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- Act 158 Graphic
- DVHS Naviance Family Connection Guide
- Transition Planning Guide for Students with Disabilities
- College Research Resources

INTRODUCTION

The following brochure has been prepared to aid students and their parents in planning for education and training beyond high school. This may prove to be of great value to conscientious students and parents. By starting early in high school and following the format offered here, the anxieties of post high school training will be greatly diminished.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Guidance office if we can be of assistance!

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GETTING INTO COLLEGE

Should the student go to college?

The answer is **YES - IF**: the student really wants to go to college; if one has the ability; if one has the proper high school preparation and acceptable grades; and if money can be found for the costs.

Factors to be considered if you hope to get into college and other training programs:

- **Class Rank** – Every grade you earn starting in grade 9 and continuing through grade 12 helps to determine this rank. Colleges are interested in your class rank for the combined grades of 9, 10, and 11.

- **School Record** – Citizenship, activities, honors, awards, volunteer activities, etc.

- **Test Scores** - SAT or ACT

- **Course Selection** – Including required subjects

- **Type of School you choose** - review admissions requirements and your academic profile

How does a student find the right college?

Remember: Your School Counselor is ready and able to help you make this very important decision. We also have resources on our website and Schoology group to assist in the process.

College Search: conduct a college search online using Naviance, CollegeBoard, or some of the resources suggested in our appendix.

Try to select schools with appropriate admissions criteria and requirements for YOU.

What if the student is not sure about what to study in college?

The counseling office is always open, and we consider assisting seniors in choosing the right course and colleges a prime responsibility. Various interest tests are available to the student who may be unsure of what major to pursue. Utilize the Naviance or Smart Futures platforms for assistance.

Consider community college options if you are unsure what you want to study.

How should a student apply to college?

1. Research different colleges you might be interested in. The summer is a good time to do this. Please see the "College Research Resources" located in the appendix for helpful tips.

2. Have a talk with your counselor and discuss your plans.

3. Select and apply to different colleges that offer the desired curriculum. An example of some different types of colleges: Misericordia – a small private college, Harvard – a nationally known college, Penn State – a large university. Application costs vary.

4. Fill out the application carefully. Applications are completed online and official transcript requests must be completed through Naviance. Please keep your counselor informed of where you are applying. When completing an application, follow all directions exactly. Applications are generally accepted between September and December. Be mindful of deadlines, including early decision and early action if applicable, and do not wait until the last minute. Effective communication with counselors will facilitate a smoother process. When completing applications, our Delaware Valley CEEB School Code is **392-635.**

5. Make every effort to visit your top colleges in person! Visit the school's admissions website for specific information on open houses and visitation policies. Campus tours and events vary from school to school.

To save time and money, colleges in the same geographic area can be included on the same trip. If an overnight stay is involved, be sure to make reservations considerably in advance (colleges can usually recommend reasonable accommodations in their areas).

CAMPUS VISITS

Regardless of how much you have read or heard about a school, you can only get the "feel" of it by actually visiting it. Some colleges will appeal to you immediately and others will give you a feeling of insecurity. Some suggestions for your college visitations are:

Before Your Visit:

Make sure you are choosing schools that fit your academic profile. If you are planning to visit a college during the school day and will miss a day of classes, a parent must write a note or send an email ahead of time to your counselor including the name of the school and date of visit. This procedure will help to ensure that your absence from school will be excused.

The Visit:

Allow enough time to get the "feel" of the campus. A two-hour visit should suffice, plus a chat with the Admissions Officer.

Be prompt. Be neatly dressed. Be well mannered.

Don't hesitate to discuss finances, including scholarships, loans, and work opportunities. A visit to the financial aid office is recommended.

Do feel free to ask for some estimate of your chances for admission but don't expect any firm commitment at this time.

The Interview with the Admissions Officer:

Be sure to schedule in advance if an interview is recommended. Don't ask for information that can be easily found on the website. Indicate by your questions that you have done some serious thinking and reading about this particular college.

It's fine to have your parents along, but most college admissions officers stress that you, NOT YOUR PARENTS, should do most of the talking.

Be absolutely certain that you're ON TIME for the interview. If you see that you'll be late, call.

