WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL

We're here for you.

Wayzata High School Post-High School Planning Guide



Introduction

The counseling staff at Wayzata High School assists students with academic issues, educational and career planning, as well as personal concerns. Our purpose is to empower all learners to lead satisfying and productive lives by assisting them in identifying and achieving educational, career, personal and social goals. This involves a cooperative effort among students, staff members, parents and the community. All students meet several times each year with their counselors in seminars and most students will also have individual meetings with counselors.

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Glossary

REGULAR DECISION- The application process that requires application materials to be submitted no later than the specified deadline date printed in the college catalog or on the application form. Students typically receive responses in March.

ROLLING ADMISSION- The admission plan in which a completed application is acted on as soon as it is received. Students are admitted on a continuing basis.

OPEN ADMISSION- An admission policy that accepts students without regard to the criteria of grade point average and test scores.

EARLY ACTION- Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

EARLY DECISION- Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications.

RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION- Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA to other institutions.

COMMON APPLICATION- Some schools allow you to use the Common Application to apply to several schools using the same basic form. Please be careful and note that there are several different components to the Common Application and it is beneficial for you to sit down with your counselor to make sure you are on top of things. For more information on the Common Application, please visit **www.commonapp.org**.

RECIPROCITY- Minnesota has agreements with neighboring states to provide lower tuition for Minnesota residents to attend public colleges and universities in those states. Typically, non-resident admission fees and tuitions are reduced (or eliminated) if you're a reciprocity student. Minnesota has reciprocity agreements with Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota. It also has agreement with the Canadian province of Manitoba.

MAIALEARNING- A web based/app based college admissions network that connects students, families, high schools, and colleges for a better admissions experience.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.
-Nelson Mandela

Post High School Options

There are a number of different options available to students after high school. Some options are:

FOUR YEAR COLLEGES- Your options for 4-year colleges are many, including private and public schools. These types of schools offer bachelor's degrees, which are usually completed in four years of full-time study.

TWO YEAR COLLEGES-
The most common types of 2-year colleges are community colleges. Typically a 2-year college is less expensive than a 4-year college.
Two-year diplomas, certificates and degrees are offered and many students will begin at a 2-year college and then transfer to a 4-year university to pursue an advanced degree.

TECHNICAL COLLEGES- Most technical colleges offer certificates, diplomas and associate degrees in many fields. Your typical length at a technical college will depend on your program choice. The programs and degrees offered at a technical college are very specific and great options for those students who want to enter the work force quickly.

MILITARY- The military offers many educational opportunities for students inreturn for their service to their country. The military is the armed forces responsible for sevuring and defending a country. The Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard are an example of the branches in the US military.

EMPLOYMENT-
Students may choose to go directly into the work force after high school graduation. If you know you would like to pursue a career that requires no further education, or have been offered a job within a company that will provide you the training you need, this may be an options for you.

GAP YEAR- A gap year is a period of time, usually an academic or calendar year, in which a student takes a break from schools to travel, work, or volunteer, typically after ending high school and before starting college. When choosing to do a gap year, students should consider what they would be doing to advance or enrich themselves both personally and professionally.









Conducting a College Search

Choosing what to do after high school can lead to some distress and anxiety because it is often the first big decision in a young person's life.
To begin the process, it is helpful to reflect on your own priorities, desires, and talents to guide your search.

Here are some questions that will help you get to know yourself and your values a little more:

WHO ARE YOU?

What inspires you?
What makes you happy?
Are you a morning or night person?
What are you known for in your family?

WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS?

What is your favorite subject?
What subjects have you excelled in?
What has been your greatest challenge in high school?
What extracurricular activities do you want to continue after high school?

WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE?

What is your dream career?
Why do you want to go to college?
What are you passionate about?
What do you want your future degree to say?

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Would you rather live in a bustling city or a quiet neighborhood?
What impact do you want to have on the world?
Would you rather be a big fish in a small pond or the other way around?

