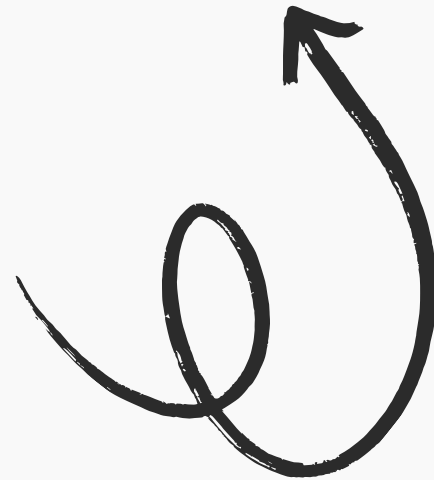


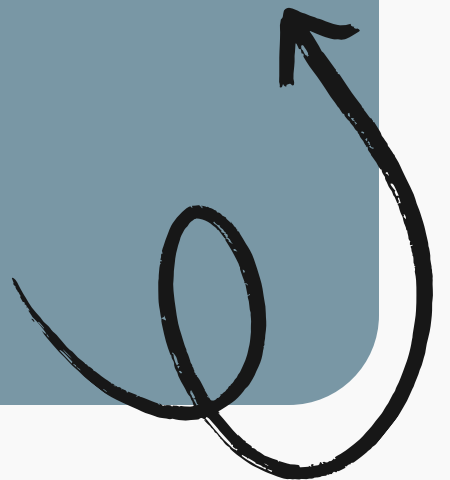
The College Admission Journey

JUNIOR COLLEGE PLANNING
NOVEMBER 20, 2025



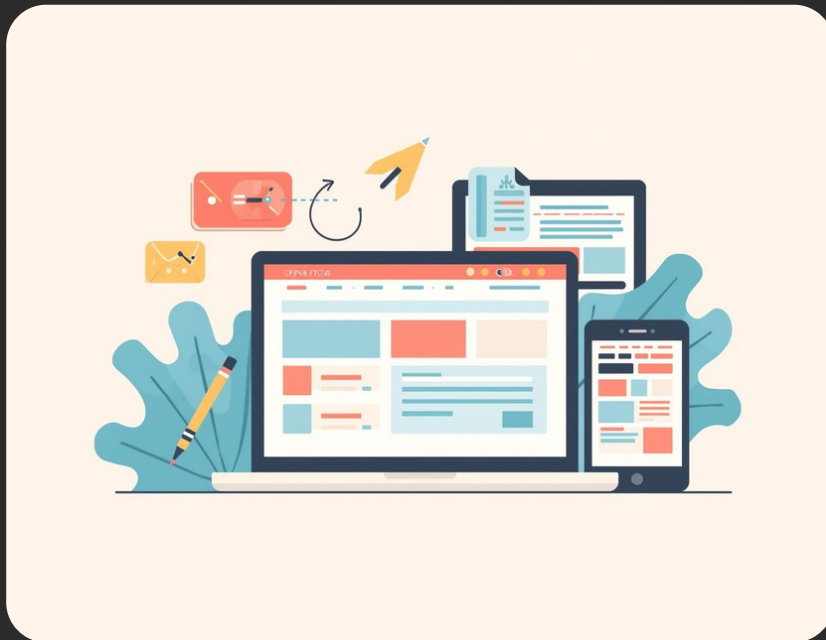
TONIGHT'S DISCUSSION

- The College Research Process
- What Do Colleges Look For?
- What Are You Looking For?
- Naviance
- Testing
- NCAA
- What's Next?



👉 What are you looking for?

Consider Your Interests/major



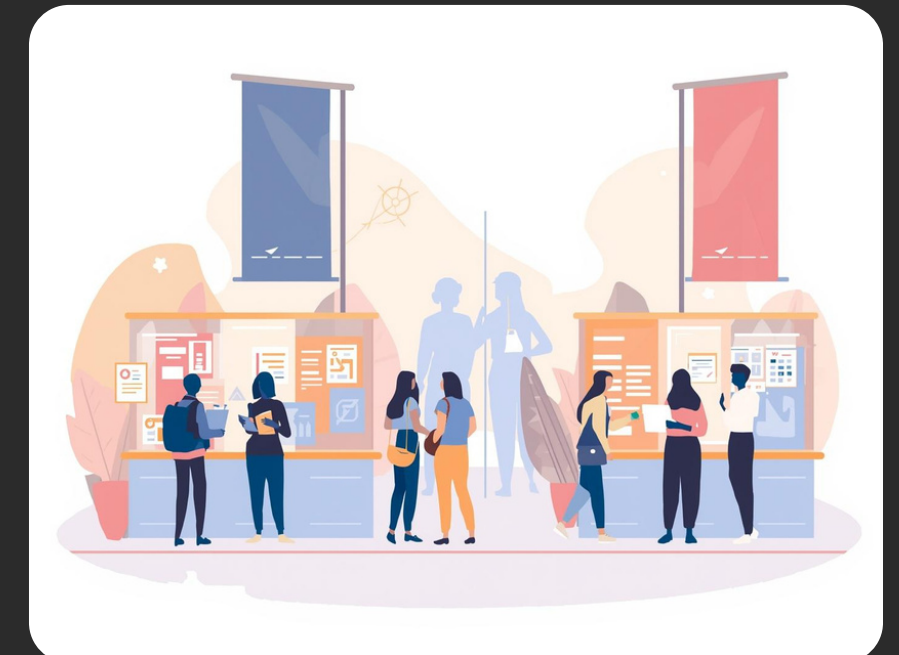
Reflect on your academic major, minor, passions, career goals, and extracurricular preferences to find colleges with programs and environments that align with your unique interests and aspirations.

Evaluate Campus Culture



Visit college campuses to get a feel for the community, social scene, and overall vibe. Ensure the institution's size, location, housing, safety, disability services and other resources complement your learning style and lifestyle needs.

Assess Admission Criteria



Research each college's admission requirements, including GPA, test scores, essays, and recommendations. Understand the competitiveness of the application process to maximize your chances of acceptance.

Prioritize Fit and Value

Balance your academic and personal priorities with the college's cost and financial aid offerings.
Determine which institution provides the best overall value and investment in your future.

What are they looking for?