In discussing co-curricular activities, don't try to impress him or her by reeling off a long string of activities. Focus on important accomplishments and leadership roles

Some Musts for Your Campus Tour:

THE COLLEGE LIBRARY. Even a ten-minute visit can tell you something about the size and scope of its collections, study facilities, specialized areas such as "listening room", computer use, etc.

ACADEMIC FACILITIES. You may have an opportunity to sit in on a class or seminar. If you're a future science or engineering major, try to visit a typical undergraduate laboratory; if languages are your specialty, you may be interested in seeing the language labs.

LIVING QUARTERS. Try to visit a typical dormitory room, dining hall, student lounge, and recreation area. If there are fraternity or sorority houses on campus, you may want to see one of these too.

STUDENTS. It is important to get some idea of the kind of people you'll live and work with on campus. If a student guide accompanies you on your tour, feel free to ask the guide about any aspect of college life. The guide will welcome some clues about your interests in sports, debates, dramatics, and so forth. You may include a visit to the headquarters of such activities if time permits.

FINANCIAL AID. Visit the financial aid office to obtain information on any special grants or scholarships the college may offer to their students. See if they offer application fee waivers.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES. Visit the Office of Disability Services to discuss the accommodations that you may need to assist you in the college coursework.

AFTER YOUR VISIT:

Make some notes on your reactions to the colleges; they'll be useful later on when you're trying to evaluate various institutions. They may suggest some additional points for discussion with your school counselor, parents, and the next college you may visit.

Consider writing a thank you email to your interviewer to demonstrate interest in the school.

TYPES OF COLLEGES

College: An institution that offers educational instruction beyond high school level in a two-year or four-year program.

University: An academic organization which grants undergraduate and graduate degrees in a variety of fields and which supports at least two degree-granting professional schools that are not exclusively technological (such as medicine, journalism, or agriculture). It is composed of a number of "Schools" or "Colleges", each of which encompasses a general field of study.

Liberal Arts College: Four-year institution which emphasizes a program of broad undergraduate education. Pre-professional or professional training may be available but is not stressed.

Community or Junior College: Two-year institutions of higher learning which provide vocational training and academic curricula (terminal and transfer).

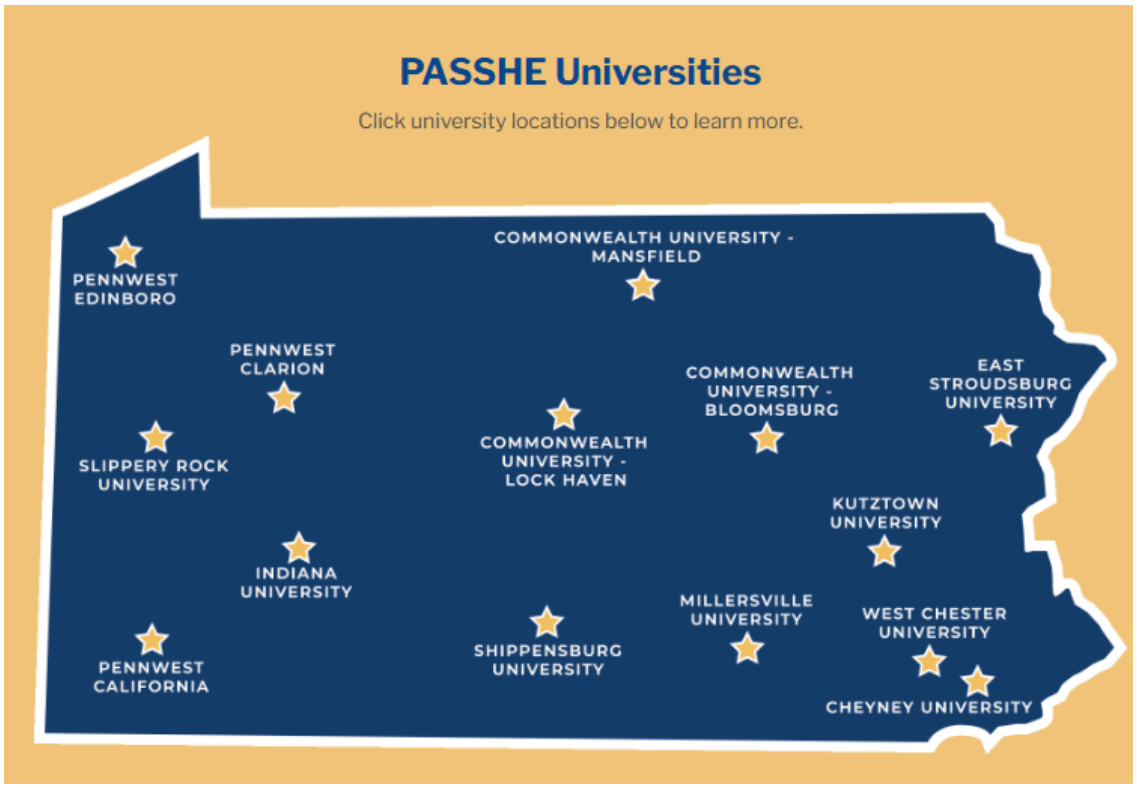
Degree/Certificate Program: Academic program is complete in itself. A student who completes it will earn an Associate's Degree or Certificate upon completion.