A COUPLE TIPS

Reflect on the "why" behind each of your answers
Distinguish between your wants and needs
Actually write out your answers to better identify any themes







Conducting a College Search

- Size: Do I find a large school exciting - or frightening? Do I find a small school comfortable - or confining?
- Location: Do I want to live at home? If not, how far away from home do I want to go?
- Programs: Am I looking for a wide-ranging liberal arts experience, or am I more focused on a specific course of professional study? Does the school offer special programs that interest me - honors, special seminars, internships, study abroad?
- Atmosphere: A great deal of the college experience is what happens outside of the classroom. Some campuses are very social. Some emphasize religion and morality. Some campuses are more politically active and may be more liberal or conservative. Some campuses emphasize sports and other extracurricular involvement.
- Competitiveness: Students often ask “Can I get into [College X]?” This is the wrong question. The correct question is “Would I be successful in [College X]?” People respond differently to challenge. Do I want to start off as one of the smartest students in my class? Do I rise to a challenge and seek to be surrounded by students who find learning easier than I do? Do I do my best work when I start off near the middle of my class?
- Admissions: Though not the most important factor, at some point a student needs to be realistic about admission standards.

Factors in the Admission Process

ACADEMICS

The most important factor that colleges take into consideration in the admission process is the student’s academic record. The high school courses a student took and their grade point average are top factors in college admission decisions. The high school transcript shows a college whether a student is likely to succeed if admitted. The basic requirements for admission to college include:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of Math
- 3 years of Science
- 3 years of Social Studies
- 2 years of a single World Language

*The more selective the college you are considering, the higher the admission requirements will be and the more rigorous the curriculum the college will expect the student to have taken.

TESTING

Counselors typically encourage students to test during the spring of junior year. However, it may be beneficial for some students to begin testing earlier. Talk with your counselor to determine a timeline that is right for you. You may take either the ACT or SAT; colleges will accept both tests. When registering for the test, you will need Wayzata's CEEB code which is **242650.** Both tests will require you to upload a photo of yourself to their website; make sure you have a headshot with a white background ready to upload when you go online to register.

ACT

Currently the ACT exam runs around 2 hours and assesses students abilities in English, Math, and Reading (with optional Science and Writing).
Students register for the test online at www.actstudent.org.

SAT

The SAT exam runs around 2 hours and 15 minutes and assesses student's abilities in the areas of math and evidence based reading and writing.
Students register for the SAT online at www.collegeboard.com.

*When registering for the ACT or SAT, it may be helpful to have a copy of your transcript to answer the questions about classes and grades earned. The ACT has an interest inventory to help assess students' potential career interests. This inventory is optional.
Note: Make sure you write down the log-in information you created when you signed up so that you can log back in to view and send scores at a later date.

TEST OPTIONAL

The landscape of standardized testing has changed and many colleges are now test-optional. This means, you will decide whether or not to submit your test scores to a college for consideration as part of your application. Visit each colleges website to determine their testing policy. Also, keep in mind that a college may be test optional for admission but not for scholarship consideration. FairTest maintains a comprehensive list of colleges that are test optional.
Check their site for more information: www.fairtest.org.

SENDING SCORES

You will need to have your test scores sent directly from ACT and SAT as these scores are not listed on your transcript. If you did not request that scores be sent to the colleges you are applying to when you registered to test, you can request that scores be sent by going to the test company website (there will be a fee).

You are in charge. This is your future - you're in the driver's seat. Stay focused on what is important to you and what you want to get out of the college experience. College planning can feel overwhelming at times, but if you take charge and stay focused on your goals, you can make it work for you.

-www.bigfuture.com

Your essay is your time to shine. The people looking at this essay have probably never met you. You need to paint them a picture of yourself. Tell them everything.

-How to Survive Getting into College by Hundreds of Heads Books, LLC

Factors in the Admission Process

ESSAY

Many college applications require a student to submit one or multiple essays. The essay is your chance to make a personal impression - make it a good one! Short answer essays are just as vital as the longer essay. Make sure your final copy is carefully checked for grammar and spelling.