Admission Requirements

Academic Performance Strength of Transcript

Colleges look for strong grades, challenging course schedules, and a demonstrated academic record that shows a student's ability to excel in a rigorous college environment.

Standardized Test Scores

Many colleges require applicants to submit SAT or ACT test scores to measure academic aptitude and college readiness. Since COVID, many schools also offer test-optional.

Extracurricular Activities

Colleges value well-rounded students who have pursued meaningful extracurricular activities that showcase their talents, leadership, and contributions to their school and community. Quality NOT quantity.

Letters of Recommendation

Strong letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors, or other mentors can provide valuable insights into an applicant's character, academic abilities, and potential for success.

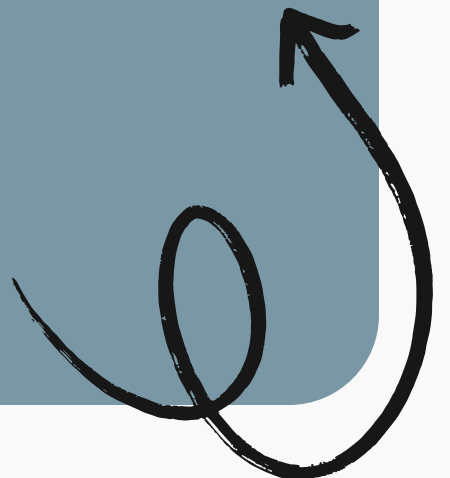
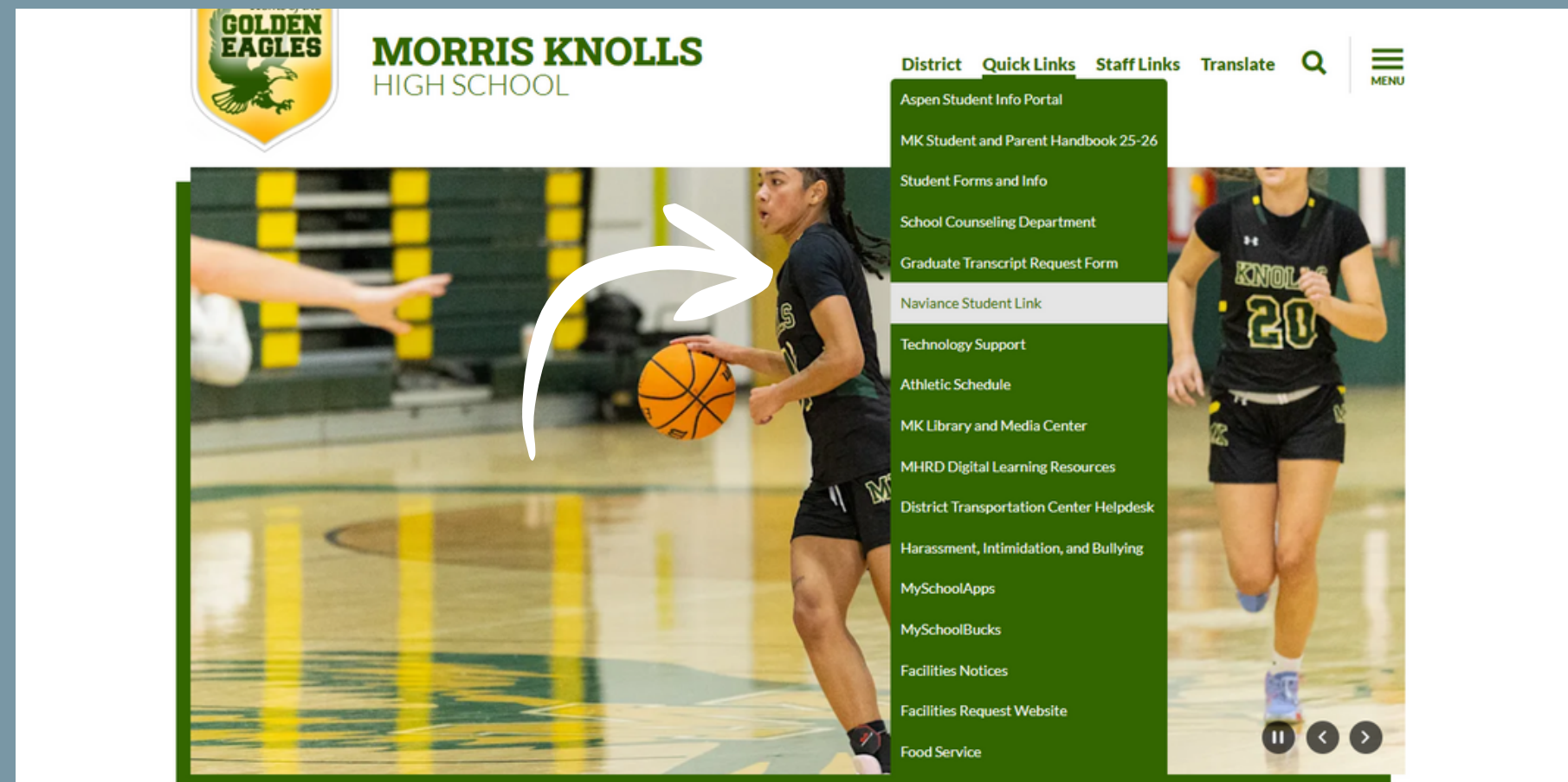
Other

Some colleges take a more holistic approach looking at other factors such as: essay, interviews, demonstrated interest, work experience, character/personality

Do Your Research

NAVIANCE

Naviance is our school based program designed to assist with the college research, planning and application process. All students should know their login.



