/Scale	SAT (Mid 50%)	ACT (Mid 50%)	Public/Private
Allen University	Columbia	2.0	not reported	not reported	Private
Anderson University	Anderson	3.73	1038	24	Private
Benedict College	Columbia	2.0	Min. 850	Min. 17	Private
Bob Jones University	Greenville	3.46	1050	21-24	Private
Charleston Southern	Charleston	4.0	1150	23	Private
Citadel	Charleston	3.0	950-1160	20-25	Public
Clafin	Orangeburg	3.28	880	17	Private
Clemson	Clemson	4.4-4.7	1230-1390	26-32	Public
Coastal Carolina	Conway	3.6	1100	21	Public
Coker University	Hartsville	3.2	970	16-22	Private
College of Charleston	Charleston	4.1-4.8	1150-1300	23-30	Public
Columbia College	Columbia	3.2	950	16	Private
Columbia International	Columbia	3.5	1060	21	Private
Converse	Spartanburg	3.8	1020	23	Private
Erskine	Due West	3.4	1010	20	Private
Francis Marion	Florence	3.3	920	19	Public
Furman	Greenville	3.5	1230-1400	28-32	Private
Lander	Greenwood	3.6	1090	20	Private
Limestone	Gaffney	3.1	1020	21	Private
Morris	Sumter	2.0	800	18	Private
Newberry	Newberry	3.1	940	20	Private
North Greenville	Greenville	3.8	1110	25	Private
Presbyterian College	Clinton	3.6	1140	24	Private
South Carolina State	Orangeburg	3.16	780	15-18	Public
Spartanburg Methodist	Spartanburg	3.0	850	17	Private
USC - Aiken	Aiken	3.4	870-1060	18-24	Public
USC - Beaufort	Beaufort	2.0 Core	840-1030	17-22	Public
USC - Columbia	Columbia	4.1-4.8	1140-1330	23-30	Public
USC - Salkehatchie	Allendale	Min. 2.0	710-920	14-18	Public
USC - Upstate	Spartanburg	3.5/weighted	1000-1170	19-25	Public
Voorhees	Denmark	2.5/4.0	not reported	not reported	Private
Winthrop	Rock Hill	4.06	1096	23	Public
Wofford College	Spartanburg	3.73/4.0	1180-1330	27-31	Private



*Based on 2025 information available through <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>, Naviance, CollegeBoard and individual college websites. Information may vary according to sources and depend upon the competitiveness of the application year.



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL CREDENTIAL

The S.C. High School Credential will provide a course of study designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge and work ethic needed to succeed in today's job market.

South Carolina has roughly 100,000 students with disabilities serviced under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), of which the majority are able to earn a state high school diploma. Given the varying levels of student achievement, some students are unable to complete this required high school coursework. As a result, there is a need to provide an alternative option for students with disabilities to demonstrate their ability to transition into the work community.

The Credential helps to ensure that we are working to prepare the entirety of the S.C. workforce by equipping students with adequate skills. Since the fall of 2018, this option has been available for students entering high school.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The student must be able to meet the following requirements:

- 24 units of coursework aligned with the S.C. College and Career-Ready Standards:

COURSE	UNITS
English / Language Arts	4
Mathematics	4
Natural Science	2
Social Studies	2
Employability Education	4
Physical Education /Health	1
Technology	1
Electives	6

- Career Portfolio that includes a multimedia presentation project
- Work readiness assessment results that demonstrate the student is ready for competitive employment
- Work-based learning/training that totals at least 360 hours

QUICK FACTS

Section 59-39-100 was amended to include:

- Flexibility in identifying and creating personalized diploma pathway options for all students
- An employability credential for applicable students with disabilities

The S.C. High School Credential:

- Is **NOT** a S.C. High School Diploma
- Is **NOT** for all students with disabilities
- Is a career-based educational program
- Is aligned with the Profile of the S.C. Graduate

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

South Carolina High School Credential
thesccredential.org

Transition Alliance of South Carolina
transitionalliancesc.org

Hire Me SC
hiremescc.org

PROFILE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GRADUATE

WORLD-CLASS KNOWLEDGE

Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness

Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences



WORLD-CLASS SKILLS

Creativity and Innovation

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Collaboration and Teamwork

Communication, Information, Media and Technology

Knowing How to Learn



LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

Integrity | Self Direction | Global Perspective | Perseverance | Work Ethic | Interpersonal Skills