What Colleges Want to See

- Can you write? - Colleges look to see if your writing ability meets the academic standards of the college. Are you able to take a thought and develop it into a well-organized and clear essay?
- Who are you? - The essay is your chance to express yourself and who you are to the admission officers. They are looking to get a sense of your values, passions, and beliefs. Colleges are trying to learn how you are going to impact their community.

Selecting a Topic

- Some colleges may give you freedom in what you choose to write about while others may provide a specific question or prompt.
- If you are required to address one of the college's assigned questions:
  - Do your research about the topic.
  - Organize your thoughts and opinions before you start.
  - Draft an outline of points to cover and supporting ideas.
  - Have an idea of what your conclusion will be.
  - Be sure you answer the question.
- If you can choose your own topic:
  - Your essay should reveal your true self in your own voice.
  - There is no single "right" topic.

Creating Drafts

- Now that you have selected a topic, start writing! The first draft is not meant to be perfect, so just write everything that comes to mind down on the page.
- Finished writing? Now don't look at it again until tomorrow.
- Next, re-read through your essay. Do you still feel good about the topic? Is the essay about you? Is it truly your voice? The essay should address the "who, what, why, and how" of you.
- Review your essay. How is the structure? Does the beginning grab the reader?
- Get some constructive input from teachers, parents, or peers. However, be sure the essay still sounds like you after any revisions.

A great resource for writing the college essay is:
https://www.collegeessayguy.com/

Factors in the Admission Process

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Not every college requires a letter of recommendation. Visit the college's website to determine if a letter is required. Colleges typically want to see letters of recommendation from core subject area teachers (10th and 11th) and usually do not require more than one or two letters. Teachers and counselors should be allowed at least three weeks to write your letter and your request date of completion should not be the same date as your college admission deadlines. Letters of recommendation are confidential!

Counselors

If your application will require a recommendation or comments from your counselor, you should complete the counselor recommendation form. This "brag sheet" helps your counselor write a good and comprehensive recommendation. The best method is to complete the sheet fully and carefully, and schedule a meeting with your counselor.

Teachers

If you will require letters from teachers, you should complete the teacher recommendation form.

Letters of Recommendation forms can be found online at: https://www.wayzataschools.org/whs/families/counseling/letters-of-recommendation

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There is no perfect mix of extra-curricular activities that a college is looking for. Colleges do not require a specific amount of community services hours or that you belong to a set number of student clubs. What colleges do look at is consistency, how long have you been a member of a club, and if you have taken on a leadership role or increased your commitment to the group as time has gone by. Colleges like to see that students are involved outside of the school day as it shows a student has strong time management skills and will engage in their college.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL

Admission decisions by colleges are contingent upon successful completion of senior year. It is important to maintain your GPA and continue to challenge yourself throughout high school. Looking to change your schedule? Before counselors will allow you to make any changes to your senior year schedule you will need to obtain permission from the colleges to which you applied.

"It takes hard work to guarantee your college application stands out. Make it rise to the top of the pile by becoming familiar with the application process and getting organized. A lot of moving parts go into applying college - tests, essays, recommendation letters, transcripts - and each element has a deadline attached. Make careful note of deadlines for each school you're applying to so you don't miss them!"

-www.myfuture.com







Application Process

Junior year is the ideal time to conduct your college search as the application process begins during the fall of your senior year. During the first month of a students senior year, counselors will conduct a session with seniors to outline the application process and the steps students will need to take in order to have their transcripts submitted. The counselors will also conduct an evening session for parents on this topic.

There is no magic number of schools to apply to - three is often too few and doesn't cover your bases; twelve is often too many making it difficult to know the schools well. Make sure you have a variety of schools in terms of cost and selectivity on your list. You will also want to ask yourself, "Can I picture being happy at all of the schools on my list?"

When you have determined the list of schools you plan to apply to, it is important to be aware of deadlines - from the college and high school sides. Colleges rarely make exceptions for late applications, and WHS requires 10 school days to process your transcript request.