Log In to Naviance

Students:

- Username-your mhrd email
- Password-self-selected (if forgotten, use forgot password)

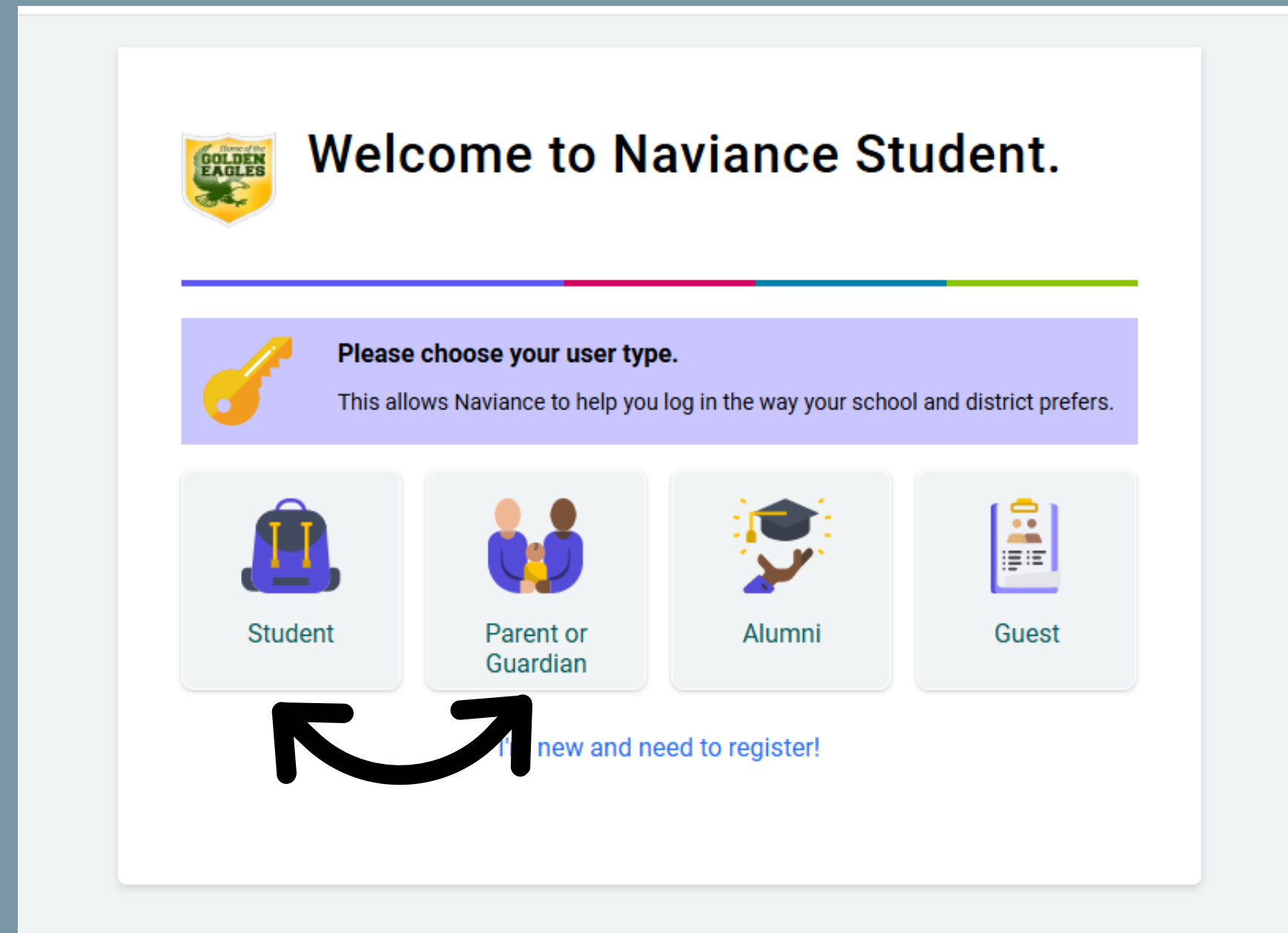
[MK Student Link](#)

[APA Student Link](#)

Parents:

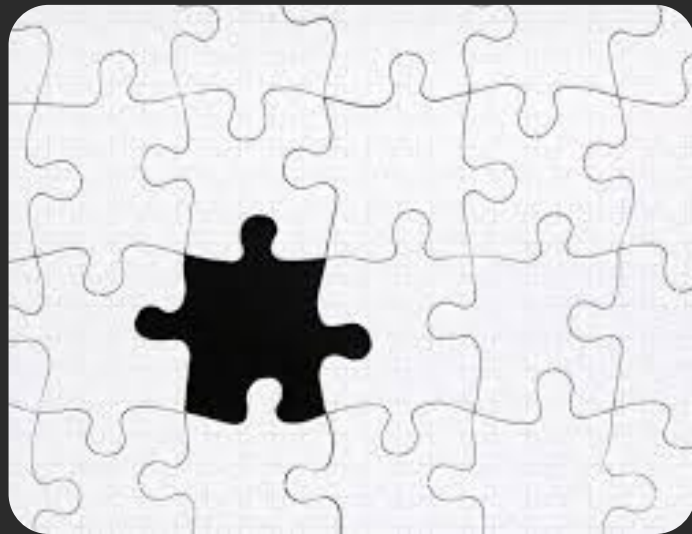
- Username- your email
- Password-self-selected
 - (all parents were given opportunity to register for Naviance).

**Email your student's counselor if you do not have an account.*



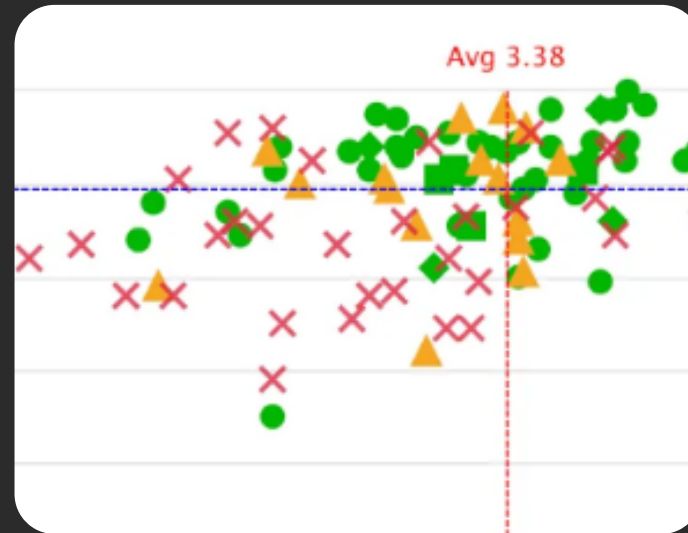
Research Tools on Naviance

College Supermatch



Allows students to put in their preferences in various categories to get a list of schools that match.

Scattergrams



Uses past student data to show the likelihood of admission to a college. Plots GPA and test scores against the historical results (admitted, denied, or waitlisted) of former students from the same high school, providing a visual way to assess where a student might fit in relation to their peers.