© SCASA Superintendents' Roundtable

Adopted by: SC Arts in Basic Curriculum Steering Committee, SC-ASCD, SC Chamber of Commerce, SC Council on Competitiveness, SC Education Oversight Committee, SC State Board of Education, SC State Department of Education, Transform SC Schools and Districts



An Initiative of



State-Funded Scholarship & Grant Programs



South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Access | Affordability | Excellence

General Eligibility requirements for all programs:

- US Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident*
- SC Resident**
- No felony convictions**
- No second or subsequent alcohol/drug misdemeanors
- Not in default on any state or federal loans
- Enroll in a degree-seeking program at an eligible SC institution

*This must be determined at the time of high school graduation & college enrollment.
**Excluding Lottery Tuition Assistance.

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

SC HOPE

\$2,600

- Attend an eligible four-year institution
- 3.0 SC UGP GPA

- 3.0 LIFE GPA; and
- Earn an average of 30 credit hours by the end of the first academic year*

If a SC HOPE recipient satisfies the above criteria, they move into the LIFE scholarship program beginning in their 2nd academic year

LIFE

\$5,000

- Two-Year Institution
- 3.0 SC UGP GPA
- Four-year Institution (Meet 2 out of 3)
- 3.0 SC UGP GPA
 - 1100 SAT or 22 ACT
 - Rank in top 30% of graduating class*

- 3.0 LIFE GPA; and
- Earn an average of 30 credit hours by the end of the first academic year*

Up to eight terms of eligibility towards first Bachelors degree

*Cannot use rank if graduating mid-year

*Academic year: Fall, Spring, Summer
**Can use AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, and CLEP hours towards credit hour requirement

Palmetto Fellows

\$6,700 year 1
\$7,500 year 2-4

- 3.5 SC UGP GPA; and
 - 1200 SAT or 25 ACT; and
 - Top 6% rank in either 10, 11, 12
- Without regard to rank (Alternative Criteria)
- 4.0 SC UGP GPA; and
 - 1400 SAT or 31 ACT

- 3.0 Institutional GPA; and
- Earn 30 credit hours each academic year

Up to eight terms of eligibility towards first Bachelors degree

Mid-year graduates MUST apply prior to mid-year graduation date

*Academic year: Fall, Spring, Summer
**Cannot use AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, or CLEP hours towards credit hour requirement

Lottery Tuition Assistance

- 2-Year Institutions only
- Complete the FAFSA or FAFSA waiver;
 - Enroll in at least six credit hours

- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress
- After attempting 24 hours, earn a minimum 2.0 GPA; and
- Complete the FAFSA annually

Students are not eligible to receive Lottery Tuition Assistance for more than one certificate, diploma, or degree earned within any five-year period unless the additional certificate, diploma, or degree constitutes progress in the same field of study.

SC Need-based Grant

\$3,500 (Full-time)

- Determined 'in need' by completing the FAFSA

- 2.0 GPA; and
- Earn 24 credit hours; and
- Complete the FAFSA annually, so 'in need' status can be confirmed.

www.che.sc.gov | 803-737-2260



FAFSA

FederalStudentAid

An office of the U.S. Department of Education

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is the only way to apply for federal student aid. The schools you list on your application will use FAFSA information to evaluate your financial need and determine how much federal aid you are eligible to receive. Many states and colleges also use information from your FAFSA to provide their own financial aid.

Each October, the FAFSA is available for the next school year. It is best to fill it out as early as you can because some aid is first come, first serve.

When you complete the FAFSA, you'll need to provide personal and tax information. You may be able to automatically retrieve your tax information from the IRS.

MAKE SURE TO FILL OUT AND SUBMIT THE FAFSA EACH YEAR YOU ARE IN COLLEGE.

After you submit your FAFSA, you'll receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). Your SAR summarizes the information in your FAFSA. Review it and make corrections if needed.

Complete the FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov

As the largest provider of financial aid, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans and work-study funds.

Your FAFSA helps your school determine the types of federal student aid you are eligible to receive. Do not assume you do not qualify – lots of students do.

TYPES OF FEDERAL STUDENT AID

GRANTS

Grants are free money that do not have to be repaid.

LOANS

Student loans are real loans (like a car or home loan) that need to be repaid with interest.

WORK-STUDY

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

AWARD LETTER

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

COLLEGE

Every year, millions of new students attend college or career school for the first time. Your college or career school has a financial aid office to help guide you along the way.

BEYOND EDUCATION

WORKFORCE

When you take the time to plan for your education and let Federal Student Aid help you along the way, you'll be setting the foundation for a bright future and success in the workforce.