Transcript Request Information:
https://www.wayzataschools.org/whs/families/counseling/transcripts

Important Tips about the Application Process

- WATCH DEADLINES!
- Complete your own application.
- You are the one applying. Call the college if you have questions.
- Remember to write a thank you note afterward to those individuals who wrote letters of recommendation on your behalf.
- Teacher recommendations must be in MaiaLearning before your transcript request will be processed.
- Remember to allow 10 school days for the counselor to process your transcript requests.
- Don't forget to have your test scores sent directly from ACT/SAT.
- If you get a note from a college saying that part of your application is missing, DON'T PANIC. It's likely that it is at the office and simply hasn't been entered into the system yet.

NCAA Eligibility Requirements

Student athletes who want to participate in Division I, II, or III athletics during their first year of enrollment in college must register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Center. The NCAA will determine a student's eligibility by his/her grade point average in core classes and college entrance exam scores. Students should register online by the end of their junior year.

Financial Aid

The majority of financial aid is based on demonstrated financial need. Financial aid is awarded by each college to which you apply, and may include a combination of the following:

- **Scholarships and Grants:** money that does not have to be repaid. (Some are given as a "one-time" gift, while others are renewable if students meet certain criteria.)
- **Loans:** money that can be borrowed by students and/or parents. (Some loans are subsidized by federal or state programs, which can reduce the interest rate and/or defer payments for a length of time. Compare total costs of each loan.)
- **Work-Study**: schools may offer work on campus as a type of financial aid.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

All colleges and universities require that you file the FAFSA in order to consider for financial aid. You can begin filling out your FAFSA after October 1. Each college and university has a different deadline. The FAFSA can be found by visiting www.fafsa.ed.gov. The Office of the U.S. Department of Education has a comprehensive website with tips for completing the FAFSA at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa.

CSS Profile

Some selective colleges will require that you complete a form known as the CSS Profile. Check with the colleges to which you are applying to see if they require this form. For more information visit http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile.

Reciprocity

Minnesota has agreements with neighboring states to provide lower tuition for Minnesota residents to attend public colleges and universities in those states. First, apply for admission to the participating reciprocity college or university. You do not have to apply for reciprocity at the same time. The online reciprocity application is designed for Minnesota residents attending certain public colleges and universities in Wisconsin, North Dakota, and the Canadian province of Manitoba.

Beware of Scholarship Scams

Almost 95 percent of all student aid comes directly from the federal and state governments or the school itself using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Be wary of any financial aid search company that charges a fee to match students with sources of financial aid. There are no guarantees that the company will find any aid that you can't find yourself.

The "sticker price" of a public university is often about half that of a private college. But since public universities offer less need-based aid than private ones, out-of-pocket costs can be higher at public universities for middle and low-income families.

-Fiske Guide

Resources for Conducting a College Search

MAIALEARNING

https://app.maialearning.com/v3/user-login

MaiaLearning is a college admissions network that connects students, families, high schools, and colleges for a better admissions experience. We have chosen MaiaLearning to help students navigate the college selection and application process because it is simply the best system available for discovering colleges that match your personal and academic interests. Students can access MaiaLearning by logging into their account through MyApps.



Other Online Resources

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.fastweb.com
www.finaid.org
www.cappex.com
www.salliemae.com
www.studentaid.ed.gov

COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTING

www.act.org
www.collegeboard.com

TEST PREPARATION

www.varsitytutors.com/act-practice-tests
www.number2.com
www.studyguidezone.com

MN EDUCATION WEBSITES

www.ohe.state.mn.us
www.mnprivatecolleges.org
www.mnscu.edu
www.umn.edu

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE AND COLLEGE SEARCH

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
www.cappex.com
www.collegeaffordabilityguide.org
www.collegeexpress.com
https://colleges.niche.com
www.ctcl.org
www.gocollege.com
https://inlikeme.com/
www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator
www.petersons.com
www.princetonreview.com
www.unigo.com

COLLEGE RANKINGS

www.niche.com/colleges/rankings/
www.collegeconfidential.com
www.usnews.com/education

VIRTUAL COLLEGE TOURS

www.campustours.com
www.ecampustours.com
www.youniversitytv.com

CAREER INFORMATION

www.bls.gov
www.careeronestop.com
www.iseek.org



Campus Visits

Visiting a college campus is a great way to get a feel for the overall atmosphere of a particular school. Schools may feel very different than what is conveyed through their literature and on their website. A good visit will often include a tour of the campus and a meeting with the admissions staff. Pick up a campus calendar or newspaper to see what events and hot topics are taking place. Try to imagine yourself living on that campus for four years. After visiting, write down some notes immediately.