College Match



Once a few schools are in your list, allows students to match more schools by matching them to schools of interest.

College SuperMatch

student.naviance.com/colleges/supermatch-next

Relaunch to update

Choose Fit CriteriaLocationAcademicsAdmissionStudent LifeDiversityInstitution CharacteristicsCostAthleticsResourcesGroups

Your Fit Criteria

15 selected criteria
To refine your results, use the arrows to move your criteria into the "Must Have" and "Nice to Have" boxes.

Must Have

Location [8]

Major [Any]

Campus Surroundings [8]

Student Body Size [4]

High Graduation Rate

High Retention Rate

High Job Placement Rate

On-campus Housing

Acceptance Rate [3]

Accepts AP Credits

Common App Member

Nice to Have

Greek Life

Test Optional

Academic/Career Counseling

Offers Study Abroad

Saved Searches

Choose one

Save Search

Start Over

Your Results

Your results include 0 institutions that are both an academic match and also match all the criteria selected above.

Fit ScoreAcademic MatchHighlightsCostPick what to show

The College of New Jersey

Ewing, NJ, Suburb near Large City

4 year, Public

PINNED

93%

Safety

AverageYou

GPA3.54

SAT12001180

Photos/Videos on Profile

Program Spotlights

Alumni Spotlights

Student Spotlights

Tuition & Fees

\$12,632 In State (NJ)

\$24,061 Out of State

Room & Board \$13,201

Customize what you see here—Choose a category above

Search by College Name

6 PINNED161 INTERESTED IN YOU0 THINKING ABOUT12 APPLYING TOMORE

	Fit Score ⓘ	Academic Match ⓘ	Highlights ⌵	Cost ⌵	
The College of New Jersey Ewing, NJ, Suburb near Large City 4 year, Public ★ PINNED	93% Why?	Safety AverageYou GPA3.54 ⓘ SAT12001180 ACT27N/A Test Optional	Photos/Videos on Profile Program Spotlights Alumni Spotlights Student Spotlights Virtual Tour	Tuition & Fees \$12,632 In State (NJ) \$24,061 Out of State Room & Board \$13,201	Custo
The University of Tampa Tampa, FL, Large City 4 year, Private nonprofit, Not Applicable ★ PINNED	93% Why?	Safety AverageYou GPA3.44 ⓘ SAT11801180 ACT24.5N/A Test Optional	Photos/Videos on Profile Student Spotlights Virtual Tour	Tuition & Fees \$28,802 Room & Board \$11,526	Custo
High Point University High Point, NC, Small City 4 year, Private nonprofit, United Methodist ★ PINNED	89% Why?	Safety AverageYou GPA3.44 ⓘ SAT12221180 ACT24N/A	Photos/Videos on Profile Upcoming College Events Faculty Spotlights Alumni Spotlights Virtual Tour	Tuition & Fees \$30,748 Room & Board \$14,130	Custo

Scattergrams

Home Self-Discovery Careers **Colleges** Planner About me

College Home

Find Your fit

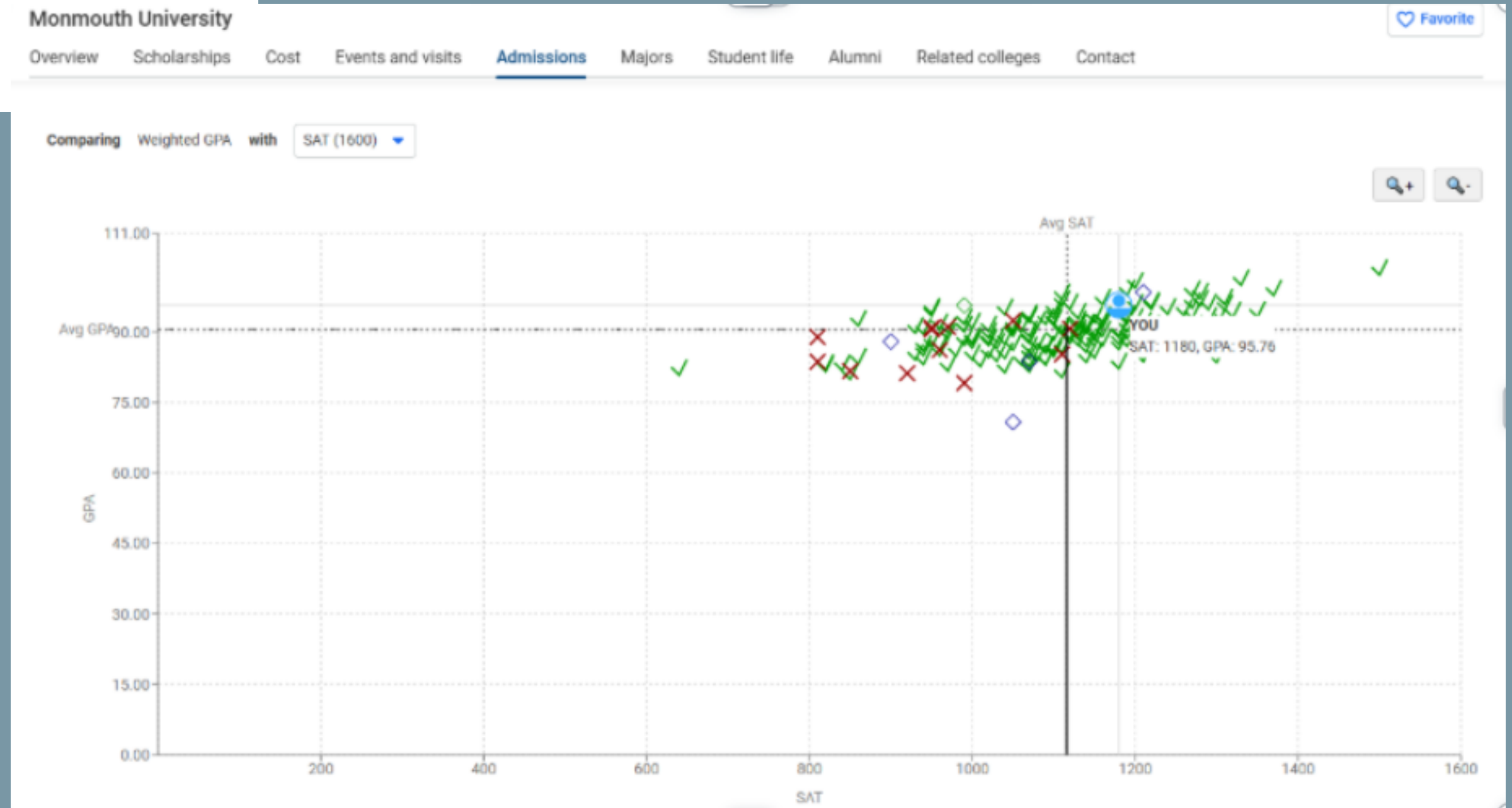
- SuperMatch College Search
- College Match
- College Events
- Scattergrams**
- Advanced College Search
- College Lookup