Technological (Engineering) College: Independent professional schools which provide four-year training programs in the fields of engineering and the physical sciences. These are often known as Institutes of Technology or Polytechnic Institutes.

Technical/Trade School: A two-year institution which offers terminal occupational programs intended to prepare students for immediate employment in a technical field. These schools may also offer one-year certificate programs in certain crafts and clerical skills.

Military School: Federal military academies prepare officers for the Army, Navy and Air Force. These institutions (West Point, Annapolis, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, and Air Force Academy) require recommendation and appointment by members of Congress. Private and state-supported military institutes, however, operate on a college application basis. They will offer degree programs in engineering and technology with concentrations in various aspects of military science.

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Universities



http://www.passhe.edu

TAKING COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Many colleges continue to require test results for admissions. While some colleges have “test optional” applications, test results may be required for certain programs. It is important to carefully review admissions requirements.

These exams are offered several times a year, and registration must be completed online in accordance with registration deadlines. Most students take the SAT Test or the American College Test (ACT’s). The SAT Test’s cost is $68.The ACT is $68 without the writing section and $93 with the writing section. Fee waivers are available through guidance for students who receive free or reduced lunch.

There is no way to study for these examinations, but there are ways to prepare in advance. Free test prep is available online through Khan Academy. There are books of sample tests to purchase that are similar to the CollegeBoard’s and most other entrance examinations as well. They may be available online or from local bookstores or libraries.

By taking sample tests on your own, you gain practice in answering multiple-choice questions and you may detect a weak subject. Tutoring in a weak subject may help if you start several months before the test. A few weeks are rarely enough time to make a lasting improvement in your knowledge, and cramming has never proved helpful at all on a College Board exam.

To find upcoming test dates and register for exams, please visit the following websites:

https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat

https://www.act.org/

Official score reports must be sent directly from the testing company to colleges. Please visit the respective websites for details and instructions:

SAT: https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/scores/send-scores-to-colleges

ACT:
https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/sending-your-scores.html

COLLEGE COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID

The cost of college varies, with the most expensive coming in at over $80,000 per year for tuition alone. The basic ways of financing college education are:

SAVINGS	LOANS	WORK GRANTS
SCHOLARSHIPS	GRANTS	WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS

Savings:

If you have the ability to save up money for college costs, this is a good option. Savings can be held in a PA 529 plan; For information on how to access these funds,visit: https://www.pa529.com/

Scholarships:

Most scholarships are awarded to students based on ability and need. Some examples could include: exceptional athletes, academic excellence, or extremely high SAT scores. There are a few unclaimed special scholarships available. We post information on scholarships on our website and social media.

We distribute a listing of local scholarships to all seniors in the spring of their senior year. A list of local scholarships available to the class of 2027 will be made available to DVHS seniors next Spring.

Special groups offer scholarships; a few examples include veteran's organizations, fraternal lodges, unions, church denominations, employing companies, and state senators. Parents can check with their own groups and organizations as well, as employers, for scholarship opportunities.

National Scholarships go to a few thousand of the country's best students. Students have a chance to compete through the PSAT and SAT Test. Additional national scholarship information can be found by logging onto Naviance Family Connections and visiting the DVHS Guidance webpage.