REPAYMENT

Once you leave school, you will need to repay your student loans. Contact your loan servicer to discuss your repayment options.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE
DIPLOMA
CERTIFICATE

Academic PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE TRANSFER

Associate of Arts
Associate of Science
Business Administration (The Citadel)
Food Science (Clemson)
Healthcare
Hospitality and Tourism (USC Beaufort)
RN to BSN (USC Upstate)
Teacher Education (Clafflin, SCSU, USC)
– Early Childhood Education
– Elementary Education
– Mid-Level Education
Certificate in Arts
Certificate in Science
General Studies

BUSINESS

Business Administration
– Accounting
– Enterprise Management
– Office Management
Business Administration (Transfer)
Hospitality and Tourism (Transfer)
Administrative Support
Basic Accounting
Logistics
Small Business

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Computer Technology
– Computer Programming
– Network Security and Information Assurance
Database
Internetworking CISCO
Network Engineering MCSE
Network Specialist

**MAKE
YOUR
DREAM
A REALITY**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Criminal Justice
Fire Science/Criminal Justice/EMT
Forensics
Pre-Police Academy
Security

EDUCATION

Early Care and Education
Teacher Education (Transfer)
– Early Childhood Education
– Elementary Education
– Mid-Level Education
Early Childhood Development
Early Childhood Development

HEALTH SCIENCE

Healthcare (Transfer)
Healthcare Preparation and Clinical Studies
EMT/Forensics
Medical Assisting/Administrative Support
Medical Assisting/Clinical Support
Patient Care Technician/Biological Science
Physical Therapist Assistant
Radiologic Technology
Medical Assisting
Certified Nursing Assistant
Emergency Medical Technician
Advanced EMT
Patient Care Technician
Pre-Physical Therapist Assistant
Pre-Radiology
General Radiologic Technology
Magnetic Resonance Imaging
Mammography

NURSING

Nursing Preparation and Clinical Studies
Associate Degree Nursing
RN to BSN (Transfer)
Practical Nursing
Certified Nursing Assistant
Pre-Nursing/Practical Nursing
Pre-Nursing/Registered Nursing

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Industrial Electronics Technology
Machine Tool Technology
Mechatronics Technology
Welding/Industrial Maintenance
Basic Electrician
Industrial Electrician
Basic Industrial Maintenance
Industrial Maintenance-Mechanical and Electrical I, II
CNC Programmer
Production Machine Operator
Quality Control
Mechatronics I, II, III
Basic Welding
Intermediate Welding
Advanced Welding

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Electronics Engineering Technology
– Electronic Instrumentation Technology
Engineering Design Technology
Computer Aided Design I, II
Introduction to Engineering

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Automotive Technology
Basic Diesel Maintenance
Professional Truck Driving
Undercar Specialist

DIVISION I ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To study and compete at a **Division I school**, you must earn 16 NCAA-approved **core-course credits**, earn a corresponding test score* that matches your **core-course GPA** and submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

CORE-COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	ADDITIONAL (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL COURSES (Any area listed to the left, world language or non-academic religious/philosophy)
4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year	2 years	4 years

For Division I, 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits must be completed before the start of your seventh semester, including seven in English, math or science.

QUALIFIER

As a Division I qualifier, you may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

- × Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the right areas.
 - Complete 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of the seventh semester.
 - Complete your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade.
- × Earn a corresponding test score that matches your **core-course GPA** (minimum 2.3) on the **Division I Sliding Scale**.*
- × Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

As a Division I academic redshirt, you may practice during your first regular academic term and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment but may NOT compete during your first year of enrollment. You must pass either eight quarter or nine semester hours to practice in the next term.

- × Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the right areas.
- × Earn a corresponding test score that matches your **core-course GPA** (minimum 2.0) on the **Division I sliding scale**.*
- × Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

* More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.



TEST SCORES

Every time you register for the **SAT** or **ACT**, use code **9999** to send your scores directly to the Eligibility Center from the testing agency. You may take the SAT or ACT an unlimited number of times before you enroll full time in college. If you take either test more than once, the best subscore from each test is used to give you the best possible score.

* More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and test scores can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

CORE-COURSE LIST

Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at eligibilitycenter.org/courselist. No core-course list means courses taken from that high school will not count for NCAA eligibility. If your high school does not have a list, you risk being ineligible to play in college.