Research Colleges

- Colleges I'm Thinking About
- College Visits
- College Compare
- College Resources
- Acceptance History
- Enrichment Programs
- College Maps

Apply to College

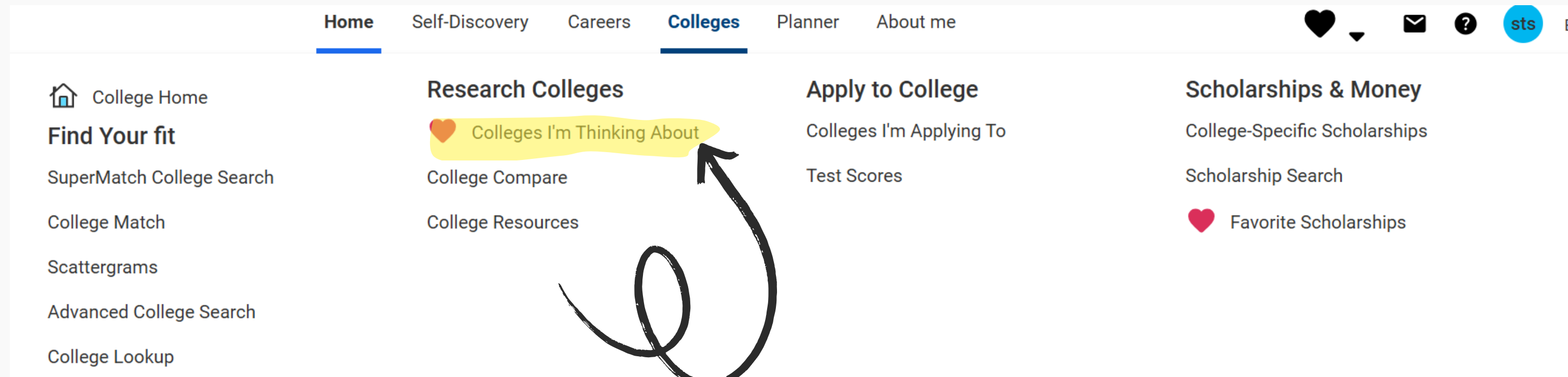
- Colleges I'm Applying To
- Letters of Recommendation
- Test Scores



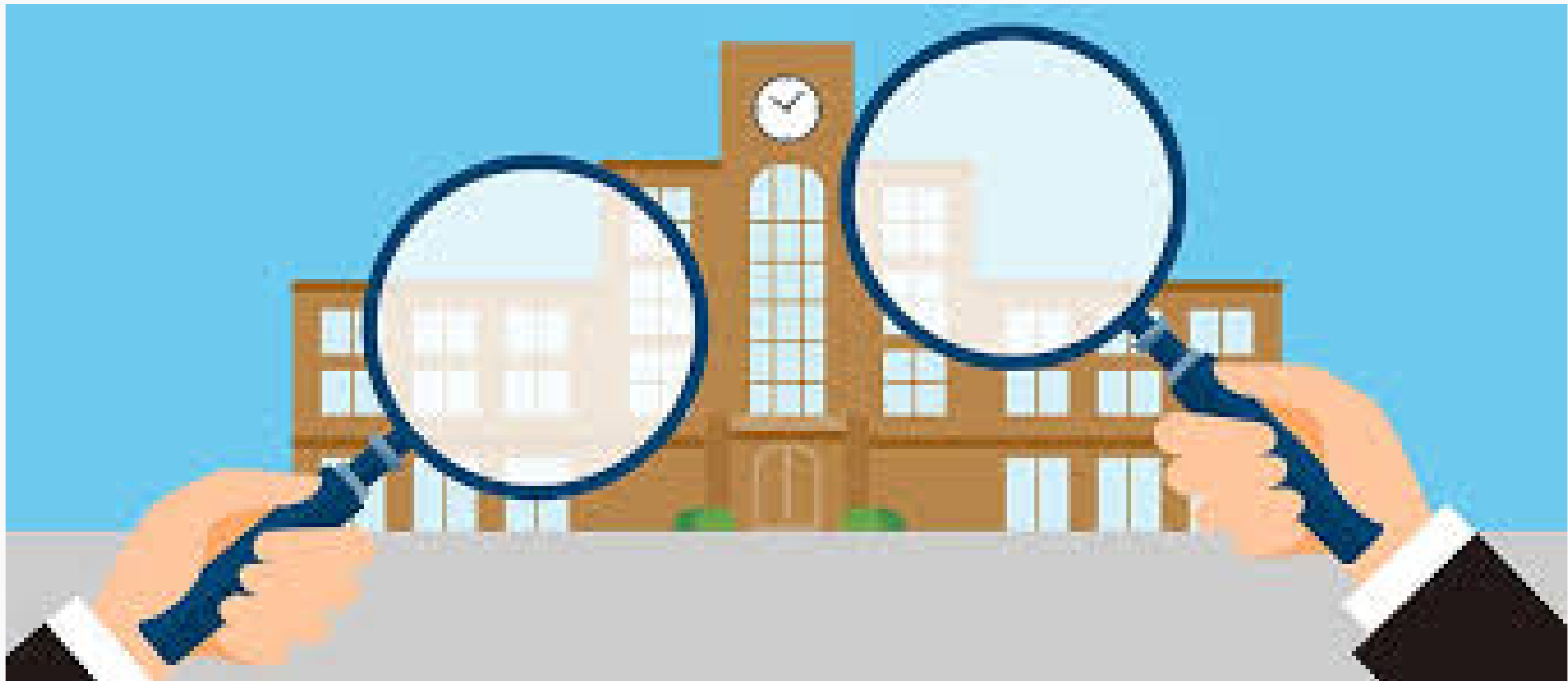
NAVIANCE

Add schools you are interested in to
“Colleges I am Thinking About” Tab

Use the Heart Icon
next to any college
to add to your
colleges I am
thinking about list!