Financial Aid:

Financial Aid can be divided into three groups:

(1) GRANTS (2) LOANS (3) JOBS

1. GRANTS consist of money that is given to a student based on the financial need of the student. Grant money is NOT paid back; it is FREE MONEY, but you must reapply each year. Grants do not depend on grades, class rank, courses, or College Board scores. Grants depend on financial need; the lower the income and assets of a family, the higher the chances are of getting a grant and the higher the grant amount will be.

2. LOANS are borrowed money. Loans MUST be paid back. There are special loans for students who attend colleges, universities, and approved technical schools after high school, called Stafford Student Loans. Pennsylvania Higher Educational Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has a student loan program available for residents of Pennsylvania. Also, the PLUS loan is a parent loan that can pay for the majority of your college education.

3. JOBS are available on a part-time basis for students via the College Work-Study Program (CWS) which is federally sponsored. Eligible students work in the library, cafeteria, school store, etc.

You must complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for any type of aid.

Apply online with the FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov, scheduled to open October 1.

DVHS will host a Financial Aid Night for parents on October 8th, 2026 at 6pm in the Auditorium. Mark your calendars!

PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING TO A SERVICE ACADEMY

1ST – See your School Counselor during your junior year.

2nd – Contact the Academies to obtain a pre-candidate packet.

3rd – Prepare a resume that will be sent with all correspondence.

4th – Take the College Entrance Examination Board's SAT Test in May and June of your junior year.

5th – Contact your Congressman and State Senators requesting a nomination in the spring or summer of your junior year. *Please visit their respective websites to find appropriate contact information.*

6th - During the summer prior to your senior year, work on developing your upper body strength and physical fitness.

7th – Complete all subsequent applications and questionnaires well in advance of their due dates.

8th – Be sure to apply to other colleges and universities.

9th – Apply also for the Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship (ROTC), if you get an appointment you can always decline the scholarship.

THE ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY

(ASVAB)

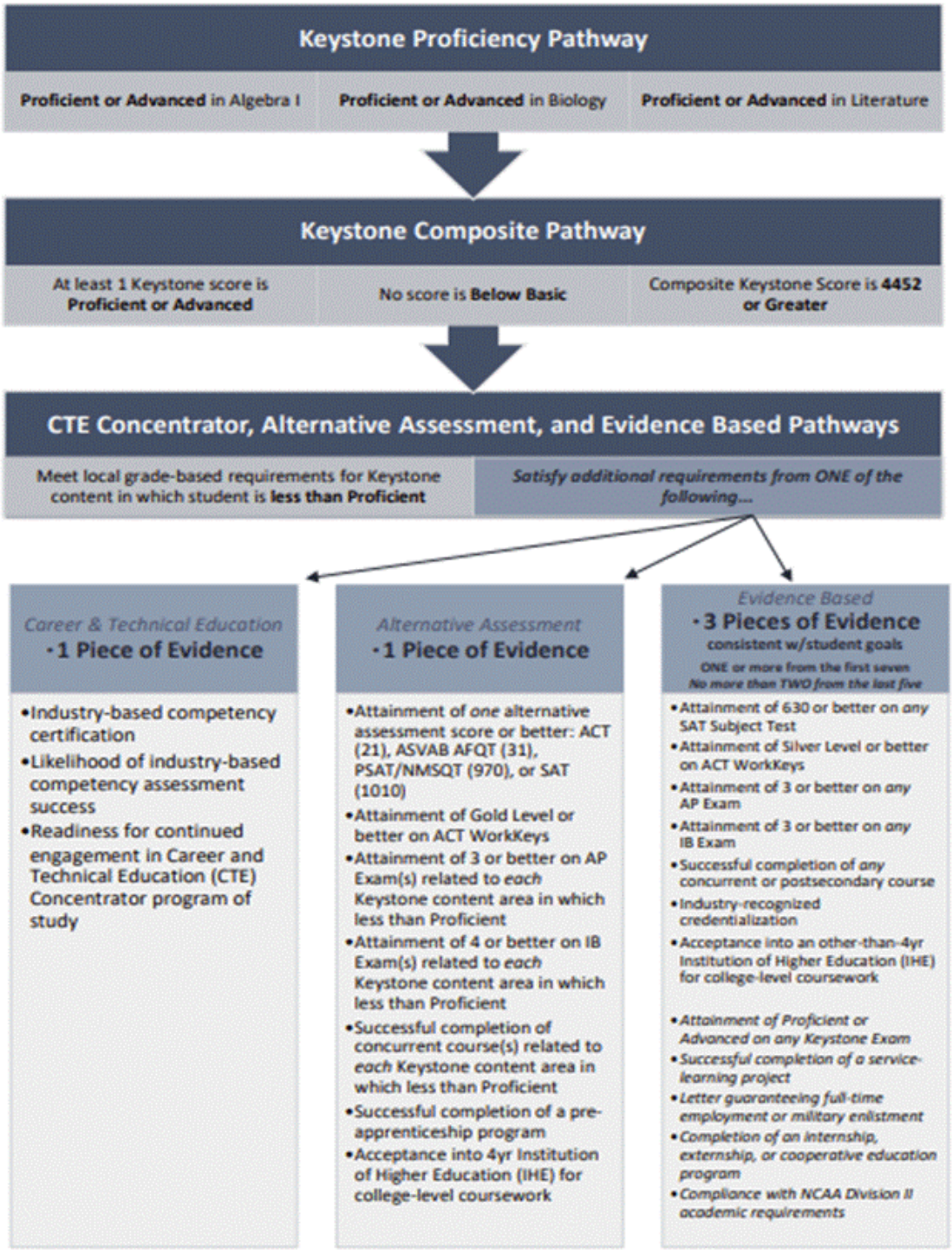
The ASVAB is the entrance examination for entry into the Armed Forces, and the ASVAB is used to determine specific training opportunities that will be offered to the future recruit. If a student takes the ASVAB, there is NO obligation to enlist.