"Visiting colleges is a great way to get a feel for what college is like. And when the time comes, it can help you decide if a specific college is right for you."

-http://bigfuture.collegeboard.com

Tips for Setting Up A Campus Visit

- It can be beneficial to visit a college or university when school is in session. You want to get the feeling of what the campus is like with students there.
- It is important to set up your visit at least two weeks in advance. Surprise visits are usually not productive visits for you or the college.
- For many schools, you can schedule a campus visit online through their website. You can also call the admissions office to schedule a visit.
- Before you contact the school you plan to visit, check out their web page and see if there are certain areas of campus that you are especially interested in seeing; the work-out facility, library, student center, etc.
- See if you can meet with a faculty member in the area that interests you or attend a class.
- Find out if lunch is provided during your campus visit. Remember, you are going to be at this college/university for at least four years so you want to make sure the food is edible!

Virtual Tours

If you are unable to visit one of the colleges you are considering, see if they have a virtual tour on their website or through one of these sites:

- www.campustours.com
- www.youvisit.com
- www.youniversitytv.com



Campus Visits

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Ask your tour guide questions, but also ask questions to students walking around campus. Below are some questions to get you started:

Admissions

- What impresses you the most in a student's application?
- What kind of student does well here? Doesn't do well here?
- What do you think your school is best known for?
- What changes will be taking place on campus in the next few years?

Financial Aid

- What is the average amount of debt a student has when they graduate?
- What kinds of campus jobs are available to students?
- What type of merit aid is available and what is the application process?

Student Population

- What is the gender and geographic breakdown of your students?
- How diverse is your school community?
- What do students like most about your school? Least?
- What is your retention rate from freshman to sophomore year?

Campus Life

- Ask students questions what they like and don't like about the college?
- What types of extra-curricular activities does your college offer?
- What do students do for fun?
- What do students do on the weekends?
- Is housing guaranteed? Where do most students live?
- What activities and services are available to help students transition from high school to their freshman year of college?
- How do students get around campus and the surrounding area?
- What clubs and activities are unique to your college?

Academics

- Do professors teach classes?
- Does your college use teaching assistants?
- What is the professor to student ratio?
- What is the average class size?
- When do students need to declare a major?
- What type of advising program do you have for your students?
- What types of academic assistance is available?
- What percentage of students study abroad and what types of programs are available?
- What percentage of students graduate in 4 years?
- What types of career preparation and placement services are offered?

"If you visit many schools, your memories of them are bound to overlap. Use a note-taking or voice-recording app on your phone, or plain old notebook and pen, to keep track of the details you like and the stuff that you don't like. When more questions arise(as they most definitely will), you can fire off an email for an answer rather than visiting a second time."

-https://www.princetonview.com

Reflecting On Your Campus Visits

Campus visits are a great opportunity to picture yourself as a student at that college. After visiting a campus, take some time to fill out this form to keep track of your favorites!

Name of College

_____

Date of Visit

_____

My Mood



The Weather



I'd be happy spending the next 4 years on this campus.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I see myself fitting in with the students.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I like the size and setup of the campus.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

This school offers the major and courses I'm interested in.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I am happy with the diversity of this school.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I am happy with the food options/meal plans offered.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I am happy with the location of this campus.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I am happy with the extracurriculars offered.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

The tuition is withing a range that my family is comfortable with.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

I am confident I'd find a job after graduating from this school.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

*1- Extremely False, 2- False , 3- Unsure, 4- True, 5- Extremely True