Continue Your Research



COMMON DATA SETS

Data collected and published by colleges from year to year with useful information that helps determine if a school is a good fit based on current admissions data. Common data sets are also useful in determining if students should send test scores to test-optional schools. Your focus is on the data listed under first year admissions/applications-first year

8

9

10

11

12

C. FIRST-TIME, FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

C1. Applications: First-time, First-year Students

Provide the number of degree-seeking, first-time, first-year students who applied, were admitted, and enrolled (full- or part-time) in Fall 2023.

- Include early decision, early action, and students who began studies during summer in this category.

- Applicants should include only those students who fulfilled the requirements for consideration for admission (i.e., who completed actionable applications) and who have been notified of one of the following actions: admission, non-admission, placement on waiting list, or application withdrawn (by applicant or institution).

- Admitted applicants should include wait-listed students who were subsequently offered admission.

- Since the total may include students who did not provide gender data, the detail need not sum to the total.

- If your institution collects and reports non-binary gender data, please use the "Another Gender" category.

- Note that recent high school graduates and other students without prior postsecondary experience will

	Men	Women	Another Gender
First-time, first-year students who applied in Fall 2023	3,007	4,546	
First-time, first-year students admitted in Fall 2023	2,168	3,362	
First-time, first-year students enrolled in Fall 2023	411	568	

Should I send my scores?

First-Time, First-Year Profile

Provide information for ALL enrolled, degree-seeking, full-time and part-time, first-time, first-year students enrolled in Fall 2023, including students who began studies during summer, international students/nonresidents, and students admitted under special arrangements.

Percent and number of first-time, first-year students enrolled in Fall 2023 who submitted national standardized (SAT/ACT) test scores. Include information for ALL enrolled, degree-seeking, first-time, first-year students who submitted test scores. Do not include partial test scores (e.g., mathematics scores but not critical reading for a category of students) or combine other standardized test results (such as TOEFL) in this item. Do not convert SAT scores to ACT scores and vice versa. If a student submitted multiple sets of scores for a single test, report this information according to how you use the data. For example:

If you consider the highest scores from either submission, use the highest combination of scores (e.g., verbal from one submission, math from the other).

If you average the scores, use the average to report the scores.

	Percent	Number
Submitting SAT scores	50.9%	3,908
Submitting ACT scores	5.4%	414

Assessment	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile
SAT Composite			
SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	630	680	720
SAT Math	640	700	760
ACT Composite	28	31	33
ACT Math	26	29	33
ACT English	27	31	34
ACT Writing			



College Visits

In Person or Virtual

- **Tours:** Register on College Websites
 - Go to admissions page on website and register for in person tours, open houses, information sessions
- **Open House**
- **College Fairs**



Demonstrated Interest

Let them know you want to go there!
show interest by attending college fairs, open houses, tours, virtual events, contact admissions counselors, interviews

AFTER YOUR RESEARCH IT'S TIME TO DEVELOP A LIST



Safety Schools

High Chance of Acceptance

Meet or exceeds admissions criteria:

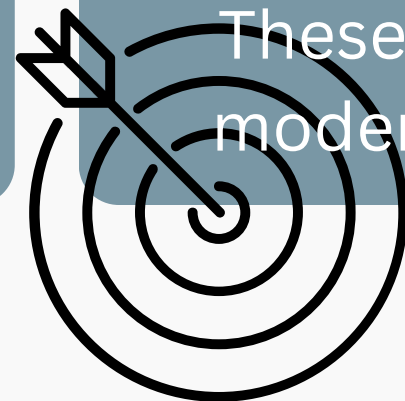
- Test Scores
- Average GPA

Match Schools

Realistic but not guaranteed chance of acceptance

Aligns with average admissions criteria requirements

These schools usually have moderate acceptance rates



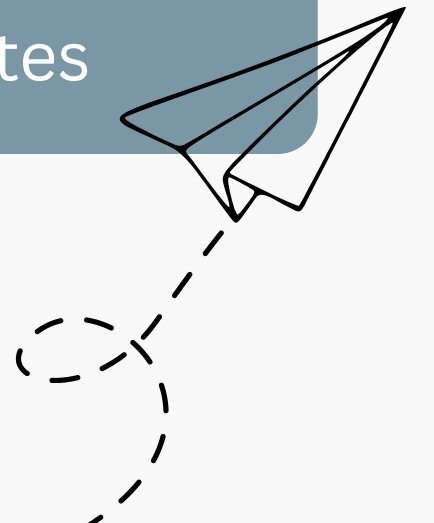
Reach Schools

Lower Chance of Acceptance

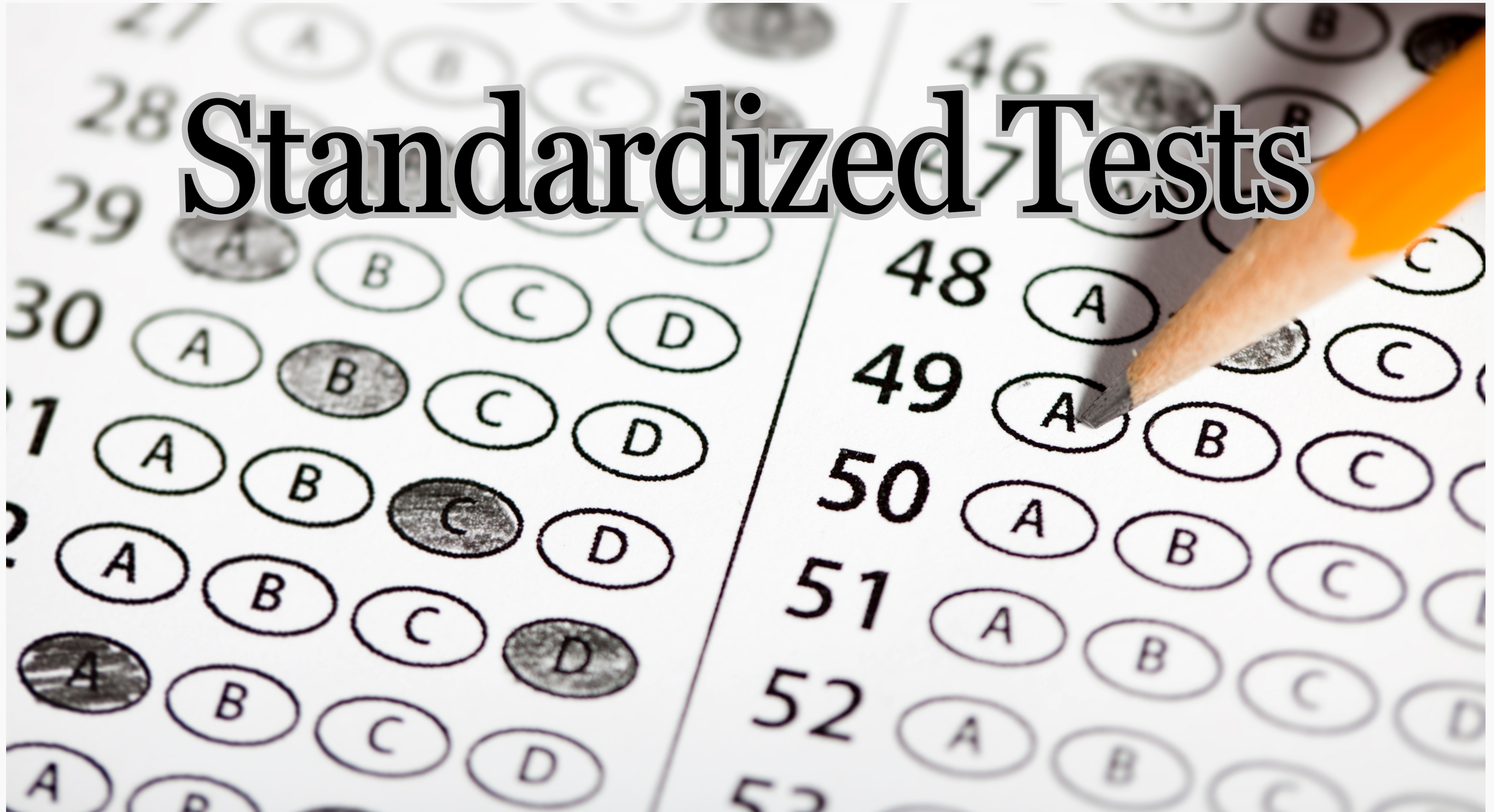
GPA and Test Scores are below the average accepted student

Highly Selective Schools are considered **reach schools for all**

Low acceptance rates



Standardized Tests



Standardized Tests



PSAT

SAT

ACT

TEST PREP

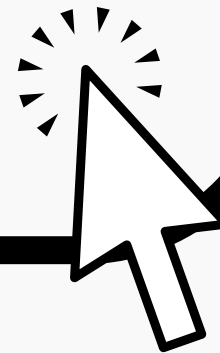
These college entrance exams assess your academic skills and knowledge. Preparing thoroughly and performing well can boost your chances of admission. The PSAT provides insight into what to study.

Invest time in practice tests, review materials, and test-taking strategies to maximize your performance on standardized assessments.



PSAT

[understanding your
score report](#)



Review Online Score Report
Can be accessed on the
College Board Website or Big
Future App

PSAT/NMSQT®

CollegeBoard

NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Name: Parker Pupil

Grade: 11

Test administration: PSAT/NMSQT Fall 2025

Tested on: Oct 11, 2025

Record Locator: P456126489

Your Score Report

PSAT/NMSQT Scores

1

TOTAL SCORE

1120 | 75th Percentile

Score Range: 1000-1400
3 Year Average Score (all students): 1100

2

SECTION SCORES

Reading and Writing

620 | 75th Percentile

Your Score Range: 580-680
3 Year Average Score (all students): 600

Math

500 | 70th Percentile

Your Score Range: 480-520
3 Year Average Score (all students): 500

*Percentiles represent the percent of 11th grade test takers from the past 3 years who scored the same as or below you.

Score range: This is the range of scores you could possibly get if you took the PSAT/NMSQT multiple times on different days.

Knowledge and Skills

View your performance across the 8 content domains measured on the PSAT/NMSQT. For more information on performance score bands, visit satsite.collegeboard.org/skills-insight.

Reading and Writing

Information and Ideas

(20% of test section, 12-14 questions)

Performance: 580-600

Craft and Structure

(20% of test section, 12-14 questions)

Performance: 580-600

Expression of Ideas

(20% of test section, 8-12 questions)

Performance: 580-600

Standard English Conventions

(20% of test section, 11-14 questions)

Performance: 420-440

Math

Algebra

(30% of test section, 12-14 questions)

Performance: 420-440

Advanced Math

(20.5% of test section, 12-14 questions)

Performance: 420-440

Problem Solving & Data Analysis

(22% of test section, 7-9 questions)

Performance: 420-440

Geometry & Trigonometry

(12.5% of test section, 4-6 questions)

Performance: 420-440

3

NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

NMSC SELECTION INDEX SCORE

174 | 40th Percentile

You meet entry requirements for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Look on page 2 of this report for more information.

**PSAT/NMSQT
Score Range-
160-760**

4

Career Insights Snapshot

Your skills are in demand! Consider exploring these growing careers in your state that need skills like yours. These are examples, not recommendations, to help jump-start your career exploration.