The ASVAB is a vocational aptitude battery consisting of eight short tests which include the areas of General Science, Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Auto and Shop Information, Mathematics Knowledge, Mechanical Comprehension and Electronics Information. The results of these tests give the student an AFQT (Armed Forces Qualifying Test) score. The AFQT score determines whether the student qualifies to enlist in the US military. The scores in the other areas of the ASVAB will determine how qualified the student will be for a certain military occupational specialties and Enlistment Bonuses.

The test takes approximately three hours and there is no charge. There is no studying or special preparation required to take the ASVAB. The best advice, as with any similar test, is to get a good night's rest and be on time to take the test.

A practice test can be found at https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/asvab for students to use in preparing for the test. The ASVAB is tentatively scheduled to be given at Delaware Valley High School in winter of 2026/2027.

Act 158 Pathway Graphic



How to request transcripts and letters of recommendation on Naviance

1. Log into Naviance (via the Guidance website or student.naviance.com/delawarevhs) with your Student ID number as your username and you will need to see your counselor for your password.
2. Go to the Colleges tab at the top and click on “Colleges I’m Applying to”. Add EACH school you plan to send in an application for. You can do this by clicking on the BLUE circle with the + sign and typing in the name of each school. ****Please make sure you indicate whether you are applying via Common App or directly to the institution – if you do not designate this, it will hold up your transcripts being sent, so please make sure it is accurate. Hit “add application”.
3. You can match up your Naviance account with your Common App account by clicking on “Match Accounts” in the RED rectangle towards the upper right-hand side of the screen. Keep in mind, you need to create your CA account first and finish the FERPA section. If you haven’t done this, you won’t be able to match accounts, and thus it will keep the transcripts from being sent.
4. To request transcripts, make sure you are on the “Colleges I’m Applying to” screen. At the top of this list on the right-hand side it says “+ REQUEST TRANSCRIPTS”. Click on this and you will be able to request either one or multiple transcripts to be sent. In the beginning of the year, you will choose “Initial Transcript”. Once we hit the second semester, you can choose “Mid-Year Transcript”. Please note, we do not have the ability to send your SAT scores. When you are done selecting your schools hit “request and finish” and this will complete the request.
5. To request letters of recommendation, on the “Colleges I’m applying to” screen, scroll down to the “Letters of Recommendation” section. There is a hyperlink there to click on which allows you to enter each teacher you wish to request from. Please keep in mind they will want you to complete your brag packet first. To do this, go to the BLUE circle at the top of the screen with your initials. Once this opens the menu, scroll to “Surveys from your School”. Also, if you are applying via Common App, you must let the teachers know to complete the “Teacher Recommendation Form”. They do not know to do this unless you communicate to them that you are applying to the Common App. In addition, the letter will not be sent if the form is not completed. If you are requesting a counselor recommendation, this cannot be done using the link. Please email or talk to your counselor separately. Once your brag packet is complete, we will be happy to do so!

Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities

- It is important that students with disabilities understand the nature of their disability and the impact it can have in an academic setting. Students should participate in the IEP/Transition Plan meetings.
- Students should be aware of their own learning styles.
- Students should become familiar with appropriate accommodations (reader for exams, tape recording lectures, and extended time).
- Students must advocate for themselves and ask for help when needed in secondary (high school) setting to prepare for college.
- Students should have an updated psycho-educational evaluation on file.
- Students should complete an eligibility form for SAT testing accommodations.
- Students should register for SAT testing, if needed.
- Students should contact colleges/universities to determine what courses are required for admission.
- Students should check and visit with colleges/universities to determine what type of services are available through the Office of Disability Services. Students will need to provide documentation of disability (IEP, Psycho-ed. Testing) in order to receive support services at the college.
- Students should check prospective colleges to determine what type of assistive technology is available.
- Students should involve agencies in the Transition planning (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation or Blind and Visual Services).

College Research Resources for Building a College List

Remember to update your college list as you research

These hyperlinks can also be found on our website under "College Application Process"

Note: A school's own website is usually the best resource to learn about majors and academic programs, admission opportunities, and career resources, but the sites below can be helpful tools for additional perspectives and summary information.

General facts, figures, and search tools

College Data (many metrics and statistics compiled in one place)
College Navigator (operated by the National Center for Education Statistics)
College Scorecard (operated by U.S. Dept of Ed; compare cost & earnings across majors)
CollegeBoard Big Future College Search (search tool using filters for personal preferences)
Virtual College Tours & Info Sessions spreadsheet
CampusReel ("day in the life" videos to learn about campus culture from current students)
ChatGPT (*caution* ChatGPT can be useful, but is not always accurate w/ college info)

Colleges grouped by specific lists & rankings

Niche (can search by rankings of specific criteria and read student reviews in schools' profiles)
College Transitions Dataverse (many specific lists by major, requirements, and college data)
College Xpress (many lists and rankings in addition to a college search feature)
College Lists Wiki (alphabetical collection of 350+ college lists based on specific features)
Princeton Review (can search by lists & rankings by dozens of features like best dorms, food, etc)
Less High School Stress (breaks down popular rankings and offers alternative criteria to consider)
CACHETinfo.org (consortium of **engineering** schools)
Colleges That Change Lives (**hidden gems**–typically **smaller** colleges)

Guide to Performing & Visual Arts Colleges
For financial fit: List of schools w/ percentages and average amounts of need-based and merit aid (Big J Educational Consulting)
For future college athletes: NCSA (recruiting guides and lists of schools by sport & division)

Use these sites to learn more about college majors and career paths:
First, consider these important points when choosing a major
MyMajors Assessment
me3 Major & Career Quiz (includes a visual quiz if this is your preferred learning style)
MyMajors List of Career Fields and Job Titles
MyNextMove.org (career exploration site)
CareerOneStop.org (career exploration site and self-assessment interest inventory)
One Day One Job (career possibilities for common majors)

Additional Resources worth checking out!
Stand Out College Prep
Collegewise
Scoir blog
Fair Opportunity Project
Hungry for more data? Do a Google search of "data set for _____ (name of college)" to see how you compare to their most recently admitted students.

Socials - not ready for a deep dive but just getting started and looking for snippets of info? Check out some of these great social media accounts!

Instagram/Facebook
@thecollegenavigators
@collegeconfidential
@collegeadmissionstats
@collegewise
@empowerlyinc
@collegeessayguy

TikTok
@collegevine
@60secondscholar
@collegexpert
@admitium
@goharsguide
@tineocollegeprep