NONTRADITIONAL AND ONLINE COURSES

Nontraditional courses are taught online or through distance learning, hybrid/blended, independent study, individualized instruction, correspondence or similar means.

These types of courses may be acceptable for use in the NCAA initial-eligibility certification process; however, it is important to make sure the nontraditional program has been approved and appears on [your school/program's list](#) of NCAA-approved core courses.

BE AHEAD OF THE GAME

- » Plan to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org before your freshman year of high school. Visit on.ncaa.com/RegChecklist to help guide you through the registration process.
- » After six semesters of high school, ask your high school counselor from each school you have attended to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- » [DII Academic Requirements flyer.](#)
- » [DIII Amateurism flyer.](#)
- » [International Initial-Eligibility flyer.](#)

DIVISION I QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE

Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*	Core GPA	SAT*	ACT Sum*
3.550	400	37	2.750	810	59
3.525	410	38	2.725	820	60
3.500	430	39	2.700	830	61
3.475	440	40	2.675	840	61
3.450	460	41	2.650	850	62
3.425	470	41	2.625	860	63
3.400	490	42	2.600	880	64
3.375	500	42	2.575	870	65
3.350	520	43	2.550	880	66
3.325	530	44	2.525	890	67
3.300	550	44	2.500	900	68
3.275	560	45	2.475	910	69
3.250	580	46	2.450	920	70
3.225	590	46	2.425	930	70
3.200	600	47	2.400	940	71
3.175	620	47	2.375	950	72
3.150	630	48	2.350	960	73
3.125	650	49	2.325	970	74
3.100	660	49	2.300	980	75
3.075	680	50	2.299	990	76
3.050	690	50	2.275	990	76
3.025	710	51	2.250	1000	77
3.000	720	52	2.225	1010	78
2.975	730	52	2.200	1020	79
2.950	740	53	2.175	1030	80
2.925	750	53	2.150	1040	81
2.900	750	54	2.125	1050	82
2.875	760	55	2.100	1060	83
2.850	770	56	2.075	1070	84
2.825	780	56	2.050	1080	85
2.800	790	57	2.025	1090	86
2.775	800	58	2.000	1100	86

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

Want more information? Visit ncaa.org/playcollegesports.

CONTACT THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER
U.S. and Canada (except Quebec): 877-262-1492
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time

MILITARY INFORMATION

Air Force: www.airforce.com
2390 Prince of Orange Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-536-1456

Coast Guard (CG)/CG Reserve:
www.gocoastguard.com
10136 Two Notch Road Suite 7-B
Columbia, SC
803-736-7119

Army: www.goarmy.com
Army National Guard: www.nationalguard.com 2390
Prince of Orange Street
Army Reserve: www.goarmyreserve.com
Orangeburg, SC 29115
843-295-0377

Air Force Reserve: www.afreserve.com Air National
Guard: www.goang.com
1-800-464-8273

Marine Corps: www.marines.com
Marine Corps Reserve: www.marforres.marines.mil/
2390 Prince of Orange Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-516-9683

Navy: www.navy.com
2390 Prince of Orange Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115
843-356-0495
Navy Reserve: www.navyreserve.com

The ASVAB is a test given by military proctors that serves not only as a military enlistment tool but also as a valuable career explorations tool.

Military careers require ASVAB test scores with 31 being the minimum score possible to enlist.

For more information please visit: <http://official-asvab.com/> or contact your local recruiter.



CHECKLISTS

9th / 10th Grade

□ CREATE A FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL PLAN DURING YOUR IGP MEETING.

- Think about what you'd like to accomplish in the next four years.
- Ask your counselor which high school courses are required by colleges, and make sure that you're taking the right classes as early as the ninth grade.
- Get to know the levels and types of courses offered by your school.

□ START THINKING ABOUT YOUR LIFE AFTER SCHOOL, INCLUDING THE TYPES OF CAREERS THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU.

- Identify your interests, likes and dislikes, not just in classes but in every area.
- Talk to other people, such as your school counselor, teachers, recent college graduates who are working, professionals in the community, etc., about careers you might find interesting.

□ MEET WITH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR. YOUR COUNSELOR KNOWS HOW TO HELP YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.

- Discuss post-high school plans with your counselor.
- Research potential internship and job shadow sites that align with your goals and share the information with your counselor.
- Discuss taking Honors courses, Advanced Placement courses or dual-credit courses. Find out which courses will prepare you for your post-high school plans.

□ PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. ACADEMICS IS JUST THE STARTING POINT.