INTEREST AREA*	CAREER EXAMPLES	MEDIAN YEARLY INCOME IN MI	NUMBER OF JOBS	JOB GROWTH IN MI**	MOST COMMON EDUCATION LEVEL
Boers	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$59,000	25,408	+10%	Certificate
Persealers	Wind Energy Operations Managers	\$63,000	24,308	+10%	Associate degree
Creators	Graphic Designers	\$46,000	8,908	+8%	Bachelor's degree
Helpers	Critical Care Nurses	\$77,000	107,808	+3%	Bachelor's degree
Thinkers	Mechanical Engineers	\$83,000	33,908	+3%	Bachelor's degree
Organizers	Treasurers and Financial Controllers	\$134,800	21,108	+12%	Bachelor's degree

SAT vs ACT

SAT

- Digital only
- Adaptive-test adjusts based on student performance
- Reading/Writing combined, math
- No essay
- 2 hours and 14 mins total
- math covered: algebra, advanced math, data analysis, geometry, trig
- Calculator allowed
- Multiple choice and some student produced responses
- 200-800 score per section

ACT

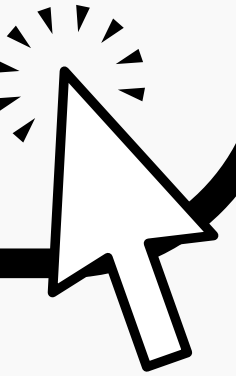
- Available in paper or digital
- Linear- some questions for all students
- English, math, reading, science
- Optional essay
- 2 hours and 5 mins (core only) with science 2 hours and 40 mins
- math covered: pre-algebra, algebra 1 and 2, geometry, trig, stats
- Calculator allowed
- Multiple choice
- 1-36 score per section



Register for Spring Testing

[SAT Registration](#)

[ACT Registration](#)



SAT Dates

December 6, 2025

March 14, 2026

May 2, 2026

June 6, 2026

ACT Dates

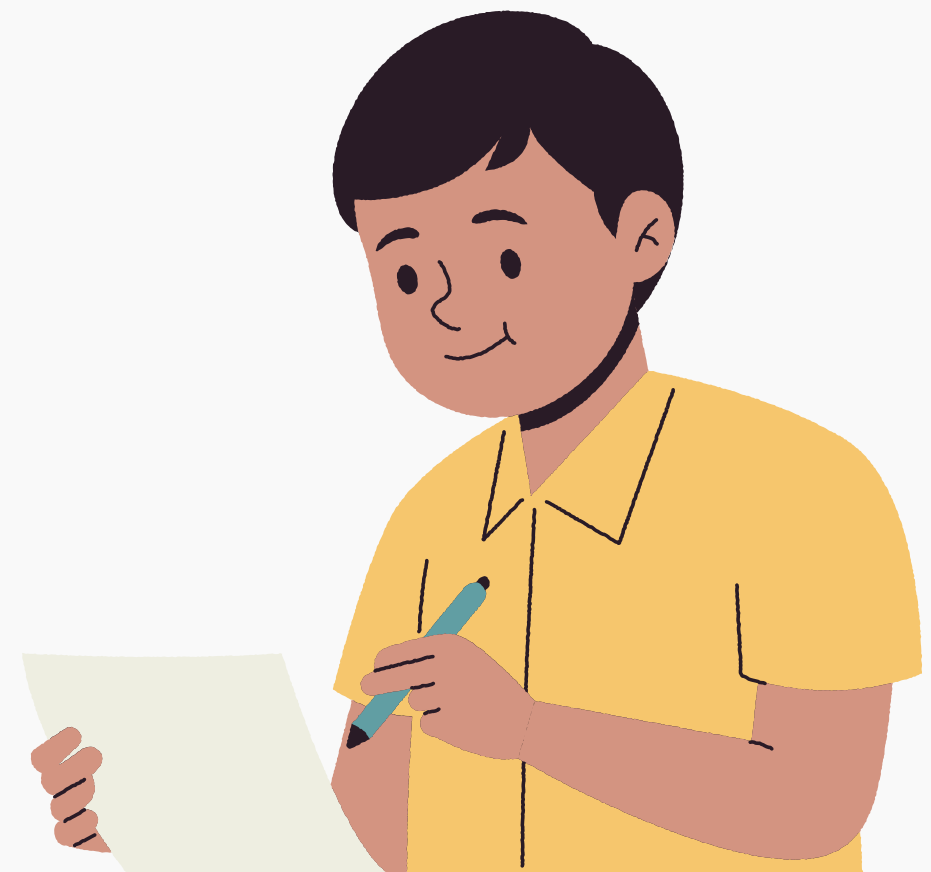
December 13, 2025

February 14, 2026

April 11, 2026

June 13, 2026

July 11, 2026



WAYS TO PREPARE



MK BOOTCAMPS

Multiple dates
throughout the year

KHAN ACADEMY

Personalized Online
Practice, Connected
to College Board

Test Prep Centers

C2Education,
Jackson Education,
Princeton Review,
Kaplan

Self Study

Study Guides, Books,
Online Resources



NCAA Eligibility Center

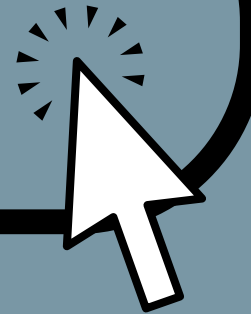
Register
Now

- Go to [NCAA](#)- Create an account. (Have your credit card ready!) 
- After completing all forms, an email with an NCAA ID will be sent to you. Request transcripts in your NCAA account.
- Add the NCAA to list of “Colleges I Am Applying To” on Naviance.
- Send SAT/ACT scores to NCAA using code **9999** for the “NCAA Eligibility Center”.



WHAT'S NEXT:

[Next Steps Checklist](#)



Junior Year:

- Individual Jr. Meetings: Nov/Dec/Jan
- Scheduling for Sr. Year: Jan/Feb
- Jr. Group Meetings: Spring 2026
- Spring 2026 (after group meetings): complete bragsheet, ask for letters of rec, move schools to colleges I am applying to, essays

Senior Year:

- Sr. Group Meetings: September 2026
- Individual Sr. Meetings: Fall 2026
- Complete your Common App / STARS





Counselor Contacts



Alyssa Radigan	Supervisor of School Counseling	2211 aradigan@mhrd.org
Michele DePascale	School Counselor	2217 mdepascale@mhrd.org
Chris Roman	School Counselor	2216 croman@mhrd.org
Ryan Shaffer	School Counselor	2219 rshaffer@mhrd.org
Tori Palanker	School Counselor	2214 tpalanker@mhrd.org
Kimberly Hughes	School Counselor	2215 khughes@mhrd.org
Rebecca Rock	School Counselor	2220 rrock@mhrd.org
Shari Russo	School Counselor	2218 srusso@mhrd.org
Danielle Gorski	Student Assistance Counselor	2213 dgorski@mhrd.org
Olivia Dunnigan	School Counselor	2255 odunnigan@mhrd.org



Thank You!