- Explore your interest in a sport, school club, music or drama group or community volunteer activity.
- Remember that colleges/employers would rather see real involvement in one activity instead of a loose connection to several.
- If you're interested in playing sports in college, research the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements. The NCAA requires completion of certain core courses; you can find the specifics at ncaaclearinghouse.net.

□ PLANNING TO ATTEND A TWO-YEAR OR FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE? IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PUT MONEY ASIDE FOR COLLEGE. EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!

- Learning about financial aid early on can also help you down the road.

□ EXPLORE LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES.

- Look for a job, internship or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.
- Research Youth Apprenticeship programs and internship opportunities.
- Discuss work-based learning opportunities with your counselor.
- Update your resume or online portfolio with your accomplishments.

□ GET FAMILIAR WITH ANY ASSESSMENTS YOU MAY NEED FOR YOUR POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANS.

- Most four-year colleges consider applicants' scores on college admission tests as part of a deciding factor for admission.
- Take the PRE-ACT and/or the PSAT to get an understanding of the testing format before taking entrance tests in 11th grade.
- Download free practice tests for needed assessments.
- Review PSAT scores to see what Advanced Placement courses might be good for you to take.

□ RESEARCH COLLEGES AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.

- Attend college and career fairs. Participate in any learning opportunity available to explore career fields.
- Tour college campuses. Take advantage of vacation or travel time to visit colleges. Even if you have no interest in attending the college you are visiting, it will help you learn what to look for in a college.

11TH GRADE

SUMMER

□ Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised by how affordable higher education can be. Research options at the local two-year or technical college.

□ Explore financial aid options. These include grants and scholarships, loans and work-study programs that can help pay for college costs.

□ Explore employment opportunities in your local area. Research industry trends.

□ Research training programs, apprenticeship programs and certificate opportunities if college is not in your immediate plans.

FALL

- Make sure you and your parent meet with your school counselor. This meeting is especially important this year to learn about the college application process.
- Stay organized! Make weekly or monthly to-do lists to keep on top of the tasks required to get ready for applying to colleges and explore work-based learning or apprenticeship opportunities.
- Get ready for the PSAT/NMSQT in October. This is a preliminary test that helps you practice for the SAT and assess your academic skills. Juniors who score well on the test are also eligible for scholarship opportunities.
- Set goals for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps you stay motivated and focused.

WINTER

- Register and prepare for the ACT and the SAT. Take both tests during the winter of your junior year. Check with your school counselor on the registration process and testing dates or go to collegeboard.org.
- Discuss other testing opportunities with your school counselor, such as NCRC, ACCUPLACER and ASVAB. These standardized tests will give insight into your career-ready skills.

SPRING

- Search for colleges that meet your goals. Once you have an idea of the colleges you may be interested in, create a list and research application deadlines, campus tours and programs.

Research scholarships! Search your college websites

- for specific school-based scholarships. Make note of all deadlines!

Attend college fairs, financial aid events and career opportunities. These events allow you to meet with college representatives and get answers to questions.

- Make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills. Look into summer learning programs or find a job or internship.

Visit your top college choices.

12TH GRADE

SUMMER

- Visit colleges. Make plans to check out the campuses of colleges on your list.

- Find out your top colleges' actual cost. Research the potential for financial aid and the true out-of-pocket cost, or net price, of each college.

- Start on your applications. Get the easy stuff out of the way now by filling in as much required information on college applications as possible.

- Ask your parents to gather necessary financial documents. To apply for most financial aid you will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

FALL

- Meet with your school counselor early in your senior year. Your counselor will work with you on college scholarship and job applications.

- Create a calendar with deadlines and important dates, including application deadlines.

- Apply for scholarships. Find out about scholarship opportunities from your school counselor.

- Ask your counselor, parent and a teacher to review all applications and essays before submitting.

- Work with your parents to complete the FAFSA. Contact the financial aid offices at the colleges to find out what forms you must submit to apply for aid. Make sure you apply for aid by or before any stated deadlines. Funds are limited, so the earlier you apply, the better.

WINTER

- Contact potential employers. Research opportunities for internships and apprenticeship programs.

- Ask for letters of recommendation from teachers, club sponsors, coaches and other adults who can highlight your skills and attest to your character.

SPRING

- Process your college responses. Once you start hearing back from colleges about admission and financial aid, work with your parents on which college to attend. Complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance. Practice interview skills.

- Review financial aid offers together. You will need help reading through financial aid award letters and figuring out which package works best. Be sure to pay attention to and meet any deadlines for acceptance.

Finish your senior year strong.



WEB RESOURCES

ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET

che.sc.gov

The Academic Common Market allows for South Carolina residents who are enrolled in specific programs at out-of-state institutions to be charged only the applicable in-state tuition by the institution in which the student is enrolled.

BIG FUTURE

bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Big Future by The College Board is a college planning tool to generate a list of colleges that match your preferences.

CAREER AISLE

knowitall.org

With Know It All, career exploration resources are provided to assist with career awareness, career exploration and career preparation of students with the objective of facilitating a successful transition into post-secondary opportunities and the 21st century global workplace.

CAREER ONE STOP

careeronestop.org

U.S. Department of Labor sponsored site offers sections where students can explore careers (self-assessments, look at general information, check out employment trends, look at videos, see skills and occupations), look at salary and benefits, review education and training and more!

COLLEGE SCORECARD

collegescorecard.ed.gov

Information provided by the U.S. Department of Education such as average tuition costs, graduation rates, typical total debt and typical monthly loan payments.

ECAMPUSTOURS.COM

ecampustours.com

A revolutionary college planning website featuring 360° x 360° virtual campus tours of over 1,300 college campuses.

FINANCIAL AID

FAFSA

fafsa.ed.gov

Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

APPLYING FOR A PIN

in.ed.gov

FASTWEB

fastweb.com

Fastweb members are matched to relevant scholarship opportunities completely free of charge.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT OCTECH

octech.edu/academics/early-college/

Get a smart start on college with Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College's Orangeburg Advanced College and Early College Programs. OCTech offers eligible high school students the opportunity to earn college credit before graduating from high school and possibly graduate high school with an associates degree.

LEXILE / QUANTILE

lexile.com

quantiles.com

Lexile and Quantile measures provide an actionable tool for helping students engage in learning, comprehend their reading materials and succeed in math class.

MAPPING YOUR FUTURE

mappingyourfuture.org

Mapping Your Future is a national collaborative, public-service, non-profit organization providing career, college, financial aid and financial literacy services for students, families and schools.

MICROBURST LEARNING EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

microburstlearning.com

Explore interactive career profiles that contain important career information to help you make educated decisions about your future.

MYFUTURE.COM

myfuture.com

Myfuture.com helps young adults plan their next steps in life by bringing together the most recently available information about colleges, careers and military service opportunities from the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Defense, Education and Labor.

MY NEXT MOVE

mynextmove.org

An easy-to-use online career search to research over 900 different careers and see important information including skills, tasks, technologies, salaries and employment outlook. Includes the 60-item, web-based O*NET Interest Profiler Short Form, a tool that offers career suggestions based on a person's interests and level of work experience.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3

A website specifically dedicated to educating students and parents about new NCAA Division 1 standards for 2016 and beyond.

PACE

pacescholarshipacademy.com

PACE Scholarship Academy provides middle and high school, college, and graduate students with useful information and resources to pursue their higher education goals without the fear of financial barriers.

PETERSON'S GUIDE

petersons.com

Guides you through the college planning process with personalized resources.

PRACTICE TEST RESOURCES

ACT Student Web Page (actstudent.org)

CollegeBoard - SAT (collegeboard.com)

(4tests.com)

(Military.com)

PRINCETON REVIEW

princetonreview.com

Helps students, parents and educators achieve the best results at every stage of their educational careers.

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORK

O*NET ONLINE

online.onetcenter.org

The nation's primary source of occupational information; this is an interactive site with occupational search, tools and technology section, skills section and more!

SCHOLARSHIPS.COM

scholarships.com

Scholarships.com is a free college scholarship search platform that matches you to college scholarships you qualify for.

SC CAN - South Carolina Can Go to College

SCCANGO.org

SC CAN GO facilitates three major programs throughout the school year including College Application Month in the fall, College Goal SC to support Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion in the winter and spring, and College and Career Decision Day to celebrate our graduating seniors each May.

SC TRAC

sctrac.org

SC TRAC provides students, advisors and administrators with easy access to information they need pertaining to college transfer.

SC Works

scworks.org

The state's SC Works system offers services to help employers screen and match, hire, train and retain workers.

SCIWAY

sciway.net/jobs/

SCIWAY, the South Carolina Information Highway, is the largest directory of South Carolina information on the Internet. It's also fast and easy to use.

USA Jobs

usajobs.gov

USAJOBS connects job seekers with federal employment opportunities across the United States and around the world.



